



## Abuse Statistics in America

- 4 million American women experience a serious assault by a partner during an average 12-month period.<sup>i</sup>
- 1 out of 3 women around the world has been beaten, coerced into sex or otherwise abused during her lifetime.<sup>ii</sup>
- Women of all races are equally vulnerable to violence by an intimate partner.<sup>iii</sup>
- Some estimates say almost 1 million incidents of violence occur against a current or former spouse, boyfriend or girlfriend per year.<sup>iv</sup>
- 92% of women say that reducing domestic violence and sexual assault should be at the top of any formal efforts taken on behalf of women today.<sup>v</sup>
- 1 in 5 female high school students reports being physically and/or sexually abused by a dating partner. Abused girls are significantly more likely to get involved in other risky behaviors. They are 4 to 6 times more likely to get pregnant and 8 to 9 times more likely to have tried to commit suicide.<sup>vi</sup>
- 1 in 3 teens report knowing a friend or peer who has been hit, punched, slapped, choked or physically hurt by his/her partner.<sup>vii</sup>
- As many as 324,000 women each year experience intimate partner violence during their pregnancy.<sup>viii</sup>
- For 30% of women who experience abuse, the first incident occurs during pregnancy.<sup>ix</sup>
- 74% of employed battered women were harassed by their partner while they were at work.<sup>x</sup>
- Violence against women costs companies \$727.8 million annually due to lost productivity.<sup>xi</sup>
- 37% of all women who sought care in hospital emergency rooms for violence-related injuries were injured by a current or former spouse, boyfriend or girlfriend.<sup>xii</sup>
- On the average, more than three women are murdered by their husbands or boyfriends every day.<sup>xiii</sup>
- Seventy-four percent of all murder-suicides involved an intimate partner (spouse, common-law spouse, ex-spouse, or boyfriend/girlfriend). Of these, 96 percent were females killed by their intimate partners.<sup>xiv</sup>
- Seventy-five percent of murder-suicides occurred in the home.<sup>xiv</sup>
- Ninety-four percent of the offenders in murder-suicides were male.<sup>xiv</sup>

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v "Progress & Perils: New Agenda for Women". Center for the Advancement of Women. June 2003

vi Silverman, Jay G., Anita Raj, Lorelei A. Mucci, and Jeanne E. Hathaway. "Dating Violence Against Adolescent Girls and Associated Substance Use, Unhealthy Weight Control, Sexual Risk Behavior, Pregnancy, and Suicidality." JAMA. 2001; 286: 572-579.

vii Teenage Research Unlimited. Findings from study commissioned by Liz Claiborne Inc. to investigate level of and attitudes towards dating abuse among American teenagers aged 13 to 18 [online]. February 2005 [cited March 20, 2006]. Available from: URL: [www.loveisnotabuse.com/statistics\\_abuseandteens.htm](http://www.loveisnotabuse.com/statistics_abuseandteens.htm)

viii Gazmararian JA, Petersen R, Spitz AM, Goodwin MM, Saltzman LE, Marks JS. "Violence and Reproductive Health: Current Knowledge and Future Research Directions." Maternal and Child Health Journal, 2000; 4 (2): 79-84

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x Family Violence Prevention Fund. 1998. The Workplace Guide for Employer, Unions, and Advocates, San Francisco, CA

xi Costs of Intimate Partner Violence Against Women in the United States. 2003. Center for Disease Control and Prevention, National Center for Injury Prevention and Control, Atlanta, GA

xii U.S. Department of Justice

xiii Bureau of Justice Statistics Crime Data Brief, Intimate Partner Violence, 1993-2001, February 2003

xiv Violence Policy Center (VPC), American Roulette: Murder-Suicide in the United States, April 2006

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**Please call the 24-Hour National Domestic Violence Hotline at 1-800-799-SAFE (7233) or TTY 1-800-787-3224 to discuss your concerns and questions.**