

## What is intimate partner violence (IPV)?

**Intimate partner violence** is any behaviour that occurs within an intimate relationship that causes **physical, psychological or sexual harm**. This includes physical aggression, sexual coercion, and psychological or emotional abuse from a current or past intimate partner.

**Emotional abuse** may also include coercive and controlling behaviours that are intended to dominate

the victim and restrict their autonomy; for example, by isolating a person from family and friends, monitoring movements, and restricting access to finances and other resources.

Studies of prevalence may indicate levels of different types of violence, **including coercive and controlling behaviours** and other types of IPV.

## Why is it a problem?

IPV is a major contributor to **disease burden** and **nonfatal injury** among women.

IPV experiences contribute to **mental health issues** including depression, anxiety, and post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD).

IPV is commonly reported among **military and Veteran populations**.

Unique factors within the military environment, such as **trauma exposure and post-traumatic mental health issues** may contribute to IPV.

## IPV can have broad effects on active duty personnel and Veterans, for example:



Direct impacts such as **physical injuries, mental health problems, housing insecurity** and **homelessness**.



Indirect impacts on **workplace** productivity.



Interactions with other stressors which can exacerbate the overall **mental health burden** of military service.



Impacts on military and Veteran **families**, including women and children exposed to IPV.

## What did we research?



A systematic review of the prevalence of IPV perpetration and victimisation among military and Veteran populations discovered **31 studies** using population-representative data from **172,790 participants**. Population-based sampling uses data from a random selection of participants that is representative of the larger population.

## Findings



Majority of population-based studies of IPV (83.9%) come from the **United States**.



One third of studies were conducted in **military health services** and two thirds in **general military settings**/community contexts.



In total, there were **6** **perpetration** studies and **19** **victimization** studies, and **6** **examining both** victimization and perpetration of IPV.

## Prevalence of IPV



**1 in 8** military personnel and Veterans **reported use of violence** in their intimate relationship in the past 12 months.



**31.5%** of Veterans and **5%** of active duty personnel **reported any type of recent IPV perpetration**.



**1 in 5** military personnel and Veterans reported **experiencing violence** by an intimate partner in the past 12 months.



Men and women military personnel and Veterans report **comparable rates** of IPV perpetration.

## Implications

- IPV is **common among military personnel and Veterans**, and there is a need for increased recognition and responses in military and Veteran organisations.
- Comprehensive approaches will be required to reduce the occurrence and impacts of IPV, including **prevention** programs for military personnel, and **strategies** to reduce the use of violence among Veterans, and provide **supports** for Veteran Families that are impacted by IPV.

## What the research doesn't tell us

- There is little known about the **frequency of IPV outside the US**, and in international jurisdictions including Canada and Australia.
- There is limited data regarding the **severity, impacts, and context** for IPV, and the findings do not relate to coercive and controlling violence.