

## Fact Sheet

**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 9 seconds a woman is battered in the United States.  
*AMA, 1998, Georgia Department of Human Resources, 1999.*
- Nearly 1 in 3 women experience domestic violence in their lifetime.  
*American Psychological Association Violence and the Family: Report of the American Psychological Association Presidential Task Force on Violence and the Family, 1996, p. 10.*
- 90-95% of domestic violence victims are women.  
*A Report of the Violence against Women Research Strategic Planning Workshop sponsored by the National Institute of Justice in cooperation with the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, 1995.*
- 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.  
*Center for Disease Control 2003*
- Estimates range from 960,000 incidents of violence against a current or former intimate, to 3.9 million women who are physically abused by their husbands or live-in partners per year.  
*U.S. Department of Justice, Violence by Intimates: Analysis of Data on Crimes by Current or Former Spouses, March 1998: The Commonwealth Fund, First Comprehensive National.*
- 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.*
- 50% of the men who frequently assault their wives also frequently abuse their children.  
*Straus & Gelles (eds.) Physical Violence in American Families, Transaction Publishers, 1990.*
- Estimates indicate more than 1 million women and 371,000 men are stalked by intimate partners each year.  
*Tjaden and Thoennes 2000b*
- The U.S. Department of Justice reported that 37% of all women who sought care in hospital emergency rooms for violence-related injuries were injured by a current or former spouse, boyfriend, or girlfriend.  
*Department of Justice, August 1997. Violence related Injuries Treated in Hospital Emergency Departments. Michael R. Rand. Bureau of Justice Statistics.*

- As many as 324,000 women each year experience intimate partner violence during pregnancy. *Gazmarairian et al, 2000*
- Firearms were the major weapon type used in intimate partner homicides from 1981 to 1998.  
*Paulozzi et al 2001*
- 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.*
- Each year, an estimated 3.3 million children witness their mothers or female caretakers being abused.  
*American Psychological Association, Violence and the Family: Report for the American Psychological Association Presidential Task Force on Violence and the Family (1996), p. 80.*
- The costs of intimate partner violence against women exceed an estimated \$5.8 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.  
*Center for Disease Control, 2003*
- In the United States, researchers estimate the 40% to 70% of female murder victims were killed by their husbands or boyfriends, frequently in the context of an ongoing abusive relationship.  
*Bailey et al. 1997*
- 47% of men who beat their wives do so at least 3 times per year.  
*AMA Diagnostic & Treatment Guidelines on Domestic Violence, SEC: 94-677: 3M:9/94 (1994).*
- 57% 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, December 1999, p 94.*