



Injury Prevention & Control : Division of Violence Prevention

Intimate Partner Violence: Consequences

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Cost to Society

- Costs of intimate partner violence (IPV) against women alone in 1995 exceeded an estimated \$5.8 billion. These costs included nearly \$4.1 billion in the direct costs of medical and mental health care and nearly \$1.8 billion in the indirect costs of lost productivity.¹ This is generally considered an underestimate because the costs associated with the criminal justice system were not included.
- When updated to 2003 dollars, IPV costs exceeded \$8.3 billion, which included \$460 million for rape, \$6.2 billion for physical assault, \$461 million for stalking, and \$1.2 billion in the value of lost lives.²
- The increased annual health care costs for victims of IPV can persist as much as 15 years after the cessation of abuse.³
- Victims of severe IPV lose nearly 8 million days of paid work-the equivalent of more than 32,000 full-time jobs-and almost 5.6 million days of household productivity each year.¹
- Women who experience severe aggression by men (e.g., not being allowed to go to work or school, or having their lives or their children's lives threatened) are more likely to have been unemployed in the past, have health problems, and be receiving public assistance.⁴

Consequences

Approximately 27.3% of women and 11.5% of men in the U.S. have experienced contact sexual violence, physical violence, or stalking by an intimate partner and reported at least one measured impact related to these or other forms of violence in that relationship.⁵ In general, victims of repeated violence over time experience more serious consequences than victims of one-time incidents.⁶ The following list describes some, but not all, of the consequences of IPV.

Physical

Nearly 1 in 4 women (22.3%) and 1 in 7 men (14.0%) aged 18 and older in the United States have been the victim of severe physical violence by an intimate partner in their lifetime. Nearly, 14% of women (13.4%) and 3.54% of men have been injured as a result of IPV that included contact sexual violence, physical violence, or stalking by an intimate partner in their lifetime (Breiding et al., 2014).⁵ In 2010, 241 males and 1095 females were murdered by an intimate partner.⁷

Apart from deaths and injuries, physical violence by an intimate partner is associated with a number of adverse health outcomes.^{8,9} Several health conditions associated with intimate partner violence may be a direct result of the physical violence (for example, bruises, knife wounds, broken bones, traumatic brain injury, back or pelvic pain, headaches). Other conditions are the result of the impact of intimate partner violence on the cardiovascular, gastrointestinal, endocrine and immune systems through chronic stress or other mechanisms.^{8,10,11}

Examples of health conditions associated with IPV include

- Asthma
- Bladder and kidney infections
- Circulatory conditions
- Cardiovascular disease
- Fibromyalgia
- Irritable bowel syndrome
- Chronic pain syndromes
- Central nervous system disorders
- Gastrointestinal disorders
- Joint disease
- Migraines and headaches

Children might become injured during IPV incidents between their parents. A large overlap exists between IPV and child maltreatment.¹²

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Reproductive

- Gynecological disorders
- Pelvic inflammatory disease
- Sexual dysfunction
- Sexually transmitted infections, including HIV/AIDS
- Delayed prenatal care
- Preterm delivery
- Pregnancy difficulties like low birth weight babies and perinatal deaths
- Unintended pregnancy

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Psychological

Physical violence is typically accompanied by emotional or psychological abuse.¹³ IPV—whether sexual, physical, or psychological—can lead to various psychological consequences for victims.^{8,14-17}

- Anxiety
- Depression
- Symptoms of post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD)
- Antisocial behavior
- Suicidal behavior in females
- Low self-esteem
- Inability to trust others, especially in intimate relationships
- Fear of intimacy
- Emotional detachment
- Sleep disturbances
- Flashbacks
- Replaying assault in the mind

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Social

Victims of IPV sometimes face the following social consequences:^{15,17,18}

- Restricted access to services
- Strained relationships with health providers and employers
- Isolation from social networks

- Homelessness

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Health Behaviors

Women with a history of IPV are more likely to display behaviors that present further health risks (e.g., substance abuse, alcoholism, suicide attempts) than women without a history of IPV.

IPV is associated with a variety of negative health behaviors.^{15,18-20} Studies show that the more severe the violence, the stronger its relationship to negative health behaviors by victims.

- Engaging in high-risk sexual behavior
 - Unprotected sex
 - Decreased condom use
 - Early sexual initiation
 - Choosing unhealthy sexual partners
 - Multiple sex partners
 - Trading sex for food, money, or other items
- Using harmful substances
 - Smoking cigarettes
 - Drinking alcohol
 - Drinking alcohol and driving
 - Illicit drug use
- Unhealthy diet-related behaviors
 - Fasting
 - Vomiting
 - Abusing diet pills
 - Overeating
- Overuse of health services

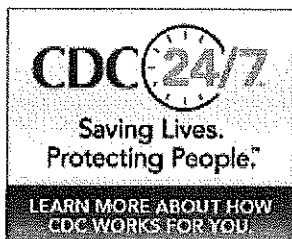
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(http://www.cdc.gov/24-7/?s_cid=24-7_004)



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