



December 14, 2011

Dear Colleague,

On December 14, 2011, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) released The National Intimate Partner and Sexual Violence Survey (NISVS) 2010 Summary Report. The findings show that, on average, 24 people per minute are victims of rape, physical violence, or stalking by an intimate partner in the United States. Over the course of a year, that equals more than 12 million women and men. Those numbers only tell part of the story – more than 1 million women reported being raped, and over 6 million women and men were a victim of stalking.

These findings emphasize that sexual violence, stalking, and intimate partner violence are widespread and a major public health problem in the United States. The report underscores the heavy toll of this violence, particularly on women; the immediate impacts of victimization; and the lifelong health consequences of these forms of violence. For example:

- Nearly 1 in 5 women and 1 in 71 men have been raped in their lifetime.
- Approximately 80% of female victims were raped before the age of 25, and almost half before the age of 18. About 35% of women who were raped as minors were also raped as adults compared to 14% of women without an early rape history.
- 1 in 4 women have been the victims of severe physical violence by an intimate partner while 1 in 7 men experienced severe violence by an intimate partner.
- 81% of women who experienced rape, physical violence, or stalking by an intimate partner reported significant short and long term impacts related to the IPV experienced such as fear, post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) symptoms, and injury, while 35% of men reported such impacts from the IPV experienced.
- Women who experienced rape or stalking by any perpetrator or physical violence by an intimate partner were more likely than women who did not experience these forms of violence to report asthma, diabetes, and irritable bowel syndrome, as well as other health consequences.

NISVS provides data that can help inform policies and programs aimed at preventing violence as well as addressing the specific information needs of state and national governmental and nongovernmental organizations, while providing an initial benchmark for tracking the effectiveness of prevention efforts.

The survey is ongoing, and will track trends in sexual violence, stalking and intimate partner violence. State estimates of the prevalence of lifetime experiences of sexual violence, stalking, and intimate partner violence are provided where available to allow states to better understand the number of people with victimization histories currently residing in their state and the burden of these kinds of violence on their population. Over time, NISVS will be able to combine multiple years of data to create state-level estimates that provide more detailed information about victimization experiences among residents in a particular state.

In summary, NISVS documents that women are disproportionately impacted, experience higher rates of severe intimate partner violence, sexual violence, and stalking, and more long-term chronic disease and other health impacts such as PTSD symptoms. NISVS also shows that most violent victimization is first experienced in childhood and adolescence. These data highlight the importance of preventing violence to ensure that all people can live life to their fullest potential.

The NISVS 2010 Summary Report is available on the CDC Injury Center's website at: <http://www.cdc.gov/violenceprevention/nisvs>. Additional reports will be released in 2012 that provide more detailed analyses of particular kinds of violence and victimization among special populations. We look forward to continuing to provide information to better understand and prevent violence.

Sincerely,

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Centers for Disease Control and Prevention