

Did You Know?

In 1992, the Surgeon General, C. Everett Koop, stated that domestic violence perpetrated by males accounted for more adult female emergency room visits than traffic accidents, muggings, and rapes combined and is the single greatest cause of injury to American women. He declared it a national health crisis.¹

And that is just abuse of women. What about children, teens, the elderly, men?

- 1 in 3 to 4 women will experience abuse (rape or physical assault) in their lifetime (27%)²
 - 1 in 6 men will experience physical abuse in their lifetime (16%)²
 - 28% of marriages contain physical violence, 50-56% contain abuse in some form. ^{3,4}
 - 1 in 3 teens and young adults (college students) will experience physical abuse in a dating relationship (32%). Other forms of abuse increase the number, and some studies say that it is as high as 70%.⁵
 - 44% of women in domestic abuse relationships are raped by their abuser. Some studies estimate that rape occurs in as many as 70% of these relationships. ^{6,7}
- It is estimated that 2.1 million older adults suffer physical, psychological, financial, or some form of abuse or neglect each year in the US and only 1 out of 14 is reported to the authorities.⁸
- 62% of homosexual women say they come from homes where domestic abuse occurred.⁹
 - 39.5% of women seeking abortions come out of abusive relationships.¹⁰
 - Divorce rate for non-abused women is 15%, the rate for abused is 75%.³
- It is estimated that over 3.3 million of American children witness intimate partner violence (IPV) within their families. Witnessing violence is a risk factor for long-term physical and mental health problems, including alcohol and substance abuse, being a victim of abuse, and perpetrating IPV. ¹¹
- 1 million children suffered abuse and neglect in the US in 2006, according to the Child Welfare Information Gateway.
 - 40-60% of children living in homes where adult abuse occurs also experience direct abuse themselves. All experience indirect abuse.^{12, 13}
- 90% of women inmates report having experienced sexual, emotional or physical abuse before incarceration.¹⁴

- Young women in youth groups are less likely to report abuse, especially if they are dating someone in the youth group.³
- People with strong religious beliefs stay longer in abusive relationships because it gets mixed up with their faith beliefs.³
- Abusers are more likely to go for help when the pastor says go than if someone else says to go, even a court order.³

Sadly, religion is NOT a deterrent... there is just as much abuse (spousal, child and sexual abuse) in Christian homes as in non-Christian homes.^{3,15}

In addition, Spiritual abuse is always a component of abusive behaviors in Christian homes and damages the abused person's view of God.¹⁶

These statistics do not even include the other effects of suffering abuse, such as substance abuse, eating disorders, arrests, suicide attempts and many others.

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