

Intimate Partner Violence and Family Planning

INTERSECTIONS & OPPORTUNITIES FOR ACTION

Updated 2023

DEFINITIONS



Intimate partner violence (IPV) refers to 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.

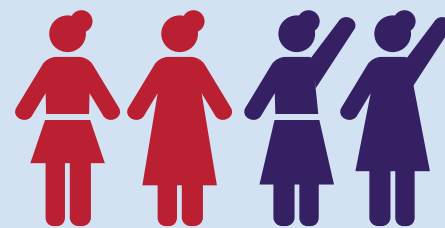
(Silverman and Raj 2014)

GLOBAL SETTING



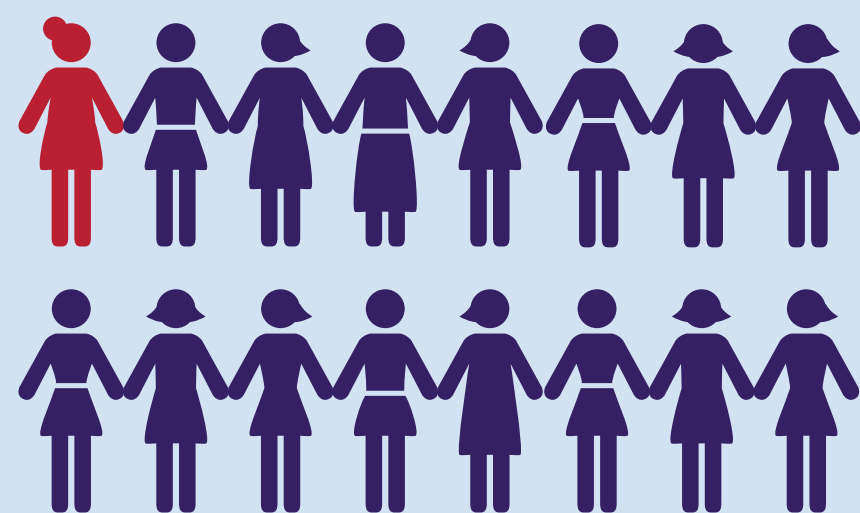
MORE THAN 1 IN 4 women worldwide has experienced physical and/or sexual IPV at least once in their lifetime

(WHO 2021)



ABOUT 50% of women who have experienced physical and/or sexual violence do not seek help of any sort

(World Bank 2022)

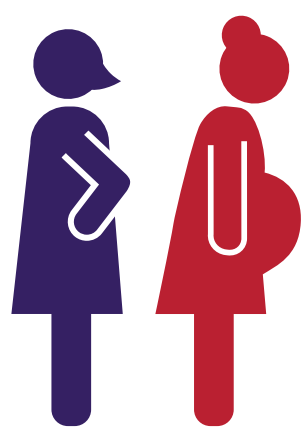


ABOUT 1 IN 16

women worldwide have experienced non-partner sexual violence at least once in their lifetime

(WHO 2021)

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

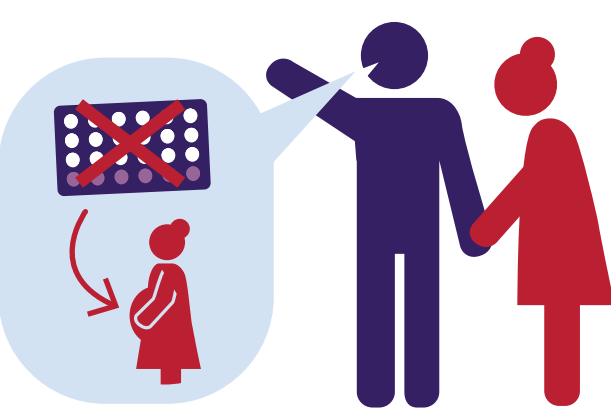
2X

more likely to have an induced abortion than those who have not experienced IPV

(Pallitto et al. 2013, WHO 2013)

Women who experience IPV may not be able to choose when to have sex, to insist on contraception, or to effectively and consistently use contraception

(Gilles 2015, 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)

HOW CAN WE ADDRESS IPV AND IMPROVE FAMILY PLANNING OUTCOMES?



EQUITABLE GENDER NORMS

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



NATIONAL LEVEL INVOLVEMENT

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



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

Support family planning providers to identify IPV; to provide compassionate, first-line response; and to refer those who have experienced violence to the services they need