



## **Military Families and Intimate Partner Violence**

In 2018, the Department of Defense reported 16,912 incidents of spouse and intimate partner abuse. When domestic violence plays out within a military family, the victims face complicated barriers. Many live far away from their home and friends and family, thus their support system is limited. They may live in any place where there is a base around the world, and local resources are inconsistent and difficult to guarantee.

Outcomes associated with Intimate Partner Violence (IPV) include a wide range of social, physical and mental issues such as family dissolution, adverse pregnancy outcomes and mental health issues (depression, PTSD, anxiety), incarceration and even death. IPV affects many facets of our community including medial, mental health, social services, and criminal justice systems. Moreover, productivity losses and costs attributable to IPV are significant costing the military, literally, millions of dollars each year. Further, The United States military strives to be ready to respond to world as it unfolds. It is essential that each and every person maintains the goal of mission readiness....IPV is a threat.

Military service has unique psychological, social, and environmental factors that may contribute to elevated risk of IPV among active duty servicemembers. Multiple deployments, family separation and reintegration, demanding workloads at home and while on duty, histories of head trauma, mental illness, and substance abuse can contribute to partner conflict and elevated risk of IPV among active duty servicemembers and their intimate partners.

It is estimated the prevalence of IPV among active duty servicemembers; rates of past-year perpetration of IPV ranged from 13.3% to 47% among male active duty servicemembers and 13.5% to 42% among male Veterans. Thus, IPV presents a common and important problem. Rates of IPV among military populations likely vary by gender and race, as they do with civilian populations, thus calling for an intersectional response.

This training will look at: how coordinating the response of civilian and military agencies to domestic violence cases involving military personnel that enhance victim safety and autonomy, effectively hold perpetrators accountable for ending their violence, and provide safety and support to children exposed to violence in these families. We will discuss human centric, trauma informed and healing organized framework and response.

### **Objectives:**

- to discuss the dynamics of Intimate Partner Violence
- to discuss unique barriers of military families
- understand the impact of trauma on the brain and body
- understand how to respond to chronic/complex trauma
- discuss safety planning and case management
- understanding the children in the space
- exploring strangulation