

# Domestic Homicide

Review Article

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قال الله تعالى

"وَلَا تَقْتُلُوا النَّفْسَ الَّتِي  
حَرَّمَ اللَّهُ إِلَّا بِالْحَقِّ ذَلِكُمْ  
وَصَاغُمْ بِهِ لَعَلَّكُمْ تَعْقِلُونَ"

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## List of Abbreviations

|               |                                                         |
|---------------|---------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>ACTH</b>   | Adreno Cortico Trophic Hormone                          |
| <b>BPD</b>    | Borderline Personality Disorder                         |
| <b>CCV</b>    | Common Couple Violence                                  |
| <b>CHD</b>    | Chicago Homicide Data base                              |
| <b>DSM-IV</b> | Diagnostic and Statistical Manual (of Mental Disorders) |
| <b>DV</b>     | Domestic Violence                                       |
| <b>ECT</b>    | Electro Convulsive Therapy                              |
| <b>EDHS</b>   | Egyptian Demographic Health Survey                      |
| <b>EEG</b>    | Electro Encephalography                                 |
| <b>FBI</b>    | Federal Bureau Of Investigation's                       |
| <b>FMPV</b>   | Female To Male Partner Violence                         |
| <b>GABA</b>   | Gamma Amino Butyric Acid                                |
| <b>GBH</b>    | Grievous Bodily Harm                                    |
| <b>ICD-10</b> | International Classification Of Diseases, 10th revision |
| <b>I.P.H</b>  | Intimate Partner Homicide                               |
| <b>I.P.V</b>  | Intimate Partner Violence                               |
| <b>IT</b>     | Intimate Terrorism                                      |
| <b>MFPV</b>   | Male To Female Partner Violence                         |
| <b>MVC</b>    | Mutual Violent Control                                  |
| <b>NCIPC</b>  | National Center For Injury Prevention And Control       |
| <b>NVDRS</b>  | National Violent Death Reporting System                 |
| <b>OVW</b>    | Office On Violence Against Women                        |
| <b>PRL</b>    | Prolactin                                               |
| <b>PTSD</b>   | Post Traumatic Stress Disorder                          |
| <b>SHR</b>    | Supplemental Homicide Reports                           |
| <b>SSRIs</b>  | Selective Serotonin Reuptake Inhibitors                 |
| <b>T.B</b>    | Tuberculosis                                            |
| <b>UN</b>     | United Nations                                          |

|               |                                                    |
|---------------|----------------------------------------------------|
| <b>UNICEF</b> | United Nations Children's Fund                     |
| <b>UNFPA</b>  | United Nations Population Fund                     |
| <b>USA</b>    | United States Of America                           |
| <b>VR</b>     | Violent Resistance                                 |
| <b>WHO</b>    | World Health organization                          |
| <b>WSDVFR</b> | Washington State Domestic Violence Fatality Review |
| <b>5HT</b>    | 5-Hydroxy Tryptamine (Serotonine )                 |

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# PROTOCOL

## **Introduction**

Domestic violence is known as a social phenomenon since early modern society which has been based on family. The endpoint of domestic violence is domestic homicide. Numerous international studies on domestic homicide showed various discrepancies in regard to this specific phenomenon (*Kovacević et al., 2010*).

Domestic homicide describes killings by a person who is a current/former intimate partner or a family member of the victim. It includes often uxoricide (the killing of an intimate partner either cohabiting or marital), filicide (the killing of a child by a parent), parricide (the killing of a parent by an offspring or a stepchild), siblicide (the killing of one sibling by another) followed by other members of the family (*Diem and Pizarro, 2010; Liem and Roberts, 2009*).

International studies report that domestic homicide represents 30 - 40% of all homicide cases. The majority of domestic homicide cases fall into the category of intimate partner killing (*Kovacević et al., 2010*).

There are certain characteristics of domestic homicide. The main characteristic is gender of the offender which is often male while victims are often females. Other characteristics include, for example, that the offenders usually commit crimes in their living spaces and weapons used are often knives and sharp cutting (*Adinkrah, 2008*).

Domestic homicide is closely related to various social and cultural factors such as childrearing, effects of certain economic cycles, degree of social isolation, region of nation or continent and cultural acceptance of violence (*Liem et al., 2009*).

Domestic homicide may be both predictable and preventable because they are often preceded by a number of risk factors. Among these risk factors are history of domestic violence, unemployment and poverty, gun access, control and jealousy, estrangement, threats, abuse, drug and alcohol use, mental illness and personality disorder and prior criminal history (*Brookman and Maguire, 2005*).

Risk assessment involving both the victim and the perpetrator of domestic violence has become a crucial issue in the prevention of and intervention in domestic homicides in a number of sectors including

mental health, social service, justice and police (*Brookman and Maguire, 2005*).

About 10 - 15% of those convicted of homicide suffer from a psychotic disorder (*Nordstrom et al., 2006*). More specifically, about one-third of the domestic homicide offenders are suffering from mental illness at the time of the homicide and/or have a history of mental illness, so these cases are usually met in forensic psychiatry practice and mental health services (*Liem et al., 2009*).

## **Hypothesis**

Domestic homicide has increased all over the world and also in Egypt as a part of it, either among normal people or those suffering from mental illness which needs special attention to deal with this problem.

## **Rationale**

Domestic homicide is a common phenomenon all over the world so it is important to explore this phenomenon to get benefit from the state-of-the-art about domestic homicide in practice of forensic psychiatry specifically and mental health generally.

## **Aim of the work**

1. To identify domestic homicide phenomenon from different prospectives and outline risk factors associated.
2. To recognize domestic homicide from forensic point of view.
3. To analyze the effect of mental health services in solving the domestic violence or helping in reduction of such phenomenon.

## **Methodology (Procedure)**

1. In order to fulfill the aim of the work, a review of available studies on "Domestic homicide" will be done and computerized searches of the literatures will be performed.
2. The obtained findings will be categorized into different sectors.
3. The findings will be discussed and finally recommendations for future studies and how we can interfere with domestic homicide in order to control such phenomenon will be generated.

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