

Red Flags: Intimate Partner Violence

Although no one can guess if a relationship will become abusive, these are some red flags that may be indicators that a partner could become violent.

- Previous violent or abusive behavior
- Witnessed or experienced abuse in their families
 - Normalization of using violence as power/control
 - Studies show that it is likely that abusers were abused as children
 - This does not mean that every child who experienced abuse will become abusive adult partners.
- Alcohol and drug abuse
 - These do not cause violence to occur, but are involved in approximately 80% of domestic abuse cases.
- Cruelty toward animals
- Desire to control finances
- Rigid and traditional opinions about gender roles and the upbringing of children
- Negative/critical attitudes toward their partner
- Excessive jealousy and possessiveness, which causes their partner to distance themselves from family/friends.
- Physical abuse during the beginning stages
- Denies the abuse, minimizes the seriousness of it, or refuses to take responsibility for it