

WE ARE STILL IN THIS

TOGETHER



ICADV is gravely concerned about the U.S. Supreme Court's decision to overturn the constitutional right to an abortion, after almost 50 years of reproductive rights for women – and worries about the impact Indiana legislators' actions will have on Hoosier survivors. We stand for reproductive rights because reproductive abuse and coercion are tools of violence many abusers use to weaponize a partner's bodily autonomy and reproductive choices to maintain domestic violence relationships.

Prevalence of Coercion, Intimate Partner Violence, and Reproductive Coercion:

- Approximately 1 in 3 teens reports some kind of abuse in a romantic relationship, including emotional and verbal abuse.
- Almost one in five young women ages 18 - 24 have experienced forced sexual intercourse.
- On average, almost 500 women (483) are raped or sexually assaulted each day in this country.
- 53% of women aged 16-29 in family planning clinics reported physical or sexual violence from an intimate partner.
- Approximately one in five young women said they experienced pregnancy coercion and one in seven said they experienced active interference with contraception (also called birth control sabotage).
- 1 in 7 victims of rape become pregnant
- A woman is victimized by a current or former intimate partner, and another is sexually assaulted, every 90 seconds.

The Strong Links Between Coercion, Violence and Unintended Pregnancy

- 10.3 million women have had a partner who tried to get them pregnant against their will or refused to wear a condom
- Girls who are victims of dating violence are 4 to 6 times more likely than non-abused girls to become pregnant.
- 34% of survivors report that their abusive partners limited their childbearing decision.
- As many as two-thirds of adolescents who become pregnant were sexually or physically abused some time in their lives.
- Some 25 to 50 percent of adolescent mothers experience partner violence before, during, or just after their pregnancy.
- Forty percent of pregnant women who have been exposed to abuse report that their pregnancy
- 2.1 million have become pregnant due to rape by an intimate partner.
- Between 6% to 22% of women terminate their pregnancies because they are in an abusive relationship

Violence Can Lead to Sexually Transmitted Infections:

- 1.8 million women in the US have contracted an STI as a result of rape by an intimate partner
- Women disclosing physical violence are nearly three times more likely to experience a sexually transmitted infection than women who don't disclose physical abuse.
- One in three adolescents tested for sexually transmitted infections and HIV have experienced domestic violence.



- Girls who have been abused by a boyfriend are five times as likely to be forced into not using a condom and eight times more likely to be pressured to become pregnant.

Violence during Pregnancy – and Its Consequences

- 1 in 6 survivors are first abused during pregnancy.
- More than 320,000 pregnant women are abused by their partners each year, and as a result, they have a 37% higher risk of developing obstetric complications.
- Homicide is the second leading cause of traumatic death for pregnant and recently pregnant women in the U.S., accounting for 31 percent of maternal injury deaths.
- Women experiencing abuse in the year prior to and/or during a recent pregnancy are 40 to 60 percent 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 percent more likely to deliver preterm. Children born to abused mothers are 17 percent more likely to be born underweight and more than 30 percent more likely than other children to require intensive care upon birth.

Decreasing and Preventing Violence or Reproductive Coercion

- Assessment for reproductive coercion and counseling in health settings has demonstrated positive outcomes. Women who were assessed for abuse and given a wallet sized referral reported fewer threats of violence, assaults or even harassment at work.
- A recent study demonstrated that assessment for reproductive coercion during family planning clinic visits was associated with a 70% reduction in pregnancy coercion.
- Women in family planning clinics who received both assessment and counseling on harm reduction strategies were 60% more likely to end a relationship because it felt unhealthy or unsafe.
- Few doctors assess their patients for abuse,20 even though up to one in 12 pregnant women are battered.