

## What exactly is Domestic Violence?

Definition of DV- Domestic Violence is the willful intimidation, physical assault battery, sexual assault and/or other abusive behavior perpetrated by an intimate partner against another.

It is an epidemic affecting individuals in every community, regardless of age, economic status, race, religion, nationality or educational background.

Violence against women is often accompanied by emotionally abusive and controlling behavior, and is a part of a systematic pattern of dominance and control.

Domestic Violence results in physical injury, psychological trauma, and sometimes death.

The consequences of DV can cross generations and last a lifetime.

### Domestic Violence (DV) Facts

- 1.1 in 4 women will experience Domestic Violence in her lifetime.
- 2.1.3 million women are victims of physical assault by an intimate partner each year.
3. Females have been most often victimized by someone they knew.
4. Females who are 20-24 years of age are at the greatest risk of nonfatal intimate partner violence
5. Most cases of Domestic Violence are never reported to the police.

### Homicide & Injury

1. Almost 1/3 of female homicide victims that are reported in police records are killed by an intimate partner.
2. In 70% - 80% of intimate partner homicides the man physically abused the woman before the murder.
3. Less than 1/5 of victims reporting an injury from intimate partner violence sought medical treatment following the injury.
4. Intimate partner violence results in more than 18.5 million mental health care visits each year.

### Sexual Assault

- 1.1 in 6 women and 1 in 33 men have experienced an attempted or completed rape.
2. Nearly 7.8 million women have been raped by an intimate partner at some point in their lives.
3. Sexual assault or forced sex occurs in approximately 40 to 50% of battering relationships.

### Children Who Witness

1. Witnessing violence between one's parents or caretakers is the strongest risk factor of transmitting violent behavior from one generation to the next.
2. Boys who witness domestic violence are twice as likely to abuse their own partners and children when they become adults.
3. 30% to 60% of perpetrators of intimate partner violence also abuse children in the household.

### Economic Impact

1. The cost of intimate partner violence exceeds \$5.8 billion each year, \$4.1 billion of which is for direct medical and mental health services.
2. Victims of intimate partner violence lost almost 8 million days of paid work because of the violence perpetrated against them by current or former husbands, boyfriends and dates. This loss is the equivalent of more than 32,000 full-time jobs and almost 5.6 million days of household productivity as a result of violence.
3. There are 16,800 homicides and \$2.2 million medically treated injuries due to intimate partner violence annually, which costs \$37 billion.

National Coalition Against Domestic Violence