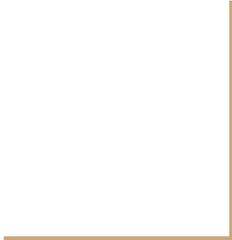




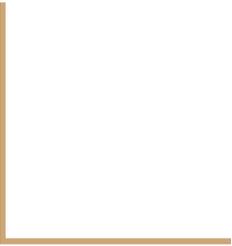
Domestic Violence and COVID-19

WHEE & WOC



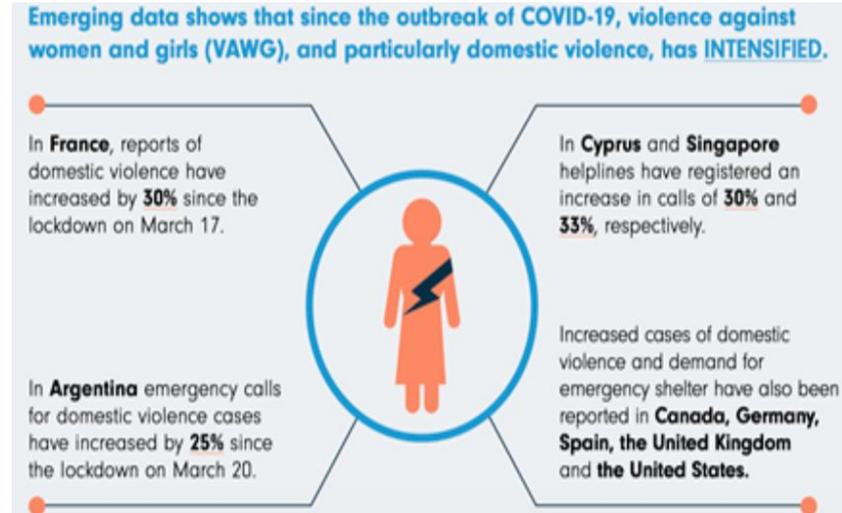


For people experiencing domestic violence,
stay-at-home orders are a worst-case scenario.



General Information

- **87,000** women were killed in 2017 due to domestic violence
- **Less than 40%** of women and girls affected report these crimes or seek help
- The global cost of violence against women had been previously estimated at **\$1.5 Trillion**
- **243 Million** women and girls aged 15-19 have been subjected to physical and/or sexual violence within the past 12 months
- Between a **20-50% increase** in calls to hotlines in various countries



Domestic Violence in Self Isolation

Intimate partner violence increases both in prevalence and severity during and after disasters.

The surge in COVID-19 cases is straining even the most advanced and best-resourced health systems to the breaking point, including those at the front line in violence response.



Domestic violence shelters are reaching capacity, or unable to take new victims due to lockdown and social distancing measures. In other cases, they are being re-purposed to serve as health centers.

Instead of normally suggesting that victims call the police, the National Domestic Abuse Hotline now advise the caller to “stay away from bathrooms and kitchens, which can be dangerous areas for arguments to break out. They might recommend she teach her child a code word to run net door for safety. They might propose she text her friends for emotional support. Or they might ask if she could sleep in her car.”

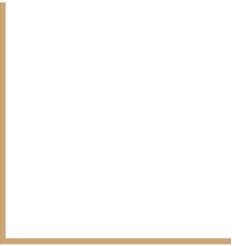
Effects on Undocumented Immigrants

- Unique **vulnerabilities** due to **immigration status**:
 - **Affects access to health care, mental health, employment, education**
 - Lack of adequate testing
 - No tax relief from coronavirus stimulus package
 - **Smaller network of support**
 - Relocation decreases resources in the form of people for emotional support
 - Connections in the US are usually individuals with limited means of their own
- Less likely to contact **law enforcement**
 - **Reporting abuse can impact residency and future citizenship**
 - Worsened if legal status is tied to a partner
 - Fears of deportation





The following are real quotes and reports
from women experiencing domestic violence
amid the pandemic



“Female was awoken out of bed because she had a fever and wasn't feeling well. Abusive partner was screaming at her to get out of his house because he thought she had COVID-19. He then grabbed her by the arm and threw her out the front door.”

“I had an online chatter yesterday whose partner didn't want her going to work out of fear of what's happening, and she felt like he was trying to intimidate her to prevent her from going by loading all of his guns which is something he had never done before.”

“Chat today from a young teenager. She witnessed abuse against her mother, and she was also abused. As we began to try to identify trustworthy adults in her life, she said ‘I would contact my school about it, but they are closed due to the virus.’”

“A woman reached out online. Her partner was emotionally and physically abusive, and recently started working from home. The emotional abuse is escalating, and the chatter expressed concerns that the police were not going to be able to help.”

“A woman... managed to escape a decades-long abusive relationship. The woman left before the response to COVID-19 had ramped up, but by the time she got to a local shelter, it couldn’t provide her with any services due to the virus. Now, the woman... was living out of her car with her dog, afraid, without any access to materials to maintain her hygiene.”

“She had gone to the bus station,... so she could board a bus and get away from her abuser-- a man who had strangled her until she lost consciousness, who owned guns. But when she arrived, she found that the bus schedules had been altered due to COVID-19. She would not be getting on the bus after all.”

“A 26-year-old woman found herself entangled in more and more arguments with her husband, with whom she now had to spend every hour in their home in Anhui Province, in eastern China.

On March 1, while she was holding her 11-month-old daughter, her husband began to beat her with a high chair. She is not sure how many times he hit her. Eventually, she says, one of her legs lost feeling and she fell to the ground, still holding the baby in her arms.

A photograph she took after the incident shows the high chair lying on the floor in pieces, two of its metal legs snapped off — evidence of the force with which her husband wielded it against her. Another image documents her injuries: Nearly every inch of her lower legs was covered in bruises, a huge hematoma blooming on her left calf. [cont.]

[cont.] ...After her husband attacked her with the high chair, she limped to the next room and called the police. When they arrived, however, they only documented the attack, then took no further action.

Next, she hired a lawyer and filed for divorce — only to find that the epidemic had cut off that avenue of escape, too. Her divorce proceeding was postponed until April. She is still waiting for the court's decision.

And finding a new home amid the outbreak proved difficult, forcing her and her daughter to continue to live with their abuser for weeks.”

What do you think?

1. What are your initial reactions?
2. How do you think the rise of unemployment has impacted those stuck in abusive relationships?
3. How do you think the closure of schools, churches and other institutions has affected those in abusive relationships?
4. What particular challenges exist for undocumented immigrants trapped in abusive relationships?

Resources for Help

National Domestic Violence Hotline

Call [800.799.7233](tel:800.799.7233)

Visit thehotline.org

Text [LOVEIS](tel:22522) to [22522](tel:22522)

Safe Horizon

Call [800.621.HOPE](tel:800.621.HOPE)

Visit safehorizon.org (shelters and resources)

Domestic Shelters

Visit domesticshelters.org (local shelters and resources)

Victim Resource Center

Call [855.4.VICTIM](tel:855.4.VICTIM)

Visit victimconnect.org

RAINN (Rape Abuse & Incest National Network)

Call [800.656.HOPE](tel:800.656.HOPE)

Visit rainn.org

St. John's Resources

Ms. LeGrange (alegrange@sjis.org) and Nurse Stark (tstark@sjis.org)

Most in-person services have been temporarily closed; however, programs are looking at how to utilize hotel or motel stays for survivors so that they have access to a safe shelter.

How to Help

Spread information, continue to stay updated, and find new ways to help as the pandemic evolves.

Donate: <https://www.thehotline.org/get-involved/donate/>

- Vehicle donation
- Verizon Hopeline (send in no-longer-used wireless phones and accessories to turn them into lifelines for victims of abuse)
- Amazon Smile (Search AmazonSmile before shopping and Amazon will donate 0.5% of your purchase to the Hotline)

Contactless Clothing Drives:

- DAYA (Drive for South Asian Victims of Domestic Violence) <https://www.dayahouston.org/>

Call your Senator & Member of Congress at 202-224-3121 in support of including more resources for survivors in the next stimulus bill.

Reach out to local shelters or organizations.

Stay Updated

Why a Drop in Domestic Violence Reports Might Not Be a Good Sign

<https://www.nytimes.com/2020/04/17/nyregion/new-york-city-domestic-violence-coronavirus.html>

In Locked Down India, Women Fight Coronavirus and Domestic Violence

<https://qz.com/india/1838351/indias-coronavirus-lockdown-leads-to-more-violence-against-women/>

A New Covid-19 Crisis: Domestic Abuse Rises Worldwide

<https://www.nytimes.com/2020/04/06/world/coronavirus-domestic-violence.html?searchResultPosition=2>

He Forced Her to Wash Her Hands Over and Over Until They Were Raw and Bleeding

<https://www.cosmopolitan.com/lifestyle/a31932146/domestic-violence-abuse-coronavirus-resources/>

Domestic Violence Is on the Rise With Coronavirus Lockdown. The Responses Are Missing the Point.

<https://theintercept.com/2020/04/13/coronavirus-lockdown-domestic-violence/>

Preparing For An Increase In Domestic Violence Due To COVID-19

<https://www.kpbs.org/news/2020/apr/02/preparing-increase-domestic-violence-due-covid-19/>

Domestic violence websites see a surge in number of visits

<https://www.cnn.com/videos/us/2020/04/13/domestic-abuse-coronavirus-pandemic-nr-lee-vpx.cnn>