

Statistics on Domestic Violence

Domestic Violence is hurtful and abusive behaviors used by one partner to control and have power over another partner. These behaviors can include threats, physical assault, forced sex, financial control, isolation, and emotional abuse, like name calling.

National Statistics show:

- Every nine seconds a woman is battered in the United States. *American Medical Association, 1998, Georgia Department of Human Resources, 1999*
- Nearly 1 in 4 women experience domestic violence in their lifetime. *Centers for Disease Control & Prevention, 2005*
- In 2004, intimate partner violence resulted in 1,544 deaths. Of these deaths, 75 percent were females. *Department of Justice, Bureau of Justice Statistics, 2004*
- On average, more than three women a day are murdered by their husbands or boyfriends in the United States. *Catalano, Shannan. 2007. Intimate Partner Violence in the United States. U.S. Department of Justice, Bureau of Justice Statistics.*
- Women are 84 percent of spouse abuse victims and 86 percent of victims of abuse at the hands of a boyfriend or girlfriend. *Family Violence Statistics: Including Statistics on Strangers and Acquaintances. 2005. U.S. Department of Justice, Bureau of Justice Statistics*
- Nearly 5.3 million intimate partner victimizations occur each year among U.S. women ages 18 and older. This violence results in nearly 2 million injuries and nearly 1,300 deaths. *Centers for Disease Control & Prevention, 2003*
- An estimated 1.3 million women are victims of physical assault by an intimate partner each year. *Centers for Disease Control & Prevention, 2003*
- Children who are raised in a home where the mother is battered are 15 times more likely to be abused than children who are raised in non-violent homes. *Stacy & Shupe, The Family Secret, Beacon Press, 1983, Georgia DHR, 1999*
- Thirty to 60 percent of perpetrators of intimate partner violence also abuse children in the household. *Edelson, Violence Against Women, 1999*
- 15.5 million children in the United States live in families in which partner violence occurred at least once in the past year. Seven million children live in families in which severe partner violence occurred. *Whitfield, CL, Anda RF, Dube SR, Felittle VJ. 2003. Violent Childhood Experiences and the Risk of Intimate Partner Violence in Adults: Assessment in a Large Health Maintenance Organization. Journal of Interpersonal Violence.*
- A U.S. Study found that women in their 50s and beyond report suffering physical and verbal abuse at a rate similar to that of younger women. *American Journal of Public Health, 2004*
- Estimates indicate more than 1 million women and 371,000 men are stalked by intimate partners each year. *Tjaden and Thoennes, 2000b*

- There are 16,800 homicides and \$2.2 million medically treated injuries due to intimate partner violence annually, which costs \$37 billion. *Centers for Disease Control & Prevention, 2007*
- Of females killed with a firearm, almost two-thirds were killed by their intimate partners. *Violence Policy Center, 2004*
- As many as 324,000 women each year experience intimate partner violence during pregnancy. *Gazmarairian et al., 2000*
- Studies of the Surgeon General's office reveal that domestic violence is the leading cause of injury to women between the ages of 15 and 44, more common than automobile accidents, muggings, and cancer deaths combined. Other research has found that half of all women will experience some form of violence from their partners during marriage, and that more than one-third are battered repeatedly every year. *Journal of American Medical Association, 1990*
- ...having a verbally abusive partner is a variable "most likely" to predict that a woman would be victimized by an intimate partner. These findings support the theory that violence perpetrated against women by intimates is often part of a systematic pattern of dominance and control. *Extent, Nature, and Consequences of Intimate Partner Violence. Reprinted and adapted from 'News Flash' (<http://www.vpf.org/newsflash>), an online newsletter of the Family Violence Prevention Fund, 2000*
- The costs of intimate partner violence against women exceed an estimated \$8.3 billion. These costs include nearly \$4.1 billion in the direct costs of medical and mental health care and nearly \$1.8 billion in the indirect costs of lost productivity. *Centers for Disease Control & Prevention, 2003*
- Of the women raped by an intimate, 51.2 percent report being victimized multiple times by the same partner. *Tjaden and Thoennes, 2000*
- Intimate partner homicides make up 40 to 50 percent of all murders of women in the United States. In 70 to 80 percent of intimate partner homicides, no matter which partner was killed, the man physically abused the woman before the murder. *Campbell et al., 2003*
- Fifty-seven percent of homeless families identified domestic violence as a primary cause of homelessness. *The United States Conference of Mayors, A Status Report on Hunger and Homelessness in America's Cities, 1999*