

## Domestic Violence Fact Sheet



Domestic Violence Awareness

### What is Domestic Violence?

- Domestic violence is a pattern of abusive and threatening behaviors perpetrated by an intimate partner or family member against another.
- Domestic violence involves exercising a pattern of [coercive control](#) over a victim: using acts designed to make her subordinate and/or dependent by isolating her from sources of support, regulating her everyday behaviors, and preventing her independence or escape.<sup>1</sup>
- It affects individuals in all countries, regardless of age<sup>2</sup>, economic status, educational background, race, or religion.
- Abusive behaviors may include physical violence (physical abuse, injuries), emotional violence (humiliation, threats), economic violence (preventing someone from getting or keeping a job, making funds unavailable to dependent family members), and sexual violence (sexual abuse, marital rape).

### What is the Purpose of Domestic Violence?

- To reinforce the dominant belief that men have the right to control women.
- To establish and exert [power and control](#) over an intimate partner.

### What is the [Prevalence of Domestic Violence](#)?

- In a study of 48 countries, 10-69% of women report being physically assaulted by an intimate male partner during their lifetime.<sup>3</sup>
- Studies show that 40-70% of all women who are murdered are killed by their current or former husbands or partners.<sup>4</sup>

### What are the [Effects of Domestic Violence](#)?

- [Women may experience severe physical and mental health problems](#) lasting a lifetime (physical injury, chronic pain, gastrointestinal disorders, depression, and suicidal behavior).
- Women may experience reproductive health issues such as premature labor and birth, [HIV/AIDS, and other sexually-transmitted diseases](#).<sup>5</sup>
- Women may experience lower job earnings, problems in job performance, and difficulty in keeping employment due to domestic violence.<sup>6</sup>
- [The cost of domestic violence](#) is greater than \$5.8 billion per year just in the United States.<sup>7</sup> In the United Kingdom, a 2004 study estimated that the cost of domestic violence was £23 billion per year.<sup>8</sup>
- [Millions of children are exposed to domestic violence](#) each year.<sup>9</sup> Studies have found that these children are more likely to run away from home, engage in substance abuse, attempt suicide, and commit sexual assault crimes.<sup>10</sup>
- Domestic violence reinforces other acts of violence and prevents women and children from reaching their full potential. [Communities and nations are negatively affected by domestic violence](#) in many ways.<sup>11</sup>

### [Forms of Domestic Violence](#)

The following are some common types of domestic violence:

- [Dating Violence](#)
- [Stalking](#)
- [Animal Abuse and Domestic Violence](#)
- [LGBTQ Domestic Violence](#)
- [Marital rape](#)

Visit [Hot Peach Pages](#) for organizations in your country which can help!

<sup>1</sup> Evan Stark, [Re-presenting Battered Women: Coercive Control and the Defense of Liberty](#) (2012).

<sup>2</sup> [Technology and Teen Dating Abuse Survey in 2007; Dating Basics](#), at [loveisrespect.org](#); [Dating Violence](#), [www.stopvaw.org](#).

<sup>3</sup> World Health Organization, [Facts on Intimate Partner Violence](#) (2002).

<sup>4</sup> *Id.*

<sup>5</sup> *Id.*

<sup>6</sup> *Id.*

<sup>7</sup> Department of Health and Human Services, [Costs of Intimate Partner Violence Against Women in the United States](#) (2003).

<sup>8</sup> UN Department of Public Information, [Violence Against Women: The Situation](#) (2009).

<sup>9</sup> Moylan et al., "[The Effects of Child Abuse and Exposure to Domestic Violence on Adolescent Internalizing and Externalizing Behavior Problems](#)" in *J Fam Violence*. 2010 January; 25(1): 53–63.

<sup>10</sup> Wolfe et al., "Strategies to Address Violence in the Lives of High Risk Youth" in *Ending the Cycle of Violence: Community Responses to Children of Battered Women*, edited by Edelson et.al (1995).

<sup>11</sup> UN Department of Public Information, [Violence Against Women: The Situation](#) (2009).