

# DOMESTIC VIOLENCE FACTS PREPARED BY NATIONAL COALITION AGAINST DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

## WHY IT MATTERS

*Domestic violence is the willful intimidation, physical assault, battery, sexual assault, and/or other abusive behavior perpetrated by an intimate partner against another. It is an epidemic affecting individuals in every community, regardless of age, economic status, race, religion, nationality or educational background. Violence against women is often accompanied by emotionally abusive and controlling behavior, and thus is part of a systematic pattern of dominance and control. Domestic violence results in physical injury, psychological trauma, and sometimes death. The consequences of domestic violence can cross generations and truly last a lifetime.*

## DID YOU KNOW?

- ◇ **One in every four women** will experience domestic violence in her lifetime.<sup>1</sup>
- ◇ An estimated **1.3 million women** are victims of physical assault by an intimate partner each year.<sup>2</sup>
  - ◇ 85% of domestic violence victims are women.<sup>3</sup>
- ◇ Historically, females have been most often victimized by **someone they knew**.<sup>4</sup>
- ◇ Females who are **20-24 years of age** are at the greatest risk of nonfatal intimate partner violence.<sup>5</sup>
  - ◇ Most cases of domestic violence are never reported to the police.<sup>6</sup>

## CHILDREN WHO WITNESS

- Witnessing violence between one's parents or caretakers is the strongest risk factor of transmitting violent behavior from one generation to the next.<sup>7</sup>
- Boys who witness domestic violence are *twice as likely* to abuse their own partners and children when they become adults.<sup>8</sup>
- 30% to 60% of perpetrators of intimate partner violence also abuse children in the household.<sup>9</sup>

## SEXUAL ASSAULT AND STALKING

- ≈ **One in 6 women and 1 in 33 men** have experienced an attempted or completed rape.<sup>10</sup>
- ≈ Nearly **7.8 million women** have been raped by an intimate partner at some point in their lives.<sup>11</sup>
- ≈ Sexual assault or forced sex occurs in approximately 40-45% of battering relationships.<sup>12</sup>
- ≈ 1 in 12 women and 1 in 45 men have been stalked in their lifetime.<sup>13</sup>
- ≈ 81% of women stalked by a current or former intimate partner are also physically assaulted by that partner; 31% are also sexually assaulted by that partner.<sup>13</sup>

## HOMICIDE AND INJURY

- ⇒ Almost **one-third of female homicide victims** that are reported in police records are killed by an intimate partner.<sup>14</sup>
- ⇒ In 70-80% of intimate partner homicides, no matter which partner was killed, the man physically abused the woman before the murder.<sup>12</sup>
- ⇒ **Less than one-fifth** of victims reporting an injury from intimate partner violence sought medical treatment following the injury.<sup>15</sup>
- ⇒ Intimate partner violence results in more than **18.5 million mental health care visits** each year.<sup>16</sup>

## ECONOMIC IMPACT

- √ 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.<sup>17</sup>
- √ 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 violence.<sup>17</sup>
- √ There are **16,800 homicides and \$2.2 million (medically treated) injuries** due to intimate partner violence annually, which costs \$37 billion.<sup>18</sup>

## REPORTING RATES

- \* Domestic violence is one of the most chronically underreported crimes.<sup>20</sup>
- \* Only approximately one-quarter of all physical assaults, one-fifth of all rapes, and one-half of all stalkings perpetuated against females by intimate partners are reported to the police.<sup>1</sup>

## PROTECTION ORDERS

- \* Approximately 20% of the 1.5 million people who experience intimate partner violence annually obtain civil protection orders.<sup>1</sup>
- \* Approximately one-half of the orders obtained by women against intimate partners who physically assaulted them were violated.<sup>1</sup> More than two-thirds of the restraining orders against intimate partners who raped or stalked the victim were violated.

## IF YOU NEED HELP

For more information or to get help, please call:

**THE NATIONAL DOMESTIC VIOLENCE HOTLINE at 1-800-799-7233**

**THE NATIONAL SEXUAL ASSAULT HOTLINE AT 1-800-656-4673**

**THE NATIONAL TEEN DATING ABUSE HOTLINE AT 1-866-331-9474**



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24 HR Hotline (516) 542-0404



24HR Hotline (631) 666-8833

December 5, 2013

Dear Colleagues,

Friday, December 6th is White Ribbon Day. You are asked to wear a white ribbon button to bring awareness to the problem of domestic violence and especially violence against women. You will be or have already received a button with a saying of Another Man Against Violence Against Women or Another Woman Against Violence Against Women with a white ribbon attached to the button.

Violence against women in all of its forms is an ugly cancer that is killing our society. The threat to our society from this violence is much greater than that from any terrorists from abroad. Almost one out of every three women is a victim of some form of violence during her lifetime. Each year, more than 1000 women are murdered by their spouse or boyfriend. An estimated 3 – 10 million children witness acts of abuse in their homes each year. Up to 60% of the boys that come from homes where abuse occurs become batterers, and up to 50% of girls become victims of abuse in their adult lives. An estimated 500,000 women are stalked each year, and 13,000 women are victims of violence in their workplace committed by their spouses, former spouses, or boyfriends. The cost to our society from all forms of domestic violence is an estimated \$67 billion per year.

Men commit about 95% of the violence against women, estimated up to 4.9 million incidents per year, so it is incumbent upon men to stop the violence against women. The sad fact of life is that men do not hear what women say about the problem of domestic violence. Men tend to only hear what men have to say. Recently, male led groups have started to deal with domestic violence issues. Instead of criticizing men for perpetrating the violence against women, the new philosophy is to define what strength should mean in a caring, loving relationship, to promote positive models of behavior, and to educate young men and boys on how to achieve these goals.

As some of you know, I am very involved in an education program to change the attitudes of men and boys towards women and girls. I am a member of the White Ribbon Campaign based in Ontario, Canada. We encourage men and boys to neither condone nor accept attitudes and actions that can lead to violence against females, and to stand up and speak out against such actions. The wearing of a white ribbon by a man is a pledge to not commit an act of physical, mental, or emotional violence against a female. Females who wear a white ribbon are showing their support of boys and men who take this pledge.

I am offering you the chance to take part in the movement to end violence against women. I am asking that you spend a couple of minutes (when you have the time) talking to your children (if age appropriate) about the need to promote and support healthy relationships, and the importance of ending violence against women. I am asking that you join me, the Freeport Teachers Association, and many others in promoting awareness of the problems of domestic violence during the year, not only in school, but in your own families, neighborhoods, faith groups, and community groups. I have lots of resources for those of you who would like to join the movement, but need more information and ideas.

We have a lot of work to do, not just with our young men and boys, but also with our young women and girls. The media culture of today, as well as cultural, ethnic, and religious beliefs contribute to the problem of domestic violence. We have to teach, re-teach, and reinforce the positive, healthy behaviors that we want our young people to possess. Thanks in advance for your efforts in this program.

Sincerely,  
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For information about the  
White Ribbon Campaign  
[www.whiteribbon.ca](http://www.whiteribbon.ca)