

ywca week without violence

Domestic Violence, Rape/Sexual Assault and Hate Crime Statistics

The fight to end violence against women has shown promise, but it's far from over.

Between 1993 to 2001 there was a 50 percent drop in incidents of nonfatal domestic violence and a 50 percent decrease in the number of sexual assaults and rapes perpetrated against individuals 12 years old and older (U.S. Department of Justice, 2002).

Although the numbers are down, there's still a lot of work to be done. The consequences of violence against women can last a lifetime.

Domestic Violence

- On average, more than three women are murdered by their husbands or boyfriends in this country every day. In 2000, 1,247 women were killed by an intimate partner. The same year, 440 men were killed by an intimate partner. (Bureau of Justice Statistics Crime Data Brief, *Intimate Partner Violence, 1993-2001*, February 2003)
- Homicide is the leading cause of death overall for pregnant women. (Nannini, A., Weiss, J., Goldstein, R., & Fogerty, S., (2002) Associated Mortality at the End of the Twentieth Century: Massachusetts, 1990-1999. *Journal of the American Medical Women's Association*, Vol. 57, No. 23, Summer 2002.)
- As many as 324,000 women each year experience domestic violence during their pregnancy. (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.)
- An estimated 5.3 million cases of domestic violence occur among U.S. women ages 18 and older each year, resulting in nearly two million injuries. In addition, the victims lose nearly eight million days of work – equivalent to more than 32,000 full-time jobs – and nearly 5.6 million days of household productivity as a result of the violence. ("Costs of Intimate Partner Violence Against Women in the United States," CDC, 2003.)
- One in five women reported she had been raped or physically or sexually assaulted in her lifetime. (The Commonwealth Fund, *Health Concerns Across a Woman's Lifespan: 1998 Survey of Women's Health*, May 1999)
- One in five female high school students reported being physically and/or sexually abused by a dating partner. (Jay G. Silverman, PhD; Anita Raj, PhD; Lorelei A. Mucci, MPH; and Jeanne E. Hathaway, MD, MPH, "Dating Violence Against Adolescent Girls and Associated Substance Use, Unhealthy Weight Control, Sexual Risk Behavior, Pregnancy, and Suicidality," *Journal of the American Medical Association*, Vol. 286, No. 5, 2001)
- Fifty to 70 percent of men who abuse women also abuse children (National Coalition of Domestic Violence, 1999.)
- Young women ages 16-24 are the most vulnerable to domestic violence, experiencing the highest per capita rates of non-fatal intimate partner violence. (Department of Justice, 2001, "Intimate Partner Violence and Age of Victim, 1993-1999.")

- In a survey by the U.S. Conference of Mayors, 56% of cities surveyed cited domestic violence as a primary cause of homelessness (The U.S. Conference of Mayors, 1999).
- Seventy-nine percent of the victims assaulted by inmates convicted of family violence were female. Forty-five percent of the inmates had been served restraining orders at some point in their lives (U.S. Department of Justice, 2002.)
- Barriers to locating safe and affordable housing for domestic violence victims and their children include a lack of available low-income housing in the United States. Other hurdles are poor landlord references, poor credit history, and a lack of financial resources, often as a result of the perpetrators' actions (Rape, Abuse & Incest National Network).

Rape/Sexual Assault

- Every two and a half minutes another American is sexually assaulted (U.S. Justice Department, 2003).
- One of every six women has been a target of attempted or completed rape (Center for Disease Control and Prevention, 1998).
- Young women 12-24 are at the greatest risk for experiencing a rape or a sexual assault. More than half of all rapes of women occur before age 18; 22 percent occur before age 12. (Bureau of Justice Statistics, October 2001, "intimate Partner Violence and Age of Victim, 1993-1999. U.S. Department of Justice, Office of Justice Programs. Tjaden, Patricia and Nancy Thoennes (July 2000) Full Report of the Prevalence, Incidence and Consequences of Violence Against Women: Findings from the National Violence Against Women Survey. U.S. Department of Justice.)
- High School and college-aged women are four times more likely to be raped than any other group (National Crime Victimization Survey, 2000).
- About 70 percent of female rape victims and 93 percent of juvenile victims know their attackers (U.S. Department of Justice, 2000).
- Sixty-one percent of rapes/sexual assaults are not reported to police (National Crime Victimization Survey, Bureau of Justice, 2003).

Hate Crimes

- In 2003, 7,485 incidents of hate crime were reported, affecting 9,100 victims (FBI, 2004, Hate Crime Statistics, 2003).
- Of the total, 51.4 percent were motivated by racial bias, 17.9 percent by religious intolerance, 16.6 percent by sexual orientation bias, and 0.4 percent by disability bias. Almost 14 percent resulted from an ethnicity/national origin bias (FBI, 2004, Hate Crime Statistics, 2003).
- The FBI reported a dramatic increase in hate-motivated violence after September 11, 2001. In 2002, 155 anti-Islamic crimes were reported to the FBI, five times worse than the number of anti-Islamic crimes reported in 2000 (FBI, 2001, "Crime in the United States, Uniform Crime Reports," 2001. U.S. Department of Justice).
- Since the FBI began collecting hate crimes statistics in 1991, reported hate crimes based on sexual orientation have more than tripled (Human Rights Campaign, recent statistics, 2005).
- Nearly 14 percent of Americans or nearly 35 million adults say they are anti-Semitic (Anti-Defamation League survey, 2005).

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