



## **DOMESTIC AND SEXUAL VIOLENCE FACT SHEET**

### **INCIDENCE, PREVALENCE, AND SEVERITY**

Domestic violence and sexual assault are pervasive, life-threatening crimes affecting millions of individuals across our nation regardless of age, gender, economic status, race, religion, or education level.

- More than 1 in 3 women have experienced rape, physical violence, and/or stalking by an intimate partner in their lifetime.<sup>1</sup>
- Approximately 7.9 million women are raped, physically assaulted, and/or stalked by a current or former intimate partner each year.<sup>2</sup>
- 1 in 5 women and 1 in 71 men have experienced rape in her or his lifetime.<sup>3</sup>
- Nationwide, an average of 3 women are killed by a current or former intimate partner every day.<sup>4</sup>
- Female victims of rape, physical violence, or stalking by an intimate partner experience effects such as fear, concern for their safety, need for medical care, injuries, need for housing services, and missing work or school.<sup>5</sup>

### **ECONOMIC BARRIERS**

Personal safety and economic security are inextricably linked for victims of domestic violence. For many victims, concerns about their ability to provide for themselves and their children are a significant reason for staying in, or returning to, an abusive relationship. Access to resources that increase economic stability are essential in rebuilding a life after abuse.

- One study showed that women and men who experienced food insecurity or housing insecurity in a 12-month period had a significantly higher prevalence of rape, physical violence, or stalking by an intimate partner in that same time period, as compared to women and men who did not experience food insecurity or housing insecurity.<sup>6</sup>
- 51.5% of female lifetime victims of rape, physical violence, or stalking by an intimate partner who identified a need for housing services did not receive them.<sup>7</sup>
- 1 in 10 women and nearly 1 in 25 men who experienced rape, physical violence, or stalking by an intimate partner missed work or school as a result of the abuse.<sup>8</sup>

### **CHILDREN AND YOUTH**

Children are particularly vulnerable as both victims of, and witnesses to, domestic violence, sexual abuse and sexual assault. In order to break the cycle of violence, we must intervene and provide services.

- Approximately 15.5 million children are exposed to domestic violence every year.<sup>9</sup>
- 1 in 4 girls and 1 in 6 boys are sexually abused before the age of 18.<sup>10</sup>
- Young women between the ages of 16 and 24 experience the highest rate of intimate partner violence and sexual assault.<sup>11</sup>
- Children exposed to violence are more likely to attempt suicide, abuse drugs and alcohol, run away from home, engage in teenage prostitution, and commit sexual assault crimes.<sup>12</sup>
- Men exposed to physical abuse, sexual abuse and/or domestic violence as children are almost 4 times more likely than other men to perpetrate domestic violence as adults.<sup>13</sup>

### **COSTS**

Domestic violence and sexual assault severely impact not only victims, but the entire nation. In addition to the devastating damage suffered by victims and their families, these crimes also have huge financial costs to society.

- A 2009 study found that the costs associated with murder are staggeringly high: the average “victim costs” exceed \$6.5 million, with more than \$426,000 in criminal justice system costs.<sup>14</sup>
- In the U.S., rape is the most costly crime to its victims, totaling \$127 billion a year including medical costs, lost earnings, pain, suffering, and lost quality of life.<sup>15</sup>
- Domestic violence has been estimated to cost employers in the U.S. up to \$13 billion each year.<sup>16</sup> Between one-quarter and one-half of domestic violence victims report that they lost a job, at least in part, due to domestic violence.<sup>17</sup>

## PROGRESS FOR DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AND SEXUAL ASSAULT VICTIMS

Congress's commitment to improving the response to domestic violence and sexual assault has made a significant difference in the lives of victims. The Family Violence Prevention and Services Act (FVPSA), enacted in 1984, has been the foundation of the response to domestic violence victims, supporting shelters and outreach programs across the country. The landmark Violence Against Women Act (VAWA), first authorized in 1994, has changed the way federal, tribal, state, and local entities respond to domestic violence, sexual assault, dating violence, and stalking.

- VAWA saved an estimated \$12.6 billion in net-averted costs in its first 6 years alone.<sup>18</sup> Additionally, a 2009 Department of Justice Study, The Kentucky Civil Protective Order Study, found that Kentucky saved \$85 million in one year alone through the issuance of protection orders and the resulting reduction in violence.<sup>19</sup>
- More victims now report domestic violence to the police than they did before the passage of VAWA.<sup>20</sup>
- From 1994 to 2012, the rate of non-fatal intimate partner violence against women has decreased by 63%.<sup>21</sup>
- A 2010 study demonstrated that an increase in the availability of legal services is associated with a decrease in intimate partner homicide.<sup>22</sup>
- A 2008 study shows conclusively that the nation's domestic violence shelters are addressing victims' urgent and long-term needs, and are helping victims protect themselves and their children.<sup>23</sup>
- A study published in 2006 found that when sexual assault victims have the support of an advocate in the aftermath of an assault, they receive more helpful information, referrals and services, and experience less secondary trauma or re-victimization by medical and legal systems. They also fare better in the short and long term and are more likely to file a police report than those without such support.<sup>24</sup>

## OVERWHELMING NEEDS REMAIN

While the United States has come a long way in meeting the needs of victims, there remains a significant gap between funding and the demand for services. As more and more victims courageously request services to escape from life-threatening situations, it is essential that their needs are met.

- In 2016, a 24-hour survey of domestic violence programs across the nation reported that 72,959 adults and children found refuge and help on the survey day, while there were an additional 11,991 requests for services that were unmet because of a lack of resources.<sup>25</sup>
- According to a 2016 survey by NAESV, almost half of the nation's sexual assault service providers have a waiting list for counseling services and wait times can range from 2 weeks to 3 months.<sup>26</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Black, M.C., Basile, K.C., Breiding, M.J., Smith, S.G., Walters, M.L., Merrick, M.T., Chen, J., & Stevens, M.R. (2011). The National Intimate Partner and Sexual Violence Survey (NISVS): 2010 Summary Report. Atlanta, GA: National Center for Injury Prevention and Control, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

<sup>2</sup> Smith, S. G., Chen, J., Basile, K.C., Gilbert, L.K., Merrick, M.T., Patel, N., Walling, M., Jain, A. (2017). *The National Intimate Partner and Sexual Violence Survey (NISVS): 2010-2012 State Report*. Atlanta, GA: National Center for Injury Prevention and Control, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

<sup>3</sup> Black, M.C., Basile, K.C., Breiding, M.J., Smith, S.G., Walters, M.L., Merrick, M.T., Chen, J., & Stevens, M.R. (2011). The National Intimate Partner and Sexual Violence Survey (NISVS): 2010 Summary Report. Atlanta, GA: National Center for Injury Prevention and Control, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

<sup>4</sup> Bureau of Justice Statistics, Intimate Partner Violence: Attributes of Victimization, 1993-2011 (Special Report NCJ243300).

<sup>5</sup> Breiding, M.J., Chen J., & Black, M.C. (2014). Intimate Partner Violence in the United States — 2010. Atlanta, GA: National Center for Injury Prevention and Control, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

<sup>6</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>7</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>8</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>9</sup> McDonald, R. et al. (2006). "Estimating the Number of American Children Living in Partner Violent Families." *Journal of Family Psychology*, 30(1),137-142.

<sup>10</sup> Felitti, V.J., Anda, R.F., Nordenberg, D., Williamson, D.F., Spitz, A.M., Edwards, V., Koss, M.P. & Marks, J.S. (1998) "Relationship of Childhood Abuse and Household Dysfunction to Many of the Leading Causes of Death in Adults: The Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACE) Study" *American Journal of Preventive Medicine*, 14(4).

<sup>11</sup> Department of Justice, Bureau of Justice and Statistics, "Intimate Partner Violence in the United States, 1993-2004." December 2006.

<sup>12</sup> Wolfe, D.A., Wekerle, C., Reitzel, D. and Gough, R. 1995. "Strategies to Address Violence in the Lives of High Risk Youth." In *Ending the Cycle of Violence: Community Responses to Children of Battered Women*, edited by E. Peled, P.G. Jaffe and J.L Edleson. New York, NY: Sage Publications.

<sup>13</sup> Whitfield, C.L., Anda, R.F., Dube, S.R., & Felitti, V.J. (2003). "Violent childhood experiences and the risk of intimate partner violence in adults." *Journal of Interpersonal Violence*, 18, 166-185.

<sup>14</sup> DeLisi, M., Kosloski, A., Sween, M. and Hachmeister, E. (Aug 2010). "Murder by Numbers: monetary costs imposed by a sample of homicide offenders." *Journal of Forensic Psychiatry and Psychology*, 21(4), 501-13.

<sup>15</sup> Miller, T., M. Cohen & B. Wiersema (January 1996). "Victims Costs & Consequences: A New Look." Washington, D.C.; National Institute of Justice Report, U.S. Department of Justice.

<sup>16</sup> Bureau of National Affairs, Special Rep. No. 32, *Violence and Stress: The Work/Family Connection 2* (1990).

<sup>17</sup> U.S. General Accounting Office. *Domestic Violence Prevalence and Implications for Employment Among Welfare Recipients* 19 (Nov. 1998).

<sup>18</sup> Kathryn Andersen Clark et al., A Cost-Benefit Analysis of the Violence Against Women Act of 1994, 8 *Violence Against Women* 417 (2002).

<sup>19</sup> The Kentucky Civil Protective Order Study: A Rural and Urban Multiple Perspective Study of Protective Order Violation Consequences, Responses, & Costs. (2009). U.S. Department of Justice.

<sup>20</sup> "Intimate partner violence in the U.S." U.S. Department of Justice, Office of Justice Programs, Bureau of Justice Statistics, Jan 2008.; Cassandra Archer et al., Institute for Law and Justice, National Evaluation of the Grants to Encourage Arrest Policies Program 14 (Nov. 2002).

<sup>21</sup> Truman, J.L. & Morgan, R.E. (April 2014). "Nonfatal Domestic Violence (2003-2012)." U.S. Department of Justice, Office of Justice Programs: Bureaus of Justice Statistics.

<sup>22</sup> Reckdenwald, A., & Parker, K.K. (2010). Understanding gender-specific intimate partner homicide: A theoretical and domestic service-oriented approach. *Journal of Criminal Justice*, 38, 951-958.

<sup>23</sup> Lyon, E., Lane S. (2009). Meeting Survivors' Needs: A Multi-State Study of Domestic Violence Shelter Experiences. National Resource Center on Domestic Violence and UConn School of Social Work. Found at <http://www.vawnet.org>.

<sup>24</sup> Campbell, R. (2006). Rape survivors' experiences with the legal and medical system: Do rape victim advocates make a difference? *Violence Against Women*, 12, 30-45. <sup>25</sup> *Domestic Violence Counts: 11th annual 24-hour census of domestic violence shelters and services across the United States*. The National Network to End Domestic Violence (released May 2017), available at [www.nnedv.org/census](http://www.nnedv.org/census)

<sup>26</sup> National Alliance to End Sexual Violence, 2016 internet survey of rape crisis centers from all 50 states, Washington D.C. and two territories.