

Domestic Violence General Fact Sheet

- ✓ By the most conservative estimate, each year 1 million women suffer nonfatal violence by an intimate.
(Bureau of Justice Statistics Special Report: *Violence Against Women: Estimates from the Redesigned Survey* (NCJ-154348), p.3. August 1995.)
- ✓ By other estimates, 4 million American women experience a serious assault by an intimate partner during an average 12-month period.
(American Psychological Association, *Violence and The Family: Report of the American Psychological Association Presidential Task Force on Violence and the Family*, p.10. 1996.)
- ✓ Nearly one in three adult women experience at least one physical assault by a partner during adulthood.
(American Psychological Association, *Violence and The Family: Report of the American Psychological Association Presidential Task Force on Violence and the Family*, p.10. 1996.)
- ✓ 28% of all annual violence against women is perpetrated by intimates.
(Bureau of Justice Statistics Special Report: *National Crime Victimization Survey, Violence Against Women* (NCJ-145325), January 1994.)
- ✓ 5% of all annual violence against men is perpetrated by intimates.
(Bureau of Justice Statistics Special Report: *National Crime Victimization Survey, Violence Against Women* (NCJ-145325), January 1994.)
- ✓ Domestic violence is statistically consistent across racial and ethnic boundaries.
(Bureau of Justice Statistics Special Report: *Violence Against Women: Estimates from the Redesigned Survey* (NCJ-154348), p.3. August 1995.)
- ✓ 90-95% of domestic violence victims are women.
(Bureau of Justice Statistics Selected Findings: *Violence between Intimates* (NCJ-149259), November 1994.)
- ✓ As many as 95% of domestic violence perpetrators are male.
(*A Report of the Violence Women Research Strategic Planning Workshop* sponsored by the National Institute of Justice in cooperation with the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, 1995.)
- ✓ Almost one in five reported domestic violence assaults involves the use of a weapon.
(Bureau of Justice Statistics, August 1995.)

- ✓ The chance of being victimized by an intimate is 10 times greater for a woman than a man.
(Bureau of Justice Statistics Special Report: *National Crime Victimization Survey, Violence Against Women*. 1994.)
- ✓ Much of female violence is committed in self-defense, and inflicts less injury than male violence.
(Chalk & Kings, eds. *Violence in Families: Assessing Prevention & Treatment Programs*, National Resource Council and Institute of Medicine, p. 42. 1998.)
- ✓ The chance of being victimized by an intimate is 10 times greater for a woman than a man.
(Bureau of Justice Statistics Special Report: *National Crime Victimization Survey, Violence Against Women*. 1994.)
- ✓ The estimated number of violent crimes against women by intimate partners decreased from the 1993 level of about 1.1 million to 876,430 in 1998.
(Bureau of Justice, *Intimate Partner Violence*, Based on data from the National Crime Victimization Survey and FBI Supplementary Homicide Reports. May 2000.)
- ✓ The rate of violent victimization for women by current or former intimate partners went from 9.8 attacks per 1000 women to 7.7 attacks.
(Bureau of Justice, *Intimate Partner Violence*, Based on data from the National Crime Victimization Survey and FBI Supplementary Homicide Reports. May 2000.)
- ✓ In 1998, men were victims of about 160,000 violent crimes by an intimate partner.
(Bureau of Justice, *Intimate Partner Violence*, Based on data from the National Crime Victimization Survey and FBI Supplementary Homicide Reports. May 2000.)
- ✓ Women are five times more likely than men to be attacked to intimate partners.
(Bureau of Justice, *Intimate Partner Violence*, Based on data from the National Crime Victimization Survey and FBI Supplementary Homicide Reports. May 2000.)
- ✓ The number of women killed by intimate partners also declined substantially in the mid-1990's, droppings 23 percent between 1993 and 1997, but increasing 8 percent between 1997 and 1998. The number of men murdered by an intimate partner fell 60 percent from 1976 to 1998. However, white females represent the only category of victims for whom intimate partner homicide has not decreased substantially since 1976. Overall, 1,320 women were murdered by intimates in 1998, and 510 men were killed.
(Bureau of Justice, *Intimate Partner Violence*, Based on data from the National Crime Victimization Survey and FBI Supplementary Homicide Reports. May 2000.)

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- ✓ Between 1993 and 1998, women ages 16 to 24 experienced the highest per capita rates of intimate violence: 19.6 per 1,000 women.
(Bureau of Justice, *Intimate Partner Violence*, Based on data from the National Crime Victimization Survey and FBI Supplementary Homicide Reports. May 2000.)
- ✓ About half the intimate partner violence against women between 1993 and 1998 was reported to police. African-American women were more likely to report such violence.
(Bureau of Justice, *Intimate Partner Violence*, Based on data from the National Crime Victimization Survey and FBI Supplementary Homicide Reports. May 2000.)
- ✓ Half of female victims of intimate partner violence reported a physical injury. About four in ten sought *medical treatment*.
(Bureau of Justice, *Intimate Partner Violence*, Based on data from the National Crime Victimization Survey and FBI Supplementary Homicide Reports. May 2000.)
- ✓ The percentage of female murder victims killed by intimate partners has remained at about 30 percent since 1976.
(Bureau of Justice, *Intimate Partner Violence*, Based on data from the National Crime Victimization Survey and FBI Supplementary Homicide Reports. May 2000.)
- ✓ A woman is a victim of a violent crime by an intimate or former intimate once every 36 seconds.
(Bureau of Justice, *Intimate Partner Violence*, Based on data from the National Crime Victimization Survey and FBI Supplementary Homicide Reports. May 2000.)
- ✓ About 11% of all murders in 1998 were the result of intimate partner violence.
(Bureau of Justice, *Intimate Partner Violence*, Based on data from the National Crime Victimization Survey and FBI Supplementary Homicide Reports. May 2000.)
- ✓ In 72% of these intimate partner homicides, the victim was female.
(Bureau of Justice, *Intimate Partner Violence*, Based on data from the National Crime Victimization Survey and FBI Supplementary Homicide Reports. May 2000.)
- ✓ Forty percent of women seeking treatment in hospital emergency rooms for intentional injuries were harmed by an intimate.
(U.S. Dept of Justice, *Violence by Intimates: Analysis of Data on Crimes by Current or Former Spouses, Boyfriends, Girlfriends*. 1998.)
- ✓ A gun is the most commonly used weapon in domestic homicide.
(Data from the 1998 FBI Supplementary Homicide data. Analysis performed by the Violence Policy Center.)

- ✓ One-third of all women killed in the U.S. are killed by their husbands, ex-husbands, boyfriends, or ex-boyfriends.
(*Crime in the United States 1998, Uniform Crime Reports*, Printed annually by the Federal Bureau of Investigation, U.S. Department of Justice. 1999.)
- ✓ About 45% of the female intimate violence victims lived in households with children under 12 years old. However, it is not known to what extent the children in the households with intimate violence witnessed the violence.
(Bureau of Justice, *Intimate Partner Violence*, Based on data from the National Crime Victimization Survey and FBI Supplementary Homicide Reports. May 2000.)
- ✓ Battering is the major cause of injury to women, resulting in more injuries to women than auto accidents, muggings, and rapes combined.
(A Violence Among Intimates, An Epidemiological Review @ E. Stark and A. Flitcraft, *Handbook of Family Violence*, ed. V.D. Van Hasselt, et al. 1998.)
- ✓ Estimates place the number of women abused by their husbands or live-in boyfriends as high as four million per year, with the likelihood of being battered for all women estimated at between 1-in-3 and 1-in-5.
(Antonio C. Novello, *From the Surgeon General, U.S. Public Health Service, A Medical Response to Domestic Violence*, 267 JAMA 3132, 3185. 1992.)
- ✓ Of all victims of intimate violence, 1.6% suffered knife or gun shot wounds, 6.3% were threatened with a gun or knife, 7.7% were raped, 8.5% were beaten, and 39.6% were slapped, grabbed, or kicked.
(Patricia Tjaden and Nancy Thoennes, U.S. Department of Justice, *Prevalence, Incidence, and Consequences of Violence Against Women: Findings from the National Violence Against Women Survey*. 1998.)
- ✓ About 75% of all lone-offender violence against women and 45% of violence involving multiple offenders was perpetrated by offenders whom the victim knew. In 29% of all violence against women by a lone offender the perpetrator was an intimate.
(*Violence Against Women: Estimates from the Redesigned Survey*. Washington D.C., U.S. Department of Justice. August 1995.)
- ✓ Among victims of violence committed by an intimate, the victimization rate of women separated from their husbands was about 3 times higher than that of divorced women and about 25 times higher than that of married women.
(*Violence Against Women: Estimates from the Redesigned Survey*. Washington D.C., U.S. Department of Justice. August 1995.)

- ✓ Female victims of violence by an intimate were more often injured by the violence than females victimized by a stranger.
(*Violence Against Women: Estimates from the Redesigned Survey*. Washington D.C., U.S. Department of Justice. August 1995.)
- ✓ Of more than three hundred chiefs of police surveyed, 55% believe that domestic violence is a “quite serious” problem while 14% believe the problem is “extremely serious.”
(Hart Research Associates, 1996.)
- ✓ Nearly one million incidents of non-lethal intimate partner violence occurred each year from 21992 to 1996, 85% of victims were women.
(Greenfiel, L., et al., eds. *Violence by Intimates: An Analysis of Data on Crimes by Current or Former Spouses, Boyfriends, and Girlfriends*. Bureau of Justice Statistics Factbook. Washington D.C., U.S. Department of Justice, March 1998.)
- ✓ Non-lethal intimate violence results in financial losses to women victims that are conservatively estimated to be \$150 million per year.
(Greenfiel, L., et al., eds. *Violence by Intimates: An Analysis of Data on Crimes by Current or Former Spouses, Boyfriends, and Girlfriends*. Bureau of Justice Statistics Factbook. Washington D.C., U.S. Department of Justice, March 1998.)
- ✓ Medical expenses accounted for at least 40% of these costs and property losses for another 44% and lost pay for the remainder.
(Greenfiel, L., et al., eds. *Violence by Intimates: An Analysis of Data on Crimes by Current or Former Spouses, Boyfriends, and Girlfriends*. Bureau of Justice Statistics Factbook. Washington D.C., U.S. Department of Justice, March 1998.)
- ✓ It is estimated that 3.3 million to 10 million children, between the ages of 3-17, are exposed to domestic violence.
(American Psychological Association, *Violence and the Family: Report of the American Psychological Association Presidential Task Force on Violence and the Family*, 1996, p.11; Straus, M.A. *Children as Witnesses to Marital Violence* A paper presented at the Ross Roundtable on “Children and Violence” Washington D.C., September 1991.)
- ✓ The U.S. Justice Department estimates that in 60,000 incidents of on-the-job violence each year, victims know their attackers intimately.
(*News from the Homefront*. Autumn 1996, p.2)

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