Intimate Partner Violence

Intimate partner violence (IPV), often called domestic violence, is generally described as abuse within the context of an intimate partner relationship, where one partner asserts power and control over the other. While legal definitions vary by state, IPV can include physical, sexual, and psychological abuse, as well as economic coercion. IPV affects millions of individuals, regardless of marital status, sexual orientation, race, age, religion, education, or economic status. Because of the seriousness of this crime, the effects on victims and their families, and the difficulties in the criminal justice system response, victims of IPV may require sustained resources, including access to emergency shelter, housing assistance, protection orders, safety planning, support groups, financial assistance, and other forms of support.

Trends

In 2015, the rate of **intimate partner violent victimization** among women **rose about 46%** over the previous year. However, in the 20 years since 1995, the rates of violent intimate partner victimization among men and women have **decreased by 98%** and **65%**, respectively. Because the personal nature of these victimizations often influences a victim's decision to report the crime, victimizations by intimate partners are highly underreported. In 2015, violent victimizations committed by family members were reported more frequently than those committed by intimate partners, followed by acquaintances (either well-known or casual) and strangers.^A

Intimate Partner Victimization by Sex^A

rate per 1,000 people



Percent of Victimizations Reported to Police^A

by victim's relationship to offender



According to the National Intimate Partner and Sexual Violence Survey (NISVS), an estimated **47%** of men and women will be victims of **psychological aggression** by an intimate partner in their lifetime. In addition, **1/3 of women** will be victims of **physical violence**, and **1/4 of contact sexual violence**,* by an intimate partner. Almost **1/4 of men** will be victims of **physical violence** by an intimate partner.⁸

Lifetime Estimate of Intimate Partner Violence by sex and type of victimization 50% 46.5 47.1 Men 31.5 Women 27.5 27.3 11.5 9.2 2.5 **Psychological Physical Contact sexual** Stalking aggression violence violence¹

Did You Know?

10% of high schoolers who report being in a dating relationship experience **physical violence** by a boyfriend or girlfriend; **10%** also experience **sexual violence**.^c

9% of homicides are committed by intimate partners.^D

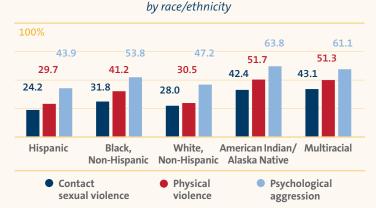
20% of women who identify as victims of intimate partner violence report that they experience **1** or more **PTSD symptoms**, compared to 5% of men.^B

*"Contact sexual violence" includes rape, being made to penetrate a perpetrator, sexual coercion, and unwanted sexual contact.

Current Data on Intimate Partner Violence

Psychological aggression is the most common form of intimate partner violence, affecting men and women of all races and ethnicities. The percentage of American Indian and Alaska Native women estimated to be victimized by intimate partners is higher than any other race or ethnicity. (National estimates of IPV are not reported for men across all ethnicities.)^B

Estimate of Intimate Partner Violence against Women^B



In 2015, the National Coalition of Anti-Violence Programs collected information from almost 2,000 **LGBTQ** and **HIV-affected individuals** who had been victims of intimate partner violence. Of these, 43% identified as gay, 19% as lesbian, 10% as bisexual, and 9% as queer; and **41% were under 30** years old, while **30% were age 30–39**.

Percentage of Intimate Partner Violence



In more than **80%** of intimate partner violent victimizations, the victim did **not receive assistance** from victim service agencies in 2015.^A



An estimated **71% of female** intimate partner victims are victimized **before age 25**; 23% before age 18. Comparatively, **58% of male** intimate partner victims are victimized **before age 25**; 14% before age 18.⁸

Age of First Intimate Partner Victimization^B



Households earning **between \$15,000** and **\$24,999** reported slightly more intimate partner victimizations in 2015 than other households. However, intimate partner violence is not isolated to any particular income bracket.^A

Intimate Partner Violence by Household Income^A

in thousands of victimizations



SOURCES

- A Bureau of Justice Statistics, National Crime Victimization Survey, Concatenated File, 1992-2015, (U.S. Department of Justice)
- B Matthew J. Breiding et al., "Prevalence and Characteristics of Sexual Violence, Stalking, and Intimate Partner Violence Victimization, NISVS 2011," MMWR vol 63, 8(2014): www.cdc.gov/mmwr/pdf/ss/ss6308.pdf
- **C** CDC, Youth Behavior Surveillance System, 2015, https://nccd.cdc.gov/ Youthonline/App/Default.aspx
- **D** FBI, Crime in the United States, 1995 2015, (U.S. Department of Justice), Table 10
- E Emily Waters, "Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer, and HIV-Affected Intimate Partner Violence in 2015," (National Coalition of Anti-Violence Programs, 2016), www.avp.org/storage/documents/2015_ncavp_lgbtqipvreport.pdf





