



PRESS RELEASE

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Domestic Violence and the Super Bowl: Debunking the Myth

On February 5, millions of people around the country will tune in to watch Super Bowl XL. In past years, Super Bowl Sunday has been a time of public debate over the prevalence of domestic violence in our society, partly because of the commonly repeated myth that incidents of abuse increase on game day. This myth first emerged in 1993, when a public service announcement on domestic violence ran during the game and some domestic violence advocates made statements to the press that seemed to support the link.

This year, public attention may once again turn to the link between professional sports and domestic violence. But experts at Safe Nest, Clark County's largest and most comprehensive domestic violence agency, stress that there is no conclusive evidence proving that violence increases during the Super Bowl and no rigorous national studies have confirmed a link.

"Domestic violence is always wrong, whether it happens on Super Bowl Sunday or on any other day," said Safe Nest Associate Director, Kathleen Brooks. "Safe Nest does not see a significant increase in calls during the Super Bowl.

Brooks continued, "Safe Nest's shelter is filled to capacity on Super Bowl Sunday, as it is every day of the year. According to the latest statistics, Nevada ranks second in the nation in the numbers of women killed by men. The prevalence of domestic violence is staggeringly high, whether there is a football game or not."

Established in 1977, Safe Nest is Clark County's largest and most comprehensive agency devoted solely to domestic violence issues. Services include shelters in confidential locations, a 24-hour crisis hotline, counseling, victim advocacy, prevention and community education. For help and information, call the crisis hotline at 646-4981.

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