

# 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](http://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

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## Domestic Violence, Pregnancy and Reproductive Coercion

[www.njcedv.org](http://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. Krulewitch, 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.