



CSPV FACT SHEET

FS-004

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Intimate Partner Violence

Intimate partner violence is defined as rape, physical assault, stalking, or threats of such violence, perpetrated by a current or former date, boyfriend/girlfriend, husband/wife, or cohabiting partner, including same sex relationships. This type of violence affects not only those abused, but family members, co-workers, friends, and the community at large. Children who witness violence are victims themselves and by growing up in a violent environment, they are predisposed to many other kinds of social and physical problems. There are serious consequences to the larger society in terms of the economic impact (through loss of jobs and household productivity) and the cost of treatment. The following facts indicate the extent and dynamics of the problem:

- Female victims are more likely to be victimized by intimates than male victims. 24.8% of women and 7.6% of men have reported being victims of intimate partner violence in their lifetime.
- One in every four women will experience domestic violence of some kind in her lifetime. One in six women will be sexually assaulted.
- Intimate partner homicides make up 40–50% of all murders of women in the United States.
- A woman's attempt to leave her abuser is the precipitating factor in 45% of the murders of women by their intimate partners.
- Women who have children by age 21 are twice as likely to be victims of intimate partner violence as women who are not mothers at that age. Men who have fathered children by age 21 are more than three times as likely to be abusers as men who are not fathers at that age.
- Females who are 20-24 years of age are at the greatest risk for Intimate Partner Violence.
- 84% of family abuse victims are abused by a spouse and 86% by a boyfriend.
- Women living in disadvantaged neighborhoods are more than twice as likely to be victims than women in more affluent neighborhoods.
- Females who are separated or divorced are at a greater risk for intimate partner violence than married or widowed females.
- Black women are more likely than white women to be abused, and they are also more likely to report their abuse to the police than white women are.

- Native Alaskan and American Indian women experience an interpersonal violence rate three times higher than white women. Asian and white males and the elderly report the lowest rates.
- Most victims of intimate partner violence are victimized by someone of their own race.
- 76% of intimate partner murder victims have been stalked by their intimate partner.
- 1 in 12 women and 1 in 45 men will be stalked in their lifetime.
- Nearly 1.5 million of the estimated rapes, physical assaults or stalking incidents by intimate partners result in a need for mental health counseling each year.
- Almost half of the women who report serious domestic violence events also meet the criteria for major depression; 24% suffer from posttraumatic stress disorder, and 31% from anxiety.
- The costs of intimate partner rape, physical assault, and stalking amount to approximately \$5.8 billion a year, most of which is for direct medical and mental health care services.
- Between 2001 and 2005, children resided in households experiencing intimate partner violence in 38% of incidents involving female victims and 21% involving male victims.
- One in three teenagers has experienced violence in a dating relationship.
- Dating violence crosses all racial, economic and social lines.
- About one in three high school students have been or will be involved in an abusive relationship.
- Teen dating violence most often takes place in the home of one of the dating partners.

Because intimate partner violence usually occurs in private and victims are often reluctant to report these events, it is one of the most chronically underreported crimes and therefore, difficult to measure. What is clear from the information available is that it is a major public health and criminal justice concern with consequences that affect a significant part of our population.

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