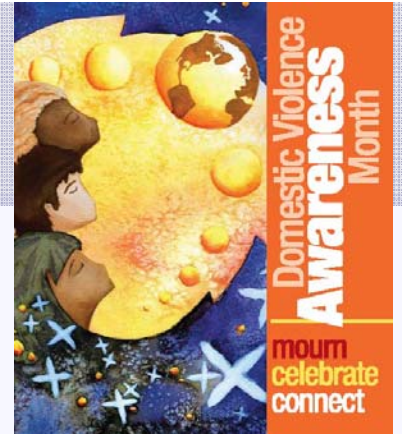


# Facts & Stats 2010

## Domestic Violence Awareness Month



Domestic violence is both a local and global epidemic. During October, we take the opportunity to call awareness to the issue and to mourn those whose lives have been cut short due to domestic violence. We also celebrate the courage of survivors and renew our commitment to creating a world free of abuse.

### All in one day...

Massachusetts participated in the 2009 National Census of Domestic Violence Services. In one **twenty-four hour** period, **2,018 victims** of domestic violence accessed an array of services in MA:

- ❖ **683** found refuge in emergency shelters or transitional housing;
- ❖ **1,335** adults and children benefitted from non-residential services, including individual counseling, legal advocacy, and children's support groups.

Programs also reported:

- ❖ **763 hotline calls—that's approximately 32 hotline calls every hour**—providing life-saving support, information, safety planning, and resources to survivors, friends and family.
- ❖ **301 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, 2009)

**“Every day, families are turned away and forced to remain in unsafe and dangerous situations because programs lack the resources to provide adequate support.”**

*-Staffperson at Jane Doe Inc.  
member program*

### Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault

**7.7%** of 8,000 women surveyed in the National Violence Against Women Study had been raped by an intimate partner at some point in their lives. **0.2%** reported intimate partner rape in the past 12 months.

According to these percentages, nearly **7.8 million** women in the U.S. have been raped by an intimate partner at some point in their lives, and **201,394** women are raped by an intimate partner each year.

(National Center for Injury Prevention and Control, 2003)

***“I hope that one day a count like this will not be needed because we will have eradicated domestic violence in our country.”*** *-Staffperson at JDI member program*

### Domestic Violence Homicides in Massachusetts

Between 2003 and 2009, there were **192** domestic violence-related homicides in the state.

As of September 20, 2010, there have been **34 deaths** as a result of domestic violence homicides and related perpetrator suicides in Massachusetts.

While immigrants only comprise about 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.

Domestic violence is best understood as a pattern of abusive behaviors -- including physical, sexual, and psychological attacks as well as economic coercion -- used by one intimate partner against another (adult or adolescent) to gain, maintain, or regain power and control in the relationship. Batters use a range of tactics to frighten, terrorize, manipulate, hurt, humiliate, blame, often injure, and sometimes kill a current or former intimate partner.

~ www.nrcdv.org/dvam

## Economic Impact

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)

**56%** percent of victims of domestic violence report late to work because of job interference tactics used by their batterers (Swanberg & Logan, 2005).

**“I have been doing this work for two decades and I have never seen a demand this strong. The economic situation has greatly aggravated the situation faced by many survivors.”**

-Staffperson at JDI member program

## GLBTQQI (Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer, Questioning and Intersex)

In 2008, **3,419** cases of domestic violence were reported to members of the National Coalition of Anti-Violence Programs, a GLBTQ advocacy organization.

(National Coalition of Anti-Violence Programs, 2009)

GLBTQ victims need significant and comprehensive domestic violence services, including shelter; however, often the services do not exist or GLBTQ victims are not aware of them.

(GLBT Domestic Violence Coalition and Jane Doe Inc., 2005)

## Teens and Dating Violence

Approximately **1 in 3** adolescent girls in the U.S. is a victim of physical, emotional, or verbal abuse from a dating partner.

(The National Council on Crime and Delinquency Focus, 2008)

More than **1 in 3** teens report that their partners wanted to know where they were and who they were with all the time.

(Liz Claiborne Inc. and National Teen Dating Abuse Helpline study, 2008)

The **1 in 5** female public high school students in a Massachusetts study who reported ever experiencing physical or sexual violence from a dating partner were **4-6** times more likely than their non-abused peers to have been pregnant, and **8-9** times more likely to have attempted suicide in the past year.

(Silverman J, Raj A, Dating Violence Against Adolescent Girls, 2001)

**1 in 3** teens reports knowing a friend or peer who has been hit, punched, kicked, slapped or physically hurt by a partner. **45%** of girls know a friend or peer who has been pressured into having either intercourse or oral sex.

(Teen Relationship Abuse Research, 2005)



**“A woman sought help today after her abuser tied her up and beat her while his family watched. The abuser poured gasoline over her feet and threatened to set her on fire. Finally, a family member couldn’t stand it anymore and, when the abuser left, untied her and slipped her a cell phone. She called 911 and is now in a safe place. She is incredibly courageous, but she’s still extremely afraid.”**

-Staffperson at JDI member program



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.**