

MALE VICTIMS OF VIOLENCE

WHY IT MATTERS

Men, as well as women, are victimized by violence. Sexual abuse and rape create substantial physical and psychological harm to male victims and perpetuate the cycle of violence.¹ Men and boys are less likely to report the violence and seek services due to the following challenges: the stigma of being a male victim, the perceived failure to conform to the macho stereotype, the fear of not being believed, the denial of victim status, and the lack of support from society, family members, and friends.²

DID YOU KNOW?

- One out of fourteen men has been physically assaulted by a current or former spouse, cohabitating partner, boyfriend/girlfriend or date at some point in their lives.³
- **It is estimated that 835,000 men** are physically assaulted by an intimate partner annually.³
- In terms of victimization, intimate partner violence against men is overwhelming committed in same-sex relationships rather than in heterosexual relationships.⁴

THE EFFECTS OF VIOLENCE

- According to the National Center for Victims of Crime⁵, men experience many of the same psychological reactions to violence as women. These include:
 - Guilt, shame, and humiliation
 - Anger and anxiety
 - Depression
 - Withdrawal from relationships
- According to a study published by the American Medical Association, boys are less likely to report sexual abuse due to fear, anxiety associated with being perceived as gay, the desire to appear self-reliant, and the will to be independent.⁶
- In a male-perpetrated assault, the male victim is more likely to be strangled, beaten with closed fists, and threatened with guns or other weapons.⁷
- In a female-perpetrated assault, the male victim is more likely to be kicked, slapped, or have objects thrown at him.⁷
- Men who witnessed domestic violence as children are twice as likely to abuse their own partners and children than those who did not witness domestic violence.⁸

PERPETRATORS

- 86% of adult men who were physically assaulted were physically assaulted by a man.³
- 70% of adult men who were raped were raped by a man.³
- 56% of adult men who reported being physically assaulted were assaulted by a stranger.³

INTIMATE PARTNER VIOLENCE

- **16% of adult men who reported being raped and/or physically assaulted were assaulted by a current or former spouse, cohabitating partner, boyfriend/girlfriend or date.**³
- 40% of gay and bisexual men will experience abuse at the hands of an intimate partner.⁹
- In the National Violence Against Women Survey, approximately 23% of men reported being raped, physically assaulted, and/or stalked by a male intimate partner. 7% of men reported such violence by a wife or female cohabitant.³
- According to a Bureau of Justice Statistics 2004 report, 5.5% of male homicide victims were murdered by a spouse, ex-spouse, boyfriend or girlfriend.¹⁰
- Women committing lethal acts of violence against their male partners are 7-10 times more likely than men to act in self-defense.¹¹
- Because men are more likely to be financially independent and less likely to experience fear upon leaving a violent relationship, men are less likely to seek emergency shelter and therefore do not take advantage of other domestic violence services that shelters provide.⁷

SEXUAL ABUSE & RAPE

- One in 33 men have been the victim of a completed or attempted rape.³
- 94% of the perpetrators of sexual abuse against boys are men.¹²
- One in six boys will be sexually abused by age 16.¹³
- 66% of men surveyed in the National Violence Against Women Survey said that they were physically assaulted as a child by an adult caretaker.³
- 21% of inmates in seven Midwestern prisons had experienced at least one episode of pressured or forced sex during their incarceration.¹⁴

TYPES OF ABUSE ¹⁵

- **Physical abuse** is the use of physical force against another in a way that injures that person or puts the victim at risk of being injured. Physical abuse ranges from physical restraint to murder and may include pushing, throwing, tripping, slapping, hitting, kicking, punching, grabbing, choking, shaking, etc.
- **Emotional/Psychological abuse** is any use of words, tone, action or lack of action meant to control, hurt or demean another person. Emotional abuse typically includes ridicule, intimidation, or coercion. Verbal abuse is included in this category.
- **Sexual abuse** is any forced or coerced sexual act or behavior motivated to acquire power and control over the partner. It includes forced sexual contact and contact that demeans, humiliates or instigates feelings of shame or vulnerability, particularly in regards to the body, sexual performance or sexuality.
- **Financial abuse** is the use or misuse of the financial or monetary resources of the partner or of the partnership without the partner's freely given consent. It can include preventing the partner from working or jeopardizing his/her employment so as to prevent them from gaining financial independence.
- **Identity abuse** is using personal characteristics to demean, manipulate and control the partner.
- **Spiritual abuse** is using the victim's religious or spiritual beliefs to manipulate them. It can include preventing the victim from practicing their beliefs or ridiculing his/her beliefs. ¹⁶

FOR MORE INFORMATION

For more information or to get help, please call:

National Domestic Violence Hotline at 1-800-799-SAFE

National Sexual Assault Hotline at 1-800-656-HOPE

National Child Abuse Hotline at 1-800-4-A-CHILD

SOURCES

¹ Felson, R.B., & Pare, P.P. (2005) "The Reporting of Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault by Nonstrangers to the Police." *Journal of Marriage and Family*, 67(3), 597-610

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³ Thoennes, N., & Tjaden, P. (2000) *Full Report of the Prevalence, Incidence, and Consequences of Violence Against Women; Findings from the National Violence Against Women Survey*. National Institute of Justice and Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

⁴ Stephan S. Owen & Tod W. Burke, *An Exploration of the Prevalence of Domestic Violence in Same-Sex Relationships*, 95 *Psychological Reports*, Aug. 2004, at 129.

⁵ The National Center for Victims of Crime (1997) *Male Rape*. Accessed July 2007. <http://www.ncvc.org>

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⁸ Strauss, M., et al. (1990). Physical Violence in American Families: Risk Factors and Adaptations to Violence in 8,145 Families. New Brunswick: Transaction Publishers

⁹ Greenwood, G.L. (2002) "Battering and Victimization among a Probability Based Sample of Men who have Sex with Men." *American Journal of Public Health*, 92, 1964-1969.

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¹² Snyder, H.N. (2000). "Sexual Assault of Young Children as Reported to Law Enforcement: Victim, Incident and Offender Characteristics." Bureau of Justice Statistics. Accessed July 2007 <http://www.ojp.usdoj.gov/bjs/pub/pdf/saycrle.pdf>

¹³ Hopper, J. (2006). *Sexual Abuse of Males: Prevalence, Possible Lasting Effects, and Resources*. Accessed July 2007 <http://www.jimhopper.com/male-ab/>

¹⁴ Struckman-Johnson, C., & Struckman-Johnson, D. (2000) "Sexual Coercion Rates in Seven Midwestern Prisons for Men." *The Prison Journal*, 80(4), 379-390

¹⁵ Gay Men's Domestic Violence Project. *Types of Abuse*. Accessed July 26, 2007 http://www.gmdvp.org/domestic_vio/gen_info/dynam3.htm

¹⁶ HelpGuide. *Domestic Violence and Abuse*. Accessed July 2007 from www.helpguide.org/mental/domestic_violence_abuse_types_signs_causes_effects.htm



The Public Policy Office of the National Coalition Against Domestic Violence (NCADV) is a national leader in the effort to create and influence Federal legislation that positively affects the lives of domestic violence victims and children. We work closely with advocates at the local, state and national level to identify the issues facing domestic violence victims, their children and the people who serve them and to develop a legislative agenda to address these issues. NCADV welcomes you to join us in our effort to end domestic violence.