

Effects of Intimate Partner Violence

Regardless of the circumstances of your relationship or past, no one ever deserves to be abused and you are never responsible for your partner's abusive actions.

The Effects of Intimate Partner Violence

Intimate partner violence (IPV) significantly affects health outcomes for those who experience it. Survivors can experience a wide variety of health issues related to abuse, including (but not limited to): injuries, miscarriage, depression, anxiety, post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD), traumatic brain injury (TBI), sexually transmitted infections (STI), stress-related symptoms, and more.

Some IPV-related health issues are physically visible and obvious. Many people expect to see broken bones, black eyes, or bruises. But there are other health issues that are not as obvious in being related to abuse. Gastrointestinal issues, increased risk of stroke, and other ailments may be invisible or develop over time in the aftermath of abuse. There can be significant long-term health impacts as a result of experiencing IPV.

Long-term Health Impacts of Those Who Have Suffered IPV

- Individuals who experience IPV are more likely to use tobacco.
- IPV has been identified as a predictor of developing a substance abuse problem.
- There is a significant trend between IPV and obesity.
- Women and girls targeted by IPV are more likely to suffer from reproductive and gynecological health issues.
- Survivors of IPV are at increased risk of severe mental health problems.
- IPV is a leading cause of injuries and homicide for women.
- Women who have experienced IPV are generally less likely to access preventative and injury-related care.

Barriers for IPV Survivors in Accessing Health Care

- Lack of transportation for emergency care, routine appointments, or preventative care
- Inability to pay for medical treatment: lack of insurance, inability to afford copay, no affordable options locally
- Lack of translation/interpretation language services
- Discrimination in services, such as minimizing a survivor's pain due to racial bias
- Fear of reports being made to the police or Child Protective Services (CPS)
- No support with childcare.

If you or someone you know is suffering from intimate partner violence, get help now. Reach out to the EAP or contact the National Domestic Violence Hotline: thehotline.org | 800.799.7233