



New York State Office for the Prevention of Domestic Violence

National Data on Intimate Partner Violence

This data sheet contains selected, recent, national statistics¹ related to intimate partner violence (IPV) – violence by current and former spouses, dating partners and cohabiting partners. All statistics are rounded to the nearest whole percent. Most of the statistics come from government sources; some are from research studies and summary reports generated by non-profit groups. (For a regularly updated list of relevant national statistical reports, visit <http://opdv.state.ny.us/statistics/reports/index.html>.)

Statistics related to the following topics are included:

- National Intimate Partner Violence Statistics
- Intimate Partner Homicide
- Teen Dating Violence
- Health Impact of IPV
- Economic Effects of IPV
- How IPV Affects Children
- IPV in the Courts
- Reference Citations

National Intimate Partner Violence Statistics

In 2005, there was IPV in about 1 in every 320 U.S. households.²

For 2008, the U.S. Bureau of Justice Statistics estimates that:

- IPV constituted 3% of all violence against males and 23% of all violence against females in the U.S.³
- The rate of IPV for females age 12 or older was 4.3 per 1,000, a 53% decrease since 1993. Against males, the rate was 0.8 victimizations per 1,000, a 54% decrease since 1993.⁴
- 72% of IPV against males and 49% of IPV against females was reported to police.
- About 99% of IPV against females was committed by male offenders, and about 83% of IPV against males was committed by female offenders.⁵

In 2007, intimate partners were responsible for 16% of nonfatal violence against women with disabilities, and 5% of violence against men with disabilities. (The comparable figures for women and men without disabilities were 27% and 3%.)⁶

On average between 2001 and 2005:

- Women aged 20 to 24 were at greater risk of IPV than other age groups.⁷
- The annual *per capita* rate of IPV was similar for black and white women and for Hispanic and non-Hispanic women and men, and higher for American Indian and Alaska Native women.⁸

Though the actual number of cases of IPV against LGTB people is impossible to know, 15 Gay and Lesbian Anti-Violence Projects nationwide received 3,658 calls related to IPV in 2009, up 15% from 2008. Calls came from roughly equal numbers of men and women, and from almost three times as many women as men who identified as transgender.⁹

In 2005, in stalking cases where the victim/offender relationship was known, 28% of stalkers were current or former intimate partners. (This figure includes cases the study defined as “harassment,” which would have counted as stalking under NYS law.)¹⁰

In the mid-1990s, 59% of female stalking victims and 30% of male victims were stalked by a current or former intimate partner. 81% of women stalked by an intimate partner were also physically assaulted and 31% were also sexually assaulted by the same partner.¹¹

In the US every year, about 18,700 incidents of violence in the workplace are committed by a worker’s current or former intimate partner.¹²

Intimate Partner Homicide

Between 1993 and 2007 the overall rate of murders of women fell 43%, from 4.18 to 2.38 homicides per 100,000 female U.S. residents.¹³

About 1/3 of female murder victims aged 12 or older are killed by an intimate partner, vs. roughly 3% of male victims.¹⁴

IPV is a leading cause of homicides and injury-related deaths during pregnancy.¹⁵

In 2007, intimate partners committed 14% of all homicides in the U.S., killing an estimated 1,640 women and 700 men.¹⁶

In 2008:

- 1,817 women in the US were killed by men in single victim/single offender incidents, as reported to the FBI's Supplementary Homicide Reports. Where the victim/offender relationship was known, 64% of female victims were killed by a male intimate partner. 534 women killed by an intimate partner were killed with a firearm – most often a handgun.¹⁷
- Black women were murdered at a rate over 2.5 times higher than white women: 1.02 per 100,000 versus 1.02 per 100,000.¹⁸

The risk of a woman being killed by an intimate partner significantly increases when the abuser:

- Has access to a gun and has made previous threats or assaults with a gun.
- Threatens murder.
- Forces sex.
- Attempts to strangle the victim.
- Is extremely jealous.
- Is physically violent with increasing severity and/or frequency.
- Abuses drugs or alcohol.¹⁹
 - Over 80% of men who killed or abused a female partner were problem drinkers in the year before the incident.²⁰
 - More than 2/3 of homicide and attempted homicide offenders were intoxicated at the time of the incident, compared to fewer than 1/4 of their victims.²¹
 - More than 1/4 of homicide offenders used both alcohol and drugs during the incident, compared to just under 6% of non-lethal partner abusers.²²

The risk of homicide is also increased if:

- The victim has recently separated from the offender.
- There is a child in the home who is not biologically related to the offender.
- The offender stalks the victim.
- The victim is abused during pregnancy.
- The offender is unemployed.²³

Teen Dating Violence

In a survey of 11- to 14-year-olds, 62% said they had friends who had been verbally abused (e.g., called names) by a boyfriend or girlfriend, and 20% of the 13- and 14-year-olds knew of friends whose boyfriend or girlfriend had kicked, hit, slapped, or punched them.²⁴

Girls who are victims of physical dating violence are more likely than their peers to have:

- Experienced other forms of violence.
- Been physically forced to have sexual intercourse.
- Been sexually active at a young age or with multiple partners.
- Used marijuana, alcohol and/or tobacco.
- Been depressed, thought about suicide, or attempted suicide.²⁵

In a survey of over four thousand high school students,²⁶

- About 1 in 5 girls reported physical and/or sexual abuse by a dating partner; when there was sexual abuse, there was usually physical abuse as well.
- Girls abused by dating partners had a higher risk of substance use, unhealthy weight control, sexual risk behaviors (e.g., early intercourse), and suicidal thoughts or actions.
- They were also 4 to 6 times more likely than their peers to have been pregnant.

Among 53 sexually active teenagers who had been abused, 26% said that their partner had actively tried to get them pregnant, 32% did become pregnant during a relationship with an abusive partner, and 59% of those pregnancies were unwanted.²⁷

Economic Effects of Intimate Partner Violence

About 25% of homeless women are homeless mainly because of violence.²⁸

IPV was a primary cause of family homelessness in 28% of 25 cities surveyed; in 22% of these cities, 15% of homeless persons, on average, were victims of domestic violence.²⁹

The National Law Center on Homelessness and Poverty cites research indicating that at least 50% of women participating in TANF (Temporary Assistance to Needy Families) had experienced domestic violence – more than double the percentage in the general population. At least 25% had experienced violence in the past year, but in most states, only a tiny percentage received waivers of TANF requirements due to IPV.³⁰

The Centers for Disease Control estimates that the annual workplace-related cost of IPV is \$727.8 million, including almost 8 million paid workdays lost and nearly \$0.9 billion in lost productivity.³¹

Health Impact of Intimate Partner Violence

On average, between 2001 and 2005, 5% of women experiencing IPV suffered serious injuries and 44% suffered minor injuries. Another 3% suffered sexual assault without other injuries.³²

Women who were sexually assaulted by an intimate partner, compared to women who had been physically, but not sexually abused, had more:

- Symptoms of post-traumatic stress disorder.
- Pregnancies resulting from rape.
- Sexually transmitted diseases.
- Use of alcohol, illicit drugs (usually cocaine), or nicotine.
- Threatened or attempted suicide.³³

The Centers for Disease Control estimates that the cost of intimate partner rape, assault, and stalking exceeds \$5.8 billion each year,³⁴ and that:

- Victims sought mental health services following 33% of intimate partner rapes, 26% of assaults, and 43% of stalking incidents – for an estimated 18.6 million mental health visits.
- The medical and mental health care cost per IPV incident is about \$838 per rape, \$816 per assault, and \$294 per stalking incident.

Abused women were diagnosed 6 times more often with substance abuse, over 3 times more often with depression, and 3 times more often with sexually transmitted diseases than women who were not abused.³⁵

The health care costs of abused women exceeded those of other women by over \$1,200 annually in the first two years after the abuse ended, and by about \$400 in the third year.³⁶

Physically abused women used more emergency department, hospital outpatient, primary care, pharmacy and mental health services, and women who suffered non-physical abuse used more mental health services, than non-abused women. Women experiencing ongoing physical abuse had the highest total annual health care costs (42% higher than costs incurred by non-abused women), followed by those who had been abused recently (24% higher) or longer ago (19% higher). Women who had experienced recent nonphysical abuse had annual costs that were 33% higher than non-abused women.³⁷

How Intimate Partner Violence Affects Children

From 2001 to 2005, children under age 12 were living in 38% of households with a female IPV victim and 21% of households with a male victim.³⁸

Studies find a 30% – 60% overlap between child maltreatment and IPV.³⁹

Children exposed to IPV experience problems like those of children who have been abused.

- Some experience trauma-related anxiety, depression, and low self-esteem.
- Others engage in fighting, bullying, lying, cheating, and disobedience.
- They are more likely than other children to have difficulty in relationships with others, and poor school performance.
- They learn attitudes leading to violent behavior, and are more likely to engage in violence in the community.⁴⁰
- Pre-school children suffered more often from bed-wetting, nightmares, post-traumatic stress symptoms, allergies, asthma, gastrointestinal problems, headaches and flu.⁴¹
- Adolescents were more likely to attempt suicide, abuse drugs or alcohol, run away from home, engage in delinquent behavior or prostitution, and commit sexual assault crimes.⁴²

An abusive man's relationship to a child affects the child's well-being directly, not just by way of its negative impact on the mother.⁴³

Violence by a father or stepfather had a greater impact on a child than violence by a partner of the mother who played a minimal role in the child's life.⁴⁴

The effects of IPV may be buffered by the presence of protective adults within the family and outside it, especially the child's mother, and by the child's own ways of coping.⁴⁵

Intimate Partner Violence in the Criminal Courts

Among 3,750 cases of intentional physical violence by an intimate partner that were filed in the state courts of 16 large urban counties in May 2002:⁴⁶

- 84% of cases involved a male defendant and a female victim, while 12% involved a female defendant and male victim. In 4% of cases, the defendant and victim were of the same gender.
- Most involved charges of simple assault (78%), aggravated assault (12%), or intimidation, including stalking (5%).
- 89% of victims sustained injuries, and 9% suffered serious injuries, including gunshot wounds, stab wounds, rape, and severe lacerations or burns.
- About 25% of cases involved the use of a weapon, such as a gun, knife, or blunt object.
- 46% of defendants had a prior history of abusing the same victim.
- Children were present during the violent incident in 36% of the cases.
- Male defendants with female victims were more likely than others to have a history of abusing the same victim, and to have their violence witnessed by a child – and were more likely to be convicted.
- 56% of cases resulted in a conviction, 33% were dropped or dismissed, and 9% led to pretrial diversion or deferred adjudication. Fewer than 1% of defendants were acquitted.
- Female defendants convicted of IPV against male partners were relatively less likely to be incarcerated.

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