

WHAT IS DOMESTIC VIOLENCE?

Domestic violence is the willful intimidation, physical assault, battery, sexual assault, and/or other abusive behavior as part of a systematic pattern of power and control perpetrated by one intimate partner against another. It includes physical violence, sexual violence, threats, and emotional abuse. The frequency and severity of domestic violence can vary dramatically.

CONTEXT

Due to systemic racism, racist policies, and racist societal structures, both Black women and Black men experience intimate partner violence at a disproportionately high rate. By intentionally denying Black people access to economic opportunities, the ability to build intergenerational wealth, healthcare, education,¹ and a sense of safety from governmental systems, racist policies increase the prevalence of risk factors for domestic violence.² These systems create numerous barriers for survivors seeking safety. Law enforcement officials often arrest Black survivors, and police, jurors, and judges are less likely to believe Black survivors than White survivors.³ Racist systems put Black people at greater risk of experiencing intimate partner violence.

STATISTICS

- 45.1% of Black women and 40.1% of Black men have experienced intimate partner physical violence, intimate partner sexual violence and/or intimate partner stalking in their lifetimes.⁴
- 31.8% of Black women and 16.8% of Black men have experienced one or more of the following intimate partner violence-related impacts: being fearful, concerned for safety, any post-traumatic stress disorder symptoms, injury, need for medical care, housing services, victim advocate services, and/or legal services, missed at least 1 day of work or school, and contacting a crisis hotline.⁵
- 41.2% of Black women and 36.3% of Black men have experienced intimate partner physical violence in their lifetimes.⁶
- 53.8% of Black women and 56.1% of Black men have experienced psychological aggression by an intimate partner in their lifetimes.⁷
- 8.8% of Black women have been the victims of intimate partner rape in their lifetimes.⁸
- 17.4% of Black women and 14.8% of Black men have experienced intimate partner sexual violence (other than rape) in their lifetimes.⁹
- 9.5% of Black women have experienced intimate partner stalking in their lifetimes.¹⁰

HOMICIDE

- An estimated 51.3% of black adult female homicides are related to intimate partner violence.¹¹
- Between 2003-2014, 57.7% of black adult female homicide victims were murdered with the use of a firearm.¹²
- In 2017, for female victim/male offender homicides, Black females had the highest rate at 2.55 per 100,000.¹³

If you are in crisis, contact The National Domestic Violence Hotline at 1-800-799-SAFE (7233) or www.TheHotline.org.

Please visit the **National Coalition Against Domestic Violence's** website at www.ncadv.org for more fact sheets, membership information, and valuable resources.

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- ¹ Blesset, B. & Littleton, V. (2017). Examining the impact of institutional racism in Black residentially segregated communities. *Ralph Bunche Journal of Public Affairs*, 6(1).
- ² Capaldi, D. M., Knoble, N. B., Shortt, J. W., & Kim H. K. (2012). A systemic review of risk factors for intimate partner violence. *Partner Abuse*, 3(2), 231 – 280. doi:10.1891/1946-6560.3.2.231.
- ³ Jacobs, M. S. (2017). The violent state: Black women’s invisible struggle against police violence. *William & Mary Journal of Women and the Law*, 24(1), 31-100.
- ⁴ Smith, S.G., Chen, J., Basile, K.C., Gilbert, L.K., Merrick, M.T., Patel, N., Walling, M., & Jain, A. (2017). *The national intimate partner and sexual violence survey (NISVS): 2010-2012 state report*. Atlanta: National Center for Injury Prevention and Control, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Retrieved from <https://www.cdc.gov/violenceprevention/pdf/NISVS-StateReportBook.pdf>.
- ⁵ Breiding, M.J., Smith, S.G., Basile, K.C., Walters, M.L., Chen, J., & Merrick, M.T. (2014). Prevalence and characteristics of sexual violence, stalking, and intimate partner violence victimization — national intimate partner and sexual violence survey, United States, 2011. *Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report: Surveillance Summaries*, 63(8), 1-18. Retrieved from <https://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/pdf/ss/ss6308.pdf>.
- ⁶ Ibid.
- ⁷ Ibid.
- ⁸ Ibid.
- ⁹ Ibid.
- ¹⁰ Ibid.
- ¹¹ Petrosky, E., Blair, J.M., Betz, C.J., Fowler, K.A., Jack, S.P.D., & Lyons, B.H. (2017). Racial and ethnic differences in homicides of adult women and the role of intimate partner violence - United States, 2003-2014. *MMWR. Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report*, 66(28), 741-746. Retrieved from <https://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/volumes/66/wr/pdfs/mm6628a1.pdf>.
- ¹² Ibid.
- ¹³ Violence Policy Center (2019). *When men murder women: An analysis of 2017 homicide data*. Washington, DC. Retrieved from <https://vpc.org/studies/wmmw2019.pdf>.

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