

Prevalence of Domestic Violence

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Domestic violence is pervasive in Michigan and across the nation.

- Nearly 25 percent of surveyed women and 7.6 percent of surveyed men said that they were raped and/or physically assaulted by a current or former spouse, cohabiting partner, or date at some time in their lifetime. According to these estimates approximately 1.5 million women are raped and/or physically assaulted by an intimate partner annually. (U.S. Department of Justice, *Extent, Nature, and Consequences of Intimate Partner Violence*, July 2000).
- From October 1999 to September 2000, domestic violence programs in Michigan received 61,039 crisis calls, an average of 167 crisis calls per day, and sheltered 13,624 women and children. During the same year 2,906 victims were denied access to shelter due to lack of space. (Michigan Domestic Violence Prevention and Treatment Board.)
- One out of five, twenty one percent, of Michigan women with current partners reported sustaining some type of violence in that relationship. (Michigan Department of Community Health, Community Public Health Agency, *Survey of Violence in the Lives of Michigan Women*, 1996)

Women experience higher rates than men of both fatal and non-fatal violence by an intimate partner.

- Approximately 4.8 million intimate partner rapes and physical assaults are perpetrated against U.S. women annually compared to approximately 2.9 million intimate partner physical assaults against U.S. men annually. (U.S. Department of Justice, *Extent, Nature, and Consequences of Intimate Partner Violence*, July 2000.)
- In 1996, approximately 1,800 murders were attributed to intimates; nearly three out of four of these had a female victim. (U.S. Department of Justice, *Violence by Intimates: Analysis of Data on Crimes by Current or Former Spouses, Boyfriends, and Girlfriends*, March 1998.)
- In cases where the victim-offender relationship is known, husbands or boyfriends killed 26% of female murder victims, whereas wives or girlfriends killed 3% of male victims. (U.S. Department of Justice, *Female Victims of Violent Crime*, December 1996)
- Seventy-eight percent of stalking victims are women. Women are significantly more likely than men (60 percent and 30 percent, respectively) to be stalked by intimate partners. (U.S. Department of Justice, *Stalking in America: Findings From the National Violence Against Women Survey*, April 1998.)
- From 1992 to 1996 victimization by an intimate accounted for about 21 percent of the violence experienced by females. It accounted for about 2 percent of the violent crimes sustained by males. (U.S. Department of Justice, *Violence by Intimates: Analysis of Data on Crimes by Current or Former Spouses, Boyfriends, and Girlfriends*, March 1998.)

Women are significantly more likely than men to be chronically and severely physically assaulted by an intimate partner.

- The differences between women and men's rates of physical assault by an intimate partner become greater as the seriousness of the assault increases. For example, women were two to three times more likely than men to report that an intimate partner threw something that could hurt or pushed, grabbed, or shoved them. However, they were 7 to 14 times more likely to report that an intimate partner beat them up, choked or tried to drown them, threatened them with a gun, or actually used a gun on them. (U.S. Department of Justice, *Prevalence, Incidence, and Consequences of Violence Against Women: Findings From the National Violence Against Women Survey*, November 1998.)
- According to the Department of Justice women experience more chronic and injurious physical assault at the hands of intimate partners than do men. Women who were physically assaulted by an intimate partner averaged 6.9 physical assaults by the same partner, but men averaged 4.4 assaults. The survey also found that 41.5 percent of the women who were physically assaulted by an intimate partner were injured during the most recent physical assault compared with 19.9 percent of men. (U.S. Department of Justice, *Extent, Nature, and Consequences of Intimate Partner Violence*, July 2000.)

A considerable number of battered women report that their batterers sexually assault them.

- In one study, 45.9 percent of battered women reported being forced into sex by their intimate partners. (Campbell, J. and Soeken, K. (1999) Forced Sex and Intimate Partner Violence: Effects on women's risk and women's health. *Violence Against Women*, 5, 1017-1035.)

There is a strong link between stalking and other forms of violence in intimate relationships.

- Eighty one percent of women who were stalked by a current or former husband or cohabiting partner were also physically assaulted by that partner and 31 percent were also sexually assaulted by the same partner. (U.S. Department of Justice, *Stalking in America: Findings From the National Violence Against Women Survey*, April 1998.)