

Intimate Partner Violence

Virginia BRFSS Fact Sheet 2005-2007

Virginia Department of Health

Division of Injury and Violence Prevention

Intimate partner violence (IPV) is defined as a pattern of assaultive and coercive behaviors that may include inflicted physical injury, psychological abuse, sexual assault, progressive social isolation, stalking, deprivation, intimidation, and threats. These behaviors are perpetrated by someone who is, was, or wishes to be involved in an intimate or dating relationship with an adult or adolescent, and are aimed at establishing control by one partner over another.¹

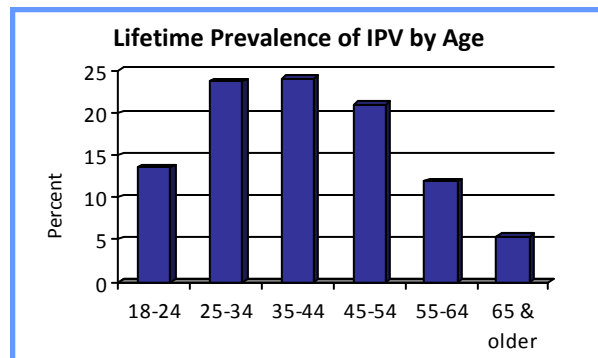
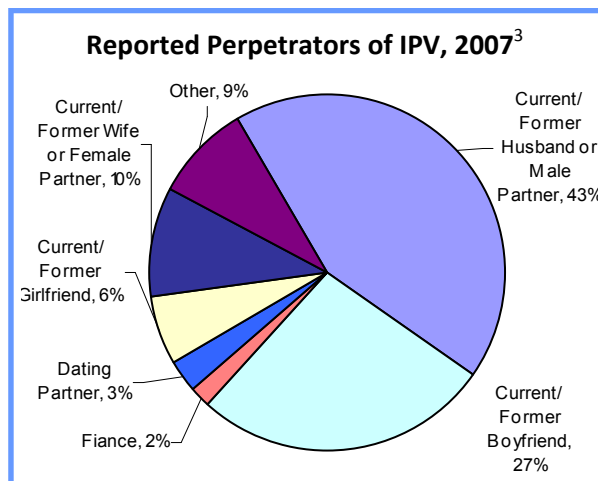
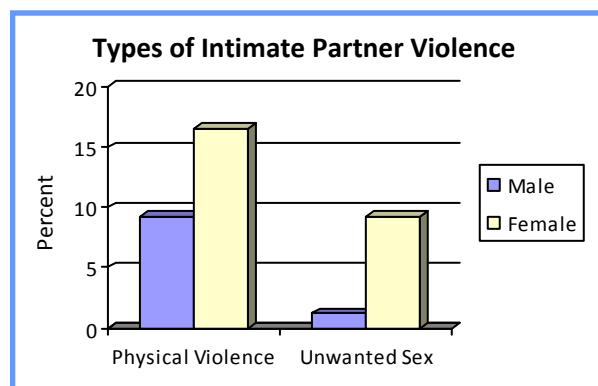
Most acts of IPV are not reported to authorities. As a result, statistics on the prevalence and incidence of IPV are underestimated.² To help provide a more reliable estimate, several nationwide, representative telephone surveys have been conducted. The Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System (BRFSS), a telephone health survey system, tracks health conditions and risk behaviors of adults in the United States. From 2005 to 2007 the Virginia BRFSS survey included questions on IPV. This fact sheet uses data from 2005, 2006, and 2007 to estimate the extent of IPV among Virginian adults 18 and older.

Lifetime Prevalence of IPV

- 18.5% of Virginian adults experienced IPV (includes threatened, attempted or actual physical and sexual violence) at some point in their life.
 - * Almost 1 in 4 women (23.3%) and 1 in 8 men (12%) experienced IPV at some point in their life.
- 13.8% of adults (15.2% of women and 9% of men) reported actual physical violence in their lifetime; this includes experiencing being hit, slapped, pushed, kicked, or physically hurt in any way.
- 5.3% of adults reported experiencing unwanted sex by a current or former intimate partner.
 - * Reports of unwanted sex were almost eight times higher among women (9.2%) than men (1.2%).
- The most commonly reported perpetrators of IPV were males (73.7%); this includes current or former husbands, boyfriends, male fiancés, and male live-in or dating partners.
- IPV was higher among multiracial⁴ people (33.5%) than black (22.1%), Hispanic (20.9%), other (18.5%) or white (18.2%).
- IPV was most commonly reported by adults aged 35-44 years old (24.2%).

12 Month Incidence of IPV

- From 2005 to 2007, 8.6% of Virginia adults reported experiencing physical violence or unwanted sex with an intimate partner in the past year.
 - * Of these, half (50.9%) reported that as a result of the violence they also incurred injuries such as bruises or broken bones.

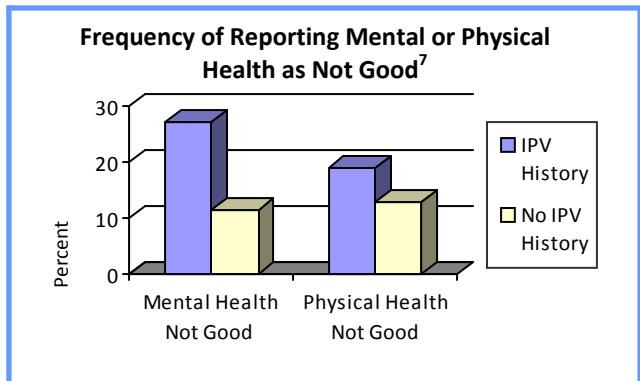
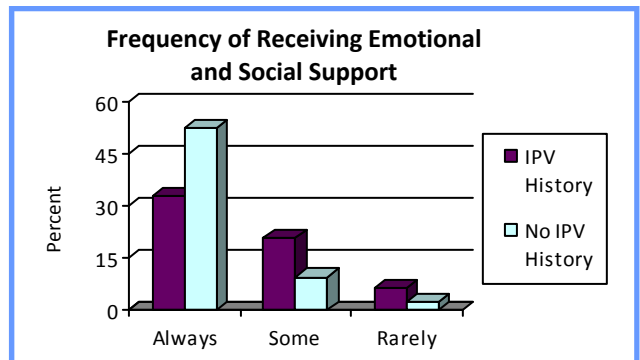
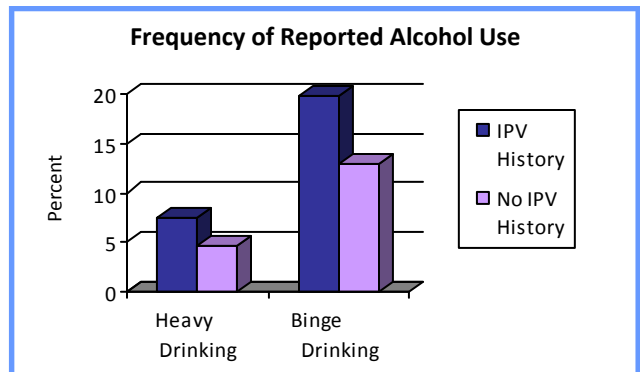


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Physical and Mental Health Problems Associated with IPV

- Virginians with a lifetime history of IPV were almost twice as likely (7.4%) to report heavy⁵ drinking when compared to those without a history of IPV (4.7%).
- Similarly, adults with a lifetime history of IPV were more likely (19.8%) to report binge drinking⁶ than those without a history of IPV (13%)
- Virginian adults that reported a lifetime history of IPV were twice as likely to also be smokers (34.5%) when compared to those without a history of IPV (15.9%).
- Virginians with a lifetime history of IPV were less likely (32.9%) to report always receiving the needed emotional or social support than those without a history of IPV (52.2%).
- Virginian adults with a lifetime history of IPV were more likely to report their general health status as either fair or poor (16.1%) compared to those without a history of IPV (11.9%).
- Similarly, those with a lifetime history of IPV were almost 50% more likely to report that their physical health was not good compared to those without a history of IPV.⁷
- Adults with a lifetime history of IPV were almost 2 1/2 times more likely to report that their mental health was not good compared to those without a history of IPV.⁷



Resources

Virginia Sexual and Domestic Violence Action Alliance
www.vsdvalliance.org

Project RADAR
www.projectradarva.com

National Domestic Violence Hotline
 1-800-799-SAFE (7233)
www.ndvh.org

The RAINN Network
www.rainn.org



Virginia Department of Health
 Division of Injury and Violence Prevention
 1-800-732-8333
www.vahealth.org/injury

¹ Intimate Partner Violence Prevention. Injury Center. Center for Disease Control and Prevention. www.cdc.gov/ncipc/dvp/IPV

² Criminal Victimization, 2005. National Crime Victimization Survey. U.S. Department of Justice. www.ojp.usdoj.gov/bjs/

³ This data is from 2007 only because the format of the question on the survey was changed from previous years.

⁴ In this survey, multiracial is used to describe respondents that identified themselves as more than one racial category.

⁵ Heaving drinking is defined as men having more than two drinks per day and women having more than one drink per day.

⁶ Binge drinking is defined as an adult having five or more drinks on one occasion.

⁷ Physical and mental health status defined as how the respondent felt for six or more days of the previous 30.