

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE **FACTS: MASSACHUSETTS**



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

- Massachusetts shelters reported that victims' average length of stay has more than doubled in 2005, primarily due to housing shortages.7
- Due to a serious lack of space, thousands of victims are turned away each year from residential services.⁷
- Due to lack of shelter and housing for GLBT domestic violence victims, an overwhelming number become homeless due to the abuse.

STATEMENTS FROM SERVICE PROVIDERS

"A shortfall of services manifests itself quite concretely, when victims call a shelter or community-based program for help and do not get it— and this happens thousands of times each year!"

-Advocate, Jane Doe

"We are constantly fighting to increase funding for Lesbian, Transgender domestic violence Bisexual and organizations in Massachusetts.'

-Advocate, Gay Men's Domestic Violence Project

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AND SEXUAL ASSAULT IN MASSACHUSETTS

- More than 33,000 women and children were served by community-based domestic violence programs in Massachusetts in 2005.7
- The statewide domestic violence hotline, SafeLink, answered 21,637 domestic violence calls in 2006.7
- There were 28 victims killed in domestic violence related incidents and 24 incidents of domestic violence related homicide in 2006.7
 - There were fifteen victims of domestic homicide in only the first half of 2006, which was equal to the total killed in 2005.
- There were 28,760 protection orders issued in Massachusetts in 2005.7
 - 82% of the perpetrators were male.⁷
 - During this same period, 4,347 adults (88% of whom were male) were arraigned for violating orders for protection.7
- There were 2,582 incidents of sexual assault in Massachusetts between July 1, 2005 and June 30, 2006.8

STATE RESOURCES

The Massachusetts Coalition Against Sexual **Assault And Domestic Violence** www.ianedoe.org

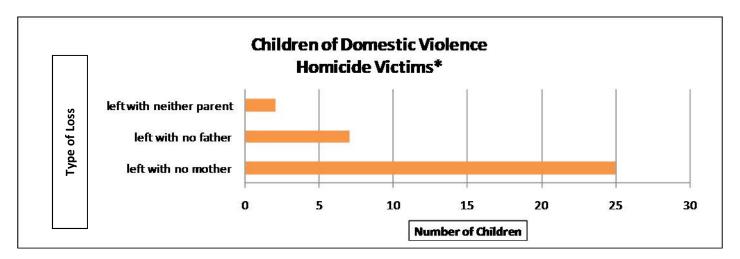
♦ Jane Doe brings together organizations and people committed to ending domestic violence and sexual assault. They create social change by addressing the root causes of this violence, and promote justice, safety and healing for survivors. advocates for responsive public policy, the coalition collaboration. promotes raises awareness, and supports its member organizations provide comprehensive prevention intervention services.

For more information or to get help, please contact the Massachusetts Coalition Against Domestic Violence Hotline at 1-877-785-2020

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

Domestic Violence Homicides in Massachusetts⁷





*This chart is important to note because children who are exposed to domestic violence are more likely to exhibit behavioral and physical health problems including depression, anxiety, and violence towards peers. They are also more likely to attempt suicide, abuse drugs and alcohol, run away from home, engage in teenage prostitution, and commit sexual assault crimes. 10

SOURCES

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National Institute of Justice and the Centers of Disease Control and Prevention U.S. Department of Justice. (November 1998). Prevalence, Incidence, and Consequences of Violence Against Women.

³Centers 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.

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

⁵Centers 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. Strauss, Gelles, & Smith. (1990). Physical Violence in American Families: Risk Factors and Adaptations to Violence in 8,145 Families. Transaction Publishers

⁷Jane Doe Inc. (2007). DVAM 2006 Statistics—Massachusetts. Boston, MA: The Massachusetts Coalition Against Domestic Violence.

⁸Center for Family and Community Health. (January 2007). Rape and Sexual Assault in Massachusetts, 2005-2006: Services Provided by Rape Crisis Programs. Boston, MA: Massachusetts Department of Public Health, Division of Violence and Injury Prevention. Retrieved on October 19, 2007, from http://www.mass.gov/dph/fch/violnece/January2007

9Massachusetts Law Enforcement Agency. (2007). Uniform Crime Report, 2006. Boston, MA. Retrieved on October 19, 2007, from http://www.disastercenter.com/crime/macrime.html

10The Family Violence Prevention Fund. (May 2005). The Facts on Children and Domestic Violence. Retrieved on October 23, 2007, from http://www.endabuse.org/resources/facts/Children.pdf



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.