

STATISTICS

- Domestic violence is the leading cause of injury to women between the ages of 15 and 44 in the United States—more than rapes, muggings, and automobile accidents combined. (Surgeon General, United States, 1992.)
- A woman is beaten every 9 seconds in the United States. (Family Violence Prevention Fund Report 1994.)
- Women age 12 or older annually sustained almost 5 million violent victimizations in 1992 and 1993. (U.S. Department of Justice, Bureau of Justice Statistics, 1995.)
- According to the Center For Disease Control, a woman is in nine times more danger of violent attack in her home than on the streets.
- Over 50% of the women killed in the United States are killed by male intimate partners or ex-partners. (*Journal of the American Medical Association*, 1992)
- Close to half of all incidents of domestic violence against women discovered in the National Crime Survey (48%) were not reported to police. (U.S. Department of Justice, Bureau of Justice Statistics, 1986.)
- In a 1985 National Crime Survey, one out of six American couples experience at least one incident involving physical assault. (Gelles & Straus, *Physical Violence in American Families*)
- Women are more likely to be victims of homicide when they decide to separate from their husbands. The risk of homicide is highest in the first two months of separation (Wilson & Daly, *Violence and Victims*. 1993)
- Battered women are often severely injured—22 to 35% of women who visit medical emergency rooms are there for injuries related to ongoing abuse. (*Journal of American Medical Association*, 1992.)

- Domestic violence is a significant cause of miscarriage and birth defects. (March of Dimes, 1992.)
- Approximately 50% of the homeless women and children in this country are on the streets because of violence in the home. (Senator Joseph Biden, U.S. Senatè Committee on the Judiciary, *Violence Against Women: Victims of the System*, 1991.)
- In 1993, nearly 50,000 restraining orders pertaining to violence against intimates were issued in Massachusetts alone. (Commission on Probation, State of Massachusetts.)
- There are an estimated 600 women in California prisons convicted of killing an abusive partner. (California Coalition for Battered Women in Prison, 1994.)
- Women of all races and Hispanic and non-Hispanic women were about equally vulnerable to violence by an intimate. (U.S. Department of Justice, Bureau of Justice Statistics, 1995.)
- Within the last year, 7% of American women (3.9 million) who are married or living with someone as a couple were physically abused, and 37% (20.7 million) were verbally or emotionally abused by their spouse or partner. (The Commonwealth Fund, 1993.)
- Surveys show that abuse in dating relationships is prevalent; about one in three females will experience violence at the hands of their boyfriends before they reach adulthood. (B. Levy *Dating Violence: Young Women in Danger*, 1991.)
- In self-reported data, 35% of adolescents mention at least knowing someone who experienced physical violence in a dating relationship. (Roscoe, B. and Callahan, J. "Adolescents' Self Report of Violence in Families and Dating Relationships." *Adolescence*, Vol. XX No. 79, Fall 1985.)