Domestic Violence Awareness & Statistics

The Virginia Anti-Violence Project
Exhausting DV Awareness from an intersectional, multi-dimensional lens

October 2021
Many resources confuse IPV with DV. **Intimate Partner Violence** refers to interpersonal violence at the hands of a romantic/sexual partner, while **domestic violence** refers to any dynamic of violence present within a shared living space (i.e. home, shelter, etc).

This means that **domestic violence** can occur between a parent & child, between siblings, grandparents & grandchildren, roommates, etc.
Domestic Violence is an intersectional issue.

Domestic violence relies on an imbalance of power within the living unit. We live in a society rife with deeply ingrained & socialized imbalances, including marginalization by race, gender, sexuality, disability, economic class, age, immigration status, and more.

Abusers often take advantage of these power structures, leading to exacerbated rates of DV and complications in accessing resources for those identifying with a marginalized community.
- 85% of DV victims are women/femmes
- 47% of American Native/Alaskan Native women and 45% of non-hispanic Black women experience DV/IPV compared to 37% of white women
- Children are present during domestic violence incidents in 36% of cases - of children who were present, 60% directly witnessed violence
- 48% of Latinas reported that violence against them increased since they immigrated to the U.S
- Women/femmes with disabilities are 40% more likely to experience DV than those without
- LGBTQ+ people with disabilities are 2x more likely to be isolated by abusers, 3x more likely to be stalked, and 4x more likely to experience financial abuse.
- Black women are 3x more likely to be the victims of lethal domestic violence
Access to DV Resources is also an intersectional issue.

Survivors of DV often experience unique roadblocks to accessing help due to systemic discrimination in social services & institutions. These include:

- Individuals living with a **disability** may be unable to speak or advocate for themselves, and may be under a financially constrictive conservatorship.
- **BIPOC** and **LGBTQ+** victims are far less likely to seek out aid from law enforcement, and much less likely to receive adequate help when doing so.
- **Children** or **elderly** victims are often unable to control their own economic or social situation.
- Victims of **undocumented status** fear law enforcement, ICE and threats of deportation.
- **Black** victims of DV are drastically more likely to be arrested while **defending themselves** from an abuser.
To Remember:
Domestic Violence is the direct result of a choice made by an abuser to exploit power imbalances in a home – it is never the fault of the victim.

Repeated studies have shown that DV is cyclical. By educating ourselves, family and friends on social issues of toxic masculinity, racism, queerphobia, ableism, ageism and more, we are fighting to end a cycle of abuse that has been enabled by systemic inequality for generations. This work is not limited to any organization, but is a liberation effort empowered by a united force of radically empowered individuals.
We are always here for you.

Contact us at:
vavpadvocacyandservices@virginiaavp.org

Or Virginia's 24/7 LGBTQ+ Help Line:
Call: 866.356.6998
Text: 804.793.9999

Visit our site for more resources:
virginiaavp.org/resources/
virginiaavp.org/individual-support-advocacy/

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Citations

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Domestic Violence and Disabilities, LifeWire

Safe Horizon Statistics

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https://virginiaaavp.org/