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VIOLENCE PREVENTION STUDY AT UW

BY STACEY MULICK
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The University of Washington has launched a three-year study aimed at helping men who are abusing or are thinking about abusing their wives or girlfriends.

The campaign, titled Men's Domestic Abuse Checkup, was unveiled Wednesday at the YWCA Opportunity Place in Seattle.

"We want to reach men before controlling, intimidation and physical assaults get worse," said project director Dr. Lyungai Mbilinyi.

How it works: Men are encouraged to call a free, confidential hot line if they are concerned or have mixed feelings about the way they treat loved ones. Staff members will tell the men about the project and provide them with counseling.

Men who are at least 18 and interested in participating in the study can call the hot line - 1-800-MEN-1089 (1-800-636-1089) - from 9:30 a.m. to 8 p.m. Monday through Thursday and from 9:30 a.m. to 6 p.m. Friday.

Number of participants: The university hopes to recruit 100 Puget Sound-area men.

Time commitment: The conversations are brief. Participants will take part in six phone conversations over a two-month period.

Financial incentive: Up to \$100.

Project sponsors: Funded by the National Institute on Drug Abuse, and conducted by the University of Washington School of Social Work and the University of Minnesota.

The project is supported by Lane Judson, whose daughter, Crystal Judson Brame, was killed by her husband, Tacoma Police Chief David Brame, in April 2003. Brame then committed suicide.

"Each of us has a duty to stop abusive behavior whether it's a mental abuse, emotional abuse or physical abuse," Judson said. "I am hopeful this study will find better ways to reach out to families who are hurting before it's too late."

Getting the word out: Advertisements started appearing Wednesday on the radio and in two Seattle newspapers as well as on Metro bus lines.

More information: www.menscheckup.org.

For help: Victims of domestic violence who need help immediately from an abuser can call 911 in a life-threatening emergency. In Pierce County, call the domestic violence help line at 253-798-4166.