



## **SPOUSE ABUSE**

### **Assessing for Lethality**

Key factors to assess in determining whether the batterer has the potential to kill:

- Threats of homicide or suicide
- Acute depression and hopelessness
- Possession of weapons
- Obsessiveness about partner or family, beliefs that he cannot live without them or that they are the center of his universe
- Rage
- Drug or alcohol consumption combined with despair
- History of pet abuse
- Easy access to the battered woman and/or family members

The presence of the preceding indicators increases the likelihood that the batterer is contemplating killing or committing life-endangering violence.