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

68%
SIGNS AND SYMPTOMS

NEUROLOGICAL
- Loss of memory
- Loss of consciousness
- Behavioral changes
- Loss of sensation
- Extremity 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
- Ringing in ears
- Petechiae on earlobe(s)
- Bruising behind the ear
- Blood in the ear

FACE
- Petechiae (tiny red spots—slightly red or florid)
- Scratch marks
- Facial drooping
- Swelling
- Redness
- Scratch marks
- Vision changes
- Droopy eyelid

CHEST
- Chest pain
- Redness
- Scratch marks
- Bruising
- Abrasions
- Swelling
- Ligature Marks

MOUTH
- Redness
- Scratch marks
- Finger nail impressions
- Swelling
- Swollen lips
- Cuts/abrasions
- Internal Petechiae

NECK
- Difficulty breathing
- Respiratory distress
- Unable to breathe

VOICE & THROAT CHANGES
- Rasy or hoarse voice
- Coughing
- Unable to speak
- Trouble swallowing
- Painful to swallow
- Clearing the throat
- Stridor

BREATHING CHANGES
- Fainting
- Urination
- Defecation
- Vomiting
- Dizziness
- Headaches

PSYCHOLOGICAL INJURY
- 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, ARDS and the risk of blood clots traveling to the brain (embolization).

Today, 47 States 20 Tribes and 2 US Territories have passed felony strangulation laws.

Strangulation and suffocation is also included in Federal (2013) and Military (2010) Codes.

CONSEQUENCES

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, ARDS and the risk of blood clots traveling to the brain (embolization).

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.