

# Facts & Stats 2009

## Domestic Violence Awareness Month



### General Information

**1 in every 4 women** will experience domestic violence in her lifetime. (National Violence Against Women Survey, 2000)

1 in 4 Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, and Transgender (GLBT) people are battered by a partner at some point in their life.

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. (U.S. Department of Justice, 2005)



### All in a day!

Massachusetts participated in the 2008 National Census of Domestic Violence Services. In one **twenty-four hour** period, **1,553 victims** of domestic violence received an array of services in MA:

- ❖ **695** found refuge in emergency shelters or transitional housing;
- ❖ **858** adults and children received non-residential services, including individual counseling, legal advocacy, and children's support groups.

Program also reported:

- ❖ **550 hotline calls—that's more than 23 hotline calls every hour**—providing support, information, safety planning, and resources to survivors, friends and family.
- ❖ **292 unmet requests for services**, attributed to a critical shortage of funds and staff for housing, childcare, mental health and substance abuse counseling, and legal representation.

(National Network to End Domestic Violence, 2008)

### Connecting the dots between Domestic Violence, Sexual Assault and Rape

Studies have found that 40% to 45% of female survivors of intimate partner violence (IPV) are forced into sex by male intimate partners. (Campbell & Soeken, 1999)

In a nationally representative survey, the first rape experience of female victims was reported to be by perpetrators who were **intimate partners (30.4%), family members (23.7%), and acquaintances (20%)**.

In the first rape experience of male victims, perpetrators were reported to be acquaintances (32.3%), family members (17.7%), friends (17.6%), and intimate partners (15.9%). (Violence and Victims Survey, 2007)

### Domestic Violence Homicide in Massachusetts

The year 2007 marked the highest rate of domestic violence homicides in Massachusetts in the past fifteen years: **55 deaths** occurred. As a result, **25 children** were left without one or both parents.

As of September 30, 2008, there have been **24 deaths** as a result of domestic violence homicides in MA.

Immigrants account for a disturbingly high share of domestic violence homicides in MA. While only an estimated 14% of the state's population, immigrants accounted for **26 % of the 180 domestic violence deaths in Massachusetts from 1997 to 2006**, according to the most recent figures from the state Department of Public Health. Nearly all of the 47 victims were women and children.

### Economic Impact/ Health Care

In the United States, 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.  
(Centers for Disease Control & Prevention, 2003)

There are 16,800 homicides and \$2.2 million (medically treated) injuries due to intimate partner violence annually in the U.S., which costs \$37 billion.  
(Centers for Disease Control & Prevention, 2007)

**GLBT...An overwhelming number of GLBT victims (57%) become homeless due to abuse, with a large number (18%) reporting that they lose everything.** GLBT victims need significant and comprehensive domestic violence services, including shelter; however, often the services do not exist or GLBT victims are not aware of them.  
(GLBT Domestic Violence Coalition and Jane Doe Inc., 2005)

### Domestic Violence Among Teens

During the 12 months before the 2007 Youth Risk Behavior Survey, 9.9% of students nationwide and 11% of high school students in Massachusetts reported being shoved, hit, slapped, physically hurt on purpose or forced into any sexual activity by their boyfriend or girlfriend.  
(National Youth Risk Behavior Survey, 2007)

Among high school students, 9.3% of black students, 7.8% of Hispanic students, and 6.9% of white students reported that they were forced to have sexual intercourse at some time in their lives.

Females were more likely (11%) to report having been forced to have sex with males than males (4%).  
(National Youth Risk Behavior Surveillance, 2005)

Victims of intimate partner violence *lost almost 8 million days of paid work* because of the violence perpetrated against them by current or former husbands, boyfriends and dates. This loss is the equivalent of more than *32,000 full-time jobs* and almost *5.6 million days of household productivity* as a result of the violence.

(Centers for Disease Control & Prevention, 2003).



DV SURVIVORS SUFFER INCREASED MENTAL HEALTH PROBLEMS—INCLUDING DEPRESSION, POST-TRAUMATIC STRESS DISORDER AND INCREASED USE ALCOHOL, ILLEGAL DRUGS, AND CIGARETTES AS A COPING MECHANISM—ACCOUNTING FOR MUCH OF THE INCREASED HEALTH-CARE COSTS OF INTIMATE PARTNER VIOLENCE.  
(J.C. CAMPBELL AND A. HENDERSON, 2006)

Fourteen percent (14%) of high school students reported that they had bullied or pushed someone around during the previous 12 months. The percentage of boys who reported this sort of behavior was twice that of girls (18% vs. 9%). In 2007, 22% of students reported having been the victim of bullying.  
(Massachusetts Youth Health Survey 2007)



For more facts and information or to find help for you or someone you know, visit: [www.JaneDoe.org](http://www.JaneDoe.org). Domestic violence is never your fault. It's also preventable.  
Call **Safelink at 877-785-2020** to get connected to free & confidential services at a local program.  
Find out what's right for you or someone you care about.  
**Talk. It could save someone's life.**