Domestic abuse to women during pregnancy is potentially detrimental to both the pregnant woman and her growing fetus. Pregnant women who experience domestic abuse may not only have psychological and physical impairments, but also are at an increased risk of adverse birth outcomes. Maternal exposure to abuse increases the risk of low birthweight, preterm birth, and neonatal death and has been shown to be associated with a low breastfeeding rate.

*EMOTIONAL ABUSE was defined as the husband/partner either trying to control the mother’s daily activities, threatening the mother in a way that made her feel unsafe, or frightening the mother for her or her family’s safety.

**RISK FACTORS AND OUTCOMES ASSOCIATED WITH EMOTIONAL ABUSE INCLUDE:**
- No insurance before pregnancy
- Smoking 3 months before pregnancy
- Illicit drug use before pregnancy
- Attending less than 80% of prenatal care visits
- Not having their teeth cleaned during pregnancy
- Having diabetes, hypertension, or depression during pregnancy
- Having a high adverse childhood experiences (ACE) score

**MOTHERS WHO WERE EMOTIONALLY ABUSED DURING PREGNANCY WERE MORE LIKELY TO BE/HAVE:**
- American Indian
- Younger
- Less years of education
- Not married
- Lower household income