

Domestic Violence Awareness & Statistics

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



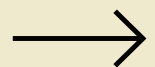
October 2021



Domestic Violence vs. Intimate Partner Violence - What's the difference?

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).

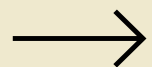
This means that **domestic violence** can occur between a parent & child, between siblings, grandparents & grandchildren, roommates, etc.



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.

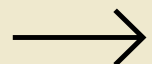
Abusers often take advantage of these power structures, leading to **exacerbated rates of DV** and **complications in accessing resources** for those identifying with a marginalized community.



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- 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

Children and Domestic Violence

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Domestic Violence in Communities of Color Report, WOCN

<https://wocninc.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/11/DVFAQ-1.pdf>

Domestic Violence and Disabilities, LifeWire

<https://www.lifewire.org/disabilities/#:-:text=Survivors%20often%20experience%20disability%20because%20of%20abuse.%20Domestic,symptoms%20like%20headaches%2C%20memory%20loss%2C%20and%20cognitive%20issues.>

Safe Horizon Statistics

<https://www.safehorizon.org/get-informed/domestic-violence-statistics-facts/#definition/>

How Domestic Violence Varies by Ethnicity

<https://www.verywellmind.com/domestic-violence-varies-by-ethnicity-62648#citation-10>

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