



1-800-799-SAFE (7233)
1-800-787-3224 TTY For the Deaf

Abuse in America

- Since its inception in February 1996, the National Domestic Violence Hotline (NDVH) has answered more than 2 million calls from all 50 states, Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands. The call volume has steadily increased from an average of 7,000 calls a month to the NDVH's current average of more than 19,500 calls a month. The majority of calls (approximately 84 percent of the 2004 calls) are crisis calls from victims of domestic violence or their concerned family and friends. Approximately 60 percent of callers indicated that calling the NDVH was their first attempt to address the domestic violence they were experiencing; they had not called police or local domestic violence programs. *(NDVH Statistics)*
- One in three American women will report physical or sexual abuse by a husband or boyfriend at some point in their lives. *(Congressional Findings Violence Against Women and DOJ Reauthorization Act of 2005)*
- Four million American women experience a serious assault by a partner during an average 12-month period. *(Issues and Dilemmas in Family Violence: Report of the American Psychological Association Presidential Task Force on Violence and the Family. Washington, DC: American Psychological Association; 1996.)*
- From 1993-2001 more than three women were murdered by their husbands or boyfriends every day. *(Bureau of Justice Statistics Crime Data Brief, Intimate Partner Violence, 1993-2001, February 2003)*
- 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 yearly. *(Center for Disease Control 2002 Report)*
- 92 percent of American women prioritize addressing domestic violence and sexual assault higher than equal pay and reproductive rights. *(Center for the Advancement of Women, July 2003)*
- Violence against women costs companies \$72 million dollars annually due to lost productivity. *(Costs of Intimate Partner Violence Against Women in the United States, 2003; Center for Disease Control and Prevention, National Center for Injury Prevention and Control, Atlanta)*
- 37 percent 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. *(U.S. Department of Justice, Violence-Related Injuries Treated in Hospital Emergency Departments, August 1997)*

- As many as 324,000 women each year experience intimate partner violence during their pregnancy. (*"Violence and reproductive health; current knowledge and future research directions."* Gazmararian JA, Petersen R, Spitz AM, Goodwin MM, Saltzman LE, Marks JS. *Maternal and Child Health Journal* 2000; 4(2):79-84.)
- Women of all races are equally vulnerable to violence by an intimate partner. (*U.S. Department of Justice, Violence Related Injuries Treated in Emergency Departments, August 1997*)
- Battered women who have permanent protection orders in place are 80 percent less likely to be physically assaulted by their partners in the year after their attack than are women without protection orders. One in five women in the United States who experiences intimate partner violence obtains civil protection orders. (*2002 Journal of the American Medical Association Report*)
- 74 percent of employed battered women were harassed by their partner while they were at work. (*"The Workplace Guide for Employer, Unions, and Advocates"* Family Violence Prevention Fund. San Francisco, 1998.)
- Most murder-suicides with three or more victims involve a "family annihilator"-- a subcategory of intimate partner murder-suicide. Family annihilators are murderers who kill not only their wives/girlfriends and children, but often other family members as well before killing themselves. (*Violence Policy Center (VPC), American Roulette: Murder-Suicide in the United States, April 2006.*)
- 74 percent of all murder-suicides involved an intimate partner. Of these, 96 percent were women killed by an intimate partner. (*"American Roulette: Murder-Suicide in the United States", Violence Policy Center, 2006.*)