

Violence Against Women

The National Women's Health Information Center
www.4woman.gov -- 1-800-994-9662

Violence against Women

Violence against women affects all racial, cultural and economic backgrounds. It is a leading cause of injury for American women between the ages of 15 and 54, but it can happen at any age. Acts of violence have terrible and costly results for everyone involved, including families, communities, and society. Violence can take several forms including domestic or intimate partner violence, sexual assault and abuse, dating violence, and elder abuse.

This specialty page will provide you with information on all of these types of violence against women, including specific resources for each type of violence and information on how to get help. One important part of getting help is knowing if you are in an abusive relationship. Sometimes it can be difficult and confusing to admit that you are in an abusive relationship. But, there are clear signs to help you know if you are being abused.

Violence against women in any form is a crime, regardless of who committed the violent act. It is always wrong, whether the abuser is a family member; someone you date; a current or past spouse, boyfriend, or girlfriend; an acquaintance; or a stranger. You are not at fault. You did not cause the abuse to occur, and you are not responsible for the violent behavior of someone else. If you or someone you know has been sexually, physically, or emotionally abused, seek help from other family members and friends or community organizations. Reach out for support or counseling. Talk with a health care provider, especially if you have been physically hurt. Learn how to minimize your risk of becoming a victim of sexual assault or sexual abuse before you find yourself in an uncomfortable or threatening situation.

If you're a victim of violence at the hands of someone you know or love or you are recovering from an assault by a stranger, you are not alone. To get immediate help and support call

The **National Domestic Violence Hotline** at:
1-800-799-SAFE (7233) or
1-800-787-3224 (TTY)

Publications

1.  [A Lifetime of Good Health: Your Guide to Staying Healthy](http://www.4woman.gov/faq/PreventionGuide.pdf)
<http://www.4woman.gov/faq/PreventionGuide.pdf>
This guide to staying healthy contains information on women's health needs to live long and well throughout the years. Although there are genetic risks that you cannot control for many diseases, there are risks that you can overcome by following the key preventive steps included in the guide.
2.  [Alcohol Alert # 38 Alcohol, Violence, and Aggression](http://www.niaaa.nih.gov/publications/aa38.htm)
<http://www.niaaa.nih.gov/publications/aa38.htm>

This publication provides statistical data and research regarding the use of alcohol and the prevalence of alcohol related violence and aggression.

3. [American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists' Violence Against Women Webpage, The](#)
http://www.acog.org/from_home/departments/dept_web.cfm?recno=17
This web page provides a list of domestic violence resources as well as their recommendation to physicians about intimate partner violence screening tools.
4.  [Closing the Gap: Violence](#)
<http://www.omhrc.gov/ctg/ctg-viol.htm>
This newsletter provides links to numerous federal fact sheets containing supportive information, statistics, and initiatives under way to eliminate domestic violence.
5.  [Frequently Asked Questions - Violence Against Women](#)
<http://www.4woman.gov/faq/violence.htm>
This fact sheet answers many common questions about the forms of violence that affect women in the U.S. today. Specifically it discusses who is at risk, how risk of violence may change with age, the problems of sexual assault and rape, the use of "date rape drugs," and intimate partner (domestic) violence, how intimate partner violence can be prevented or cured, and whether self defense classes are effective. This publication provides a list of important questions women can ask themselves to evaluate if they or someone they know may be in an abusive relationship.
6.  [HHS Fact Sheet: Preventing Violence Against Women](#)
<http://www.hhs.gov/news/press/2001pres/01fsdomviolence.html>
This publication is about government initiatives to prevent violence against women. Topics discussed include the Violence Against Women Act, The National Domestic Violence Hotline, and other government programs.

Organizations

1.  [Division of Violence Prevention, NCIPC, CDC, OPHS, HHS](#)
<http://www.cdc.gov/ncipc/dvp/dvp.htm>
2. [National Center for Victims of Crime](#)
<http://www.ncvc.org>
3. [National Domestic Violence Hotline](#)
<http://www.ndvh.org/>
4. [National Violence Against Women Prevention Research Center](#)
<http://www.vawprevention.org/index.html>
5.  [Office for Victims of Crime](#)
<http://www.ojp.usdoj.gov/ovc/>

6.  [Office on Violence Against Women, OJP, DOJ](http://www.ojp.usdoj.gov/vawo/)
<http://www.ojp.usdoj.gov/vawo/>
7. [Partnerships Against Violence Network](http://www.pavnet.org)
<http://www.pavnet.org>

 = Indicates Federal Resources

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