

Resources and Information

CDC Study Documents the High Costs and Impact of IPV on Male and Female Victims

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) released results of the first study including male and female victims that determined the healthcare costs and impact of domestic violence incidents, *Average Costs per Person Victimized by an Intimate Partner of the Opposite Gender: A Comparison of Men and Women*. The study was co-authored by Ileana Arias, Ph.D., and Director of CDC's National Center for Injury Prevention and Control and was published in the *Journal of Violence and Victims*, Volume 20, Number 4, August 2005. This study found that the health care costs attributed to a domestic violence incident were \$948 for female victims and \$387 for male victims. The study also found that domestic violence against women results in more emergency room visits, inpatient hospitalizations, and greater use of physician services than male victims.

CDC researchers determined healthcare costs by looking at mental health services; the use of medical services; and losses in productivity such as time off from work, and the cost of childcare or household duties because of injuries. The average medical cost for women victimized by physical domestic violence was \$483 compared to \$83 for men; mental health services costs for women was \$207 compared to \$80 for men; while productivity losses were similar at \$257 for women and \$224 for men.

Phaedra Corso, Ph.D., a CDC economist and the study's other author, noted that a previous CDC study using 1995 data that was published in 2003 provided estimates of the total direct healthcare costs of domestic violence. According to Corso, that study estimated the direct healthcare costs associated with domestic violence to be around \$4.1 billion. In addition, the study estimated that domestic violence caused an estimated \$1.8 billion in productivity losses associated with injuries and premature death. "Unfortunately, we believe the estimates using 1995 data are conservative because many cases of domestic violence are not reported," Corso said. "In today's dollars, the health care and productivity costs are likely to be much greater. "