



Facts on Domestic Violence

WHAT IS DOMESTIC VIOLENCE?

Domestic violence is a pattern of violent and coercive behavior used by one partner in a relationship to control another; it affects all communities, regardless of socioeconomic status, race, or religion. Domestic violence takes multiple forms, including physical, emotional and sexual abuse, financial control and social isolation. It is a problem that impacts the safety and well-being of individuals, families, and communities throughout Southern Nevada.

WHO IS AT RISK?

- The vast majority of domestic violence victims are women. According to the most recent statistics from U.S. Department of Justice, women make up 85 percent of domestic violence victims.¹
- Nearly one-third of American women, or 31 percent, report being physically or sexually abused by a husband or boyfriend at some point in their lives.²
- Pregnant and recently pregnant women are at high risk for domestic violence, each year, about 324,000 pregnant women in the U.S. are battered by the men in their lives.³
- Women age 16 to 24 experience the highest rates of domestic violence.⁴
- Studies suggest that between 3.3 and 10 million children witness some form of domestic violence annually.⁵
- Approximately one in five female high school students reports being physically and/or sexually abused by a dating partner.⁶

HOW COMMON IS DOMESTIC VIOLENCE IN MY COMMUNITY?

- In 2004, more than 40,000 Nevada women sought and received domestic violence services.⁷
- Safe Nest, a domestic violence agency based in Las Vegas, received nearly 30,000 domestic violence crisis calls in 2004.⁸
- The Las Vegas Metropolitan Police Department handled more than 20,000 reports of domestic violence in 2004.⁹

2915 W. Charleston, Suite 12
Las Vegas, NV 89102
Phone: 877-0133 Fax: 877-0955
www.safenest.org

- Nevada ranks second in the nation in the rate of women killed by men; the vast majority of women killed are murdered by their intimate partners. In 2003, 29 Nevada women were murdered by men, 27 of those women (or 96 percent) knew their attacker; of those, 20 women (74 percent) were current or former intimate partners of their attacker.¹⁰
- Of the 29 Nevada women killed in 2003, 17 (or 59 percent) were shot and killed with guns. Of these, 13 victims (or 76 percent) were shot with a handgun.

WHAT ARE THE CONSEQUENCES?

- On average, more than three women are murdered by their husbands or boyfriends in this country every day.¹¹
- About half of all female victims of domestic violence report an injury of some type, and about 20 percent of them seek medical assistance.¹²

Endnotes

¹ Rennison, Callie Marie and Sarah Welchans. 2003. *Intimate Partner Violence 1993-2001*. Bureau of Justice Statistics, United States Department of Justice. Washington, DC. <http://www.ojp.usdoj.gov/bjs/pub/pdf/ipv01.pdf>

² The Commonwealth Fund. 1999. *Health Concerns Across a Woman's Lifespan: 1998 Survey of Women's Health*.

³ Gazmarian, J.A.; R. Petersen; A.M. Spitz; et. al. 2000. "Violence and Reproductive Health: Current Knowledge and Future Research Directions." *Maternal and Child Health Journal*. 4(2): 79-84.

⁴ Rennison, Callie Marie and Sarah Welchans. 2003. *Intimate Partner Violence 1993-2001*. Bureau of Justice Statistics, United States Department of Justice. Washington, DC. <http://www.ojp.usdoj.gov/bjs/pub/pdf/ipv01.pdf>

⁵ Carlson, Bonnie E. (1984). "Children's Observations of Interpersonal Violence." Pp. 147-167 in A.R. Roberts (Ed.) *Battered women and Their Families* (pp. 147-167). NY Springer. Straus, M.A. 1992. "Children as Witnesses to Marital Violence: A Risk Factor for Lifelong Problems Among a Nationally Representative Sample of American Men and Women." *Report of the Twenty-Third Ross Roundtable*. Columbus, OH: Ross Laboratories.

⁶ Silverman, Jay; Anita Raj; Lorelei A. Mucci; and Jeanne E. Hathaway. 2001. "Dating Violence Against Adolescent Girls and Associated Substance Use, Unhealthy Weight Control, Sexual Risk Behavior, Pregnancy, and Suicidality," *Journal of the American Medical Association*. 286(5).

⁷ Nevada Network Against Domestic Violence. 2005. Statewide Statistics. January-December 2004.

⁸ Safe Nest. 2005. Annual Statistics.

⁹ Domestic Violence Yearly Statistics 2001-2005. Las Vegas Metropolitan Police Department.

¹⁰ *When Men Murder Women: An Analysis of 2003 Homicide Data*. 2005. Violence Policy Center. Washington, DC. <http://www.vpc.org/studies/wmmw2005.pdf>

¹¹ Rennison, Callie Marie and Sarah Welchans. 2003. *Intimate Partner Violence 1993-2001*. Bureau of Justice Statistics, United States Department of Justice. Washington, DC. <http://www.ojp.usdoj.gov/bjs/pub/pdf/ipv01.pdf>

¹² Greenfield, Lawrence; Michael Rand, Diane Craven. 1998. "Violence By Intimates: Analysis of Data on Crimes by Current or Former Spouses, Boyfriends, and Girlfriends." Bureau of Justice Statistics, United States Department of Justice. <http://www.ojp.usdoj.gov/bjs/pub/pdf/vi.pdf>