



VIOLENCE FREE MINNESOTA

THE COALITION TO END RELATIONSHIP ABUSE

Health Impacts

- Physical
 - Bruises, abrasions, lacerations, punctures, burns and bites, as well as fractures and broken bones or teeth, gastrointestinal conditions, chronic pain syndromes, and death
 - [Chronic health problems](#) such as chronic pain (eg, headaches, back pain) or recurring central nervous system symptoms including fainting and seizures
 - Women who have been victimized by relationship violence “have [significantly more](#) than average self-reported gastrointestinal symptoms (eg, loss of appetite, eating disorders) and diagnosed functional gastrointestinal disorders (eg, chronic irritable bowel syndrome) associated with chronic stress.”
- Mental
 - “Depression and post-traumatic stress disorder, which have substantial comorbidity, are the [most prevalent](#) mental-health sequelae of intimate partner violence.”
 - “Primary psychiatric dysfunction such as depression, anxiety, panic attacks, eating disorders, dissociative behavior, suicidal ideation or attempts, and substance abuse may also be associated with current or past [domestic violence](#).”
 - “In addition to depression, abused women had [significantly more](#) anxiety, insomnia, and social dysfunction than those not abused, with physical violence having a stronger effect than psychological abuse.”
- Behavioral
 - “[Harmful](#) alcohol and substance use, multiple sexual partners, choosing abusive partners later in life, and lower rates of contraceptive and condom use.”
- Reproductive/Sexual
 - “Differential [symptoms and conditions](#) include sexually-transmitted diseases, vaginal bleeding or infection, fibroids, decreased sexual desire, genital irritation, pain on intercourse, chronic pelvic pain, and urinary-tract infections.”
 - “Odds of having a gynaecological problem were [three times greater](#) than average for victims of spouse abuse.”