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.¹

Of women at high risk, up to... 68% will experience near-fatal strangulation by their partner.²

Loss of consciousness can occur within 5 - 10 seconds. Death within minutes.²

97% are strangled manually (with hands).³

38% report losing consciousness.⁴

35% are strangled along with sexual assault/abuse. 9% are also pregnant.⁴

70% of strangled women believed they were going to die.⁶

And odds for homicide increase 750% for victims who have been previously strangled, compared to victims who have never been strangled.⁷

HOWEVER...

Oftentimes, even in fatal cases, there are NO EXTERNAL SIGNS of injury.³

Only half of victims have visible injuries

Of these, only 15% could be photographed
CONSEQUENCES

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

Deaths 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).

STRANGULATION

VAWA 2013 have legislation AGAINST STRANGULATION

8 States added strangulation and suffocation to FEDERAL LAW

Today, 38 States have legislation AGAINST STRANGULATION

SIGNS AND SYMPTOMS

NEUROLOGICAL
- Loss of memory
- Loss of consciousness
- Behavioral changes
- Loss of sensation
- EXTREMELY weakness
- Difficulty speaking
- Fainting
- Urination
- Defecation
- Vomiting
- Dizziness
- Headaches

SCALP
- Petechiae
- Bald spots (from hair being pulled)
- Bump to the head (from blunt force trauma or falling to the ground)

EYES & EYELIDS
- Petechiae to eyeball
- Petechiae to eyelid
- Bloody red eyeball(s)
- Vision changes
- Droopy eyelid

FACE
- Petechiae (tiny red spots–slightly red or florid)
- Scratch marks
- Facial drooping
- Swelling

CHEST
- Chest pain
- Redness
- Scratch marks
- Bruising
- Abrasions

VOICE & THROAT CHANGES
- RASPY or hoarse voice
- Coughing
- Unable to speak
- Trouble swallowing
- Painful to swallow
- Sore throat
- Gagging the throat
- Stridor

MOUTH
- Bruising
- Swollen tongue
- Swollen lips
- Cuts/abrasions
- Internal Petechiae

NECK
- Redness
- Scratch marks
- Finger nail impressions
- Bruising (thumb or fingers)
- Swelling
- Ligature Marks

BREATHING CHANGES
- Difficulty breathing
- Respiratory distress
- Unable to breathe

PSYCHOLOGICAL INJURY


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. (2005). Non-fatal strangulation is an important risk factor for mortality in women. The Journal of Emergency Medicine, 35(3), 239-335.
