

# DOMESTIC VIOLENCE FACT SHEET

October is Domestic Violence Awareness Month



## OCTOBER IS DVAM

October is Domestic Violence Awareness Month (DVAM). Across the United States, DVAM is used to spread awareness, share resources, start conversations, and more in an effort to recognize and work to prevent DV.

## DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

Domestic violence (DV) is the "pattern of abusive or coercive behavior used to gain or maintain power and control" of one intimate partner over the other. DV is also called intimate partner violence (IPV)

## WHO ARE INTIMATE PARTNERS?

Intimate partners can include people who are currently or formerly dating or married. This includes those who live(d) together, have children, and/or are separated.

## DV DOES NOT DISCRIMINATE

There is no one type of victim or perpetrator. **Anyone can be a victim and anyone can be a perpetrator of violence.** Violence against anyone is wrong.

## STATISTICS

In general, **1 in 4 women and 1 in 10 men** experience domestic violence in their lifetime.

**More than half (54%) of transgender and gender non-conforming individuals** experience some form of intimate partner violence.

**Almost 50% of AI/AN women and 41% of AI/AN men** experienced contact sexual violence, physical violence, and/or stalking by an intimate partner.)

## DV IS PREVENTABLE

**Domestic violence is a learned behavior;** either from witnessing or experiencing violence, and/or learning violence from society. Just as violence can be learned, violence can be prevented.

## DV IS QA-HOPI

**Domestic violence actively goes against Hopi and Tewa values** - including kyaptsi or a'ging (respect). Our cultures support positive, healthy relationships.

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## STATISTICS

Almost half (49%) of AI/AN women and 19.9% of AI/AN men who experienced physical violence, sexual violence, or stalking reported a need for services (medical, legal, housing, and advocacy.)

Intimate partner violence precipitated **18% of homicides** of AI/AN people.

## BEYOND PHYSICAL VIOLENCE

Domestic violence is not only physical violence. It can be any sexual violence, emotional abuse, mental abuse, financial abuse, and cultural abuse. All forms of violence are dangerous and should be taken seriously.

## DV & MMIP

Homicide is the 3rd leading cause of death for AI/AN men and 6th for AI/AN women. Various circumstances contribute to MMIP, including systems not being in place to report or track when a person goes missing.

## THE ROLE OF HISTORICAL TRAUMA

DV in Native communities has ties to the violence historically experienced by our people. This violence attempted to break down our cultures and replace it with negative behaviors and systems that often do not hold offenders accountable. Thus creating a cycle of violence that spans generations.

## SYSTEMS & DV

Due to various system failures such as tribal law enforcement being unable to access federal information; or federal courts taking years to review cases, if at all, allows lack of justice or further trauma for victims and their families.

## BARRIERS TO LEAVING

It is not uncommon for victims and survivors to carry the responsibility for the abuse against them. Many wonder "why don't they just leave?"

## FOR MORE INFORMATION

Or for a digital/print copies, please contact Membership & Outreach Coordinator at this e-mail: [amber.poleviyuma@htwcea.org](mailto:amber.poleviyuma@htwcea.org).