DEFINITIONS

Intimate Partner Violence and Family Planning

Intimate partner violence (IPV) refers to physical, sexual, and psychological aggression, and coercive control by a current or former intimate partner or de facto partner. It includes physical violence, sexual violence, stalking, and psychological aggression (including controlling behavior) by a current or former intimate partner. (Breiding et al. 2015, WHO 2021)

Reproductive coercion refers to behaviors that interfere with an individual’s autonomous decision-making related to contraception and pregnancy. This may take the form of contraception sabotage, coercion or pressure to get pregnant, or controlling the outcome of a pregnancy. (Silverman and Raj 2014)

GLOBAL SETTING

More than 1 in 4 women worldwide have experienced non-partner sexual violence at least once in their lifetime. (WHO 2021)

About 50% of women who have experienced physical and/or sexual violence do not seek help of any sort. (World Bank 2022)

More than 1 in 16 women worldwide have experienced non-partner sexual violence at least once in their lifetime.

IMPACT OF IPV ON FAMILY PLANNING

Women who have experienced IPV may be more likely to report their pregnancy as unintended as compared to those who have not experienced IPV. (Pallitto et al. 2013, WHO 2013)

Women who have experienced IPV may be more likely to experience reproductive coercion than those who have not experienced IPV. (Clark et al. 2008, Falb et al. 2014, Silverman and Raj 2014)

Women who have experienced IPV may be more likely to have an induced abortion than those who have not experienced IPV. (Pallitto et al. 2013, WHO 2013)

HOW CAN WE ADDRESS IPV AND IMPROVE FAMILY PLANNING OUTCOMES?

Equitable Gender Norms

Ensure that IPV is addressed in national health care and social protection policies, including those related to family planning and health care, and that family planning and health care are explicitly incorporated into violence prevention and response policies and plans.

EQUITABLE GENDER NORMS

National Level Involvement

Support family planning providers to identify IPV, provide appropriate counseling, and refer those who have experienced violence to the services they need.

Contraception Accessibility

Ensure that a broad contraceptive method mix — including female-controlled and long-acting methods that can be used discreetly — is affordable and widely accessible to reduce barriers to use, especially for women whose autonomy may be limited by IPV.

Support for Providers

Promote and nurture equitable gender norms and behaviors that help reduce IPV and that support family planning and contraception use.

More Likely

More Likely

More than 2X

TO LEARN MORE ABOUT IPV AND FAMILY PLANNING, SEE Intimate Partner Violence and Family Planning: Opportunities for Action www.prb.org/resources/intimate-partner-violence-and-family-planning-opportunities-for-action/