

# Domestic Violence



## DID YOU KNOW?

- On average, nearly 20 people per minute are victims of physical violence by an intimate partner in the United States. During one year, this equates to more than 10 million women and men.<sup>1</sup>
- 1 in 3 women and 1 in 4 men have experienced [some form of] physical violence by an intimate partner within their lifetime.<sup>1</sup>
- 1 in 5 women and 1 in 7 men have experienced severe physical violence by an intimate partner in their lifetime.<sup>1</sup>
- 1 in 7 women and 1 in 18 men have experienced stalking victimization during their lifetime in which they felt very fearful or believed that they or someone close to them would be harmed or killed.<sup>1</sup>
- On a typical day, there are more than 20,000 phone calls placed to domestic violence hotlines nationwide.<sup>9</sup>
- In domestic violence homicides, women are six times more likely to be killed when there is a gun in the house.<sup>10</sup>
- Intimate partner violence accounts for 15% of all violent crime.<sup>2</sup>
- Intimate partner violence is most common among women between the ages of 18-24.<sup>2</sup>

## WHAT IS DOMESTIC VIOLENCE?

Domestic violence is the willful intimidation, physical assault, battery, sexual assault, and/or other abusive behavior as part of a systematic pattern of power and control perpetrated by one intimate partner against another. It includes physical violence, sexual violence, threats, and emotional abuse. The frequency and severity of domestic violence can vary dramatically.

## WHY IT MATTERS

Domestic violence is an epidemic affecting individuals in every community, regardless of age, economic status, sexual orientation, gender, race, religion, or nationality. Intimate partner violence is often accompanied by emotionally abusive and controlling behavior which is only a fraction of a systematic pattern of dominance and control. Domestic violence can result in physical injury, psychological trauma, and in severe cases, even death. The devastating consequences of domestic violence can cross generations and last a lifetime.

IF YOU NEED HELP,  
DIAL THE NATIONAL  
DOMESTIC VIOLENCE  
HOTLINE AT:  
**1-800-799-SAFE (7233)**

## SEXUAL ASSAULT

- 1 in 5 women and 1 in 59 men in the United States has experienced rape in her lifetime.<sup>1</sup>
- 9.4% of women in the United States have been raped by an intimate partner in their lifetime.<sup>1</sup>

## STALKING

- 19.3 million women and 5.1 million men in the United States have experienced stalking in their lifetime. 66.2% of these female stalking victims reported stalking by a current or former intimate partner.<sup>1</sup>

## HOMICIDE

- A study of intimate partner homicides found that 20% of victims were not the intimate partners themselves, but family members, friends, neighbors, persons who intervened, law enforcement responders, or bystanders.<sup>3</sup>
- 72% of all murder-suicides involve an intimate partner and 94% of the victims of these murder-suicides are female.<sup>8</sup>

### PHYSICAL/MENTAL EFFECTS

- Women who suffer from intimate partner violence are at an increased vulnerability of contracting HIV or other STI's due to forced intercourse or prolonged exposure to stress.<sup>7</sup>
- Studies suggest that there is a relationship between intimate partner violence and depression and suicidal behavior.<sup>7</sup>
- It is estimated that half of the women in abusive relationships in the United States are physically injured by their partners.<sup>7</sup>

### ECONOMIC EFFECTS

- Victims of intimate partner violence lose a total of 8.0 million days of paid work each year.<sup>6</sup>
- The cost of intimate partner violence exceeds \$8.3 billion per year.<sup>6</sup>
- Between 21-60% of victims of intimate partner violence lose their jobs due to reasons stemming from the abuse.<sup>6</sup>
- Between 2003 and 2008, 142 women were murdered in their workplace as a result of intimate partner violence. This amounts to 22% of workplace homicides among women.<sup>4</sup>

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