



# You are not alone

## True or False

May 2017

Test your knowledge of domestic/intimate partner violence by answering these true or false questions.

*Table 1 True or False Questions*

Number	Question	True or False
1.	Domestic/intimate partner abuse affects a small percentage of Canadians.	True or False
2.	Domestic/intimate partner violence does not usually result in serious injury.	True or False
3.	Violence between two men or two women in a same-sex relationship is a "fight" between equals.	True or False
4.	Women with disabilities are at a heightened risk of abuse.	True or False
5.	Abuse affects people from all socio-economic, cultural, religious and racial backgrounds.	True or False
6.	People remain or return to violent relationships for safety reasons.	True or False
7.	Men are abused by their partners as often as women.	True or False
8.	People remain in abusive relationships because they don't mind being abused.	True or False
9.	If you fight back then it's not abuse.	True or False
10.	Women who experience abuse are at increased risk once they leave their partners.	True or False
11.	Abuse, including violent attacks, is less frequent and less severe when a woman is pregnant.	True or False
12.	There is greater equality and mutuality in lesbian/gay relationships and therefore partners are seldom abusive.	True or False
13.	A person who beats or emotionally abuses their partner, but not their children, is still a good parent.	True or False
14.	Transgender women are more likely to experience physical violence and discrimination within an intimate relationship.	True or False

Number	Question	True or False
15.	Women are not violent.	True or False
16.	Domestic violence primarily occurs among people who hang out at bars, have lower incomes or are people of colour.	True or False
17.	The law does not and will not protect same-sex partners who experience domestic violence.	True or False
18.	Abusive partners are more apt to seek or counter-sue for child custody.	True or False
19.	LGBTQ2S survivors of domestic violence are less likely to report incidents to the authorities or access shelters geared for survivors of domestic violence than cisgender and heterosexual survivors.	True or False
20.	Upon leaving an abusive relationship, women are able to immediately restructure their lives.	True or False
21.	On average, seven per cent of Ontario women living in a common-law or marital relationship are abused by their spousal partner.	True or False
22.	Individuals who identify as being LGBTQ2S do not experience domestic abuse.	True or False
23.	People who experience domestic violence typically report to work normally without any recognizable absences.	True or False
24.	Men in same-sex relationships are as likely to experience domestic abuse as heterosexual women.	True or False

## Answer Key

1. False. One in three Canadian women has experienced abuse at some point in her life, and every six days, a woman is killed by her partner. In 2010, police reported 48,700 people who experienced spousal violence. More than 80 per cent of them were women age 15 or older. Women from all backgrounds can experience intimate partner violence, but some groups are more vulnerable to abuse, in part due to a lack of services as well as barriers to existing services. These groups include: young, Indigenous, racialized, immigrant, refugee, non-status, lesbian, bisexual, transgender and Two Spirit women, women from particular ethno-cultural and/or religious communities, women living with a disability, HIV, or a mental health or addiction issue, and sex trade workers. Women are much more likely than men to be victims of severe forms of violence, multiple injuries and death. However, men also experience intimate partner violence and may have more difficulty disclosing and accessing services due to gender role expectations and lack of services. Transgender, Two Spirit, gay and bisexual men are at higher risk of experiencing intimate partner violence.
2. False. Women experience more serious forms of spousal assault than men, for example, women in abusive relationships are twice as likely to be physically injured (42 per cent) by their male spouses as men by their female spouses (18 per cent). (Statistics Canada 2013. Measuring violence against women: Statistical trends, Ottawa, ON, Ministry of Industry, Pg. 82.)
3. False. Abuse by an intimate partner is about one person having power and control over the thoughts, conduct and beliefs of another person. Sexual orientation/gender do not change the dynamics of an intimate relationship.
4. True. Forty per cent of women with disabilities experience some form of violence in their lives. Women with disabilities are more likely to be isolated and dependent on their abusers for financial security, basic care, communication and protection. Caregivers have control and power to make decisions on a woman's behalf, making her more vulnerable to abuse.
5. True. Abuse can happen to anyone and across any backgrounds. Certain populations of women are at an increased risk of abuse, including women between the ages of 18 and 24; women aged 65 or older; women with disabilities or deaf women; Aboriginal women; women who were abused in childhood or exposed to violence against their mother; and pregnant women.
6. True. Abused people: believe that if they appease the abuser, then they can control the abuse; have been threatened and believe the threats and capabilities of the abuser; and are emotionally held hostage out of genuine fear of real or perceived threats.

7. False. In 2006, males accounted for 90 per cent of all those accused of criminal harassment involving partners. According to the Domestic Violence Death Review committee June 2006, in 93 per cent of cases women were being abused and in 94 per cent of the cases over the previous four years, men committed the murders.
8. False. Many factors influence a person's decision to remain in an abusive relationship, such as fear, guilt, shame, financial pressure or continued feelings of love for the partner. In some cases, people remain or return to violent relationships for safety reasons.
9. False. Fighting back is not abuse, nor does it make the relationship "mutually abusive." Survivors have used violence for many reasons, including self-defence, desperation, anger, and to try to stop the abuse.
10. True. Prior to being killed, almost one in four (23 per cent) were known to have been criminally harassed by their estranged partners. One of the most dangerous times for women who are abused is after they leave their abusive partners. Women who leave and are forced to return are at an increased risk.
11. False. For 40 per cent of women who are abused, the violence begins when they are pregnant. Attacks are frequently directed at the abdomen resulting in damage to the baby or miscarriage.
12. False. Two women/men in a relationship does not automatically guarantee equality. Relationship struggles are never equal if abuse is involved.
13. False. An abusive partner may provide material necessities, however, this does not make them a good parent. As children grow older and more independent, the abusive parent also wants to control their behaviour. Children are sometimes drawn into an assault and injured simply because they are present. Children heard or witnessed a parent being assaulted in 37 per cent of spousal violence cases.
14. True, according to a 2014 report of the National Coalition of Anti-Violence Programs.
15. False. There is ample evidence that both genders have capacity for violence. Abusers and their partners come from all genders, races, classes, religions and regions.
16. False. Abusers and their partners come from all genders, races, classes, religions and regions. Racist and classist stereotypes around domestic violence are common in both dominant heterosexual culture, as well as in the LGBTQ2S community.

17. False. Although many law enforcement professionals and court systems are still confused about same-sex domestic violence, there have been many constructive changes in recent years.
18. True. As cited by Dr. Peter Jaffe, a renowned expert in the field of domestic violence.
19. True, according to a 2015 report referenced in Egale Canada Human Rights Trust's Presentation to the Standing Committee on Social Policy. Barriers to seeking help were identified to be an extreme lack of appropriate helping agencies and services, prevailing stigmatization and limited understanding of domestic violence within LGBTQ2S communities.
20. False. It may take up to five years for a woman to regain self-esteem. It has been documented that many suffer from Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder. Many people who have experienced domestic violence are before the courts for years on breaches, additional threatening/assault charges, child access, custody and support issues.
21. True, according to the Public Services Health and Safety Association, 2010 Domestic Violence Fast Facts.
22. False. Sexual orientation doesn't make any difference. Abuse is about control within a relationship and can occur within any relationship where one partner believes they have the right to control the other.
23. False. Fifty-four per cent of people who have experienced domestic violence miss three or more days of work a month.
24. True. Men in same-sex relationships are as likely to experience domestic violence as heterosexual women and are three times more likely than men who experience domestic violence in a heterosexual relationship (Egale).

### Sources:

1. Toronto Employment & Social Services. Domestic Violence Initiative Presentation. November 2012.
2. Public Services Health & Safety Association. Domestic Violence Fast Facts. 2010.
3. Occupational Health & Safety Council of Ontario (OHSCO). Domestic Violence Doesn't Stop When Your Worker Arrives at Work: What Employers Need to Know to Help. February 2010.
4. Egale Canada Human Rights Trust. Presentation to the Standing Committee on Social Policy: Points of Consideration for Bill 132.