

Fact Sheet: Family Violence Victimization

Executive Director: Mary M. Breaux, Ph.D.

Crime Victims' Institute

College of Criminal Justice | Sam Houston State University



Family Violence Victimization: The Facts

Taylor D. Robinson, M.S.
Alyssa Linares, B.S.

What is Family Violence?

Family violence is an umbrella term that refers to violence within the family, which includes but is not limited to: elder violence, intimate partner violence, child maltreatment, and sibling violence.

Have you Heard?

- ◇ In 2019, the number of child fatalities is estimated to have increased 10% (1,840) from 2015 (1,660)¹
- ◇ In 2020, approximately 33% of reports to Adult Protective Services (APS) were substantiated.²
- ◇ Males are the most associated with reports alleging physical, sexual, and emotional maltreatment, while females are most associated with reports of abandonment, neglect, and exploitation²
- ◇ An estimated 5.3 million adult females are affected by intimate partner violence (IPV) annually³.
- ◇ 33% of females and 25% of males have experienced rape, physical violence, and/or stalking by an intimate partner³
- ◇ Sibling violence is one of the most common form of intimate violence⁴.

Risk Factors

Common risk factors for family violence include age, gender, and ethnicity. Young and female children are at an increased risk for child maltreatment. Additionally, children under the age of one, males, and of African American descent are at an increased risk for child fatality¹. For older individuals, those between above the age of 75, female, have physical or social impairments (e.g., ambulatory and cognitive impairment), and have prior reports of abuse are more likely to be victims of elder abuse². Risk factors for intimate partner violence include prior history of intimate partner violence, stalking, estrangement from partners, poverty, legal status, and sexual orientation⁵.

What are the Consequences?

The consequences of family violence are vast. Children may experience physical injuries, such as broken bones or bruises, or emotional problems (e.g., anxiety). Chronic abuse may lead to extreme stress resulting in an increased chance for development of post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) and other learning difficulties. Elder abuse results in physical, emotional, behavioral, and financial consequences⁶. Violence between intimate partners can result in physical injuries, which can lead to lifetime financial costs, emotional health issues (e.g., PTSD), and risky behavior, such as alcohol and substance abuse⁷.

How to Help Survivors of Family Violence and What To Do If You've Experienced Family Violence

- ◇ Raise awareness/ Be proactive
- ◇ Believe and empower survivors
- ◇ Offer support
- ◇ Call a family violence agency or law enforcement
- ◇ Document experiences covertly (e.g., email yourself or keep documentation in a separate, private area)
- ◇ Confide (if comfortable) in friends or family members to get help
- ◇ Safety plan for possible departure

In the state of Texas, anyone over the age of 18 are mandated reporters of child abuse, elder abuse, and abuse of individuals with disabilities.

Resources

9-11

Texas

- ◇ Houston Area Women's Center (HAWC)—www.hawc.org 713-528-2121
- ◇ Children's Safe Harbor—www.childrenssafeharbor.org —936-756-4644
- ◇ Texas Department of Family and Protective Services—www.txabusehotline.org —800-252-5400

National

- ◇ National Coalition Against Domestic Violence (NCADV)—www.ncadv.org
- ◇ National Center on Elder Abuse—www.ncea.acl.gov—855-500-3537
- ◇ ElderCare Locator —www.eldercare.acl.gov/Public/Index/asp —800-677-1116
- ◇ Child Help National Child Abuse Hotline—www.childhelp.org —800-422-4453

References

- 1 National Child Abuse & Neglect Data System. (2021). <https://www.acf.hhs.gov/sites/default/files/documents/cb/cm2020.pdf>
- 2 National Adult Maltreatment Reporting System. (2021). https://acl.gov/sites/default/files/programs/2021-10/2020_NAMRS_Report_ADA-Final_Update2.pdf
- 3 McClennen, J. C., Keys, A. M., & Dugan-Day, M. L. (2017). *Social work and family violence: Theories, assessment, and intervention* (2nd ed.). Springer.
- 4 Kiselica, M.S., & Morrill-Richards, M. (2007). Sibling maltreatment: The forgotten abuse. *Journal of Counseling & Development, 85*, 148-160. <https://doi.org/10.1002/j.1556-6678.2007.tb00457.x>
- 5 Garcial, L., Soria, C., & Hurwitz, E. L. (2007). Homicides and intimate partner violence: A literature review. *Trauma, Violence & Abuse, 8*(4), 370-383.
- 6 National Council on Aging. (2021). Get the facts on elder abuse. <https://www.ncoa.org/article/get-the-facts-on-elder-abuse>
- 7 Black, M. C. (2011). Intimate partner violence and adverse health consequences: implications for clinicians. *American Journal of Lifestyle Medicine, 5*(5), 428-439.

Texas State University System Board of Regents

Duke Austin
Chairman
Houston

Garry Crain
First Vice Chairman
The Hills

Charlie Amato
Second Vice Chairman
San Antonio

Don Flores
Regent
El Paso

Nicki Harle
Regent
Baird

Camile Settegast
Student Regent
Horseshoe Bay

Sheila Faske
Regent
Rose City

William F. Scott
Regent
Nederland

Stephen Lee
Regent
Beaumont

Alan L. Tinsley
Regent
Madisonville

Resources

- Texas Abuse Hotline (suspicions of abuse, neglect, and exploitation of children, adults with disabilities, or people 65 years or older) <https://www.txabusehotline.org/Login/>
800-252-5400
- Texas Council on Family Violence <https://tcfv.org/survivor-resources/>
- Texas Association Against Sexual Assault <https://taasa.org/get-help/>
- National Domestic Violence Hotline 800-799-7233
- National Sexual Assault Hotline 800-656-4673
- National Human Trafficking Hotline 888-373-7888
- Aging and Disability Resource Center 855-937-2372
- Victim Connect Resource Center 855-484-2846

