

FACT SHEET ABOUT DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

WHAT WE KNOW ABOUT DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

Domestic violence (DV), also known as intimate partner violence (IPV), is an intentional 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.¹

Domestic violence occurs in intimate relationships where the abusive partner and the victim are currently or previously have been dating, living together, married or divorced. They might have children in common or not.

One in four women and **one in ten men** will experience severe domestic violence in their lifetime.² About **two in five transgender people** will experience domestic violence as well. In 2015, the US Transgender Survey found that 54% of folks that identified as transgender have experienced violence from an intimate partner at least once in their life.^{3,4}

Intimate partner violence alone affects more than 12 million people every year.⁴

The cost of intimate partner violence exceeds \$5.8 billion annually, of which nearly **\$4.1 billion is for direct medical and mental health care.**¹¹

WHO IS AFFECTED BY DOMESTIC VIOLENCE?

- Women comprise 76% of domestic violence victims.⁵
- Women between the ages of 18-24 are most commonly abused by an intimate partner.⁵
- DV occurs in same sex relationships at the same rate as heterosexual relationships.⁶
- 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.⁷

WHAT WE KNOW ABOUT POWER AND CONTROL

Domestic violence is a pattern of abusive, controlling behaviors. Perpetrators exert power and control by using:⁸

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

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 their fault
- Family or friends
- Feelings for the abuser
- Believing things will get better
- Faith
- Immigration status
- Sexual orientation, gender identity, and/or gender expression

Abusive partners create situations where leaving the relationship is extremely difficult; some survivors may endure abuse for decades.

Find more information on the intersection of domestic violence and HIV/AIDS in the Positively Safe Toolkit.

REQUEST A TRAINING



TALKING ABOUT LEAVING

Leaving isn't always the primary goal for someone experiencing domestic violence. Many victims have strong feelings for their partner, they just want the abuse to end. For those that do attempt to leave, three-fourths of homicide victims and 85% of women who had experienced severe but nonfatal violence had left or tried to leave in the past year.⁹

Nationwide, an average of 3 women are killed by a current or former intimate partner every day.⁷

A woman's risk of being killed goes up 75% when she leaves the relationship or has left. The presence of a firearm in a domestic violence situation increases the likelihood of homicide by 500%.¹⁰

ENDNOTES

- 1 The National Network to End Domestic Violence. <https://nnedv.org/>
- 2 The National Intimate Partner and Sexual Violence Survey (NISVS): 2010 Summary Report. Atlanta, GA: National Center for Injury Prevention and Control, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.
- 3 The Report of the 2015 U.S. Transgender Survey. Washington, DC: National Center for Transgender Equality. James, S. E., Herman, J. L., Rankin, S., Keisling, M., Mottet, L., & Anafi, M. (2016).
- 4 Preventing Intimate Partner Violence (CDC): <https://www.cdc.gov/violenceprevention/intimatepartnerviolence/fastfact.html>
- 5 US Department of Justice Special Report Nonfatal Domestic Violence, 2003–2012 Jennifer L. Truman, Ph.D., and Rachel E. Morgan, Ph.D., BJS Statisticians <https://bjs.ojp.gov/content/pub/pdf/ndv0312.pdf>
- 6 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/D>
- 7 The National Network to End Domestic Violence, http://nnedv.org/downloads/Stats/NNEDV_FAQaboutDV2010.pdf
- 8 Domestic Abuse Intervention Project. <http://www.theduluthmodel.org/pdf/PowerandControl.pdf>
- 9 Block, PhD, C., 2003. How Can Practitioners Help an Abused Woman Lower Her Risk of Death?. <https://www.ojp.gov/pdffiles1/jr000250c.pdf>
- 10 Campbell, J. C., Webster, D., Koziol-McLain, J., et al. (2003). Risk factors for femicide in abusive relationships: Results from a multisite case control study. American journal of public health, 93(7), 1089-1097.
- 11 National Center for Injury Prevention and Control. Costs of Intimate Partner Violence Against Women in the United States. Atlanta (GA): Centers for Disease Control and Prevention; 2003.