



# Intimate Partner Violence

Intimate partner violence is a problem in the military community and is more common in households that are experiencing financial difficulties or mental health challenges.

Intimate partner violence has surged worldwide as families have been isolated together due to COVID-19 social distancing requirements. The National Domestic Violence Hotline has reported an increase in calls since March. However, even before the virus took hold and families became quarantined at home, survey respondents told us about intimate partner violence in their neighborhoods and social circles.

## Graphic Data

**81%** of respondents recognized that intimate partner violence exists in the military family community.

Respondents said that intimate partner violence is overlooked and hidden.



**6.3%** of respondents sought assistance for intimate partner violence in the past two years.

**93.7%** had not sought assistance.

### Top five sources military families would use to seek help for intimate partner violence:

#### Actively serving families

- 1 Military family readiness groups, Military OneSource, Coast Guard Support
- 2 Law enforcement
- 3 Mental health care
- 4 Medical care
- 5 Faith-based help

#### Veteran and retiree families

- 1 Law enforcement
- 2 Faith-based help
- 3 Medical care
- 4 Local community resources
- 5 Mental health care



### Those who sought assistance were more likely to:

- Range in rank from E4 to E6, if they were active duty family members
- Carry more debt
- Be concerned with their own or a family member's alcohol use
- Rate as more lonely on the UCLA Loneliness scale
- Have considered suicide in the past two years

## Quotes

“ It exists, and I am proof, ”

said a **National Guard and Reserve member**.

“ I received severe emotional abuse from my military spouse. Finally got strength to leave after a marriage of over 40 years, ”

said a **divorced spouse**.

“ It’s really common. We’ve had multiple cases of domestic violence just in our neighborhood this year, ”

said the spouse of an **Air Force active duty member**.

“ I’m not by any means a violent person, but I have wanted to strike both of my wives after I came back from tours because I was so angry at the world. I never did, but it was really disturbing how much I wanted to. That’s what made me start counseling, ”

said a **National Guard and Reserve member**.



“ Reporting the abuse jeopardizes the service member’s career, therefore jeopardizing the woman and her family’s livelihood. A difficult choice to make: report abuse knowing your husband will lose his job or suffer to keep food on the table? There is no easy solution. That is awful, ”

said the spouse of a **Navy active duty service member**.

## Calls to Action

Increase communication with military and veteran families about available online and virtual intimate partner violence resources.

Encourage connections with others, especially virtually. Isolation is a tactic of abusers.

Reduce barriers for military spouses to seek financial or health care benefits if they or their children are experiencing abuse.



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