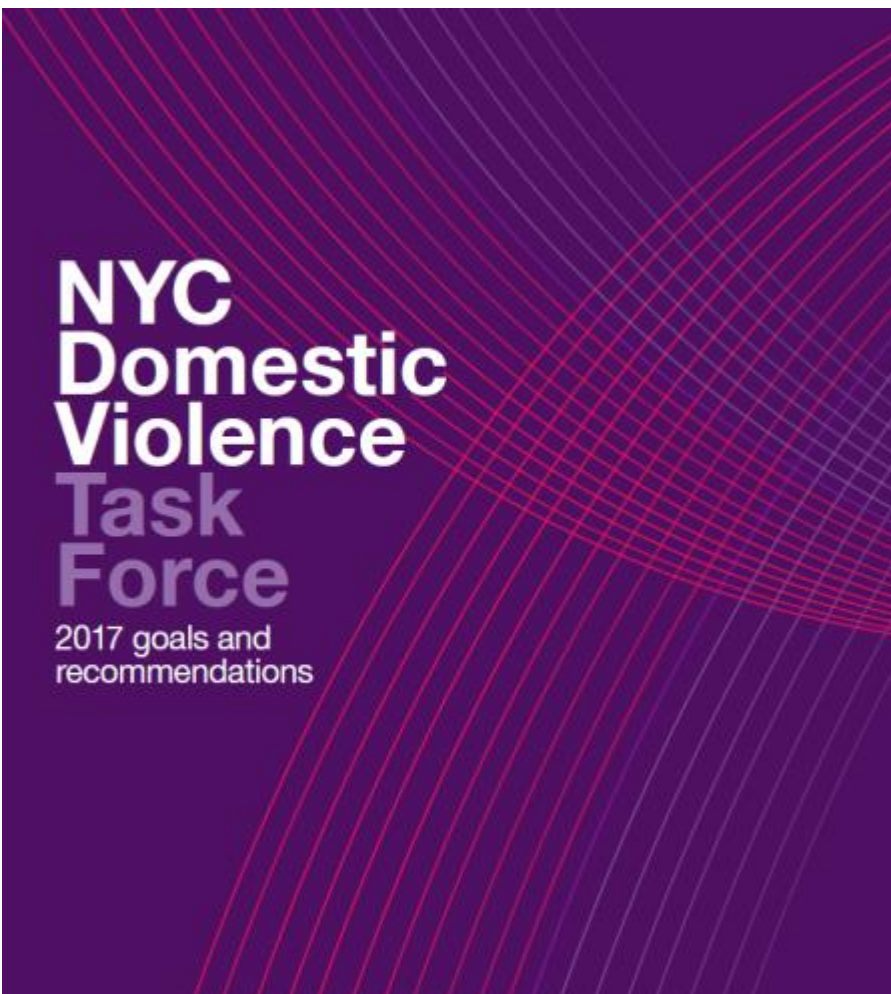


Message from Commissioner Cecile Noel



(The NYC Domestic Violence Task Force published a list of goals and recommendations for reducing domestic violence.)

In November, Mayor de Blasio created the NYC Domestic Violence Task Force, which was charged with developing a coordinated response to the City's persistent domestic violence problem. Under the leadership of NYC First Lady Chirlane McCray and NYPD Commissioner James O'Neill, co-chaired by myself and Mayor's Office of Criminal Justice Director Elizabeth Glazer, and directed by Bea Hanson, the Task Force came together to conduct an in-depth review of NYC's current domestic violence

programs and investments, and to formulate a plan to enhance and improve the current resource landscape. The Task Force was comprised of experts from government agencies, courts, community-based advocacy organizations and domestic violence survivors. Our approach focused on early intervention, enhancing pathways to safety for survivors and ensuring swift, effective and lasting enforcement to hold abusers accountable.

[You can read the NYC Domestic Violence Task Force's recommendations on the OCDV website.](#)

In addition to the solutions-based initiatives listed, the strategy devotes resources to continue the work of the Task Force in order to streamline data collection, integrate domestic violence resources into the ThriveNYC network and develop additional strategies to prevent domestic violence.

Since its creation, the Mayor's Office to Combat Domestic Violence has partnered with City agencies, community-based organizations and survivors to help coordinate and provide New York City's response to domestic violence. From NYC's [Family Justice Centers](#) in every borough to the OCDV [Policy and Training Institute](#), we are helping to connect more victims and survivors to the information and services they need than ever before. The Task Force's recommendations strengthen the work we have been doing from the start, represent innovative approaches to reducing domestic violence in our City, and are proof of the amazing work that can be done when a multidisciplinary approach is applied to an issue. Through these recommendations, New York City will be able to expand and enhance services for survivors, prevent and intervene in domestic violence incidents earlier, strengthen criminal justice responses, support communities and improve coordination citywide.

I look forward to the continued work of the Task Force, and to working in partnership with all those involved to bring an end to domestic violence in our City.

Connecting the Dots

Intimate Partner Violence Prevention, Advocacy & Healing through the Arts



Date:
Monday, June 5, 2017

Time:
8:30AM-4:30PM

Place:
Gibney Dance Center
280 Broadway,
Entrance at
53A Chambers,
New York, NY 10007

A light breakfast and lunch will be provided. Space is limited—please [register](#) early!

A conference for artists, advocates and city partners to explore the power of art in our work



Sanctuary
for Families



Gibney Dance Center is wheelchair accessible from a shared entrance with the NYC Department of Buildings on 280 Broadway, which requires a valid photo ID. If you require this or any other accommodations, such as ASL interpretation, please contact Heba Khalil at hkhalil@ocdv.nyc.gov upon registration and no later than three business days prior to the event date.

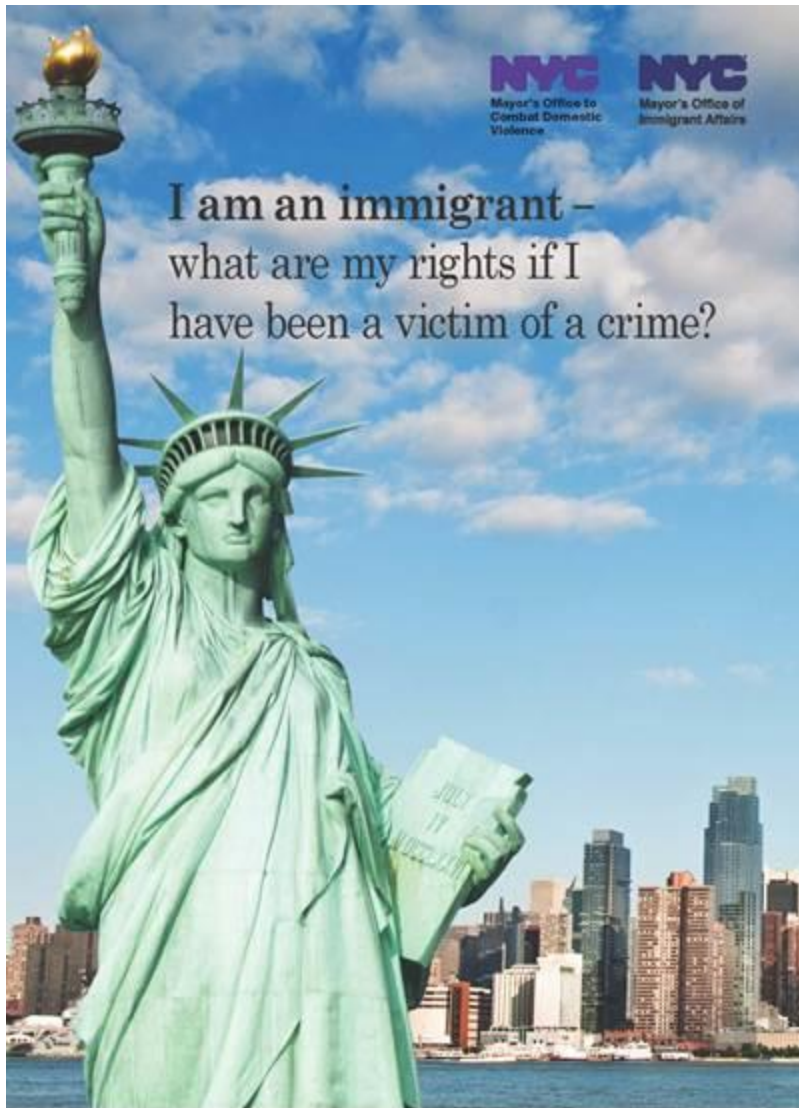
News Coverage of Intimate Partner Homicides in New York City (2013-16)

A Systematic Review



The Mayor's Office to Combat Domestic Violence Research team conducted a systematic review of news coverage of New York City intimate partner homicides from 2013-16 to improve understanding of the quality of media coverage of intimate partner violence. The study provides an evidence-based foundation upon which to develop best practices and educational strategies for intimate partner violence media coverage. The results showed that news coverage of intimate partner homicide in NYC has become more comprehensive in the past year, but there are important aspects of coverage quality that necessitate improvement given the critical role that the media plays in shaping public conversation around intimate partner violence.

[Download the full report for more details.](#)



Resources for Immigrant Crime Victims

>>> You can report the crime

If you have been the victim or witness of a crime, or are not sure, contact the New York City Police Department. Police officers are prohibited from asking about the immigration status of crime victims and witnesses.

For emergencies call 911. For non-emergencies call your local precinct.

>>> You can get help.

Many New York City government agencies provide free services including emergency shelter, counseling, health care, child care and other family services. **Call 311 to learn more about these services.**

If you have been a victim of domestic violence, you can get free help at a New York City Family Justice Center, including criminal justice, civil legal, and social services all in one location. **Call 311 to be connected to a Family Justice Center near you.**

>>> You can learn about your immigration options.

Some immigrant victims of crimes may be able to get immigration visas called U and/or T visas. These visas protect victims of certain serious crimes who help law enforcement in the investigation or prosecution of those crimes.

U visas provide immigration benefits to crime victims who have suffered substantial mental or physical abuse as a result of the crime. T visas provide immigration benefits to victims of trafficking. U and T visas provide:

- Temporary immigration status
- Access to a work permit
- Opportunity to apply for permanent residence (known as a green card) for visa holders and their family members
- Access to cash assistance, Medicaid, a Social Security number, a driver license, and various other public benefits

In order to apply for a U or T visa, you must get a certification form from a law enforcement agency confirming that you meet certain requirements for the visa. **Visit nyc.gov/immigrants to learn more about the U and T visa certification form and how to request it from a law enforcement agency.**

Get free, safe immigration help to find out if you are eligible for a U or T visa or any other immigration benefits. **Call 311 and say "ActionNYC" to make an appointment with a trusted immigration service provider in your community.**

We know immigrant survivors of domestic violence may feel particularly vulnerable, especially when disclosing abuse to authorities. OCDV has worked with the Mayor's Office of Immigrant Affairs to increase access to U and T visas, and together recently released a fact sheet outlining resources for immigrants who are crime victims. (See the [Huffington Post op-ed](#) by OCDV Commissioner Cecile Noel and MOIA Commissioner Nisha Agarwal.)

These federal immigration visas protect immigrant victims of sexual assault, domestic violence, human trafficking, and other serious crimes, who are helpful to a law enforcement investigation or prosecution. Each visa has several eligibility requirements. The U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services, a branch of the Department of Homeland Security, is the only agency with the authority to provide either immigration status. We do not know at this point how the current federal

administration's executive order will affect these programs, but will be monitoring them closely. City-funded immigration attorneys are available at each of the FJCs and are ready to provide consultation and representation around domestic violence related immigration remedies.

OCDV POLICY & TRAINING INSTITUTE

OCDV's Policy and Training Institute (the Institute) provides trainings to City agencies and community-based organizations on intimate partner violence and related topics. The Institute can identify needs for initial staff training, create work plans for the implementation of ongoing advanced staff trainings, and assist in the review and development of organization policies and protocols around domestic violence. The Institute also includes the NYC Healthy Relationship Training Academy (the Academy), which offers educational and skills-building training for adolescents, parents, and organizations that provide services to young people.

[Request a Training](#)



Host a workshop on teen dating violence and healthy relationships with OCDV's NYC Healthy Relationship Training Academy. Submit your request through our online [workshop request form](#) or call the Academy at 212-788-2516.

OCDV Is Hiring Peer Educators!

The Mayor's Office to Combat Domestic Violence is hiring Peer Educators to join the NYC Healthy Relationship Training Academy. We are in search of candidates who:

- Have some experience working in relationship abuse prevention.
- Enjoy working with young people and can easily relate to youth audiences.
- Are comfortable with public speaking and facilitating group discussions.
- Thrive in team settings.

Please encourage your friends and networks to apply! The hiring process is ongoing until all positions are filled. To apply please visit nyc.gov/jobs, search "Peer Educator" or use Job ID 247406.



OCDV has updated the [New York City Resource Directory of Domestic Violence Services](#), which provides information regarding assistance available for survivors of intimate partner violence, sexual assault, sex trafficking and elder abuse. Your input and participation are important to ensure that the Directory is comprehensive, identifies culturally competent programs and reflects the variety of services for individuals, families and children in need.

A two-column brochure with a purple and white color scheme. The left column is titled "FOR EMPLOYERS" and the right column is titled "FOR EMPLOYEES". Both columns have a sub-header: "If your employee is a survivor of DOMESTIC VIOLENCE, SEXUAL ASSAULT, OR STALKING –". The left column includes sections: "You can support your employee by:", "The law requires that you:", and a list of employer responsibilities. The right column includes sections: "You have the right to:", "You cannot be fired or penalized because:", "You may have to:", and "For more information or to ask for help:". The brochure provides specific actions and legal protections for both parties.

FOR EMPLOYERS
If your employee is a survivor of DOMESTIC VIOLENCE, SEXUAL ASSAULT, OR STALKING –

You can support your employee by:

- Listening to and believing the employee who is experiencing domestic violence, sexual assault, or stalking. You can tell them that it is not their fault and that you are worried about their safety.
- Asking your employee about their safety concerns and what can be done in the workplace to make everyone safer.
- Educating yourself and your employees about domestic violence, sexual assault, and stalking, and on how to seek help at www.nyc.gov/domesticviolence.
- Creating a workplace policy to support survivors and ensure safety and productivity in your business. View a model policy at www.workplacesrespond.org/learn/model-policy.
- Cooperating in securing unemployment insurance for your employee if they left work because of the violence.
- Calling the NYC Commission on Human Rights for information on workplace protection laws at 311 or 718-722-3131, or visit www.nyc.gov/humanrights.

The law requires that you:

- Permit your employee time off to speak to a District Attorney or seek an Order of Protection.
- Make "reasonable accommodations" when requested (if you employ four or more people) as long as they are not an "undue burden" to your business.
- Do not discriminate against a survivor in hiring, promotion, or other considerations in the workplace due to their status as a survivor.
- Keep confidential any information about the employee's situation, requests for time off, or accommodations.

FOR EMPLOYEES
If you are a survivor of DOMESTIC VIOLENCE, SEXUAL ASSAULT, OR STALKING –

You have the right to:

- Take time off to speak with a District Attorney or seek an Order of Protection.
- Ask your employer for "reasonable accommodations," like changing your worksite, schedule, or phone number.
- File for unemployment insurance if you lost or left your job because of the violence – even if you quit, were fired, or relocated due to the violence.
- Have any personal information shared with your employer remain confidential.

You cannot be fired or penalized because:

- You are a victim or survivor of domestic violence, sexual assault, or stalking.
- Your abusive partner harasses or makes threats to you or others at your workplace.

You may have to:

- Tell your employer about the abuse in order to get reasonable accommodations, and your employer may ask for proof – like a letter from a service provider, police report, District Attorney's Office, or court staff.

For more information or to ask for help:

- Call the NYC 24-Hour Domestic Violence Hotline at 311 or (800) 621-4673.
- Visit www.nyc.gov/domesticviolence.
- Call the NYC Commission on Human Rights to report an employer violation at 311 or 718-722-3131 or visit www.nyc.gov/humanrights.

OCDV and NYC Small Business Services want you to know that New York State and New York City Laws extend protections to survivors, or those perceived to be survivors, of domestic violence, sexual assault or stalking. The above brochure for employers and employees outlines those protections and how survivors can access services.

Upcoming OCDV Events & Trainings

****Please note that Family Justice Center trainings are geared toward service providers and professionals.***

BRONX:

Assessing & Responding to Suicidality: Tools & Practices for Providers

Facilitated by Mayumi Okuda Benavides, MD, Columbia University Medical Center

Wednesday, May 10th, 2:30 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.

NYC Family Justice Center, Bronx

198 East 161st Street, 2nd Floor

To register, please [click here](#).

BROOKLYN:

Engaging Trauma Survivors

Facilitated by OCDV Staff

Friday, May 5th, 10:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.

NYC Family Justice Center, Brooklyn

350 Jay Street

To register, please [click here](#).

Cultural Conversations

Facilitated by OCDV Staff

Friday, May 5th, 2:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.

NYC Family Justice Center, Brooklyn

350 Jay Street

To register, please [click here](#).

Economic Justice & Opportunity for Survivors

Facilitated by FreeFrom

Tuesday, May 9th, 11:30 a.m.

NYC Family Justice Center, Brooklyn

350 Jay Street

To register, please email Joscelyn Truitt at joscelynt@fjcnyc.org.

Mental Health First Aid Training

Facilitated by OCDV Staff

Thursday & Friday, May 11th & 12th, 1:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.

NYC Family Justice Center, Brooklyn

350 Jay Street

To register, please email Joscelyn Truitt at joscelynt@fjcnyc.org.

Understanding Technology Abuse

Facilitated by OCDV Staff

Wednesday, May 31st, 9:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.

NYC Family Justice Center, Brooklyn

350 Jay Street

To register, please email Joscelyn Truitt at joscelynt@fjcnyc.org.

QUEENS:

Mental Health First Aid Training

Facilitated by OCDV Staff

Monday, May 8th, 9:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.

NYC Family Justice Center, Queens

126-02 82nd Avenue

To register, please [click here](#).

Serving All Survivors: Working with LGBTQ & HIV-affected Survivors of Intimate Partner Violence

Facilitated by NYC Anti-Violence Project

Wednesday, May 17th, 10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

NYC Family Justice Center, Queens

126-02 82nd Avenue

To register, please [click here](#).

STATEN ISLAND:

Engaging Trauma Survivors

Facilitated by OCDV Staff

Monday, May 8th, 2:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.

NYC Family Justice Center, Staten Island

126 Stuyvesant Place

To register, please [click here](#).

Housing & Shelter Options

Facilitated by OCDV Staff & Safe Horizon

Tuesday, May 9th, 10:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.

NYC Family Justice Center, Staten Island

126 Stuyvesant Place

To register, please [click here](#).

Economic Empowerment & Public Benefits for IPV Survivors

Facilitated by OCDV Staff

Wednesday, May 10th, 10:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.

NYC Family Justice Center, Staten Island

126 Stuyvesant Place

To register, please [click here](#).

Immigrant Eligibility for Public Benefits for IPV Survivors

Facilitated by OCDV Staff

Wednesday, May 10th, 2:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.

NYC Family Justice Center, Staten Island

126 Stuyvesant Place

To register, please [click here](#).

Introduction to Sex Trafficking & Commercial Sexual Exploitation

Facilitated by Center for Court Innovation

Thursday, May 11th, 10:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.

NYC Family Justice Center, Staten Island

126 Stuyvesant Place

To register, please [click here](#).

Criminal Justice Responses to Domestic Violence

Facilitated by Richmond County District Attorney's Office & NYPD

Friday, May 12th, 9:30 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

NYC Family Justice Center, Staten Island

126 Stuyvesant Place

To register, please [click here](#).

Cultural Conversations: Considerations/Tools for Supportive Practice

Facilitated by Arab American Family Support Center & NYC Anti-Violence Project

Friday, May 12th, 2:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.

NYC Family Justice Center, Staten Island

126 Stuyvesant Place

To register, please [click here](#).

Introduction to Immigration Law

Facilitated by Her Justice & New York Legal Assistance Group

Monday, May 15th, 2:00 p.m. – 4:30 p.m.

NYC Family Justice Center, Staten Island

126 Stuyvesant Place

To register, please [click here](#).

Introduction to Family & Matrimonial Law

Facilitated by Safe Horizon

Wednesday, May 17th, 2:00 p.m. – 4:30 p.m.

NYC Family Justice Center, Staten Island

126 Stuyvesant Place

To register, please [click here](#).

Introduction to Elder Abuse

Facilitated by the Weinberg Center for Elder Abuse Prevention

Tuesday, May 23rd, 10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

NYC Family Justice Center, Staten Island

126 Stuyvesant Place

To register, please [click here](#).

Below is the monthly schedule for upcoming FJC Core trainings. A full listing of the month's trainings will be provided in the corresponding monthly e-bulletin.

June – Manhattan FJC

July – Brooklyn FJC

August – Queens FJC

September – Bronx FJC

October – Manhattan FJC

November – Staten Island FJC

December – Brooklyn FJC

Top News Stories from April

City to Invest \$7M in Domestic Violence Reduction Services, Mayor Says

The City will invest nearly \$7 million to better support survivors of domestic violence and arrest abusers after a spike in incidents, Mayor Bill de Blasio announced. The additional services include expanding a program to provide intervention for children who witnessed domestic violence, purchasing “alternative light source cameras” to show evidence of strangulation and providing immigration legal assistance to victims as needed. The investment comes after a task force co-chaired by First Lady Chirlane McCray was convened in November to recommend ways for the city to reduce domestic violence and better serve survivors.

[Read More](#)

NYC Domestic Violence Victims Can Now Seek Orders of Protection via Skype

Going to court can be an intimidating process, especially when it has to do with seeking an order of protection from an abusive partner. But now a plan is in place to help those victims. Many clients can now meet with the judge via Skype from several safe locations in the state. The Manhattan Family Justice Center is one of those locations.

> [Read More](#)

Manhattan D.A. Gives \$12 Million Grants to Protect Crime Victims of Underserved Populations

Immigrants and transgender people who are victims of crime will get access to nearly \$12 million in grants, the Manhattan District Attorney announced. Cy Vance said at a press conference that the money will go to 10 organizations that work for underserved communities including non-native English speakers, deaf individual LGBTQ people. He predicted the grants could help more than 1,400 people per year.

> [Read More](#)

Under the GOP's New Health Plan, Sexual Assault Would Be Considered a Preexisting Condition

The GOP health care bill's recently added MacArthur Meadows Amendment would ditch the ACA's protections for preexisting conditions — sexual assault being one of them. Under the amendment, states would have the all-clear to waive the ban preventing insurance companies from

After San Bernadino: Black Women & Intimate Partner Violence

Each year thousands of black women are shot, stabbed, stalked, brutalized and murdered in crimes that never make it on the national radar. Black women experience intimate partner and domestic violence at a rate of 35% higher than do white women. They are also more likely than white women to be teen dating violence victims. And while intimate partner violence is a leading cause of death

denying coverage to patients based on preexisting conditions. That means companies can also deny preventive health care services, like mammograms and gynecological exams, to these patients, which sexual assault survivors in particular rely on following an attack.

> [Read More](#)

for black women, they are seldom viewed as proper victims and are rarely cast as total innocents.

> [Read More](#)

When Murder Is Domestic Violence, We Forget about It

For all our talk about not normalizing aberrant behavior, we treat the murders of women by past and present intimate male partners as little more than a sad fact of life. When a gunman kills a stranger in public, it's news; when he kills his wife or girlfriend, we overlook it.

> [Read More](#)

Homeless LGBTQ Youth Are Disproportionately Affected by Sex Trafficking

After interviewing hundreds of homeless youth across the U.S. and Canada, researchers found that LGBTQ youth are disproportionately affected by sex trafficking, particularly if they're transgender. Despite certain legislative victories for LGBTQ rights over the past few years, the system of discrimination is still in place, leaving the community at risk for exploitation in ways that heterosexual individuals may not realize.

> [Read More](#)

The Silent Epidemic: Helping GBT Men Speak Out about Domestic Violence

For those gay, bi, and trans men who experience same-sex domestic violence, there are not many places to see their experiences mirrored back to them, especially when it comes to breaking free of the abuse and building a new life. It's not that the numbers are too small in the LGBTQ community to warrant such a literature; in fact, the statistics are staggering: according to the Centers for Disease Control, 26% of gay men and 37% of

Rape Victims Who Go to the Emergency Room Are Often Forced to Pay Exorbitant Bills

While the Violence Against Women Act prohibits survivors of sexual assault from being billed the cost of a rape kit, it doesn't protect victims from being billed for additional tests and prescriptions incurred during an emergency room visit after an attack. A new study that examines the medical bills incurred by privately insured women who received emergency room care for rape offers a snapshot of just how expensive sexual assault

bi men are victims of domestic violence. Behind this dramatic data are millions of gay and bi men. If same-sex domestic violence is reaching epidemic proportions, it's also true that the response to it is wholly inadequate. The silence is deafening, both in terms of our literature, and the lack of funding and resources needed to protect men who suffer at the hands of their partners.

> [Read More](#)

can be.

> [Read More](#)

This Behavior Is Sexually Abusive, but Not Enough People Talk about It

"Stealthing," or purposefully removing a condom during sex without consent, has garnered a male fanbase online, but victims say it is another form of assault. A new article in the Columbia Journal of Gender and Law delves into the act and how online groups are perpetuating and encouraging it, and argues that it violates a host of civil and criminal laws.

> [Read More](#)

Revenge Porn Is Now Illegal for the Navy & Marines

Revenge porn is now banned under U.S. Navy Regulations, the governing document of the Navy and Marines. The change comes after it was discovered that Marines and members of all other branches of the military were circulating private photos of female colleagues on Facebook and through other methods.

> [Read More](#)

Disclaimer: Opinions expressed in the content of this email and in linked articles do not necessarily reflect the positions or policies of the NYC Mayor's Office to Combat Domestic Violence.

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