

INTIMATE PARTNER VIOLENCE INJURY IN CONNECTICUT A FACT SHEET – 2022 UPDATE

INJURY AND VIOLENCE SURVEILLANCE UNIT • AUGUST 2024

What We Know About Intimate Partner Violence Injury in Connecticut:

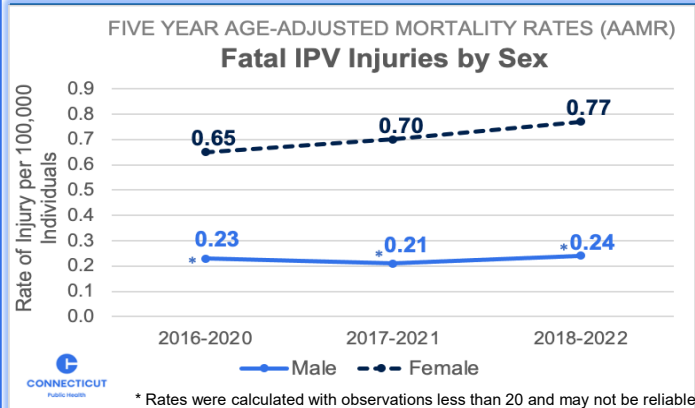
Intimate partner violence (IPV) is a behavior within an intimate relationship that causes physical, sexual or psychological harm, including acts of physical aggression, sexual coercion, psychological abuse, stalking and controlling behaviors.¹ IPV can result in serious injuries and even death.

Intimate partner violence often starts early and can continue throughout a person's life. About 16 million women and 11 million men reported experiencing intimate partner violence before age 18.² A young person who is exposed to abusive parental and family relationships can be at an increased risk to IPV. For 30% of women who are abused, the first incident occurs during pregnancy.³ Between 4-8% of pregnant women are abused at least once during pregnancy.³ IPV can cause consequences such as emotional pain, confusion, post-traumatic stress, deteriorating physical health, physical injuries, financial losses and poverty.⁴

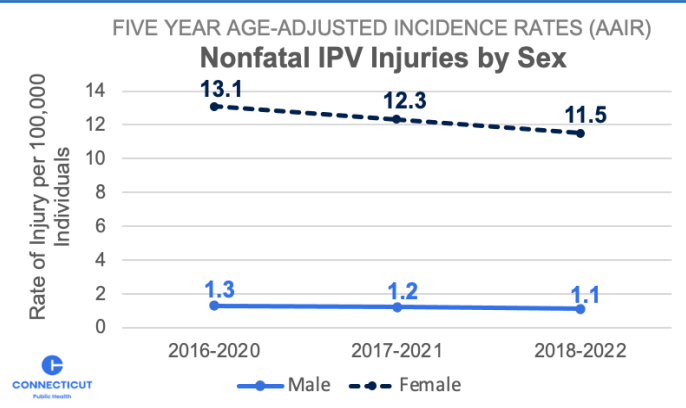
Published abuse rates are most likely underrepresented. Many victims do not disclose their IPV experiences until they have incurred severe injury or death. Data may be underreported due to fear, threats, coercion, stigma, or dependence upon the financial support of their abuser.⁵ Only 20% of sexual assaults, 25% of physical assaults, and 50% of stalking towards women are reported to police.³

Key Points:

- About 41% of women and 26% of men have experienced contact sexual violence, physical violence, or stalking by an intimate partner during their lifetime.⁶
- Each year in Connecticut an average of 14 individuals have their lives taken by their intimate partner. Most of these homicide victims are women (87%).²
- 309 lives were lost in Connecticut from 2000-2021 from intimate partner homicides.²
- Individuals, mostly women, between the ages of 25-44 makeup nearly half of all intimate partner homicide victims in Connecticut.²
- Trends show female fatal IPV cases are increasing and female nonfatal IPV cases are decreasing in Connecticut.
- Trends show nonfatal IPV injury for all racial groups are decreasing in Connecticut.
- In Connecticut, non-Hispanic Blacks face a higher burden of fatal and nonfatal IPV injuries compared to other racial groups.
- In Connecticut, women have a higher burden of fatal and nonfatal IPV injuries compared to men.



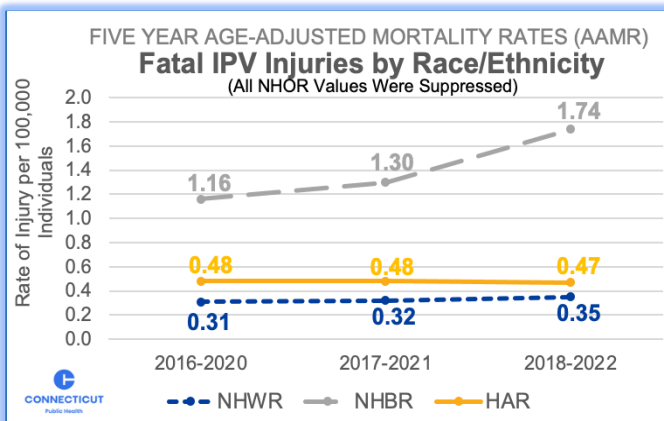
Data Source: Connecticut Violent Death Reporting System



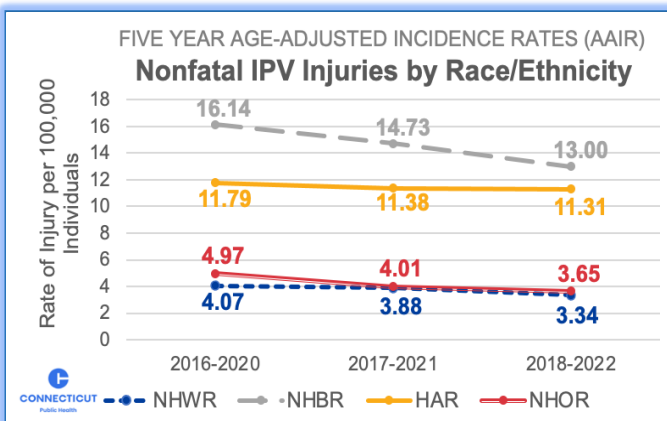
Data Source: Connecticut Hospital Discharge Data

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Data Source: Connecticut Violent Death Reporting System



Data Source: Connecticut Hospital Discharge Data

NHWR= non-Hispanic White Race **NHBR**= non-Hispanic Black Race **NHWR**= Hispanic All Races **NHOR**= non-Hispanic Other Races

Risk Factors Associated with Intimate Partner Violence:

- Mental health issues such as substance use, posttraumatic stress disorder, depression, and traumatic brain injury
- High conflict in the relationship, pregnancy or recent birth, lack of social connections, and financial and/or employment instability
- History of childhood abuse, witnessing one's parents engage in violence, experiencing violence in intimate relationships, and recent separation from an abusive partner

How to Reduce the Risks of Intimate Partner Violence?

- Receive treatment for mental health and substance use issues, including posttraumatic stress disorder.
- Advocate for policies in support of providing education and health to communities.
- Create protective environments within schools, workplaces, and neighborhoods.
- Teach safe and healthy relationship skills through social learning youth and relationship programs.
- Engage community members in family-based programs, prevention trainings, bystander empowerment, and education.

Additional Resources:

- **Connecticut IPV Hotline: Call or Text 1-888-774-2900 (English) or 844-831-9200 (Español)**
- Connecticut Safe Connect: <https://www.ctsafeconnect.org>
- Connecticut Domestic Violence Crisis Center (DVCC): <https://www.dvccct.org>
- Connecticut Coalition Against Domestic Violence (CCADV): <https://www.ctcadv.org>
- National Domestic Violence Hotline: <https://www.thehotline.org>

References

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2. <https://www.ctcadv.org/resources/stats>
3. <https://med.emory.edu/departments/psychiatry/niar/resources/domesticviolence.html>
4. <https://sosviolenceconjugale.ca/en/articles/9-consequences-of-intimate-partner-violence>
5. <https://online.simmons.edu/blog/intimate-partner-violence-domestic-abuse>
6. <https://www.cdc.gov/intimate-partner-violence/about/index.html>
7. <https://www.cdc.gov/intimate-partner-violence/prevention/index.html>

Connecticut Department of Public Health
Injury and Violence Surveillance Unit • 860-509-8251
www.ct.gov/dph/injuryprevention