

Violence Against Women

The National Women's Health Information Center
www.4woman.gov -- 1-800-994-9662

Domestic Violence and Intimate Partner Violence

Intimate partner violence, also called domestic violence, is the most frequent type of violence committed against women. Intimate partner violence is when one person purposely causes either physical or psychological harm to another, including physical abuse, psychological/emotional abuse, sexual assault, isolation, or economic abuse (controlling all of the victim's money, shelter, time, food, etc.). Most often, the violent person is a husband, former husband, boyfriend, or ex-boyfriend, but sometimes the abuser is female.

This very common problem should be taken very seriously. One in four women report that they have been victims of intimate partner violence or stalking by someone they know. These crimes occur in both heterosexual and same-sex relationships. The consequences of intimate partner violence can be devastating to women. Physical and emotional trauma can lead to increased stress, depression, lowered [self-esteem](#), and [post-traumatic stress disorder](#) (an emotional state of discomfort and stress associated with the memories of a disturbing event).

Violence against women by any one is always wrong, whether the abuser is a current or past spouse, boyfriend, or girlfriend; someone you date; a family member; an acquaintance; or a stranger. You are not at fault. You did not cause the abuse to occur, and you are not responsible for the violent behavior of someone else. If you or someone you know has been a victim of intimate partner violence, seek help from other family members and friends or community organizations. Make sure you and your children are SAFE. Reach out for support or counseling. Talk with a health care provider, especially if you have been physically hurt. Learn more about [how to get help](#) for intimate partner or domestic violence. Another important part of getting help is knowing if you are in an abusive relationship. There are clear signs to help you [know if you are being abused](#).

If you're a victim of violence at the hands of someone you know or love or you are recovering from an assault by a stranger, you are not alone. To get immediate help and support call

The **National Domestic Violence Hotline** at:
1-800-799-SAFE (7233) or
1-800-787-3224 (TTY)

Publications

1.  [Access to HHS Funded Services for Immigrant Survivors of Domestic Violence](http://www.hhs.gov/ocr/immigration/bifsltr.html)
<http://www.hhs.gov/ocr/immigration/bifsltr.html>
This Fact Sheet is intended to provide guidance to health and social service agencies and community-based organizations about eligibility for all the

various programs and services funded by Department of Health and Human Services (HHS).

2. [Are you Being Abused? \(Copyright © ACOG\)](#)
http://www.acog.org/from_home/departments/dept_notice.cfm?recno=17&bulletin=198
This simple true-false quiz helps victims and those who care about them identify the signs of abuse. It encourages victims to seek assistance and gives helpful phone numbers to call.
3. [Does Domestic Violence Increase After Disasters? \(Copyright © EIIP\)](#)
<http://www.emforum.org/vlibrary/domestic.htm>
This report contains information on how domestic violence may increase after disasters. It gives some examples and statistics on this increase from previous disasters.
4. [Domestic Violence: Protecting Yourself and Your Children \(Copyright © AAFP\)](#)
<http://www.familydoctor.org/handouts/052.html>
This fact sheet provides information on how to protect yourself and your children from domestic violence, where to go to get help, and other facts you should know about domestic violence.
5. [Domestic Violence: Safety Plan Guidelines \(Copyright © NCVS\)](#)
<http://www.ncvc.org/infolink/INFO15.htm>
This fact sheet provides information to help people understand why domestic violence occurs, why women stay in these relationships, and what can be done to end the violence.
6.  [Extent, Nature, and Consequences of Intimate Partner Violence](#)
<http://www.ncjrs.org/txtfiles1/nij/181867.txt>
This report contains the results of a national survey conducted by the National Institute of Justice and the CDC asking 16,000 men and women about their experience as victims of various forms of violence.
7. [Intimate Partner Violence](#)
<http://www.ojp.usdoj.gov/bjs/abstract/ipv.htm>
This fact sheet provides information on violence by intimates (current or former spouses, girlfriends, or boyfriends) since the redesign of the National Crime Victimization Survey (NCVS), and contains information on new questions about violence by intimates.
8.  [Intimate Partner Violence Fact Sheet](#)
<http://www.cdc.gov/ncipc/factsheets/ipvfacts.htm>
This fact sheet contains statistical information on the number of women who are victims of Intimate Partner Violence (IPV), characteristics of the most common victims and perpetrators of IPV, and the effects it can have on a person and society as a whole.

Organizations

1.  [Division of Violence Prevention, NCIPC, CDC, OPHS, HHS](http://www.cdc.gov/ncipc/dvp/dvp.htm)
<http://www.cdc.gov/ncipc/dvp/dvp.htm>
2. [Family Violence Prevention Fund](http://endabuse.org/)
<http://endabuse.org/>
3. [National Coalition Against Domestic Violence](http://www.ncadv.org/)
<http://www.ncadv.org/>
4. [National Domestic Violence Hotline](http://www.ndvh.org/)
<http://www.ndvh.org/>
5. [National Latino Alliance for the Elimination of Domestic Violence](http://www.dvalianza.org/)
<http://www.dvalianza.org/>
6.  [Office on Violence Against Women, OJP, DOJ](http://www.ojp.usdoj.gov/vawo/)
<http://www.ojp.usdoj.gov/vawo/>
7. [Partnerships Against Violence Network](http://www.pavnet.org)
<http://www.pavnet.org>

 = Indicates Federal Resources

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