

Technology facilitated coercive control (TFCC) refers to violence and abuse by current or former intimate partners, facilitated by digital media ([Dragiewicz et al., 2018](#)).

- Scholars and advocates on anti-violence have started documenting ways digital media platforms and technologies exacerbate patterns of gendered violence already in existence and explore new modes of abuse ([Dragiewicz et al., 2018](#)).
 - The online violence against women, including intimate partner violence, terrorism and femicide, is facilitated and widespread directly from technology's influence.
 - Digital platforms are vital in governing online abuse to halt its prolific spread.
 - Domestic violence perpetrators use tactics such as physical and sexual violence to control and entrap intimate partners. Digital media offer numerous ways to dominate partners by cyberstalking, digital dating abuse, "gas lighting," cyber-bullying, sexting, intimate image abuse, and emotional torture ([Leitão, 2019](#); [Yardley, 2020](#)).
 - [RAINN](#) reports 27,000 people a month accessing National Sexual Assault Hotline with half being minors. From 2010-2016, ED visits for confirmed adolescent sexual abuse in the US doubled despite child sexual abuse declining for decades. 47,000 with confirmed sexual abuse with almost 50% were aged 12-17. 55.91% of the primary payers were insured by Medicaid or Medicare ([Helton et al., 2020](#)).
 - Victims have reported feeling constantly unsafe and unable to truly escape the abuse, regardless of their physical location. Digital media enhance the sense of omnipresence and make the victim feel as if they are always together with the abuser, even when apart. This synchronous communication, such as with cell phones, can amplify the harms of the abuse ([Dragiewicz et al., 2018](#)). The phone, although a necessary part of daily life, now can become a trigger.
- As digital media technologies become a part of everyday life, interpersonal communication and relationships are shifting alongside them. Picard's 2007 survey of 615 American adolescents ages 13-18 found that 36% of respondents who had a boyfriend or girlfriend had a partner that checked on them more than 10 times a day; "where are you, who are you with, what are you doing" ([Picard, 2007](#)). This survey found that technology has made teen dating abuse (Digital Dating Abuse) more pervasive and hidden ([Picard, 2007](#)). According to Picard, 82% of teens surveyed did not tell their parents they had been asked to engage in sexual contact.
- The high level of anonymity, ease of creating multiple accounts, and failure of the platform to police the "free expression" of users, have made Twitter an ideal place for abusers to harass, defame, slander, and stalk ([Mortensen, 2016](#)). A "tweet and delete" culture of harassment exists on this platform ([Dragiewicz et al., 2018](#)). Twitter has been looking at ways to provide users a better method to prevent hate speech "hate pile-ons" and clearly demonstrates its own acknowledgement of falling short in protecting users from abuse ([Lomas, 2021](#)).
- It is estimated that 1 in 5 children experience a mental health disorder in a given year, and an estimated \$247 billion/year is spent on treatment and management of childhood mental disorders ([CDC, 2021](#)).
- The EARN IT Act would go a long way in the prevention of online abuse and its irrefutable harm to survivors overall mental health by continual revictimization — furthermore, impacting the economy by decreasing healthcare costs and associated government subsidies.