



DOMESTIC VIOLENCE FACTS: DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

DID YOU KNOW?

- ◇ **One in every four women** will experience domestic violence in her lifetime.¹ **One in 33 men** have experienced an attempted or completed rape.²
- ◇ An estimated **1.3 million women** are victims of physical assault by an intimate partner each year.³
- ◇ The majority (73%) of family violence victims are female. Females were 84% of spousal abuse victims and 86% of abuse victims at the hands of a boyfriend.⁴
- ◇ The cost of intimate partner violence **exceeds \$5.8 billion each year**, \$4.1 billion of which is for direct medical and mental health services.⁵
- ◇ Boys who witness domestic violence are **twice as likely** to abuse their own partners and children when they become adults.⁶

CHALLENGES

- Women who seek emergency shelter are often unsuccessful due to lack of beds and shelter providers' inability to accommodate male children over the age of 12 and women struggling with addictions or mental illness.⁷
- There is a serious lack of affordable housing in D.C., making it difficult for domestic violence victims to find long-term housing. It can take months or even years to get housing subsidies, which makes it even harder for victims to leave violent situations.⁷

STATEMENTS FROM SERVICE PROVIDERS

"As of 2007, there are only an estimated 48 emergency beds in confidential safe houses for women and children fleeing domestic violence."

-Staff, District Alliance for Safe Housing⁷

"In 2005, CVC reported that 48% of all claims filed in D.C. (1,089 of a total 2,401 claims) were domestic violence cases—a figure 80% higher than the national average of 25%."

-Staff, DCCADV

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AND SEXUAL ASSAULT IN THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

- From January to June 2007, the Metropolitan Police Department (MPD) received 12,806 domestic violence-related calls.⁷
- From 2002 to 2005, the MPD reported that the number of domestic violence-related calls increased 22%.⁷
- There were 8,386 domestic violence cases filed in the DC Superior Court in 2005. These cases included 4,426 misdemeanors and 3,960 intrafamily offenses.⁸
- 166 forcible rapes were reported in D.C. in 2005.⁹
- The Domestic Violence Intake Centers served 4,948 people in 2005.¹⁰
- Up to 15 teenagers per month seek help in the Domestic Violence Intake Center (DVIC) in the D.C. Superior Court. About half of these teens have at least one child in common with their batterer.¹⁰
- Of the 539 children served in the Forensic Services Program of the D.C. Children's Advocacy Center in 2006, 370 were victims of alleged sexual abuse.⁹

STATE RESOURCES

The District of Columbia Coalition Against Domestic Violence¹¹
www.dccadv.org

- ◇ The District of Columbia Coalition Against Domestic Violence (DCCADV) works to end all types of relationship violence and construct a citywide effort to address the prevalence of domestic violence in the area. DCCADV operates the following programs: The Survivors and Advocates for Empowerment (SAFE) Program, The Supporting Our Survivors (SOS) Center, The Coalition-Building Project (CBP), and a Training/Outreach Program.

The D.C. Rape Crisis Center¹²
www.dcrcc.org

- ◇ Established in 1972, the D.C. Rape Crisis Center (DCRCC) was one of the first crisis centers in the country. DCRCC's services include a 24-hour hotline, counseling services, legal assistance, self-defense classes, and staff training and education programs.

For more information or to get help, please contact the
District of Columbia Citywide Crisis Hotline at 202-333-STOP
District of Columbia Citywide Sexual Assault Hotline at 202-333-RAPE

The National Domestic Violence Hotline at 1-800-799-SAFE
The National Sexual Assault Hotline at 1-800-656-HOPE

DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA COURT ACTIVITY, 2002-2006¹³



	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	% Change 2005 - 2006
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NEW CASE FILINGS

Domestic Violence Unit

Intrafamily	3,895	4,194	3,845	3,748	3,960	5.7%
U.S. Misdemeanors *	-	4,392	4,244	4,426	2,783	-37.1%
Total	3,895	8,586	8,089	8,174	6,743	-17.5%

CASE DISPOSITIONS

Domestic Violence Unit

Intrafamily	4,582	4,779	5,074	4,545	4,175	-8.1%
Paternity & Child Support	519	471	348	405	271	-33.1%
U.S. Misdemeanors	3,275	4,742	4,876	4,799	3,473	-27.6%
Total	8,376	9,992	10,298	9,749	7,919	-18.8%

PENDING CASELOADS

Domestic Violence Unit

Intrafamily	222	265	187	177	249	40.7%
Paternity & Child Support	62	70	80	55	81	47.3%
U.S. Misdemeanors	675	838	745	803	477	-40.6%
Total	959	1,173	1,012	1,035	807	-22.0%

SOURCES

¹ Tjaden, P. & Thoennes, N. (2000). *Extent, Nature and Consequences of Intimate Partner Violence: Findings from the National Violence Against Women Survey*. National Institute of Justice and the Centers of Disease Control and Prevention.

² U.S. Department of Justice. (November 1998). "Prevalence, Incidence, and Consequences of Violence Against Women."

³ Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. (2003). *Costs of Intimate Partner Violence Against Women in the United States*. Atlanta, GA: National Centers for Injury Prevention and Control.

⁴ Bureau of Justice Statistics. (June, 2005). *Family Violence Statistics*. U.S. Department of Justice.

⁵ Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. (2003). *Costs of Intimate Partner Violence Against Women in the United States*. Atlanta, GA: National Centers for Injury Prevention and Control.

⁶ Strauss, Gelles, & Smith. (1990). *Physical Violence in American Families: Risk Factors and Adaptations to Violence in 8,145 Families*. Transaction Publishers.

⁷ District Alliance for Safe Housing. *DASH Report 2007*. Retrieved on November 2, 2007, from http://www.dashdc.org/DASH_REPORT_07.pdf.

⁸ DC Coalition Against Domestic Violence, Domestic Violence Statistics. Retrieved on October 31, 2007, from www.dccadv.org/statistics.html.

⁹ The National Alliance to End Sexual Violence, State Fact Sheets: District of Columbia. Retrieved on November 2, 2007, from www.naesv.org/state/factsheets/DC2007.pdf.

¹⁰ Women Empowered Against Violence, Domestic Violence Facts and Information. Retrieved on November 2, 2007, from <http://www.weaveincorp.org/information/index.cfm?fuseaction=moreFacts#3>.

¹¹ DC Coalition Against Domestic Violence, Mission/History. Retrieved on October 31, 2007, from www.dccadv.org/mission.html.

¹² DC Rape Crisis Center, History of the DC Rape Crisis Center. Retrieved on November 2, 2007, from www.dcrcc.org/history.htm.

¹³ District of Columbia Courts. *2006 Annual Report*. Retrieved on November 2, 2007, from <http://www.dccourts.gov/dccourts/docs/DCC2006AnnualReport.pdf>

NATIONAL COALITION AGAINST DOMESTIC VIOLENCE



Every Home A Safe Home

The Public Policy Office of the National Coalition Against Domestic Violence (NCADV) is a national leader in the effort to create and influence Federal legislation that positively affects the lives of domestic violence victims and children. We work closely with advocates at the local, state and national level to identify the issues facing domestic violence victims, their children and the people who serve them and to develop a legislative agenda to address these issues. NCADV welcomes you to join us in our effort to end domestic violence.