

# NATIONAL COALITION AGAINST DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

## DOMESTIC VIOLENCE FACTS

### WHY IT MATTERS

Domestic violence is the willful intimidation, assault, battery, sexual assault, or other abusive behavior perpetrated by an intimate partner against another.<sup>1</sup> It is an epidemic affecting Americans in all communities, regardless of age, economic status, race, religion, nationality or educational background. The impact of domestic violence on survivors, their children, and the community is detrimental. Stronger anti-violence laws and training for police and court personnel strengthen the criminal justice system's response to domestic violence. Community programs, shelters and education programs for youth, local businesses, and professionals protect survivors from future victimization and prevent the continuation of the cycle of violence from generation to generation.

### DID YOU KNOW?

- 1 in 4 women will experience domestic violence during her lifetime.<sup>2</sup>
- In 2001, 20% of violent crime against women was intimate partner violence, compared to 3% of violent crime against men.<sup>3</sup>
- In 2001, there were 691,710 nonfatal incidents of violence committed by the current or former spouses, boyfriends, or girlfriends of the victims.<sup>4</sup>
- In 2001, 85% of victims of domestic violence were women.<sup>5</sup>
- In one study, 33% of victims of intimate partner violence stated the offender was a spouse. 14% stated the offender was a former spouse. 53% stated the offender was a current or former boyfriend or girlfriend.<sup>6</sup>
- From 1992 to 2000, 54% of intimate partner violence was reported to police. Only 24% of rape or sexual assault was reported.<sup>7</sup>
- Young women age 16-24 experience the highest rate of domestic violence - 16 per 1,000 persons.<sup>8</sup>

### SEXUAL ASSAULT

- 1 in 5 women and 1 in 33 men have experienced an attempted or completed rape.<sup>9</sup>
- Marital rape accounts for 25% of all rapes, affecting over 75,000 women each year.<sup>10</sup>
- 3 in 4 women over age 18 who reported being raped were physically assaulted by a current or former husband, cohabitating partner, or date.<sup>11</sup>

### HOMICIDE AND INJURY

- In 2000, 1,247 women and 440 men were killed by an intimate partner.<sup>12</sup>
- In 1999, intimate partner homicides accounted for 32% of the murders of females and 4% of the murders of males.<sup>12</sup>
- In 1999, 74% - or 1,218 - of the 1,642 persons murdered by an intimate partner were female.<sup>14</sup>
- Between 1993 and 1999, 50% of domestic violence resulted in an injury to the victim. 5% of female victims sustained serious injuries, 41% sustained minor injuries, and 4% were raped or sexually assaulted.<sup>15</sup>
- In 1994, 37% of women seeking injury-related treatment in hospital emergency rooms were injured by a current or former spouse or intimate partner.<sup>16</sup>

### ECONOMIC IMPACT

- The costs of intimate partner violence annually exceeds \$5.8 billion, including \$4.1 billion in direct health care expenses, \$900 million in lost productivity, and \$900 million in lifetime earnings.<sup>17</sup>
- When the costs of direct property loss, ambulance services, police response, pain and suffering and the criminal justice process are considered, the total annual cost of intimate partner violence grows to \$67 billion.<sup>18</sup>
- Domestic violence has been estimated to cost employers in the United States \$3-13 billion each year.<sup>19</sup>

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Every Home A Safe Home

The Public Policy Office of the National Coalition Against Domestic Violence (NCADV) is a national leader in the effort to create and influence Federal legislation that positively affects the lives of domestic violence victims and children. We work closely with advocates at the local, state and national level to identify the issues facing domestic violence victims, their children and the people who serve them and to develop a legislative agenda to address these issues. NCADV welcomes you to join us in our effort to end domestic violence.

## STATE DOMESTIC VIOLENCE LAWS

- States differ on the types of relationships that qualify under domestic violence laws. Most states require the perpetrator and victim to be current or former spouses, currently or formerly reside together, or have a child in common. A significant number of states include current or former dating relationships in domestic violence laws.
- Both the civil and criminal justice systems address domestic violence. In the civil system, the victim can obtain an order of protection against the abuser and address child custody matters. In the criminal system, the state prosecutes the abuser for domestic violence crimes, and in that process, the victim may obtain an order of protection against the abuser.

## IF YOU NEED HELP

If you or someone you know is in an abusive relationship and wants help, please call the National Domestic Violence Hotline at 1-800-799-SAFE or the National Sexual Assault Hotline at 1-800-656-HOPE.

## HOW TO HELP

There are numerous ways to help in the effort to end domestic violence.

- Contact your Members of Congress urging them to support additional funding for domestic violence programs through the Violence Against Women Act, the Victims Of Crime Act Fund, and the Family Violence Prevention and Services Act.
- Work with policy advocacy organizations to influence your state legislature to pass progressive domestic violence laws and ensure that local programs receive state funding for prevention and intervention services.
- Volunteer at a domestic violence shelter or make a donation to a local program.
- Serve as a language translator for local domestic violence programs.
- Offer professional services such as fund raising, legal services, tax preparations for survivors, event planning experience or other services you may have available to donate.
- Educate your community and arrange speaking engagements at schools, churches, or civic groups to address the problem of domestic violence.
- Become a member of a local, state or national DV advocacy organization to learn more about what is happening in the effort to stop domestic violence in your community and country.

## SOURCES

<sup>1</sup>National Center for Victims of Crime, [www.ncvc.org](http://www.ncvc.org).

<sup>2</sup>Tjaden, Patricia & Thoennes, Nancy. National Institute of Justice and the Centers of Disease Control and Prevention, "Extent, Nature, and Consequences of Intimate Partner Violence." (2000).

<sup>3, 6, 12</sup>Rennison, Callie Marie. U.S. Department of Justice, Bureau of Justice Statistics, "Intimate Partner Violence, 1993-2001." (February 2003).

<sup>4</sup>U.S. Department of Justice, *Prevalence, Incidence, and Consequences of Violence Against Women: Findings from the National Violence Against Women Survey* (1998).

<sup>7, 9, 13, 14, 15</sup> Rennison, Callie Marie. U.S. Department of Justice, Bureau of Justice Statistics, "Intimate Partner Violence and Age of Victim, 1993-99." (October 2001).

<sup>8</sup> Hart, Timothy C. & Rennison, Callie. U.S. Department of Justice, Bureau of Justice Statistics, "Reporting Crime to the Police, 1992-2000." (March 2003).

<sup>10</sup>U.S. Department of Justice, "Prevalence, Incidence, and Consequences of Violence Against Women: Findings from the National Violence Against Women Survey." (1998).

<sup>11</sup>Randall, M. & Haskall, L., "Sexual Violence in Women's Lives," *Violence Against Women*, 1(1), 6-31. (1995).

<sup>16</sup>Rand, Michael. U.S. Department of Justice, Bureau of Justice Statistics, "Violence-Related Injuries Treated in Hospital Emergency Room Departments." (1997).

<sup>17</sup>Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, National Center for Injury Prevention and Control, "Costs of Intimate Partner Violence Against Women in the United States." (2003).

<sup>18</sup>Miller, Ted *et al.* "National Institute of Justice Research Report, Victim Costs and Consequences: A New Look." (1996).

<sup>19</sup>Bureau of National Affairs, Special Report No. 32, "Violence and Stress: The Work/Family Connection," 2 (1990).