

Statistics

- **53% of women aged 16-29** in family planning clinics reported physical or sexual violence by an intimate partner. (Miller, et al. 2010)
- Approximately **1 in 5 young women** said they experienced pregnancy coercion and 1 in 7 said they experienced active interference with contraception (also called birth control sabotage). (National Crime Victimization Survey, 2005)
- The **leading cause of death** among pregnant women is homicide (Palladino, 2011)
- Women experiencing abuse in the year prior to and/or during a recent pregnancy are **40-60% more likely than non-abused women** to report high-blood pressure, vaginal bleeding, severe nausea, kidney or urinary tract infections and hospitalization during pregnancy and are 37% more likely to deliver preterm. (Silverman, Decker and Reed 2006)
- Children born to abused mothers are **17% more likely** to be born underweight and more than **30% more likely** than other children to require intensive care upon birth. (Silverman, Decker and Reed 2006)
- Girls who are victims of dating violence are **4 to 6 times more likely** than non-abused girls to become pregnant. (Silverman 2004)



Help #endDVinNJ

Please consider a donation to the New Jersey Coalition to End Domestic Violence to support all victims and survivors of domestic violence.

We can end domestic violence together for everyone in our state.



Visit www.njcedv.org to donate securely online or you may send a check to:

NJCEDV
1670 Whitehorse-Hamilton Square Road
Trenton, NJ 08690

Get Help:
Call 1- 800- 572-SAFE (7233)



P: 609-584-8107 F: 609-584-9750

 Facebook.com/NJCEDV  Twitter.com/NJCEDV

Domestic Violence, Pregnancy and Reproductive Coercion

www.njcedv.org



1-800-572-SAFE (7233)
Statewide Hotline

Providing leadership, support and resources on the prevention of domestic violence for all victims in New Jersey

What is the connection?

Abusive partners exert their power and control in variety of ways which may include:

- abuse during pregnancy
- depriving a partner access to reproductive information and healthcare
- compromising a partner's ability to make independent choices about contraception and family planning.

Women who are pregnant experience domestic violence at a higher rate than women who are not pregnant. In many cases, abuse begins or escalates during pregnancy.

Abuse during pregnancy is an indicator of escalating, and potentially fatal, violence.

Call 1-800-572-SAFE (7233) if you or someone you know is in an abusive relationship.

What is Reproductive Coercion?

Reproductive coercion includes behaviors that a partner uses to establish and maintain power and control over their partner's reproductive health, birth control options, and decisions over family planning.

Behaviors may include:

- Interference with contraceptive use such as hiding, withholding, or destroying a partner's birth control method
- Refusing to wear or intentionally breaking condoms
- Pressuring or forcing their partner to engage in sex
- Pressuring their partner to become pregnant
- Pressuring their partner to end a pregnancy
- Isolating their partner and denying them access to prenatal care
- Physically abusing their partner while they are pregnant

Impact on Health and Safety

Reproductive control and coercion can contribute to a variety of physical and medical complications for the victim as well as for her unborn or recently born child. Such complications may include:

- Unintended Pregnancy
- Pregnancy loss
- Preterm labor
- Low weight gain for pregnant mother
- Low birth weight for newborns
- Fetal injury or death
- Substance Use/Abuse by the victim
- Late or a lack of Prenatal Care
- Depression and Anxiety
- Post-Partum Depression
- Risk of contracting sexually transmitted infections including HIV



References

- C.J. Krulewicz, CNM, PhD, M.L. Pierre-Louis, MD, R. de Leon-Gomez, MD, R. Guy, MD, R. Green, MD. "Hidden from View: Violent Death Among Pregnant Women in the District of Columbia 1988-1996." American College of Nurse Midwives' Journal of Midwifery & women's Health, January 2001, Vol. 26, #1.
- Miller E, Decker MR, McCauley HL, Levenson R, Silverman JG. Pregnancy coercion, intimate partner violence and unintended pregnancy. Contraception - April 2010 (Vol. 81, Issue 4, Pages 316-322, DOI: 10.1016/j.contraception.2009.12.004)
- Palladino, Christie Lancaster; Singh, Vijay; Camobell, Jacquelyn; Flynn, Heather; Gold, Katherine. Homicide and Suicide During the Perinatal Period: Finding From the National Violent Death Reporting System. Obstetrics & Gynecology- Volume 188. Number 5, November 2011.