

Domestic Violence Facts

Domestic violence is common.

- Children, along with their mothers, comprise nearly 40% of the homeless population in the U.S.¹
- Nearly three out of four (74%) of Americans personally know someone who is or has been a victim of domestic violence over the course of a lifetime²
- 30% of Americans know a woman who has been physically abused by her husband or boyfriend in the past year³
- One in every four women will experience domestic violence in her lifetime⁴
- An estimated 1.3 million women are victims of physical assault by an intimate partner each year⁵
- 85% of domestic violence victims are women⁶
- Females who are 20-24 years of age are at the greatest risk of non-fatal intimate partner violence⁷
- Most cases of domestic violence are never reported to the police⁸

Domestic violence can be deadly.

- Almost one-third of female homicide victims who are reported in police records were killed by an intimate partner.
- In 70-80% of intimate partner homicides, no matter which partner was killed, the man physically abused the woman before the murder⁹

Domestic violence costs us all.

- Intimate partner violence results in more than 18.5 million mental health care visits each year.¹⁰

¹ Horizons for Homeless Children,

http://www.horizonsforhomelesschildren.org/Programs_TTA_Natl_Picture.asp

² Domestic Violence Research Center, www.dvrc-or.org/domestic/violence/resources/C61/

³ Domestic Violence Research Center, www.dvrc-or.org/domestic/violence/resources/C61/

⁴ National Coalition Against Domestic Violence,

[http://www.ncadv.org/files/DomesticViolenceFactSheet\(National\).pdf](http://www.ncadv.org/files/DomesticViolenceFactSheet(National).pdf)

⁵ National Coalition Against Domestic Violence,

[http://www.ncadv.org/files/DomesticViolenceFactSheet\(National\).pdf](http://www.ncadv.org/files/DomesticViolenceFactSheet(National).pdf)

⁶ National Coalition Against Domestic Violence,

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⁷ Domestic Violence Research Center, <http://www.dvrc-or.org/domestic/violence/resources/C61/>

⁸ National Coalition Against Domestic Violence,

[http://www.ncadv.org/files/DomesticViolenceFactSheet\(National\).pdf](http://www.ncadv.org/files/DomesticViolenceFactSheet(National).pdf)

⁹ National Coalition Against Domestic Violence,

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¹⁰ National Coalition Against Domestic Violence,

[http://www.ncadv.org/files/DomesticViolenceFactSheet\(National\).pdf](http://www.ncadv.org/files/DomesticViolenceFactSheet(National).pdf)

- Victims of intimate partner violence lost almost 8 million days of paid work because of the violence due to abuse. This loss is the equivalent of more than 32,000 full-time jobs and almost 5.6 million days of household productivity lost as a result of violence¹¹
- Domestic violence costs \$37 billion annually in court, law enforcement, social service, medical, and mental health costs¹²

Domestic violence can lead to more than just bruises.

- Nearly 7.8 million women have been raped by an intimate partner at some point in their lives
- Sexual assault or forced sex occurs in approximately 40-45% of battering relationships
- 1 in 12 women and 1 in 45 men have been stalked in their lifetime
- Over 80% of women stalked by a current or former intimate partner are also physically assaulted by that partner; 31% are also sexually assaulted by that partner
- Less than one-fifth of victims reporting an injury from intimate partner violence sought medical treatment following the injury¹³

Location can matter.

- Residents of urban areas experienced the highest level of non-fatal intimate partner violence, on average, between 1993 and 2004
- Residents in suburban and rural areas were equally likely to experience such violence, and about 20% less likely than those in urban areas¹⁴

Outside resources really do help.

- Nearly 2.2 million people called a domestic violence crisis or hot line in 2004 to escape crisis situations, seek advice, or assist someone they thought might be a victim
- Access to shelter services leads to a 60-70% reduction in incidence and severity of re-assault
- Shelter services led to greater reduction in severe re-assault than did seeking court or law enforcement protection or moving to a new location¹⁵

Children are seriously affected by living with domestic violence. They may ...

- exhibit "failure to thrive" symptoms, even as infants
- emulate the abusive parent and have poor impulse control
- exhibit over-compliance, low self-esteem, and fearfulness
- suffer poor health

¹¹ National Coalition Against Domestic Violence, [http://www.ncadv.org/files/DomesticViolenceFactSheet\(National\).pdf](http://www.ncadv.org/files/DomesticViolenceFactSheet(National).pdf)

¹²Safe Horizon, <http://www.safehorizon.org/index/what-we-do-2/domestic-violence--abuse-53/domestic-violence-the-facts-195.html>

¹³ National Coalition Against Domestic Violence, [http://www.ncadv.org/files/DomesticViolenceFactSheet\(National\).pdf](http://www.ncadv.org/files/DomesticViolenceFactSheet(National).pdf)

¹⁴ Domestic Violence Research Center, www.dvrc-or.org/domestic/violence/resources/C61/

¹⁵ Domestic Violence Research Center, <http://www.dvrc-or.org/domestic/violence/resources/C61/>

- exhibit academic problems, including dropping out of school
- have a fear and distrust of close relationships.
- experience "night terrors"
- experience psychosomatic complaints, such as stomachaches, headaches, and stuttering¹⁶

Children experience more than single acts of witnessing violence

- They are more often abducted, usually by the abuser parent, than other children
- They are more likely to commit suicide than children who do not live with abuse
- They are more likely to be victim of child physical and sexual abuse, most often by the abuser parent
- They are four times as likely to be arrested eventually
- They are more likely to abuse alcohol and drugs
- They are more likely to engage in antisocial behavior¹⁷

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¹⁶ UNICEF, <http://www.unicef.org/protection/files/BehindClosedDoors.pdf>

¹⁷ UNICEF, <http://www.unicef.org/protection/files/BehindClosedDoors.pdf>

