

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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