

DOMESTIC ABUSE Dying to Know

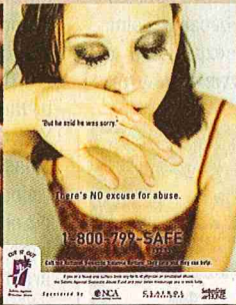
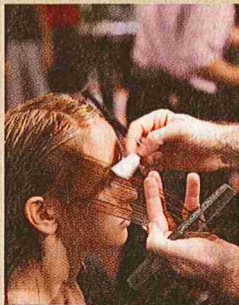
Stylists know the best face-framing haircut, how to reduce frizz while increasing body and, on occasion, that their customer's a victim of abuse. "You get a client in the shampoo bowl and they just open up and tell us that they are being beaten," says Twanda Hamilton, a cosmetologist in Wichita, Kans. "We hear so much in the salon that no one else hears."

Domestic-abuse activists want authorities to hear it, too. Cut It Out, a national organization sponsored by beauty-industry leaders, is currently training stylists to recognize the signs of domestic violence and offer

resources, like hot-line numbers and referrals to crisis centers for clients. Cut It Out launched in Alabama in 2001 and has since created programs in 11 states; seven more plan to come onboard within the next three months. Kansas Attorney General Phil Kline recently announced that he will expand Salons

of Hope, a Wichita-based program similar to Cut It Out, statewide to include over 22,000 cosmetologists in more than 3,600 salons. Before the program, "I really felt helpless," says Hamilton. Now she's prepared to give abused clients a more-lasting makeover.

-JESSICA SILVER-GREENBERG



HAIR CARE: Stylists are trying to curb violence