

Who is at risk for experiencing intimate partner violence?

Everyone. However, there are certain groups who are at higher risk of violence than others, such as females between the ages of 18-35 and female veterans (Veterans Health Administration, 2013).

I am worried about a friend. What are some of the warning signs of intimate partner violence?

Warning signs include: unexplained or repeated injuries, delay in seeking care, injuries during pregnancy, multiple ER visits, suicide attempts, substance use, fearful or evasive behavior, and lack of independence, among other signs.

I am a woman veteran.

Where can I find more resources?

Female veterans can visit www.womenshealth.va.gov or call 1.855.VA.WOMEN

What can I do to help myself, a friend or family member who is experiencing Intimate Partner Violence?

Call the National Domestic Violence Hotline: 1.800.799.SAFE (7233)

Women and Intimate Partner Violence: The Facts

What is Intimate Partner Violence?

Intimate partner violence (IPV) is a serious, preventable public health problem that affects millions of Americans. The term "intimate partner violence" describes physical, sexual, or psychological harm by a current or former partner or spouse. This type of violence can occur among heterosexual or same-sex couples and does not require sexual intimacy.

(Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, 2014)



Prevalence

- **Approximately 1.3 million women and 835,000 men each year are assaulted by an intimate partner in the United States** (Tjaden & Thoennes, 2000).
- **More than one in every three women (35.6%) and more than one in every four men (28.5%) in the United States report experiencing rape, physical violence, and/or stalking by an intimate partner in their lifetime** (Black, Basile, Breiding, Smith, Walters, & Merrick, 2011).
- **Approximately three women are killed every day by an intimate partner in the United States** (Catalano, 2007).
- **33% of female veterans report experiencing intimate partner violence in their lifetime.** (Gerber, Iverson, Dichter, Klap, & Latta, 2014).
- **One in every four children experiences family violence during their childhood** (Hamby, Finkelhor, Turner, & Ormrod, 2011, October)

References

- Black, M., Basile, K., Breiding, M., Smith, S., Walters, M., & Merrick, M. (2011). *The National Intimate Partner and Sexual Violence Survey (NISVS): 2010 Summary Report*. Atlanta, GA: National Center for Injury Prevention and Control, Center for Disease Control and Prevention.
- Catalano, S. (2007). *Intimate partner violence in the United States*. U.S. Department of Justice, Bureau of Justice Statistics.
- Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. (2014, November 25). *Injury Prevention & Control: Division of Violence Prevention*. Retrieved January 12, 2015, from Intimate Partner Violence: Definitions: <http://www.cdc.gov/violenceprevention/intimatepartnerviolence/definitions.html#clarification>
- de Boerville, M. (2013, August). *Screening for Domestic Violence in Health Care Settings*. Retrieved January 14, 2015, from U.S. Department of Health and Human Services: http://aspe.hhs.gov/hsp/13/dv/pb_screeningdomestic.cfm
- Gerber, M., Iverson, K., Dichter, M., Klap, R., & Latta, R. (2014). Women Veterans and Intimate Partner Violence: Current State of Knowledge and Future Directions. *Journal of Women's Health, 23* (4), 302-309.
- Hamby, S., Finkelhor, D., Turner, H., & Ormrod, R. (2011, October). *National Survey of Children's Exposure to Violence*. Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention, U.S. Department of Justice.
- Tjaden, P., & Thoennes, N. (2000). *Full Report of the Prevalence, Incidence, and Consequences of Violence Against Women*. U.S. Department of Justice, National Institute of Justice and Centers for Disease Control and Prevention Research Report . Washington, D.C.: NCJ 183781.
- Veterans Health Administration. (2013). *Plan for Implementation of the Domestic Violence/Intimate Partner Violence Assistance Program*. Department of Veterans Affairs.

Effects

The impact of intimate partner violence is far-reaching and severe. Consequences and outcomes of IPV include:

- Central nervous system problems
- Low birth weight in babies born to those who experienced IPV during pregnancy
- Higher risk of contracting STDs
- Mental health issues such as: depression, self-harm, and suicide
- Substance Abuse
- Severe injury or death (de Boerville, 2013)

Online Resources

domesticshelters.org - Nationwide database of resources

clicktoempower.org - Financial empowerment training

ncadv.org - National Coalition Against Domestic Violence

thehotline.org - National Domestic Violence Hotline

joinonelove.org - Free safety planning app and assessment tool