



# STRANGULATION

## IN INTIMATE PARTNER VIOLENCE

# STRANGULATION

is 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 <sup>1</sup>

Of women at high risk, between

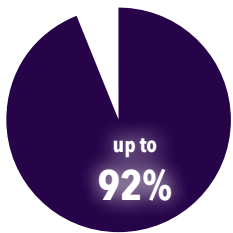
**68-80%** will experience

**NEAR-FATAL STRANGULATION BY THEIR PARTNER <sup>2</sup>**

Strangulation survivors have the **LOWEST HOPE** scores of all victims of domestic violence, with a **31% increase in suicidal ideation <sup>3</sup>**



Strangulation is among the most lethal forms of Domestic Violence. Loss of consciousness can occur within **5 - 10 seconds**. Death within minutes <sup>4</sup>



of women who have experienced IPV, including strangulation, are estimated to have suffered some type of a TBI <sup>5</sup>



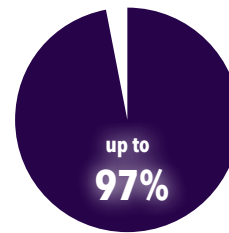
are strangled along with sexual assault/abuse <sup>6</sup>  
**9%** are also pregnant <sup>5</sup>



of children witnessed their mothers being strangled  
and **9%** were also strangled <sup>7</sup>



of strangled women believed they were going to die <sup>8</sup>



are strangled manually (with hands) <sup>9</sup>



report losing consciousness <sup>10</sup>

And odds for homicide increase **750%**

for victims who have been previously strangled, compared to victims who have never been strangled <sup>11</sup>

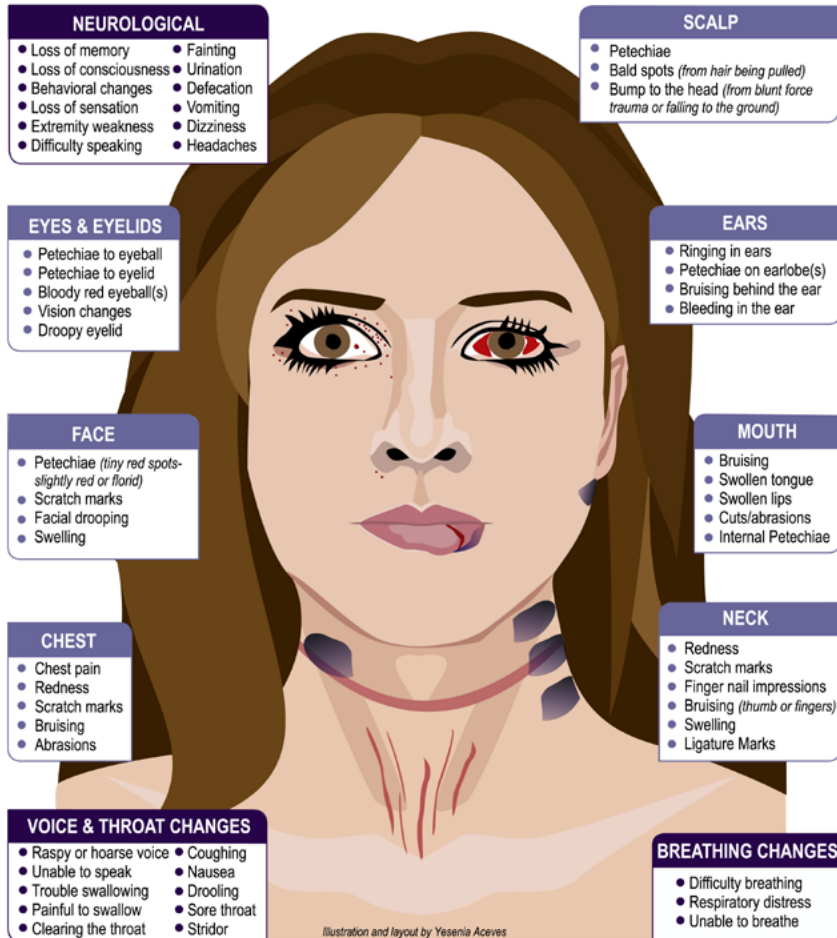
The majority of all **POLICE OFFICERS KILLED IN THE LINE OF DUTY** are killed by men who have strangled women <sup>12</sup>

Today, **50 States, 22 Tribes** and **2 US Territories** have passed felony strangulation laws <sup>13</sup>

**Strangulation** and **suffocation** are included in **Federal (2013)** and **Military (2019) Codes <sup>13</sup>**

# STRANGULATION

## SIGNS AND SYMPTOMS <sup>2</sup>



## CONSEQUENCES <sup>14</sup>

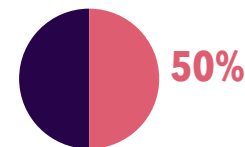
### PSYCHOLOGICAL NEUROLOGICAL INJURY and TBI

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

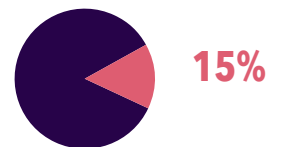
### DELAYED FATALITY

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

**HOWEVER...** Oftentimes, even in fatal cases, there are **NO EXTERNAL SIGNS** of injury <sup>15</sup>



Only half of victims have visible injuries <sup>5</sup>



Of these, only 15% could be photographed <sup>5</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Breiding, et al (2011). Prevalence and Characteristics of Sexual Violence, Stalking, and Intimate Partner Violence Victimization—National Intimate Partner and Sexual Violence Survey, United States. MMWR 2014; 63(SS-8):1-18.

<sup>2</sup> Talianferro, et al (2009). Strangulation in Intimate Partner Violence. Intimate Partner Violence: A Health-Based Perspective. Oxford University Press, Inc., 217-235; Messing, et al (2018). Differentiating Among Attempted Completed and Multiple Non-Fatal Strangulation in Women Experiencing Intimate Partner Violence. Women's Health Issues, 28(3), 104-111.; Wilbur, et al (2001). Survey results of women who have been strangled while in an abusive relationship. 21J. Emergency Medicine 297.

<sup>3</sup> Gwinn, et al (2018). Hope Rising: How the Science of Hope Can Change Your Life, 113; Wilbur, et al (2001). Survey results of women who have been strangled while in an abusive relationship. 21J. Emergency Medicine 297.

<sup>4</sup> Patch, et al (2022). Emergency Evaluation of Nonfatal Strangulation Patients: A Commentary on Controversy and Care Priorities. Journal of Emergency Nursing, 48(3), 243-247.

<sup>5</sup> Campbell, et al, (2018) The Effects of IPV and Probable Traumatic Brain Injury on Central Nervous System, Journal of Women's Health, 27 (6); Ziemann, et al (2017). Traumatic Brain Injury in Domestic Violence Victims: A Retrospective Study at the Barrow Neurological Institute. Journal of Neurotrauma, 876-880.

<sup>6</sup> Zilkens, et al (2016). Non-Fatal Strangulation in Sexual Assault, Journal of Forensic and Legal Medicine, 43, 1-7.

<sup>7</sup> Fitzgerald, et al (2022). The Prosecution of Non-Fatal Strangulation cases: An Examination of Finalised Prosecution cases in Queensland, 2017-2020; The University of Melbourne and The University of Queensland.

<sup>8</sup> Thomas, et al (2014). Do You Know What It Feels Like to Drown. Psychology of Women Quarterly, 38, 124-137.

<sup>9</sup> Strack, et al (2001). A review of 300 attempted strangulation cases: Part I: Criminal Legal Issues. Journal of Emergency Medicine, 21(3), 303-309; Brady, et al (2021). How Victims of Strangulation Survived. Violence Against Women, 1(26).

<sup>10</sup> Shields, et al (2010). Living victims of strangulation: A 10-year review of cases in a metropolitan community. American Journal of Forensic Medical Pathology, 31, 320-325.

<sup>11</sup> 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.

<sup>12</sup> Gwinn, et al (2018). Hope Rising: How the Science of Hope Can Change Your Life, 90.

<sup>13</sup> Training Institute on Strangulation Prevention (2023). <https://www.strangulationtraininginstitute.com/resources/legislation-map/>

<sup>14</sup> Bergin, et al (2022). Describing Non-Fatal Intimate Partner Strangulation Presentation and Evaluation in a Community-Based Hospital. Journal of Head Trauma Rehabilitation, 37(1),5-14.

<sup>15</sup> DiPaolo, et al (2009). Unexpected Delayed Death After Manual Strangulation, Monaldi Arch Chest Cis, 71(3), 132-134; Luke (1966). Strangulation as a Method of Homicide, Arch Path, Vol. 83.