

Impact of COVID-19 on Domestic Violence

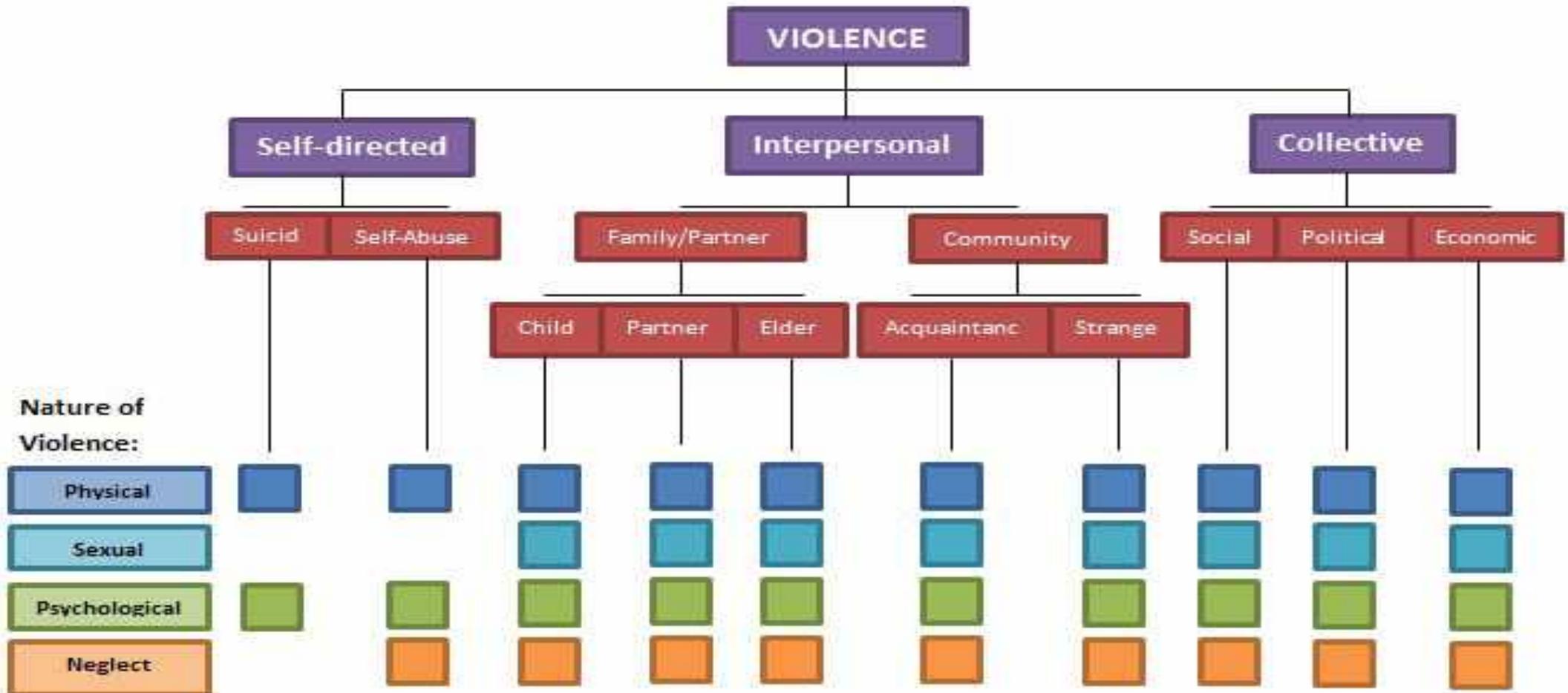
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GCCA 27th Annual Conference
January 26, 2021

Agenda

- Domestic Violence Defined
- Predictors of Domestic Violence
- Domestic Violence as a Direct Result of COVID-19
- Experiences of Domestic Violence Victims

What Is Violence?



Intimate Partner Violence Defined

Intimate Partner Violence (IPV)

- Intimate Partner Violence may take many forms
 - physical
 - sexual
 - psychological
 - neglect

Intimate Partner Violence (IVP)

Intimate Partner Violence has a disproportionate effect on communities of color and other marginalized groups

Break Out Group Discussion

What can be done to reduce the disproportionate effect of intimate partner violence on communities of color and other marginalized groups?

Intimate Partner Violence (IVP)

Domestic Violence Cases on the Rise During
the Pandemic



Predictors of COVID-19 Related Domestic Violence

Break Out Room Discussion

What do you think are the predictors of domestic violence related to the COVID-19 pandemic?

BEFORE THE PANDEMIC



243 million

women and girls, aged 15-49, experienced **sexual and/or physical violence** by an intimate partner in the past year.

SINCE THE PANDEMIC

Violence against women, especially **domestic violence**, has intensified.

Exacerbating factors include:



Security, health
& money worries



Cramped
living conditions



Isolation with
abusers



Movement
restrictions



Deserted
public spaces

Increased Stress Levels

Jessica Brayden, who heads the domestic violence prevention agency Respond, Inc. in Somerville, Massachusetts, said she and other advocates fear the pandemic is putting victims in more danger. The message to stay home, coupled with financial stress, job loss, and kids staying home from school, can trap victims and trigger abusers.

- In the first five weeks of the lockdown from the virus, more than 26 million Americans lost their jobs.
- Male unemployment significantly correlates with domestic violence rates.
- Loss of health insurance previously provided through employment complicates ability to seek medical attention.

**Loss of
Employment**

Impact of COVID-19 on Employment

The pandemic has exacerbated financial entanglement by causing increased job loss and unemployment, especially among women of color, immigrants, and workers without a college education.

Unemployment Rates Source: US Bureau Labor Statistics



- Millions of Americans have experienced a decrease in their income.
- In about 1/3 of domestic violence cases, economic factors render the victim financially dependent on the abuser.
- Low socioeconomic status communities are already more vulnerable to higher rates of domestic violence.

**Reduction or
Loss of
Income**

Children are specifically vulnerable to abuse during COVID-19. Research shows that increased stress levels among parents is often a major predictor of physical abuse and neglect of children. Stressed parents may be more likely to respond to their children's anxious behaviors or demands in aggressive or abusive ways.

School Closures

Since children are not going to school, teachers and school counselors are unable to witness the signs of abuse and report to the proper authorities. Also, many at-risk families may not have access to the technology children needed to stay connected with friends and extended family

School Closures

Loss of support systems

- Extended family
- Childcare and schools
 - Religious groups
- Community Organizations

Isolation

Social isolation is defined as having a lack of social connections needed for resources and support systems.

Isolation

The more rural or isolated a community as a whole, the higher the prevalence of domestic violence.

Isolation

Abusive partners often blame their behavior on drugs or alcohol to avoid claiming responsibility for their actions or to obscure the reasons they abuse.

Examples of excuses used by abusive partners to justify their behavior:

I didn't mean it, I was drunk!

I'd never do that sober.

That's not who I really am—drinking makes me a different person.

Source: National Domestic Violence Hotline

It is critical that we have in place mechanisms for surveillance, reporting, and intervention, particularly, when it comes to domestic violence and child abuse. Individuals at risk for abuse may have limited opportunities to report or seek help when shelter-in-place requirements demand prolonged cohabitation at home and limit travel outside of the home. Systems will need to balance the need for social distancing with the availability of safe places to be for people who are at risk, and social services systems will need to be creative in their approaches to following up on reports of problems. Galea, Merchant, & Lurie (2020).

Substance Use

Alcohol is also widely considered to be a key predictor of IPV, primarily due to its disinhibitory effect on aggression.

U.S. online alcohol sales jumped 243% during coronavirus pandemic.

Alcohol

Impact of COVID-19 on P-12 Students

Closures of schools and child care facilities have added to the stress at home.

Virtual learning invokes involvement of parents/guardians.

Many families have no access to reliable Internet.

Impact of COVID-19 on P-12 Students

Mandated reporters, such as teachers, child care providers, and clinicians, have fewer interactions with children and families and fewer opportunities to assess, recognize, and report signs of abuse than before the pandemic.



Domestic Violence as a Result of COVID-19

Legal Advocacy Statistics

January 1, 2019 - December 31, 2019

| County | # of Request | # of FV | # of ST | # of Women | # of Men | African American | Caucasian | Hispanic | Other Race | # of TPO | # of FV | # of ST | # of 1-Year | # of 3-Year | # of Perm | # of Services |
|--------------|--------------|------------|------------|------------|-----------|------------------|------------|-----------|------------|------------|------------|-----------|-------------|-------------|-----------|---------------|
| Ben Hill | 10 | 5 | 5 | 9 | 1 | 6 | 4 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 57 |
| Irwin | 37 | 24 | 13 | 32 | 5 | 13 | 24 | 0 | 0 | 12 | 9 | 3 | 5 | 0 | 0 | 236 |
| Tift | 256 | 163 | 93 | 229 | 27 | 139 | 98 | 18 | 1 | 109 | 69 | 40 | 50 | 2 | 1 | 1710 |
| Turner | 39 | 21 | 18 | 36 | 3 | 21 | 18 | 0 | 0 | 18 | 9 | 9 | 10 | 0 | 0 | 270 |
| Worth | 86 | 64 | 22 | 72 | 14 | 27 | 59 | 0 | 0 | 33 | 29 | 4 | 14 | 0 | 0 | 447 |
| Others | 39 | 27 | 12 | 37 | 2 | 8 | 28 | 3 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 186 |
| Total | 467 | 304 | 163 | 415 | 52 | 214 | 231 | 21 | 1 | 172 | 116 | 56 | 79 | 2 | 1 | 2906 |

Legal Advocacy Statistics

January 1, 2020 - December 31, 2020

| County | # of Request | # of FV | # of ST | # of Women | # of Men | African American | Caucasian | Hispanic | Other Race | # of TPO | # of FV | # of ST | # of 1- Year | # of 3- Year | # of Perm | # of Services |
|--------------|--------------|------------|------------|------------|-----------|------------------|------------|-----------|------------|------------|------------|-----------|--------------|--------------|-----------|---------------|
| Ben Hill | 11 | 5 | 6 | 11 | 0 | 9 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 50 |
| Irwin | 66 | 49 | 27 | 58 | 8 | 29 | 37 | 0 | 0 | 19 | 17 | 2 | 9 | 0 | 0 | 299 |
| Tift | 317 | 187 | 130 | 261 | 56 | 151 | 153 | 12 | 1 | 146 | 92 | 54 | 61 | 1 | 0 | 1940 |
| Turner | 45 | 26 | 29 | 40 | 5 | 24 | 21 | 0 | 0 | 18 | 12 | 6 | 5 | 0 | 0 | 214 |
| Worth | 88 | 63 | 25 | 75 | 13 | 21 | 67 | 0 | 0 | 44 | 36 | 8 | 17 | 1 | 0 | 472 |
| Others | 71 | 44 | 27 | 57 | 14 | 20 | 44 | 5 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 195 |
| Total | 598 | 374 | 244 | 502 | 96 | 254 | 324 | 17 | 3 | 227 | 157 | 70 | 92 | 2 | 0 | 3170 |

Shelter Statistics
January 01, 2019 –December 31, 2019

| | # of Crisis Calls | Adult in Shelter | Children in Shelter | # of Services | African American | Hispanic | Caucasian | Other |
|--------------|-------------------|------------------|---------------------|---------------|------------------|----------|------------|----------|
| Ben Hill | 32 | 3 | 3 | 541 | 4 | 0 | 2 | 0 |
| Irwin | 60 | 4 | 0 | 448 | 3 | 0 | 1 | 0 |
| Tift | 386 | 23 | 14 | 1889 | 23 | 0 | 114 | 0 |
| Turner | 98 | 1 | 0 | 22 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 |
| Worth | 103 | 3 | 3 | 580 | 3 | 0 | 3 | 0 |
| Other | 352 | 54 | 35 | 4090 | 48 | 0 | 38 | 3 |
| Total | 1031 | 88 | 55 | 7570 | 81 | 0 | 159 | 3 |

Shelter Statistics
January 01, 2020 – December 31, 2020

| | # of Crisis Calls | Adult in Shelter | Children in Shelter | # of Services | African American | Hispanic | Caucasian | Other |
|--------------|-------------------|------------------|---------------------|---------------|------------------|----------|-----------|----------|
| Ben Hill | 23 | 4 | 4 | 256 | 6 | 0 | 2 | 0 |
| Irwin | 69 | 2 | 2 | 35 | 4 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Tift | 399 | 17 | 18 | 10279 | 28 | 0 | 7 | 0 |
| Turner | 54 | 1 | 2 | 594 | 3 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Worth | 101 | 1 | 0 | 379 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 |
| Other | 418 | 94 | 66 | 17619 | 96 | 0 | 63 | 1 |
| Total | 1064 | 119 | 92 | 29162 | 137 | 0 | 73 | 1 |

Break Out Room Discussion

What are your thoughts on the numbers presented for the localized area?

Percent increase in US domestic violence in the locations studied in 2020.

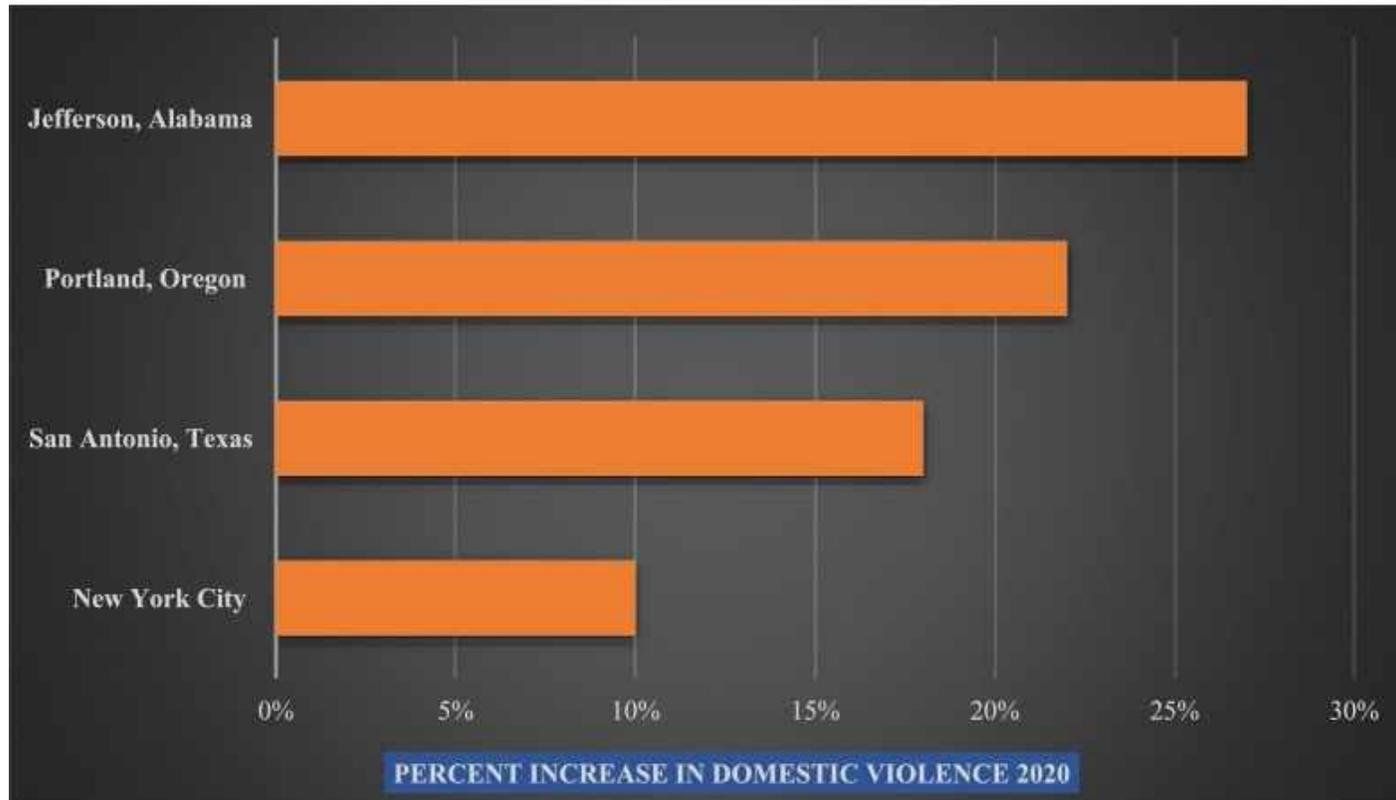


Table 2: Comparison of Demographic Variables, Injury Patterns, and IPV Grading in Victims of Physical Abuse between 2020 COVID-19 Pandemic Group and Victims in 2017, 2018, and 2019.

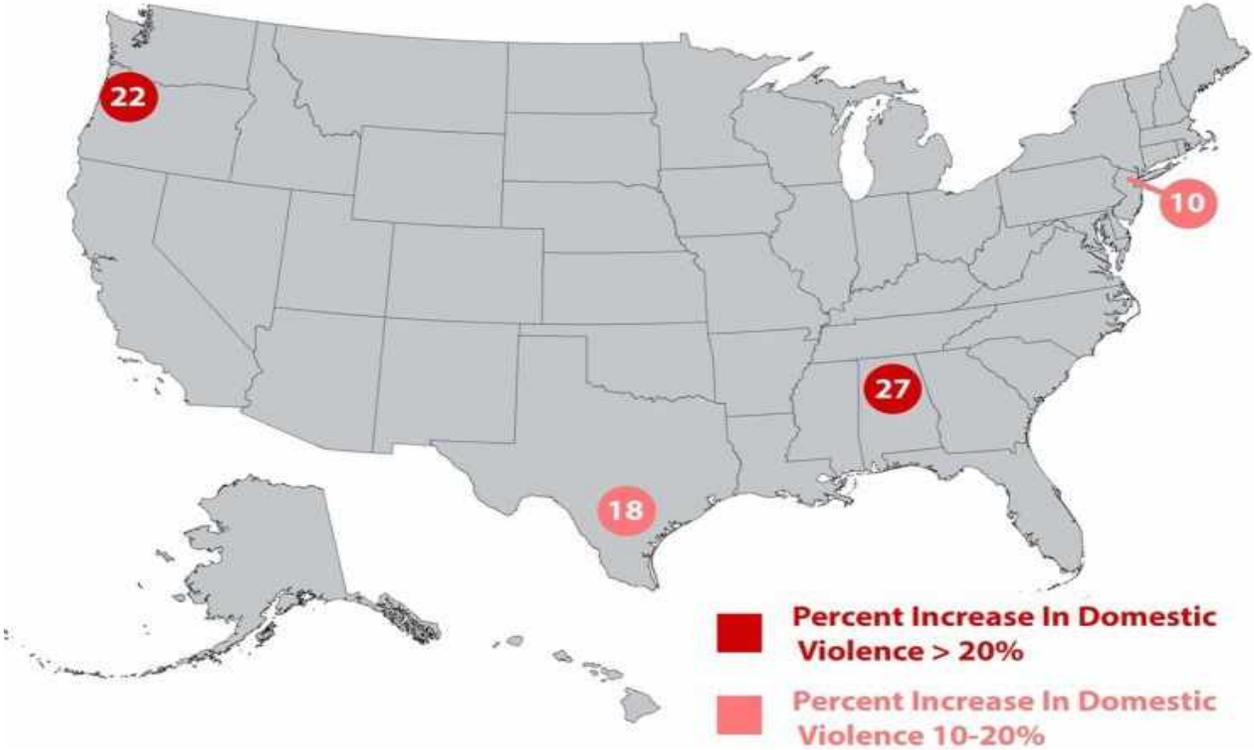
| Characteristic | 2020 | 2019 | 2018 | 2017 | 2017–2019 | <i>P</i> Value |
|---|------------|-------------|-----------|-------------|-------------|----------------|
| Total no. of IPV victims | 62 | 104 | 106 | 146 | 342 | ... |
| No. of cases referred from emergency department | 20 (32) | 26 (25) | 14 (13) | 22 (15) | 62 (18) | ... |
| No. of physical IPV victims | 26 | 20 | 7 | 15 | 42 | ... |
| Age (y)* | 37 ± 13 | 45 ± 16 | 43 ± 14 | 35 ± 13 | 41 ± 15 | .18 |
| Gender (female) | 25 (96) | 19 (95) | 7 (100) | 14 (95) | 40 (95) | >.99 |
| Race | | | | | | .007 |
| White | 17 (65) | 6 (30) | 2 (29) | 3 (20) | 11 (26) | ... |
| Black | 2 (8) | 7 (35) | 4 (57) | 4 (27) | 15 (36) | ... |
| Hispanic | 4 (15) | 2 (10) | 1 (14) | 7 (47) | 10 (24) | ... |
| Others | 3 (12) | 5 (25) | 0 (0) | 1 (6) | 6 (14) | ... |
| Marital status | | | | | | .87 |
| Single | 18 (70) | 11 (55) | 4 (57) | 11 (74) | 26 (62) | ... |
| Married | 5 (19) | 7 (35) | 2 (29) | 2 (13) | 11 (26) | ... |
| Divorced | 3 (11) | 2 (10) | 1 (14) | 2 (13) | 5 (12) | ... |
| Substance abuse | 10 (38) | 8 (4) | 2 (3) | 1 (7) | 11 (26) | .29 |
| Proportion of physical abuse [†] | 42 (26/62) | 19 (20/104) | 9 (7/106) | 10 (15/146) | 12 (42/356) | <.001 |
| Use of high-risk abuse mechanisms | 15 (58) | 6 (30) | 6 (85) | 7 (4%) | 19 (45) | .01 |
| Deep injuries per person (mean) | 1.08 | 0.35 | 0.71 | 0.27 | 0.38 | <.001 |
| Severe grade IPV (grade III) | 5 (19) | 1 (5) | 1 (14) | 1 (7%) | 4 (10) | .08 |
| Very severe grade IPV (grade IV) | 5 (19) | 2 (10) | 1 (14) | 1 (7%) | 3 (7) | .24 |

Note.—Unless otherwise indicated, data in parentheses are percentages. High-risk abuse mechanism describes injury from the use of a weapon such as a gun or knife, strangulation, or choking. Severe grade IPV/grade III injuries that include extremity fractures, single rib fracture, intramuscular hematomas, extremity fractures, soft-tissue stab wounds, whereas very severe grade IPV/grade IV injuries include organ or visceral injury secondary to stab or blunt trauma, pneumothorax/hemothorax, pneumoperitoneum/hemoperitoneum, facial fractures, skull fractures, spine fractures, two or more rib fractures, strangulation marks over the neck, burns, gunshot wounds. *P* values were calculated by comparing 2020 data with 2017–2019 data. COVID-19 = coronavirus disease 2019, IPV = intimate partner violence.

* Data are mean ± standard deviation.

† Data are percentages, and data in parentheses are raw data.

Percent increase in US domestic violence in the locations studied 2020.



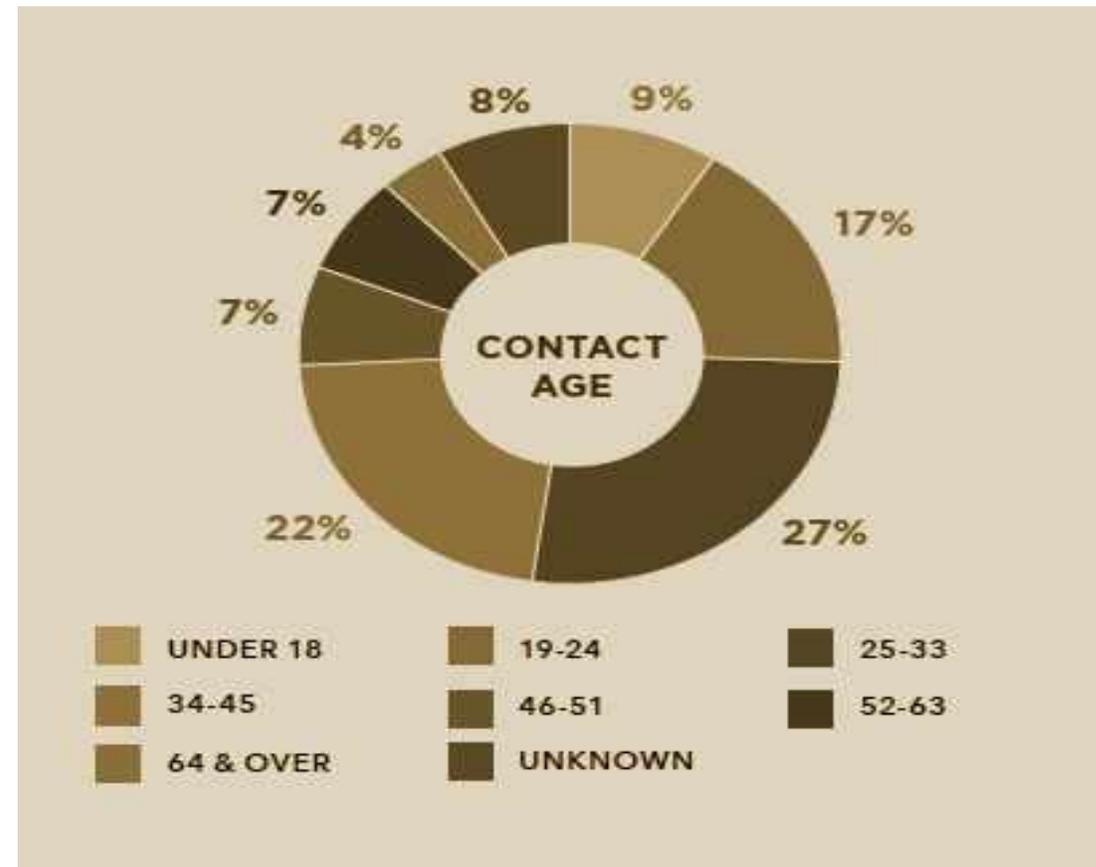
Data Collected

March 16 - May 16, 2020

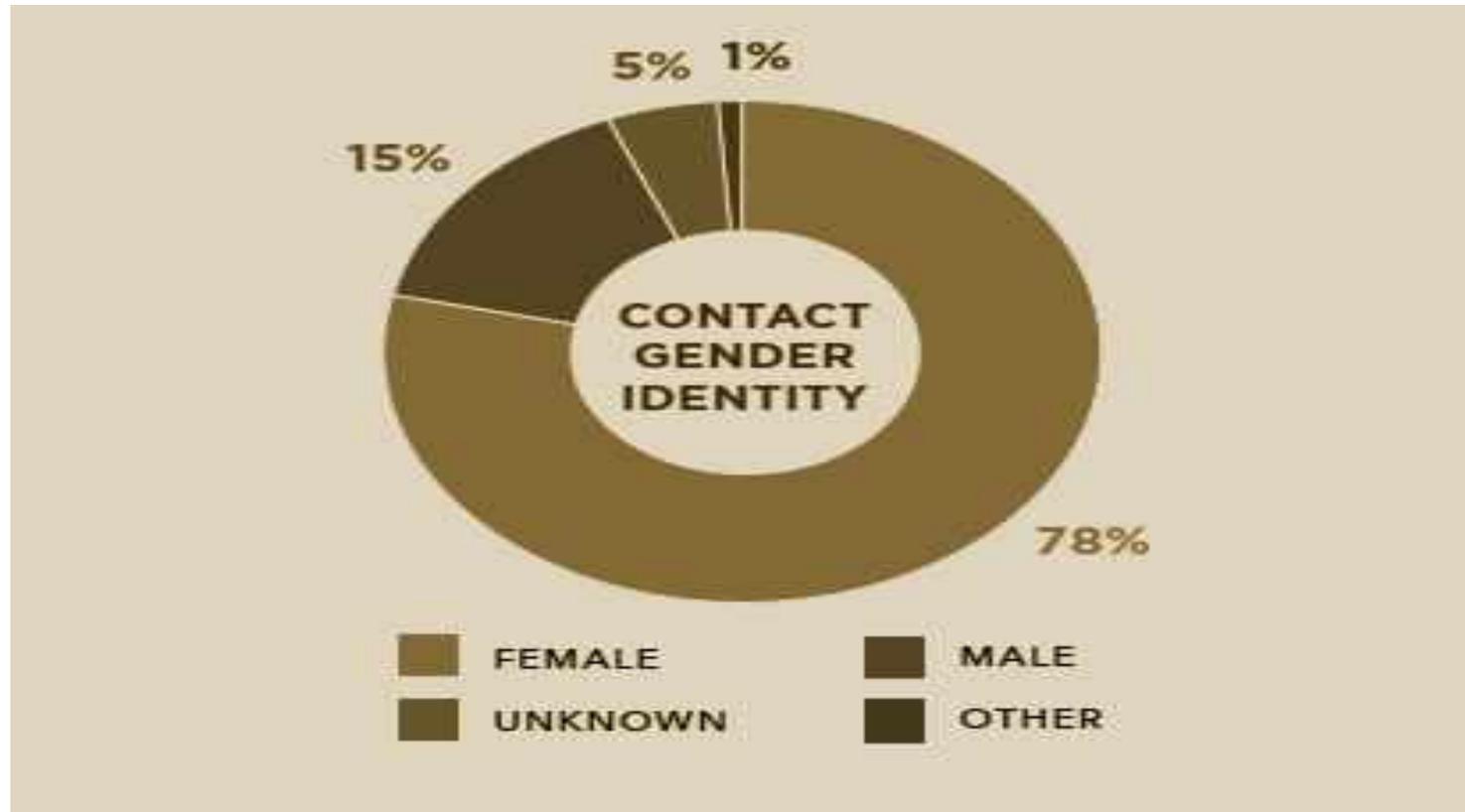


Data According to Age

March 16 - May 16, 2020

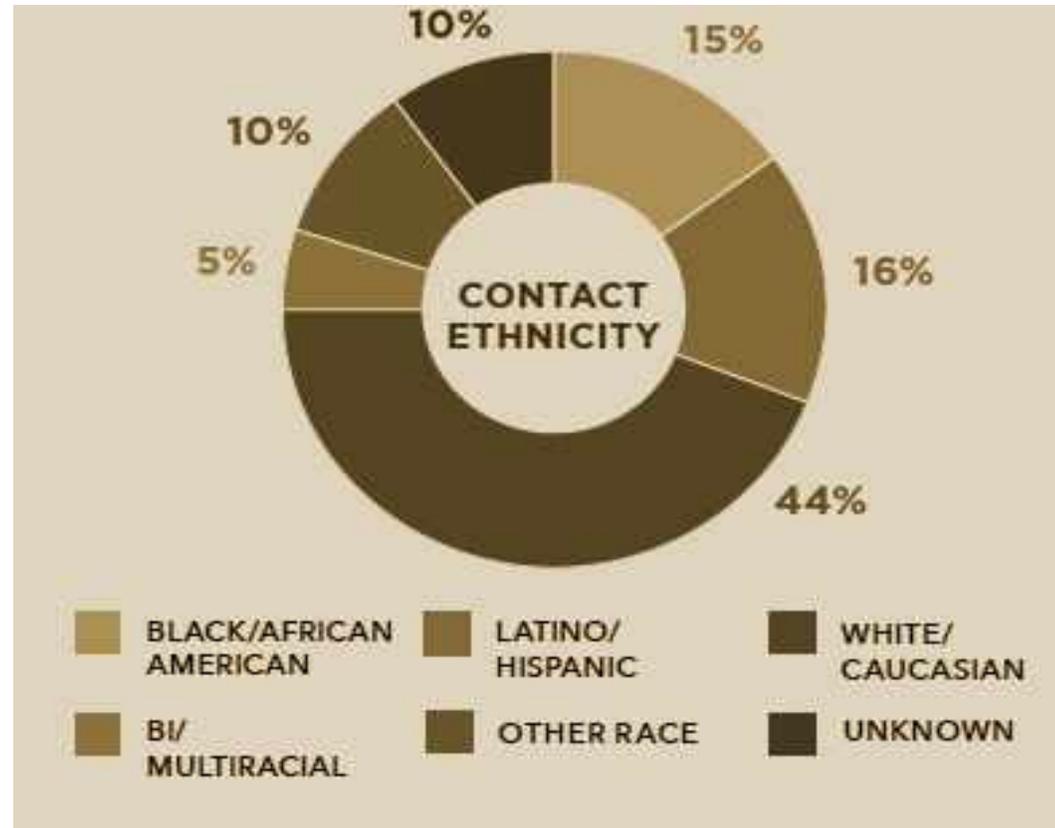


Data According to Gender March 16 - May 16, 2020



Data According to Ethnicity

March 16 - May 16, 2020





What Victims Were Experiencing

90%

**EMOTIONAL/
VERBAL ABUSE**

Behavior that isn't physical, which may include verbal aggression, intimidation, manipulation, and humiliation, which most often unfolds as a pattern of behavior over time.

61%

**PHYSICAL
ABUSE**

Non-accidental use of force that results in bodily injury, pain, or impairment. This may include being slapped, burned, cut, bruised, or improperly physically restrained.

24%

ECONOMIC/
FINANCIAL ABUSE

When one intimate partner has control over the other partner's access to economic resources, which diminishes the victim's capacity to support themselves.

16%

**DIGITAL
ABUSE**

The use of technologies such as texting and social networking to bully, harass, stalk, or intimidate a partner.

11%

SEXUAL
ABUSE

Non-consensual sexual interaction through coercion, guilt, or force. This may include pressure to engage in sexual activity, refusal to use contraception, or demanding of sexual images or video.

COVID-19 SURVIVOR STORIES FROM THE LINES

"A caller said they could not file paperwork to remove the abuser from their home, because courts are closed due to COVID-19."

"A chatter stated that they have known for a long time that there were red flags in the relationship, but things are escalating with the pandemic, and they can't even go to therapy."

"A caller was experiencing an escalation of abuse. They had tested positive for COVID-19, and the abuser was using isolation to keep them from contacting family. The abuser threatened the survivor with deportation (survivor is currently in the process of becoming a US citizen)."



"A chatter mentioned that the abuser was using the virus as a scare tactic to keep the survivor away from their kids."

**The Shadow Pandemic: Domestic violence in the wake of
COVID-19**

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IINP_bW-o0&feature=emb_logo

Final Video

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