

HOW DOMESTIC VIOLENCE + HIV INTERSECT

There is a clear connection between reproductive coercion and HIV for survivors of domestic violence. Survivors are often unable to negotiate sexual practices or are prohibited from attending medical appointments.

- Victims of domestic violence are 48% more likely to be exposed to HIV than those in non-violent relationships.⁷
- 55% of women living with HIV have experienced domestic violence.⁷
- One study found that 21% of women, 12% of gay, bisexual, and other men who have sex with men, and 8% of heterosexual men had experienced physical violence by their partner or someone close to them since their HIV diagnosis. Of those people, nearly 45% had experienced violence that they felt was related to their HIV status.⁸

HAS YOUR PARTNER EVER?

- Forced you to engage in sexual activity or injection drug use
- Prohibited you from attending medical appointments or attended with you and controlled the appointment
 - Destroyed, tampered or withheld your medication or contraception
 - Threatened to expose your status to family, friends, or community

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE RESOURCES

The Domestic Violence Hotline
<https://thehotline.org/>
Call: 1-800-799-SAFE (7233)
TTY 1-800-787-3224

National Deaf Domestic Violence Hotline
<https://thedeafhotline.org/>
Call: 1-855-812-1001

The National Sexual Assault Hotline
<https://www.rainn.org/>
Call: 1-800-656-HOPE (4673)

The Network/La Red - LGBTQ+ Violence Hotline
<https://www.tnlr.org/en/>
Call: 1-800-832-1901

StrongHearts - Native Helpline
<https://strongheartshelpline.org/>
Call: 1-844-7NATIVE (762-8483)

- 1 The National Network to End Domestic Violence. <https://nnedv.org/>
- 2 <https://www.thehotline.org/identify-abuse/power-and-control/>
- 3 The National Intimate Partner and Sexual Violence Survey, 2022
- 4 When Men Murder Women: An Analysis of 2020 Homicide Data. (Violence Policy Center, 2022).
- 5 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).
- 6 Gee, Rebekah & Mitra, Nandita & Wan, Fei & Chavkin, Diana & Long, Judith. (2009). Power over parity: Intimate partner violence and issues of fertility control. American journal of obstetrics and gynecology. 201. 148.e1-7.
- 7 Sullivan T. P. (2019). The intersection of intimate partner violence and HIV: detection, disclosure, discussion, and implications for treatment adherence. Topics in antiviral medicine, 27(2), 84-87.
- 8 Ramachandran, S., Yonas, M. A., Silvestre, A. J., & Burke, J. G. (2010). Intimate partner violence among HIV-positive persons in an urban clinic. AIDS care, 22(12), 1536-1543. <https://doi.org/10.1080/09540121.2010.482199>

WHAT IS DOMESTIC VIOLENCE?

Domestic violence (DV), also known as intimate partner violence (IPV) or dating violence, is an intentional act or pattern of acts to maintain power and control over another individual.

- This may involve 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
- DV occurs between two people or more who are in a relationship and relationship dynamics differ from couple to couple. Partners may or may not be married, live together, or have children together. DV can occur across any relationship style or agreement including monogamous, open, and polyamorous relationships.
- DV is not a one-time situation, it is ongoing.

TACTICS OF ABUSE²

Abusive partners may use a variety of tactics to maintain power and control over their partner(s). Historically, domestic violence was associated with solely physical violence, however, violence is not exclusive to physical violence and there are many other forms of power and control that someone may endure in an abusive relationship.

- Using coercion and threats
- Psychological abuse
- Emotional abuse
- Spiritual abuse
- Using children
- Isolation
- Economic abuse
- Technology abuse
- Medical abuse
- Reproductive coercion/sexual violence
- Exploiting vulnerabilities or privileges such as migrant status

It is also crucial to acknowledge this list is not all-encompassing; abusive partners will find different ways to maintain power and control over their partner, especially using their partner's vulnerabilities against them.



WHO IS IMPACTED BY DOMESTIC VIOLENCE?

Regardless of race, ethnicity, socioeconomic status, education level, religious affiliation, gender identity, sexual orientation, or age, anyone can experience domestic violence. However, communities that are historically and presently marginalized have less access to resources and are disproportionately impacted by domestic violence.



WHAT IS REPRODUCTIVE COERCION?

Reproductive coercion involves a pattern or series of behaviors an abusive partner may use to maintain power and control over their partner's reproductive health— interfering with their ability to make their own decisions over their body and health care.⁶

Forms of Reproductive Coercion:

- Pressuring or forcing your partner to engage in a sexual activity;
- Prohibiting the use of or destroying contraception such as birth control pills, intrauterine devices (IUD), hormonal rings, and patches;
- Prohibiting the use of or destroying HIV-related medication;
- Removing condoms during sex without their partner's knowledge, also known as "stealthing";
- Intentionally exposing their partner to sexually transmitted infections (STIs), including HIV;
- Limiting access to medical appointments regarding reproductive health.⁶

These actions cause a loss of autonomy over one's sexual health, which is traumatizing both emotionally and physically. This can also make a survivor more susceptible to acquiring STIs, including HIV.

