



# Intimate Partner Violence

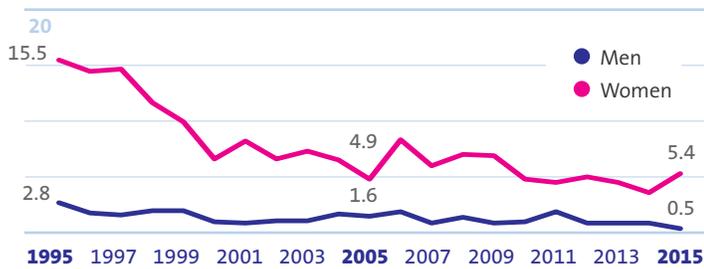
Intimate partner violence (IPV), often called domestic violence, is generally described as abuse within the context of an intimate partner relationship, where **one partner asserts power and control over the other**. While legal definitions vary by state, IPV can include physical, sexual, and psychological abuse, as well as economic coercion. IPV affects millions of individuals, regardless of marital status, sexual orientation, race, ethnicity, national origin, age, religion, education, or economic status. Because of the seriousness of this crime, the effects on victims and their families, and the difficulties in the criminal justice system response, **victims of IPV may require a range of sustained resources**, including access to emergency shelter, housing assistance, legal assistance, protection orders, safety planning, support groups, financial assistance, and other forms of support.

## CRIME TRENDS

In the 20 years from 1995–2015, the estimated rates of violent intimate partner victimization among women and men **decreased** from 15.5 and 2.8, respectively, to **5.4 per 1,000 women** and **0.5 per 1,000 men**. Because the personal nature of these victimizations often influences a victim’s decision to report the crime, victimizations by intimate partners are highly **underreported**. In 2015, 67% of violent victimizations were committed by a relative, 54% by an intimate partner, 43% by an acquaintance (either well-known or casual), and 42% by strangers.<sup>A</sup>

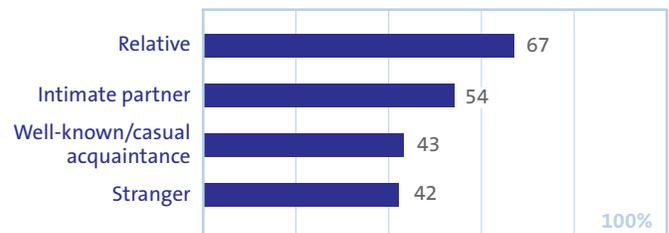
**Intimate Partner Victimization by Sex<sup>A</sup>**

rate per 1,000 people



**Victimizations Reported to Police<sup>A</sup>**

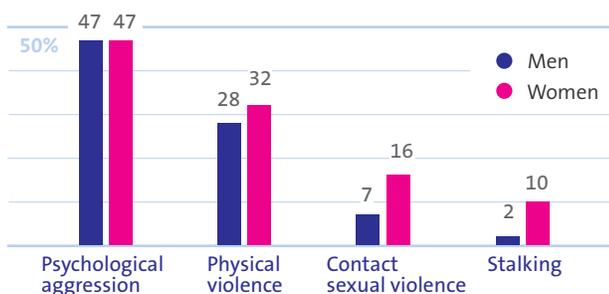
by victim-offender relationship



According to the National Intimate Partner and Sexual Violence Survey (NISVS), an estimated **47% of men and women** will be victims of **psychological aggression** by an intimate partner in their lifetime.<sup>1</sup> In addition, **32% of women** will be victims of **physical violence**, and **16% of contact sexual violence**,<sup>2</sup> by an intimate partner. About **7% of men** will be victims of **contact sexual violence** by an intimate partner.<sup>B</sup>

**Lifetime Estimate of Intimate Partner Violence<sup>B</sup>**

by sex and type of victimization



## DID YOU KNOW?

7% of women and 4% of men who experience IPV are victimized **before age 18**.<sup>B</sup>

Of high schoolers who report being in a dating relationship, 10% experience **physical violence** by a boyfriend or girlfriend, 7% experience **forced sexual intercourse**, and 11% experience **sexual dating violence**.<sup>C</sup>

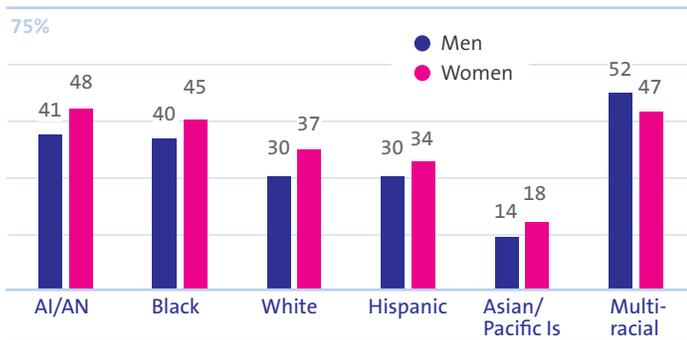
**9% of homicides** are committed by intimate partners.<sup>D</sup>

**20% of women** and 5% of men who identify as victims of IPV report experiencing **1 or more PTSD symptoms**.<sup>B</sup>

# CURRENT DATA ON INTIMATE PARTNER VIOLENCE VICTIMIZATION

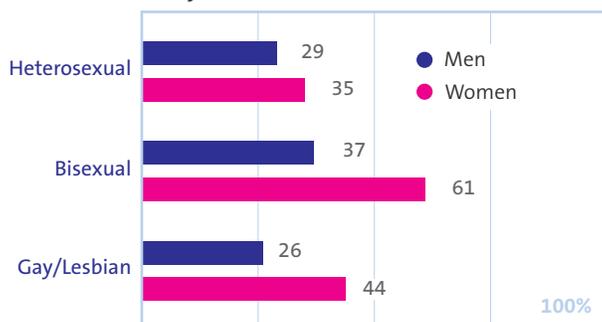
All races and ethnicities experience intimate partner violence. However, women of multiple ethnicities and **American Indian and Alaska Native (AI/AN) women experience the highest percentage of intimate partner victimization**, respectively, compared to other races/ethnicities and sexes.<sup>B3</sup>

**Estimate of Intimate Partner Violence<sup>B</sup>**  
by race/ethnicity and sex



People who self-identify as lesbian, gay, or bisexual are at an **increased risk of rape, physical violence, and stalking** by an intimate partner, and victimization of bisexual men and women is most prevalent. Compared to an estimated 35% of heterosexual women, a greater percentage (61%) of bisexual women will be a victim of intimate partner violence in their lifetime. Compared to an estimated 29% of heterosexual men, 37% of bisexual men will be victims of intimate partner violence in their lifetime.<sup>B</sup>

**Rape, Physical Violence, and/or Stalking by an Intimate Partner<sup>B</sup>**  
by sex and sexual orientation

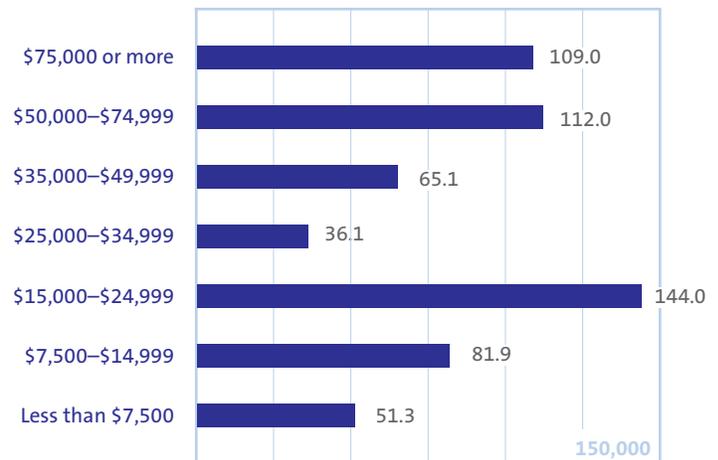


In more than **80%** of intimate partner violent victimizations in 2015, **the victim did not receive assistance** from victim service agencies.<sup>A</sup>



Households earning **between \$15,000 and \$24,999** reported slightly more intimate partner victimizations in 2015 than other households. However, intimate partner violence is not isolated to any particular income bracket.<sup>A4</sup>

**Intimate Partner Violence by Household Income<sup>A</sup>**  
in thousands of victimizations



## NOTES

- 1 According to the NISVS, psychological aggression includes: name calling, insulting or humiliating an intimate partner, and behaviors that are intended to monitor, control, or threaten an intimate partner.
- 2 “Contact sexual violence” includes rape, being made to penetrate a perpetrator, sexual coercion, and unwanted sexual contact.
- 3 Due to small sample sizes and large confidence intervals, please use caution when interpreting these results.
- 4 Use caution when interpreting values for income of \$7,500 or less. Based on a sample size of less than 10.

## SOURCES

- A Bureau of Justice Statistics, *National Crime Victimization Survey, Concatenated File, 1992-2015*, (U.S. Department of Justice)
- B S.G. Smith et al., “NISVS: 2010–2012 State Report,” (CDC), [www.cdc.gov/mmwr/pdf/ss/ss6308.pdf](http://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/pdf/ss/ss6308.pdf); Matthew J. Breiding et al., “Prevalence and Characteristics of Sexual Violence, Stalking, and Intimate Partner Violence Victimization—National Intimate Partner and Sexual Violence Survey, United States, 2011,” *MMWR* vol. 63, 8(2014): [www.cdc.gov/mmwr/pdf/ss/ss6308.pdf](http://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/pdf/ss/ss6308.pdf); “NISVS: An Overview of 2010 Findings on Victimization by Sexual Orientation,” (CDC, 2011), [www.cdc.gov/violenceprevention/pdf/NISVS-StateReportBook.pdf](http://www.cdc.gov/violenceprevention/pdf/NISVS-StateReportBook.pdf)
- C “High School YRBS: Youth Online,” (CDC), <https://nccd.cdc.gov/Youthonline/App/Default.aspx>
- D Federal Bureau of Investigation, *Crime in the United States, 2015*, [https://ucr.fbi.gov/crime-in-the-u.s/2015/crime-in-the-u.s.-2015/tables/expanded\\_homicide\\_data\\_table\\_10\\_murder\\_circumstances\\_by\\_relationship\\_2015.xls](https://ucr.fbi.gov/crime-in-the-u.s/2015/crime-in-the-u.s.-2015/tables/expanded_homicide_data_table_10_murder_circumstances_by_relationship_2015.xls)