



Domestic Abuse and Assault GA

BELLAs x UNICEF x Matt

97% and
the
meaning
behind it

Not all men?

90%

of women in cities around
the world feel unsafe in
public spaces (UN Women)

1 in 5

women have experienced
rape at some point in their
lives (National Intimate Partner and
Sexual Violence Survey)

**When you are referring to any statistic it is important to know the source and properly represent the meaning behind it

Discussion Question 1

The reactions to the 97% statistic have been all over the spectrum, some people agreeing with it entirely while others refute it. How did these different responses make you feel? Why?

What is Domestic Sexual Abuse?

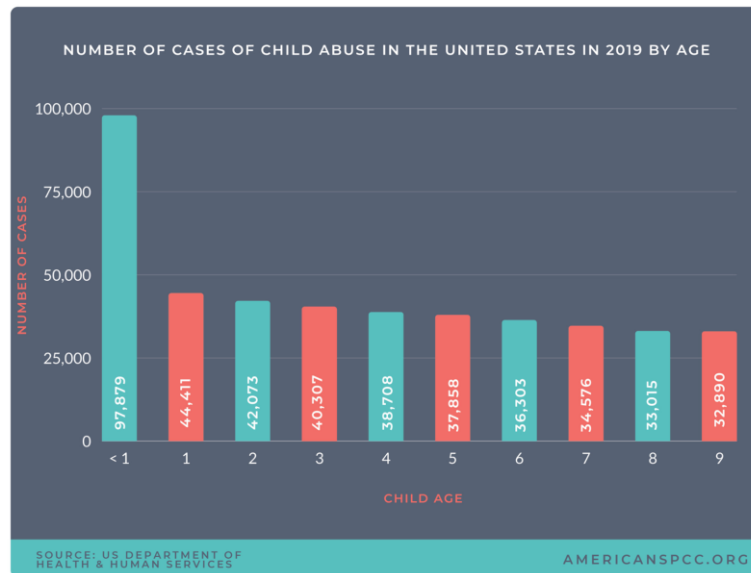
- Sexual violence refers to crimes like sexual assault, rape, and sexual abuse.
 - By an intimate partner
- Perpetrators who are physically violent toward their intimate partners are often sexually abusive as well.

Prevalence of Domestic Abuse

Within partners

- 25% women & 11% men
- Domestic violence is the leading cause of injury to women
- Guns escalate the situation by 500%
- Up to 10 million children witness domestic violence every year
- 10% - 14% of married women have experienced marital rape
- 18% of female victims' children witnessed the crime

Child Abuse



The Effects on the Family

- Physical + psychological scars
- Generational cycles of violence
- Destroys family environments
- Breakup of families
- Police or child protection involvement

Why Don't You Just Leave?

- Children:
 - Don't know what is happening
 - Don't have somewhere to go/ Financial Reasons
 - Fear of abuser/ consequences
- Intimate Partners:
 - Guilt
 - Gaslighting
 - Emotional Abuse
 - Financial Support
- Trauma Bonding and Stockholm Syndrome
- Stigma:
 - "Don't display dirty laundry"
 - "It doesn't count within a relationship."
 - The victim is lying/ It's the victim's fault.
- Intersectional reasons

The Short Term Effects on Children

- “as many as 275 million children worldwide are exposed to violence in the home”
- stress of the environment harms brain development → impair cognitive + sensory growth
 - “40% lower reading abilities than children from nonviolent homes”
- Affected even if they are not direct victims of the abuse
- Fear + anxiety of upsetting the abuser
- More likely to believe this behavior is okay
- Common symptoms:
 - Low self-esteem, anxiety, low concentration, disobedience, apathy, nightmares, difficulty sleeping, etc.
- Severity of symptoms can increase
 - Often depends on several factors

TABLE 3.2 – Estimated number of children who witness violence at home annually

MDG REGION	ESTIMATED NUMBER OF CHILDREN WITNESSING VIOLENCE IN THE HOME*
South Asia	40.7–88 million
Western Asia	7.2–15.9 million
Sub-Saharan Africa	34.9–38.2 million
South-eastern Asia	No estimate
Oceania	548,000–657,000
Northern Africa	No estimate
Latin America and the Caribbean	11.3–25.5 million
Eastern Asia	19.8–61.4 million
Commonwealth of Independent States	900,000 to 3.6 million
Developed countries	4.6–11.3 million
Global estimate	133–275 million

**Estimates based on: UN Population Division Data for Global Population under 18 Years for 2000; Domestic Violence Studies from 1987 to 2005; analysis conducted by the Secretariat of the United Nations Secretary-General's Study on Violence against Children (2005).¹⁵²*

The Long Term Effects on Children (Adulthood)

- Children are at greater risk for repeating similar domestic violence patterns as adults
 - Boys become 10 times as likely to abuse his female partner as an adult
 - Girls are 6 times as likely to be sexually abused
- Many of the childhood impacts of domestic violence will impact victims in their adult life
- At higher risk for health problems
- Sooner a child gets help, the better his or her chances for becoming a mentally and physically healthy adult

Ways to Prevent Domestic Sexual Violence

- Educate children
- Create safe spaces
- Know the signs
- Be available
- Target abusive households
- Support organizations created to fight domestic sexual violence, such as:
 - [Domestic Shelters](#)
 - [National Center on Domestic and Sexual Violence \(NCDSV\)](#)
 - [National Resource Center on Domestic Violence \(NRCDV\)](#)

How Bystanders Permit Abuse

- The Bystander Effect
- Twahna's story

Domestic Sexual Violence Cases in a Court of Law

- Domestic Violence can be handled in 3 different types of court
 - Criminal
 - Civil
 - Divorce/Family
- Violence Against Women Act (“VAWA”)
 - Physically injuring an intimate partner
 - Stalking or harassing an intimate partner
 - Violating a protection order
- Changes to the Gun Control Act

Grooming

“Grooming is the slow, methodical, and intentional process of manipulating a person to a point where they can be victimized” - Eric Marlowe Garrison

- Anyone can be a victim
- Often grooming can come from friendships
- The groomer earns the victim's trust
- Asks for favors and makes false promises
- These relationships are often kept secret
- Romance vs Grooming
- Victims can get help

Signs to Look For

Signs of Domestic Abusers:

- Talks condescendingly or constantly criticizes their partner in public
- Encourages their partner not to continue (previously healthy) relationships with those they love
- Quickly turns to violence or yelling when angered

Signs of Domestic Abuse Victims:

- Physical bruises, scratches, or injuries.
- Low self-esteem and mental health after entering a relationship
- Constantly “having” to update their partner on their whereabouts or activities
- Lack of access to necessities adults/children would typically have access to (ie money, a phone, a car)

Discussion Question 2

What are ways you believe we can mitigate or reduce domestic and/or sexual abuse?

