

# THE IMPACT OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE ON HEALTH

## DV LEADS TO ADVERSE HEALTH CONSEQUENCES



### PHYSICAL AND CHRONIC

**SHORT-TERM**  
bruises,  
fractures &  
injuries

**LONG-TERM**  
chronic pain, headaches,  
fatigue, immune, endocrine &  
gastrointestinal disorders

**2x** the risk of  
asthma,  
irritable bowel  
syndrome & diabetes



### MENTAL HEALTH

**DV SURVIVORS ARE:**

**3x** MORE LIKELY TO HAVE A MENTAL HEALTH CONDITION

**DEPRESSION**  
is as high as **70%**

**PTSD**  
is as high as **84%**



### HEALTH RISK BEHAVIORS

**DV SURVIVORS ARE:**

**6x** more likely  
to become  
dependent on  
drugs or alcohol

**2x** more likely to smoke, become  
obese, and practice sexual risk  
behaviors, increasing risk for  
STDs and HIV



### REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH

**DV INCREASES RISK FOR:**

Unintended pregnancies and poor  
pregnancy & birth outcomes

## DV BURDENS THE HEALTH SYSTEM

The **MEDICAL COST BURDEN** from DV in  
the first year after  
victimization is as high as **\$7 BILLION**

**HEALTH CARE UTILIZATION & COSTS** for abused  
women are up to **20% HIGHER**  
and stay higher for up to 5 years  
after victimization

**CHILDREN WHO WITNESS ABUSE ARE**

**3x** more likely to use mental health  
services, and are more likely to  
use all health care services



**THIS IS ONLY PART OF THE PICTURE.**

**DV OFTEN GOES  
UNDIAGNOSED &  
UNDISCLOSED.**



## DV IS HIGHLY PREVALENT



**1 IN 3 WOMEN**

**WILL EXPERIENCE DV IN HER LIFETIME.**

DV affects over **12 MILLION** Americans every year,  
**DISPROPORTIONATELY YOUNG, LOW-INCOME  
WOMEN OF COLOR.**

## DV'S IMPACT EXTENDS BEYOND HEALTH

**DV REDUCES QUALITY OF LIFE & LIFETIME POTENTIAL,  
AND LEADS TO:**

↓ Loss of productivity  
and wages from  
missing work

↑ Need for  
housing  
services

↑ Risk for  
future  
victimization

**WITNESSING ABUSE AS A CHILD RAISES RISK FOR  
ADULT VICTIMIZATION & PERPETRATION.**

**DV IS A CRITICAL HEALTH ISSUE. IT'S TIME TO LEVERAGE THE SHIFTING  
HEALTH POLICY LANDSCAPE AND FOCUS ATTENTION AND RESOURCES ON DV.**



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