

# Data Literacy 101: Understanding IPV Facts and Figures



**Data is “factual information used as a basis for reasoning, discussion, or calculation”** (Merriam-Webster).  
It can be primary or secondary, and quantitative or qualitative.



## Why is DATA important?

- Helps us to better understand the work that we are doing.
- Helps us to better understand and serve the groups that we are working with.
- Helps us to better understand the impact of our work.
- Helps us to better make decisions and prioritize.

## Common types

<b>Primary</b>	Original data that you collect yourself.
<b>Secondary</b>	Existing data that has already been collected but you analyze.
<b>Quantitative</b>	Numerical – may be surveys, administrative data, or web analytics.
<b>Qualitative</b>	Non-numerical – usually collected through focus groups or interviews.

## What to look for when reviewing DATA

- **Who:** Population of the data
  - For example, women over age 18 in the United States
- **What:** Indicator of the data
  - For example, occurrence of sexual violence by an intimate partner in victim’s lifetime (yes or no)
- **When:** Timeframe of the data
  - For example, past year
- **Where:** Source of the data
  - For example, a report from the CDC
- **Why:** Purpose of the data
  - For example, to better understand demographics of victims served by a program
- **How:** Collection of the data
  - For example, an annual survey

**The 5W + 1H help us both understand the data and assess its credibility.**

\*There are inherent limitations to all types of data, which should be acknowledged in reporting.

## Variation in IPV-related DATA

There may be variation amongst similar seeming data depending on the 5W + 1H.

For example, these data on the number of women in the United States who have experienced Intimate Partner Violence (IPV) **differ** on the **What** and the **Where** and are the **same** on the **Who**, the **When**, the **Why**, and the **How**.

<p>“Nearly 3 in 10 women (29%) in the US have experienced rape, physical violence, and/or stalking by a partner and reported it having a related impact on their functioning” - <a href="#">Domestic Violence Statistics - The Hotline</a>.</p>	<p><b>What:</b> Lifetime prevalence of <i>rape</i>, physical violence, and/or stalking victimization by an intimate partner <i>with IPV-related impact</i>.</p>	<p><b>Where:</b> <a href="#">NISVS 2010 Summary Report</a></p>	<p><b>Who:</b> Women in the United States</p> <p><b>When:</b> Lifetime</p> <p><b>Why:</b> Prevalence of IPV</p>
<p>“More than 1 in 4 women have experienced rape, physical violence, and or stalking by an intimate partner in their lifetime”- <a href="#">Microsoft Word - DVSA Fact Sheet Updated 62722.docx (nnedv.org)</a>.</p>	<p><b>What:</b> Lifetime prevalence of <i>contact sexual violence</i>, physical violence, and/or stalking victimization by an intimate partner.</p>	<p><b>Where:</b> <a href="#">NISVS 2015 Data Brief</a></p>	<p><b>How:</b> Ongoing, nationally representative telephone survey</p>

## IPV-related DATA resources

- The National Domestic Violence Hotline’s [DV Statistics](#)
- The National Network to End Domestic Violence’s (NNEDV’s) [DV and SV Fact Sheet](#)
- The NNEDV’s [Annual Census](#) is an unduplicated count of adults and children who seek services from DV shelter programs in the United States during a single 24-hour period
- The National Crime Victimization Survey’s (NCVS’s) [key findings on DV](#)
- The CDC’s National Intimate Partner and Sexual Violence Survey ([NISVS](#)) is an ongoing survey collecting the most current and comprehensive national- and state-level data on IPV, SV, and stalking victimization; the most recent [NISVS reports](#), including the [State Report](#)
- The CDC’s Youth Risk Behavior Survey’s (YRBS’s) [Data Summary & Trends Report](#) focuses on health behaviors and experiences of high school students, including sexual behavior and experiences of violence, from 2013–2023
- The CDC’s [resource](#) on uniform definitions for IPV & associated terms and recommended data elements for measuring IPV
- Newcomb Institute at Tulane University’s VEX: Violence EXperiences Research [reports](#)
- Tennessee Department of Health’s [DV reports](#)