

Sexual and Intimate Partner Violence can have a serious impact on a woman's reproductive health

Survivors are at a higher risk of experiencing:*

- ~ Invasive cervical cancer and pre-invasive cervical neoplasia
- ~ Urinary tract, vaginal infections ,and sexually transmitted infections including HIV
- ~ Irregular menstrual cycles
- ~ Pain during sex, dysmenorrhea and vaginitis
- ~ Pelvic inflammatory disease
- ~ Chronic pelvic pain syndrome
- ~ Bladder infections
- ~ Vaginal and anal tearing
- ~ Sexual dysfunction
- ~ Gynecological problems



What is Intimate Partner Violence? Sexual Violence? Reproductive Coercion?

Intimate Partner Violence is:

A pattern of assaultive and coercive behaviors, including physical, sexual, and psychological attacks, as well as economic coercion, that adults or adolescents use against their intimate partners.

Sexual Violence is:

Any physical contact of a sexual nature without voluntary consent. Sexual assault can take place by **anyone anywhere**. This includes an intimate partner.

Reproductive Coercion is:

Behaviors that a partner uses to maintain power and control in a relationship related to reproductive health . This includes: birth control sabotage, pregnancy pressure, pregnancy coercion, and forcing sex without a condom.

For More Information:

Ohio Domestic Violence Network
www.odvn.org **1-800-934-9840**

Ohio Alliance to End Sexual Violence
www.oaesv.org **1-888-866-8388**

The National Domestic Violence Hotline
www.thehotline.org **1-800-799-SAFE**



The comprehensive resource on domestic violence

Did you know?



Sexual and Intimate Partner Violence Affects Your Health

How could violence affect my health?



Sexual and intimate partner violence is a traumatic experience. After experiencing a traumatic event a person goes through a wide range of normal emotional and psychological

responses. These reactions are NORMAL reactions to ABNORMAL events.

Trauma also impacts how people think and the ways in which they process and understand information. It can make everyday tasks such as organizing, remembering details, or concentrating seem overwhelming.

Our bodies often express what we cannot express verbally so traumatic memories often are transformed into physical outcomes. Chronic danger and anticipation of violence places survivors at an increased risk for any of the following conditions.

*Emotional and Psychological Reactions to Trauma**

- ~ Grief, guilt or shame, denial, fear, despair, hopelessness, depression
- ~ Mood swings, emotional outbursts, spontaneous crying
- ~ Exaggerated startle response, hyper-alertness or hyper-vigilance
- ~ Anger or irritability, panic, increased need for control
- ~ Emotional detachment, emotional numbing, diminished interest in activities
- ~ Difficulty concentrating and making decisions, confusion
- ~ Disorientation, uncertainty, suspiciousness
- ~ Nightmares, flashbacks, distressing dreams, self blame

*Please note: these lists are not exhaustive. If you are experiencing any ailment or symptom, talking with someone who has knowledge of trauma recovery can help survivors sort out the emotional aftermath of sexual or intimate partner violence. You can also consult a doctor for treatment,

*Physical Manifestations of Trauma**

- ~ Arthritis, asthma, stroke
- ~ Headaches and migraines
- ~ Back pain and chronic pain
- ~ Gastrointestinal problems
- ~ High cholesterol, heart disease and heart attack
- ~ Depressed immune function
- ~ Eating problems, substance abuse self harmful behavior
- ~ Physical problems that doctors cannot diagnose
- ~ Sexual difficulties

