STRANGULATION IN INTIMATE PARTNER VIOLENCE FACT SHEET

STRANGULATION: The obstruction of blood vessels and/or airflow in the neck resulting in asphyxia.

1 in 4 women will experience intimate partner violence (IPV) in their lifetime. Of women at high risk, up to 68% will experience near-fatal strangulation by their partner.

Loss of consciousness can occur within 5 - 10 seconds. Death within minutes.

- 97% are strangled manually (with hands).
- 38% report losing consciousness.
- 35% are strangled along with sexual assault/abuse. 9% are also pregnant.
- 70% of strangled women believed they were going to die.

And odds for homicide increase 750% for victims who have been previously strangled, compared to victims who have never been strangled.

However, oftentimes, even in fatal cases, there are NO EXTERNAL SIGNS of injury.

Only half of victims have visible injuries. Of these, only 15% could be photographed.
STRANGULATION

CONSEQUENCES
PTSD, depression, suicidal ideation, memory problems, nightmares, anxiety, severe stress reaction, amnesia, and psychosis.

Death can occur days or weeks after the attack due to carotid artery dissection and respiratory complications such as pneumonia, ARDS and the risk of blood clots traveling to the brain (embolization).

SIGNS AND SYMPTOMS

6 Wilbur, L. et al. (2001). Survey results of women who have been strangulated while in an abusive relationship. 21J. Emergency Medicine 297.
7 Glass et al. (2008). Non-fatal strangulation is an important risk factor for homicide of women. The Journal of Emergency Medicine, 35(3), 329-335.

Today, 45 States have legislation AGAINST STRANGULATION.

VAWA 2013 added strangulation and suffocation to FEDERAL LAW.

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