



FACT SHEET ABOUT DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

WHAT WE KNOW ABOUT DOMESTIC VIOLENCE...

Domestic violence (DV), also known as intimate partner violence (IPV), is an act or pattern of acts involving the use or attempted use of **physical, sexual, verbal, emotional, economic,** or other forms of abusive behavior in order to **harm, threaten, intimidate, harass, coerce, control, isolate, restrain, or monitor** another person.ⁱ

One in four women will experience domestic violence in her lifetime.ⁱⁱ

Nationwide, an average of **3 women are killed** by a current or former intimate partner **every day**.ⁱⁱⁱ

WHAT WE KNOW ABOUT POWER AND CONTROL...

Domestic violence is a pattern of abusive, controlling behaviors. Perpetrators exert power and control by using:^{iv}

- Intimidation
- Minimization, denial, and blame
- Economic abuse
- Emotional abuse
- Children
- Coercion and threats
- Isolation
- Male privilege

WHAT WE KNOW ABOUT WHO IS AFFECTED BY DOMESTIC VIOLENCE...

- **Women comprise 85% of domestic violence victims.**^v
- DV occurs in **same sex relationships at the same rate** as heterosexual relationships.^{vi}
- Domestic violence is a pervasive, life-threatening crime that affects millions of individuals across the United States **regardless of age, economic status, race, religion or education.**^{vii}

WHAT WE KNOW ABOUT WHY SOMEONE MIGHT STAY IN AN ABUSIVE RELATIONSHIP...

Many factors in a victim's life influence their decision to leave, remain in, or return to an abusive relationship. These include, but are not limited to:

- Fear of the abuser
- Financial dependency
- Believing the abuse is her or his fault
- Family or friends
- Feelings for the abuser
- Believing things will return to normal
- Faith
- Immigration status
- Sexual/gender orientation or identity



Positively Safe:

THE INTERSECTION OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE & HIV/AIDS

Batterers make it very difficult for victims to escape relationships. Sadly, many survivors suffer from abuse for decades.

Leaving isn't always the primary goal for a domestic violence survivor. The **most dangerous period** in an abusive relationship is **while leaving**.^{vii}

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES:

Find more information in the *Positively Safe Toolkit*, **HIV/AIDS Resource Guide** and **DV Resource Guide**, on HIV/AIDS and domestic violence.

ⁱ The National Network to End Domestic Violence. nnedv.org

ⁱⁱ Tjaden, Patricia & Thoennes, Nancy. National Institute of Justice and the Centers of Disease Control and Prevention, "Extent, Nature and Consequences of Intimate Partner Violence: Findings from the National Violence Against Women Survey," (2000).

ⁱⁱⁱ Bureau of Justice Statistics, Intimate Partner Violence in the U.S. 1993-2004, 2006.

^{iv} Domestic Abuse Intervention Project. <http://www.theduluthmodel.org/pdf/PowerandControl.pdf>

^v Boston University Police Department. http://www.bu.edu/police/prevention/domestic_violence_myth.htm 4niversity Police Department. using...e controlling behaviorst by an intimate

^{vi} Center for American Progress, Domestic Violence in the LGBT Community.

<http://americanprogress.org/issues/lgbt/news/2011/06/14/9850/domestic-violence-in-the-lgbt-community/>

^{vii} The National Network to End Domestic Violence, http://nnedv.org/downloads/Stats/NNEDV_FAQaboutDV2010.pdf