

Family Cohesion

Problem statement: Younger & junior enlisted are at higher risk of perpetration/victimization of domestic abuse, emotional abuse and interpersonal violence.

- IPV is a crime characterized by recidivism and escalation of intensity over time⁶

Emotional abuse:

- precursor & strong predictor of physical abuse
- associated with poorer mental and physical health outcomes & increased risk for relapse from numerous mental health problems
 - depressive symptoms
 - posttraumatic stress disorder
 - marital problems
 - substance abuse disorders
 - suicide
 - physical health problems
 - predicted treatment dropout in programs designed to reduce abuse

CS-EA = an emotionally aggressive act that causes significant fear, stress, or sadness/depression that interferes with functioning

Limited literature on male victims of CS-EA = uncertain if same risk factors

Consequences⁶

- national public health issue with immediate and long-term health effects & significant costs to society⁶

- adverse pregnancy outcomes (low birth weight, preterm birth, and neonatal death)
- chronic physical and psychological adverse health conditions
- among victims of IPV, 41% of women and 10% of men have experienced symptoms of post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD).⁷

Generational

- children who grew up in a home where IPV occurs were at higher risk for behavioral, cognitive, and emotional disorders⁸
- violence experienced as a child or adolescent is a risk factor for repeated victimization as an adult⁷

Perpetrators⁶:

- decreased work productivity
- loss of income
- incarceration

How do you know it's a problem (Stats, financial impact, mission impact):

Prevalance^{3, 6}

- Military Connected Population

- FY 2018, FAP and DOD reported 16,912 incidents of spouse (15,242³) and intimate partner (1,670³) abuse with 8,039 incidents (spouses=7,015³; intimate partner=1,024³) meeting DoD criteria for abuse. With a total of 6,372 victims

affected. Physical abuse accounted for 73.7% of all met criteria incidents, followed by emotional abuse (22.6%).

- 15 confirmed fatalities (13 spouses, 2 intimate partners) involving military personnel
 - 3 victims previously reported abuse to FAP
 - 4 perpetrators previously reported for at least 1 prior offense
 - 9 offenders were civilians with military victims
- GAO reviews in 2006 & 2010 identify reasons why prevalence maybe higher than reported due to deficient data collection & reporting:
 - only contained incidents of spouse abuse & not abuse to intimate partners
 - Commander disciplinary action not reported to DIBRS as required by statute
 - potential for overlap, gaps, or data reliability issues between the DIBRS and FAP databases
 - no systematic methodology in place for matching data or ensuring accuracy

DIBRS = Defense Incident-Based Reporting System. Includes DV criminal activity, but only captured in report if there was law enforcement involvement.

Perpetrator - USAF Specific

CS - IPV = Men (5%); Women (4%)

IPV = Men (13%); Women (15%)

Victims²

CS - EA = *significant and impairing fear, stress, or sadness/depression*

AD Men (6%) - lower family income, poorer work relations more strongly associated with CS-EA for men

AD Women (9%) - poor family coping, # of children more strongly associated with CS-EA for women

- significant gender differences for 3 family variables & 1 organization/work variable

Spouses Men (7%), Spouses Women (11%)

Financial/Economic impact

While I don't know the exact cost of separation due to IPV, a reasonable comparison is noted in the work of Li et al, who published in 2017 an approximate cost of \$108million attributed to separation due to ARI.

The total defense-wide funding request for family assistance and family advocacy for FY2020 was \$877 million, an increase of 5.5% from the previous year

Risk & Protective Factors:

Risk

Individual factors:

- alcohol problems
- relationship dissatisfaction (EA)

- poor self-efficacy (EA)
- low family income - financial stress (CS-EA AD MEN)
- poor family coping (CS-EA AD WOMEN)
- # of children (CS-EA AD WOMEN)
- lower rank (IPV)
- prior interpersonal trauma

Organizational/Community-wide factors of family strain:

little research on which factors are most important to emotional victimization

- unpredictable deployments
- frequent moves
- long work hours
- shift work
- quality of leadership
- job satisfaction
- poor relationship with co-workers (CS-EA AD MEN)
- high community stressors
- low levels of community safety

Protective factors

Family

- spouse deployment support (by husband)

Community Protective factors:

- social support
- formal agencies
- neighbors
- sense of belonging
- cohesion within military community
- access to healthcare
- stable pay/benefits
- judicial action enforceable by command

USAF Personnel

- **332,896¹**
- Officer = **63,536⁴**
 - Women = **18,898⁵**
- Enlisted = **265,196⁴**
 - Women = **54,717⁵**
- Cadets = **4,164⁴**
 - Women = **1,159⁵**
- Women Total = **69,744⁵** (21%women)

Risk Factors

IPV - lower rank

EA - relationship dissatisfaction, poor self-efficacy, financial stress, and alcohol problems

- Past year: 13% - 47% male/active duty

1. Armed Forces Strength Figures for January 31, 2020.pdf
https://www.dmdc.osd.mil/appj/dwp/dwp_reports.jsp
4. Active Duty Military Personnel by Service by Rank/Grade January 2020.pdf
https://www.dmdc.osd.mil/appj/dwp/dwp_reports.jsp
5. Table of Active Duty Females by Rank/Grade and Service January 2020.pdf
https://www.dmdc.osd.mil/appj/dwp/dwp_reports.jsp
2. Prevalences of intimate partner violence in a representative U.S. Air Force sample
<https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/21480693>
3. SHATTERED FAMILIES, SHATTERED SERVICE: TAKING MILITARY DOMESTIC VIOLENCE OUT OF THE SHADOWS
<https://docs.house.gov/meetings/AS/AS02/20190918/109935/HHRG-116-AS02-Wstate-JohnstonA-20190918.pdf>
6. Military Families and Intimate Partner Violence: Background and Issues for Congress
<https://crsreports.congress.gov/product/pdf/R/R46097>
7. D'Inverno, A.S., Smith, S.G., and Zhang, X., et al., The Impact of Intimate Partner Violence: 2015 NSVS Research-inBrief, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), August 2019, <https://www.cdc.gov/violenceprevention/pdf/nisvs/nisvs-impactbrief-508.pdf>.