

Intimate Partner Violence in Utah, 2008

Introduction

Intimate partner violence (IPV) is abuse that occurs between two people in a close relationship. The term “intimate partner” includes current and former spouses and dating partners. IPV exists along a continuum from a single episode of violence to ongoing battering.¹

IPV includes four types of behavior¹ :

- **Physical abuse** is when a person hurts or tries to hurt a partner by hitting, kicking, or other physical force.
- **Sexual abuse** is forcing a partner to take part in a sex act when the partner does not consent.
- **Threats** of physical or sexual abuse include the use of words, gestures, weapons, or other means to communicate the intent to cause harm.
- **Emotional abuse** is threatening a partner or his or her possessions or loved ones, or harming a partner’s sense of self-worth. Examples are stalking, name-calling, intimidation, or not letting a partner see friends and family.



Utah and U.S.

Nationally, women experience about 4.8 million intimate partner-related physical assaults and rapes each year.² In Utah, women experienced 169,156 intimate partner-related physical assaults and rapes each year.

To estimate the lifetime prevalence of IPV in Utah, women 18 years and older were asked questions from the Utah Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System (BRFSS) about their experience with physical abuse. The BRFSS is a representative sample of the Utah population. In 2008, 14.2% reported that an intimate partner had ever hit, slapped, pushed, kicked, or hurt them in any way at some point in their life.

Age³

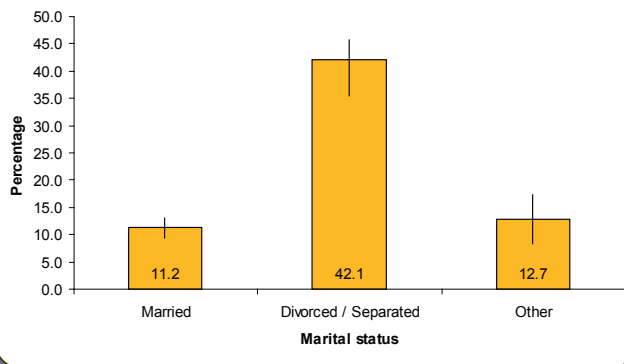
The percentage of women who reported ever experiencing IPV increased with age, with the exception of women who were 65 years or older.

Relationship to Perpetrator³

About 39% of those reporting abuse said the perpetrator was their husband or male live-in partner. Slightly more than 27% reported the perpetrator to be a former husband or former live-in partner and 25.7% said a former boyfriend was the abuser.

Divorced or separated women reported the highest rates of ever having experienced IPV (42.1%) (Figure 1).

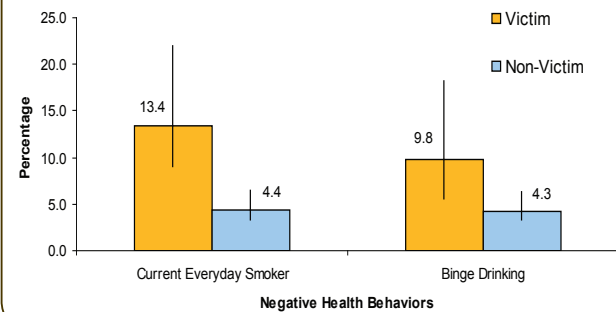
Figure 1: Percentage of Female Adults who Experienced IPV by Marital Status, Utah, 2008 BRFSS



IPV and Health³

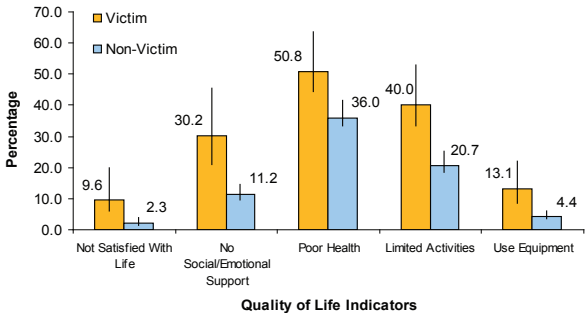
IPV is linked to negative health behaviors. Women who experienced IPV had a statistically higher prevalence of being a current everyday smoker (13.4% vs. 4.4%) and binge drinking (9.8% vs. 4.3%) than women who did not experience IPV (Figure 2).

Figure 2: Percentage of IPV Victims and Non-victims by Negative Health Behaviors, Utah, 2008 BRFSS



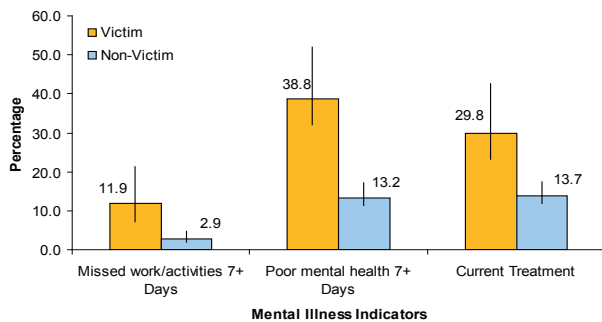
IPV affects victims' quality of life and may have lasting consequences. Victims reported a significantly higher prevalence of dissatisfaction with life (9.6% vs. 2.3%), didn't receive the social and emotional support they needed (30.2% vs. 11.2%), reported they had poor health (50.8% vs. 36.0%), were limited in activities because of physical, mental, or emotional problems (40.0% vs. 20.7%), and required the use of special equipment such as a wheelchair due to health problems (13.1% vs. 4.4%) compared to non-victims (Figure 3).

Figure 3: Percentage of IPV Victims and Non-victims by Quality of Life Indicators, Utah, 2008 BRFSS



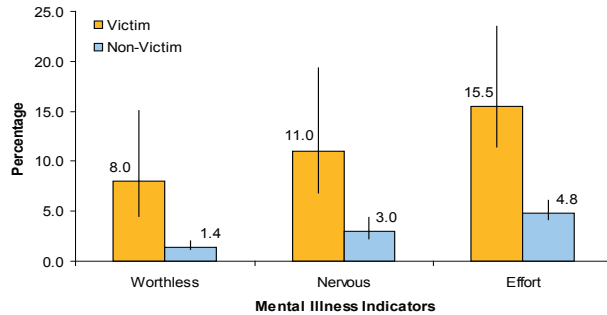
In addition, victims reported a significantly higher prevalence of missing seven or more days of work/activities in the past month (11.9% vs. 2.9%), having seven or more poor mental health days in the past month (38.8% vs. 13.2%), and being treated for mental illness (29.8% vs. 13.7%) than non-victims (Figure 4).

Figure 4: Percentage of IPV Victims and Non-victims by Mental Illness Indicators, Utah, 2008 BRFSS



Victims of IPV reported a significantly higher prevalence of feeling worthless (8.0% vs. 1.4%), nervous (11.0% vs. 3.0%), and that everything was an effort (15.5% vs. 4.8%) during the past 30 days (Figure 5).

Figure 5: Percentage of IPV Victims and Non-victims by Mental Illness Indicators, Utah, 2008 BRFSS



Anonymous and Confidential Help 24/7

- Utah Domestic Violence Link Line **1-800-897-LINK** (5465)
- Utah Rape and Sexual Assault Crisis Line **1-888-421-1100**
- The National Domestic Violence Hotline www.thehotline.org **1-800-799-SAFE** (7233) **1-800-787-3224** (TTY)

Safety Tips

- **Call 9-1-1** if you are in danger.
- **Get help.** If you are being abused, you are not alone.
- **Talk with people you trust** – a family member, friend, coworker, medical provider, or spiritual leader.
- **Make a plan in case you have to leave.** Set aside some money and find a place to go. Put important papers and items in a place where you can get them quickly.⁴
- **Recognize early warning signs** for violence such as a

partner's extreme jealousy, controlling behavior, threats, and history of abuse.⁵

Cost

Nationally, the estimated costs of IPV exceed \$5.8 billion each year. This includes costs of medical care, mental health services, and lost productivity.⁶

Laws

Health care providers are required by law to report child abuse, elderly/disabled person abuse, and any assault that occurs when one person inflicts an injury on another person, even if that person is a loved one (Utah Statute 26-23a-2).

Resources

- Utah Domestic Violence Council (UDVC) www.udvac.org/home.htm or 801-521-5544
- Utah Coalition Against Sexual Assault (UCASA) www.ucasa.org
- CDC Violence Prevention www.cdc.gov/ViolencePrevention/index.html

References

¹ NCIPC. (2006). Understanding Intimate Partner Violence, http://www.cdc.gov/violenceprevention/pdf/IPV_factsheet-a.pdf.

² Extent, nature, and consequences of intimate partner violence: Findings from the National Violence Against Women Survey, www.ojp.usdoj.gov/nij/pubs-sum/181867.htm.

³ Utah Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System, 2008.

⁴ <http://www.womenshealth.gov/violence/planning/index.cfm>.

⁵ <http://www.athealth.com/consumer/disorders/domviol.html>.

⁶ NCIPC. (2003). Costs of Intimate Partner Violence Against Women in the United States, http://www.cdc.gov/ncipc/pub-res/ipv_cost/IPVBook-Final-Feb18.pdf.

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If your life has been affected by intimate partner violence, the Utah Department of Health wants to hear from you. Share your story at the Utah Health Story Bank at www.health.utah.gov/bhp/sb/.

Our Mission

“We are a trusted and comprehensive resource for data related to violence and injury. Through education, this information helps promote partnerships and programs to prevent injuries and improve public health.”

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