

## **INTIMATE PARTNER VIOLENCE Fact Sheet**

Intimate partner violence (IPV) is a global public health crisis that affects people from all walks of life, regardless of age, gender, sexual orientation, ability, race, or social standing. IPV can be committed by a current or former spouse or romantic or dating partner and may or may not include sexual violence. It impacts at least 10 million adults in the U.S. annually, and the World Health Organization estimates that about one in three women aged 15-49 worldwide have been victims of IPV.

According to the CDC, intimate partner violence includes physical violence, sexual violence, stalking, and psychological aggression (including coercive tactics) by a current or former spouse, boyfriend/girlfriend, dating partner, or ongoing sexual partner. The exact types of behaviors, the rate at which they occur, and their impacts vary. IPV often leads to economic, physical, and psychological consequences, including behavioral and mental health issues in children living in a home where violence occurs.

### Types of Abuse in IPV

- Psychological aggression — is the use of verbal and non-verbal communication with the intent to harm a partner mentally or emotionally and/or to exert control over a partner.
- Sexual violence — is forcing or attempting to force a partner to take part in a sex act, sexual touching, or a non-physical sexual event (e.g., sexting) when the partner does not or cannot consent. Sexual violence can occur in person, online, or through technology, such as posting or sharing sexual pictures of someone without their consent, or non-consensual sexting.
- Physical violence — is when a person hurts or tries to hurt a partner by hitting, kicking, or using another type of physical force.
- Stalking — is a pattern of repeated, unwanted attention and contact by a partner that causes fear or concern for one's own safety or the safety of someone close to the victim.

### Incidence & Prevalence

- More than 61 million women and 53 million men in the U.S. have reported psychological aggression by a partner in their lifetime.
- The overall number of U.S. children who have lived in homes where violence occurs is more than 15 million.
- Worldwide, approximately 38 percent of murders are committed by a male partner, and up to 852 million women report being abused.
- Worldwide, almost one third (27percent) of women aged 15-49 years who have been in a relationship report that they have been subjected to some form of IPV by their partner.
- Data from U.S. crime reports find that of the nearly 5,000 female victims of murder and non-negligent manslaughter in 2021, 34 percent were killed by an intimate partner.

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## Health Consequences

IPV causes both acute and long-term health consequences in adolescent and adult victims, as well as in children who have witnessed family violence.

The high prevalence of children's exposure to IPV places adolescents at risk for mismanagement of their emotions, mental health conditions (such as anxiety, depression, PTSD), and poor coping behaviors (such as impulsiveness, unsafe sexual activity, and substance abuse).

Worldwide, violence against women, including IPV, is a violation of women's human rights and a major public health problem. Health consequences for adult victims of IPV include:

- Mental health — anxiety, depression, PTSD, insomnia/sleep difficulties, suicidal ideation
- Neurologic — traumatic brain injury, dizziness, headaches, stroke, arterial dissection
- Substance abuse — higher incidences of alcohol consumption, smoking, intravenous drugs, or generalized substance use
- Cardiovascular — chest pain, hypertension, hyperlipidemia, heart disease
- Female reproductive — pelvic pain, dyspareunia, recurrent vaginal infections, pregnancy (unintended/unwanted), higher risk of labor and birth adverse outcomes, such as preterm birth or low birth weight
- Cancer — cervical cancer
- Infectious diseases — human immunodeficiency virus (HIV), increased risk of sexually transmitted infections (STIs)
- Chronic conditions — diabetes, chronic pain, liver failure, musculoskeletal problems, kidney and/or urinary problems, respiratory illnesses, gastrointestinal conditions, fibromyalgia, and more

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