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.

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

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Actively serving families</th>
<th>Veteran and retiree families</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1 Military family readiness groups, Military OneSource, Coast Guard Support</td>
<td>1 Law enforcement</td>
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<td>2 Law enforcement</td>
<td>2 Faith-based help</td>
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<td>3 Mental health care</td>
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6.3% of respondents sought assistance for intimate partner violence in the past two years.

93.7% had not sought assistance.

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
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.

Thank you to our research partners

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