

## Domestic Violence Victimization in the U.S.

- In a 2016/2017 national study, almost **1 in 2 women** in the U.S., and about **40% of men**, report having been subjected to contact sexual violence, physical violence and/or stalking by an intimate partner in their lifetime. Nearly a third of women and nearly a quarter of men report having been subjected to severe physical violence by an intimate partner during their lifetime.<sup>1</sup>
- **Two in five women (41%) and 1 in 4 men (26%)** report experiencing at least one impact from intimate partner violence in their lifetime. Among women subjected to intimate partner contact sexual violence, physical violence and/or stalking, 1 in 4 were fearful; 1 in 3 had PTSD symptoms; 1 in 3 were injured; and 1 in 8 needed medical care. Among men subjected to intimate partner contact sexual violence, physical violence and/or stalking; 1 in 13 were fearful; 1 in 7 had PTSD symptoms; 1 in 5 were injured; and 1 in 23 needed medical care.<sup>2</sup>
- **1 in 8 high school students** reported being subjected to teen dating violence (physical, sexual, or both) within the last year. Among female high school students, 15% reported having been subjected to sexual dating violence and 10% reported having been subjected to physical dating violence within the preceding 12 months. Among male high school students, 4% reported having been subjected to sexual dating violence and 6.7% reported having been subjected to physical dating violence within the preceding 12 months.<sup>3</sup>
- Across 25 years, 92% of female homicide victims killed by a male offender were known to each other, 62% of whom were killed by an intimate partner.<sup>4</sup>

- 54% of **Black women** report having been subjected to contact sexual violence, physical violence, and/or stalking by an intimate partner in their lifetime.<sup>5</sup>
- 58% of **American Indian or Alaska Native women** report having been subjected to contact sexual violence, physical violence, and/or stalking by an intimate partner in their lifetime.<sup>6</sup>
- Over 40% of **Hispanic women** report having been subjected to contact sexual violence, physical violence, and/or stalking by an intimate partner in their lifetime.<sup>7</sup>
- 48% of **white women** report having been subjected to contact sexual violence, physical violence, and/or stalking by an intimate partner in their lifetime.<sup>8</sup>
- Bisexual, gay and lesbian people are subjected to intimate partner violence (including contact sexual violence, physical violence and/or stalking) at higher rates than heterosexual people. **Bisexual women and men experienced the highest rates at 69% and 46% respectively.**<sup>9</sup>

## What are Domestic Violence Protection Orders?

- Civil protection orders are time-limited orders issued by a civil court for the purpose of preventing violent or threatening acts or harassment against, or contact or communication with or physical proximity to, another person. Approximately 40% of protection orders are violated, but the severity and frequency of violence tend to decrease after the order is issued.<sup>10</sup>
- Protection order laws vary from state-to-state regarding who is eligible for protection, but generally include victims of domestic violence, stalking, dating violence and sexual assault. Protection orders also vary in form and content.<sup>11</sup>
- Protection orders can help assist in the removal of firearms. Many states have statutes in place that say that when there's a protection order in place, the person subject to the protection order, the "respondent" or "defendant" cannot possess or own a firearm.<sup>12</sup>
- Research shows that the presence of a gun in a domestic violence situation increases the risk of homicide by five times.<sup>13</sup>

## Are domestic violence protection orders effective?

- In one study, violation rates were reduced when POs are used in combination with arrests. The presence of children increases the odds of reporting re-abuse by a factor of 4.5 in relationships lasting less than five years.<sup>14</sup>
- Research demonstrates the effectiveness of civil protective orders. One study found that half of those who obtained a protective order did not experience violations of that order.<sup>15</sup>
- Stalking studies suggest that 45% to 66% of those who engage in stalking before the order is obtained cease their behavior after the order is issued.<sup>16</sup>
- Civil protection orders have shown to be effective at decreasing nonlethal strangulation. One study showed that nearly 6 out of 10 survivors experienced strangulation before their protection order was issued, which decreased to 1 in 8 survivors after the protection order was issued.<sup>17</sup>

# Endnotes

- 1 Ruth Leemis, et al., The National Intimate Partner and Sexual Violence Survey: 2016/2017 Report on Intimate Partner Violence (2022), National Center for Injury Prevention and Control, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention; [https://www.cdc.gov/nisvs/documentation/nisvsreportonipv\\_2022.pdf?CDC\\_AAref\\_Val=https://www.cdc.gov/violenceprevention/pdf/nisvs/NISVSReportonIPV\\_2022.pdf](https://www.cdc.gov/nisvs/documentation/nisvsreportonipv_2022.pdf?CDC_AAref_Val=https://www.cdc.gov/violenceprevention/pdf/nisvs/NISVSReportonIPV_2022.pdf).
- 2 See fn 1.
- 3 Heather Clayton, et al. Dating Violence, Sexual Violence, and Bullying Victimization Among High School Students—Youth Risk Behavior Survey, United States, 2021. *MMWR Suppl* 2023;72(Suppl-1):66-74. DOI: <http://dx.doi.org/10.15585/mmwr.su7201a8>; Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). 1991-2021 High School Youth Risk Behavior Survey Data. Available at <http://nccd.cdc.gov/youthonline/>.
- 4 When Men Murder Women: A Review of 25 Years of Female Homicide Victimization in the United States (October 2023), Violence Policy Center, <https://www.vpc.org/studies/wmmw2023.pdf>
- 5 See fn 1.
- 6 See fn 1.
- 7 See fn 1.
- 8 See fn 1.
- 9 Jieru Chen, et al., The National Intimate Partner and Sexual Violence Survey (NISVS) 2016/2017: Report on Victimization by Sexual Identity (October 2023), National Center for Injury Prevention and Control, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, [https://www.cdc.gov/nisvs/documentation/nisvsreportonsexualidentity.pdf?CDC\\_AAref\\_Val=https://www.cdc.gov/violenceprevention/pdf/nisvs/nisvsReportonSexualIdentity.pdf](https://www.cdc.gov/nisvs/documentation/nisvsreportonsexualidentity.pdf?CDC_AAref_Val=https://www.cdc.gov/violenceprevention/pdf/nisvs/nisvsReportonSexualIdentity.pdf)
- 10 Campbell, J. C., Webster, D., Koziol-McLain, J., Block, C. R., Campbell, D., Curry, M. A., ... & Wilt, S. A. (2003). Risk factors for femicide in abusive relationships: Results from a multisite case control study. *American Journal of Public Health*, 93(7), 1089-1097. Retrieved from [https://www.researchgate.net/publication/10683686\\_Risk\\_Factors\\_for\\_Femicide\\_in\\_Abusive\\_Relationships\\_Results\\_From\\_a\\_Multisite\\_Case\\_Control\\_Study](https://www.researchgate.net/publication/10683686_Risk_Factors_for_Femicide_in_Abusive_Relationships_Results_From_a_Multisite_Case_Control_Study)
- 11 See fn. 10
- 12 BWJP. (2023). 2023 updated matrices. Battered Women’s Justice Project. Retrieved August 13, 2024, from <https://bwjp.org/site-resources/2023-updated-matrices/>
- 13 See fn 10.
- 14 Cordier, R., Chung, D., Wilkes-Gillan, S., & Speyer, R. (2021). The Effectiveness of Protection Orders in Reducing Recidivism in Domestic Violence: A Systematic Review and Meta-Analysis. *Trauma, Violence, & Abuse*, 22(4), 804-828. <https://doi.org/10.1177/1524838019882361>
- 15 Office for Victims of Crime. (n.d.). The Kentucky civil protective order study: Rural and urban multiple perspectives. Office of Justice Programs. Retrieved August 13, 2024, from <https://www.ojp.gov/ncjrs/virtual-library/abstracts/kentucky-civil-protective-order-study-rural-and-urban-multiple>
- 16 ResearchGate. (n.d.). Dangerous liaisons: Examining the connection of stalking and gun threats among partner abuse victims. Retrieved from [https://www.researchgate.net/publication/325865201\\_Dangerous\\_Liaisons\\_Examining\\_the\\_Connection\\_of\\_Stalking\\_and\\_Gun\\_Threats\\_Among\\_Partner\\_Abuse\\_Victims](https://www.researchgate.net/publication/325865201_Dangerous_Liaisons_Examining_the_Connection_of_Stalking_and_Gun_Threats_Among_Partner_Abuse_Victims)
- 17 Logan TK. Examining Relationship and Abuse Tactics Associated with Nonfatal Strangulation Experiences Before and After a Protective Order. *Violence Gend*. 2021 Jun 1;8(2):95-103. doi: 10.1089/vio.2020.0012. Epub 2021 Jun 14. PMID: 34179213; PMCID: PMC8219188, available at <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC8219188/>



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