

Positively Safe

THE INTERSECTION OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE & HIV/AIDS

Fact Sheet about HIV/AIDS & Domestic Violence

What we know about HIV/AIDS...

- Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV) is the virus that can lead to Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome (AIDS).
- HIV is transmitted through **blood, semen, vaginal secretions, and breast milk.**ⁱ
- **One in four** HIV-positive people in the United States are **women.**ⁱⁱ
- While there is currently **no cure for HIV**, early **medical care and treatment** have the greatest effect on **prolonging life** and lowering your risk of infecting others.ⁱⁱⁱ

What we know about domestic violence...

- Domestic violence (DV), also known as intimate partner violence (IPV), is an act or pattern of acts involving the use or attempted use of **physical, sexual, verbal, emotional, economic**, or other forms of abusive behavior in order to **harm, threaten, intimidate, harass, coerce, control, isolate, restrain, or monitor** another person.^{iv}
- **One in four women** will experience domestic violence in her lifetime.^v

What we know about the intersection of HIV/AIDS and domestic violence...

- At **double the national rate**, 55% of HIV-positive women have been found to experience DV.^{vi}
- Victims of domestic violence are **48% more likely** to be infected than women in non-violent relationships.^{vii}
- Women experiencing DV are at a higher risk for HIV/AIDS because they might...^{viii}
 - Be forced to have **sex with an infected partner**
 - Have **limited ability to negotiate safe sex practices**
- HIV-positive women who have been recently abused are more than **4 times** as likely to experience **antiretroviral therapy failure** or to **not practice safe sex** compared to women who have not been recently abused.^{ix}
- In a study of HIV service providers, 24% reported at least one patient who **disclosed their HIV status** and then **experienced physical abuse**. 45% of providers had patients who **feared physical abuse** upon disclosure.^x

Additional Resources:

- Find more information in the *Positively Safe Toolkit*, **HIV/AIDS Resource Guide** and **DV Resource Guide**, on HIV/AIDS and domestic violence.
- For more information on power and control used by perpetrators please review the **Power & Control Wheel** in the *Positively Safe Toolkit*.

ⁱ Office on Women's Health, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, How HIV is Spread. <http://www.womenshealth.gov/hiv-aids/what-is-hiv-aids/how-hiv-is-spread.html#a>

ⁱⁱ Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), HIV Among Women.

[http://www.cdc.gov/hiv/risk/gender/women/facts/index.html?utm_source=feedburner&utm_medium=feed&utm_campaign=Feed%3A+pkidshivnews+\(PKIDS%27+HIV%2FAIDS+News\)](http://www.cdc.gov/hiv/risk/gender/women/facts/index.html?utm_source=feedburner&utm_medium=feed&utm_campaign=Feed%3A+pkidshivnews+(PKIDS%27+HIV%2FAIDS+News))

ⁱⁱⁱ AIDS.gov, What is HIV/AIDS. <http://www.aids.gov/hiv-aids-basics/hiv-aids-101/what-is-hiv-aids/>

^{iv} The National Network to End Domestic Violence. nnedv.org

^v Tjaden, Patricia & Thoennes, Nancy. National Institute of Justice and the Centers of Disease Control and Prevention, "Extent, Nature and Consequences of Intimate Partner Violence: Findings from the National Violence Against Women Survey," (2000).

^{vi} Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), Intersection of IPV and HIV in Women. http://www.cdc.gov/violenceprevention/pdf/ipv/13_243567_green_aag-a.pdf

^{vii} Women and HIV/AIDS: Confronting the Crisis. <https://www.unfpa.org/hiv/women/report/chapter6.html>

^{viii} The Intersection of IPV Against Women and HIV/AIDS: A Review. <http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC3274697/>

^{ix} Population Reports. http://www.vawnet.org/Assoc_Files_VAWnet/PopulationReports.pdf