

Fact Sheet: Gender-Based Violence Victimization

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

Crime Victims' Institute

College of Criminal Justice | Sam Houston State University



Gender-Based Violence Victimization: The Facts

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

What is Gender-based violence?

Gender-based violence are abusive acts that are done to another person based on their gender.¹

Examples of Gender-based violence

Gender-based violence can include sexual, physical, mental, and economic abuse. Psychological gender-based abuse can include threats, coercion, or manipulation. In the United States, common forms of gender-based violence are intimate partner violence, sexual assault, and stalking. Globally, other forms of gender-based violence include child marriage, female genital mutilation, and honor crimes.¹

Have you Heard?

- ◇ Depending on the form of gender-based violence, the prevalence of victimization among trans individuals in the United States can range from 7% to 89%, according to various studies from 2006 to 2017.²
- ◇ According to the National Intimate Partner and Sexual Violence Survey (2015), severe physical abuse by an intimate partner affected approximately 20% of women and one in seven men.³
- ◇ In 2015, more than 43 million women and 38 million men have been abused psychologically by an intimate partner in their lifetime.³
- ◇ Sexual abuse by an intimate partner affected about 20% of women and one in 12 men in 2015.³
- ◇ Approximately 10% of women and 2% of men were stalked by an intimate partner in 2015.³

Risk Factors

In the United States, gender-based violence is often seen in the form of intimate partner violence and sexual violence. Therefore, there is significant overlap in the risk factors of these crimes. Common risk factors for intimate partner violence include lack of social support, previous history of victimization, and financial stress. For women specifically, the strongest risk factors for physical intimate partner violence include previous intimate partner victimization, prior physical injury by abuser, emotional or sexual abuse, and stalking victimization. For men, the strongest risk factors were previous injury by abuser, emotional abuse, history of abusive relationships, prior intimate partner violence perpetration, and emotional abuse perpetration.⁴ Since Texas has such a racially diverse population, additional risk factors must be taken into consideration. An individual may be at risk of gender-based violence because of their immigration status. The survivor may feel that they are dependent on their abuser to be able to remain in the country.⁵

Barriers to Reporting

Barriers to reporting may include fear of retaliation by the abuser, shame, embarrassment, language, and financial cost. Specifically, for the transgender community, barriers may include systemic inequalities, stigma, and transphobia.⁶ Additionally, previous harassment by police may be another barrier to seeking help.⁷ Cultural beliefs that do not promote help-seeking can serve as a roadblock to reporting.⁸ Lastly, people living in rural communities may feel isolated and fear backlash if

they report.⁹

Prevention Strategies

The goal in preventing gender-based violence is to end violence, empower survivors, and promote healthy relationships. This can be done by raising awareness, instating programs in elementary and secondary schools that decrease bullying and promote respect, and the use of bystander intervention program.¹⁰

How to Help

As a society, we should always believe and empower survivors. Survivors often feel isolated from their family and community because of a traumatic experience. Support groups can offer a sense of community for survivors of gender-based violence.⁵ Raising awareness and educating the public on the impact that this crime and victimization can have on an individual may also help to prevent the problem.

Resources

- ◇ Texas Advocacy Project (800-374-4673)
<https://www.texasadvocacyproject.org/>
- ◇ Texas Family Violence Program
<https://www.hhs.texas.gov/services/safety/family-violence-program>
- ◇ Office of Human Trafficking and Domestic Violence- Houston
<https://humantraffickinghouston.org/resources/services-for-domestic-violence-victims/>
- ◇ Tahirih Justice Center (713-496-0100)
<https://www.tahirih.org/>

References

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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/>
1-800-252-5400
- 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 1-888-373-7888
- The Department of Aging and Disability Services (DADS) 512-438-3011
- Victim Connect Resource Center 1-855-484-2846

