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.
- 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

50%
STRANGULATION

SIGNS AND SYMPTOMS

1. Neurological:
   - Loss of memory
   - Loss of consciousness
   - Behavioral changes
   - Loss of sensation
   - Extremity weakness
   - Difficulty speaking
   - Fainting
   - Incontinence
   - Defecation
   - Vomiting
   - Dizziness
   - Headaches

2. Scalp:
   - Petechiae
   - Blisters from hair being pulled
   - Bump to the head (from blunt force trauma or falling to the ground)

3. Eyes & Eyelids:
   - Petechiae to eyeball
   - Petechiae to eyelid
   - Bloody red eyeball(s)
   - Vision changes
   - Droopy eyelid

4. Face:
   - Petechiae (tiny red spots, slightly red or bitemarks)
   - Scratch marks
   - Facial drooping
   - Swelling

5. Chest:
   - Chest pain
   - Redness
   - Scratch marks
   - Bruising
   - Abrasions

6. Mouth:
   - Bruising
   - Swollen tongue
   - Swollen lips
   - Cuts/abrasions
   - Internal Petechiae

7. Neck:
   - Redness
   - Scratch marks
   - Finger nail impressions
   - Bruising (thumb or fingers)
   - Swelling
   - Ligature Marks

8. Voice & Throat Changes:
   - Rasp or hoarse voice
   - Coughing
   - Unable to speak
   - Trouble swallowing
   - Painful to swallow
   - Clearing the throat

9. Breathing Changes:
   - Difficulty breathing
   - Respiratory distress
   - Unable to breathe


CONSEQUENCES

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

DEATH CAN OCCUR SEVERAL DAYS OR WEEKS AFTER THE ATTACK DUE TO ARTERY DISSECTION AND RESPIRATORY COMPLICATIONS SUCH AS PNEUMONIA, ARDS AND THE RISK OF BLOOD clots traveling to the brain (embolization).

Today, 48 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

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.