

## **Dynamics and Harms of Intimate Partner Violence**

### **What?**

- Intimate partner violence (or partner violence, also known as domestic violence) includes physical violence, sexual violence, stalking, and psychological aggression, including coercive acts, by a current or former intimate partner.
- In a relationship in which there is violence, the frequency and severity is likely to increase over time in the absence of support for behavior change.
- Strangulation is a strong predictor of future IPV homicide.

### **Who?**

- More than 27% of women and 11% of men have experienced sexual violence, physical violence, and/or stalking by an intimate partner in their lifetime.
- In total, 3.5 million Californians have experienced partner violence as an adult, which is comparable to the population of Los Angeles – the most populous city in California.
- Partner violence is typically underreported and current data do not account for the full diversity within California communities.
- Structural drivers of inequity (e.g., racism, sexism, disenfranchisement, etc.) create unequal access to the conditions that promote safety, resulting in disproportionate rates of partner violence affecting young women, women with low household incomes, women of color, and LGBTQ+ individuals.
- Less is known about the extent and nature of IPV perpetration.

### **When and where?**

- Sixty percent (60%) of reported incidents of partner violence occur between 6 pm and 6 am in the home.
- Risk for partner violence may increase during pregnancy.
- Risk for physical violence and homicide increase when a relationship in which violence has been present is ending, and immediately after.

### **What are the harms of partner violence?**

- Partner violence causes harm to those directly involved, including witnesses. The harms and potential consequences of partner violence include trauma and injuries, and increased risk for mental health and chronic health problems, unintended pregnancies and poor pregnancy and birth outcomes, loss of productivity and wages from missing work, drug and alcohol misuse, and other potentially harmful behaviors.
- Partner violence can increase other safety risks. For example, adults who are violent toward their partners are also more likely to harm their children, and exposure to one form of violence increases the risk of victimization or perpetration of others forms of violence (e.g., child abuse, sexual violence, and community violence).
- Partner violence can diminish the social climate within communities. Experiencing and witnessing partner violence harms the ability to form trusting relationships, tearing at the fabric of families and potentially contributing to negative effects across generations. Hearing IPV among neighbors or

witnessing aggression in shared spaces and public spaces can create a climate of fear and distrust within housing settings and neighborhoods.

- At the population level, these and other effects can burden various sectors. For example, the housing sector is impacted by partner violence through increased turnover of housing units and associated costs. Partner violence creates barriers to achieving the community development sector's goals of asset development and community building and can increase the need for supportive services. It is estimated that the medical cost burden from domestic violence in the first year after victimization is as high as \$7 billion in the US.

For references and additional data, refer to *A Health Equity and Multisector Approach to Preventing Domestic Violence* at [www.preventioninstitute.org](http://www.preventioninstitute.org).

For guidance on responding to incidents of partner violence in California, visit the California Partnership to End Domestic Violence's Resource Library at [www.cpedv.org/national-and-state-links](http://www.cpedv.org/national-and-state-links). This searchable database includes publications, images, websites, webinars and more as well as an interactive map of domestic violence organizations across California. Guidance can also be requested by contacting the Partnership's Help Desk at [info@cpedv.org](mailto:info@cpedv.org).

Organizations outside of California seeking guidance on responding to incidents of partner violence can visit the National Resource Center on Domestic Violence at [www.nrcdv.org](http://www.nrcdv.org). For guidance on responding to incidents of partner violence within housing settings, visit the Domestic Violence and Housing Technical Assistance Consortium at [www.safehousingpartnerships.org](http://www.safehousingpartnerships.org) or the National Housing Law Partnership at [www.nhlp.org](http://www.nhlp.org).