

WHAT IS INTIMATE PARTNER PHYSICAL ABUSE?

Physical abuse includes the physical assault, battery, and sexual assault used as part of a systematic pattern of power and control perpetrated by one intimate partner against another. Physical abuse can cause severe injury and even death. It often co-occurs with other forms of abuse, including psychological abuse, economic abuse, and stalking.

INTIMATE PARTNER PHYSICAL ABUSE:

- More than 10 million Americans are victims of physical violence annually.ⁱ
- 20 people are victims of physical violence every minute in the United States.ⁱⁱ
- 1 in 3 women and 1 in 4 men is a victim of some form of physical violence by an intimate partner during their lifetimes.ⁱⁱⁱ
- 76% of intimate partner physical violence victims are female; 24% are male.^{iv}
- 1 in 7 women and 1 in 18 men are severely injured by intimate partners in their lifetimes.^v
- Domestic violence accounts for 15% of all violent crime in the United States.^{vi}
- Domestic violence is most common among women aged 18-24 and 25-34.^{vii}
- A majority of physical abuse is committed by dating partners rather than spouses.^{viii}
- More than 75% of women aged 18-49 who are abused were previously abused by the same perpetrator.^{ix}
- Intimate partner physical abuse has declined 67% since the passage of the Violence Against Women Act in 1994.^x
- Slightly more than half of intimate partner physical violence is reported to law enforcement.^{xi}

INTIMATE PARTNER HOMICIDE:

- In 2007, 1,640 women were murdered by intimate partners; in 2012, 924 women were killed by intimate partners.^{xiii}
- 40% of female murder victims are killed by intimate partners.^{xiv}
- Almost half of intimate partner homicides are committed by dating partners.^{xv}
- 76% of women who are killed by intimate partners and 85% of women who survive homicide attempts are stalked prior to the murder or attempted murder.^{xvi}

WHY DOES IT MATTER?

Intimate partner physical abuse is not bound by age, socioeconomic status, race, ethnicity, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, religion or nationality; it exists in all communities. Contrary to popular belief, physical abuse is not simply a mal-adjusted person's occasional expression of frustration or anger, nor is it typically an isolated incident. Physical abuse is a tool of control and oppression and is a choice made by one person in a relationship to control another.

If you need help:

Call The National Domestic Violence Hotline 1-800-799-SAFE (7233)
Or, online go to DomesticShelters.org

OTHER FORMS OF ABUSE

SEXUAL ASSAULT:

- 1 in 5 women and 1 in 59 men in the United States is raped during his/her lifetime.^{xvii}
- 9.4% of women in the United States have been raped by an intimate partner.^{xviii}

STALKING:

- 19.3 million women and 5.1 million men in the United States have been stalked.^{xix}
- 66.2% of female stalking victims reported stalking by a current or former intimate partner.^{xx}

HOMICIDE:

- 1 in 3 female murder victims and 1 in 20 male murder victims are killed by intimate partners.^{xxi}
- A study of intimate partner homicides found 20% of victims were family members or friends of the abused partner, neighbors, persons who intervened, law enforcement responders, or bystanders.^{xxii}
- 72% of all murder-suicides are perpetrated by intimate partners.^{xxiii}
- 94% of murder-suicide victims are female.^{xxiv}

Sources:

ⁱBlack, M.C., Basile, K.C., Breiding, M.J., Smith, S.G., Walters, M.L., Merrick, M.T., Chen, J. & Stevens, M. (2011). *The national intimate partner and sexual violence survey: 2010 summary report*. Retrieved from http://www.cdc.gov/violenceprevention/pdf/nisvs_report2010-a.pdf.

ⁱⁱIbid.

ⁱⁱⁱIbid.

^{iv}Truman, J. L. & Morgan, R. E. (2014). *Nonfatal domestic violence, 2003-2012*. Retrieved from <http://www.bjs.gov/content/pub/pdf/ndv0312.pdf>.

^vBlack, M. C., Basile, K. C., Breiding, M. J., Smith, S. G., Walters, M. L., Merrick, M. T., Chen, J. & Stevens, M. (2011). *The national intimate partner and sexual violence survey: 2010 summary report*. Retrieved from http://www.cdc.gov/violenceprevention/pdf/nisvs_report2010-a.pdf.

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^{vii}Catalano, S. (2012). *Intimate partner violence, 1993-2010*. Retrieved from <http://www.bjs.gov/content/pub/pdf/ipv9310.pdf>.

^{viii}Ibid.

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^xTruman, J. L. & Morgan, R. E. (2014). *Nonfatal domestic violence, 2003-2012*. Retrieved from <http://www.bjs.gov/content/pub/pdf/ndv0312.pdf>.

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^{xv}Ibid.

^{xvi}MacFarlane, J. M., Campbell, J. C., Wilt, S., Sachs, C. J., Ulrich, Y. & Xu, X (1999). Stalking and intimate partner femicide. *Homicide Studies*, 3(4), 300-316.

^{xvii}Black, M.C., Basile, K.C., Breiding, M.J., Smith, S.G., Walters, M.L., Merrick, M.T., Chen, J. & Stevens, M. (2011). *The national intimate partner and sexual violence survey: 2010 summary report*. Retrieved from http://www.cdc.gov/violenceprevention/pdf/nisvs_report2010-a.pdf.

^{xviii}Ibid.

^{xix}Ibid.

^{xx}Ibid.

^{xxi}Ibid.

^{xxii}Bridges, F.S., Tatum, K. M., & Kunselman, J.C. (2008). Domestic violence statutes and rates of intimate partner and family homicide: A research note. *Criminal Justice Policy Review*, 19(1), 117-130.

^{xxiii}Smith, S., Fowler, K. & Niolon, P. (2014). Intimate partner homicide and corollary victims in 16 states: National violent death reporting system, 2003-2009. *American Journal of Public Health*, 104(3), 461-466. doi: 10.2105/AJPH.2013.301582.

^{xxiv}Violence Policy Center. (2012). *American roulette: Murder-suicide in the United States*. Retrieved from www.vpc.org/studies/amroul2012.pdf.

^{xxv}Ibid.

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