

fact sheet

violence against women

Background: Violence against women affects the lives of countless women and their families across the United States and does not discriminate based on socioeconomic, class, age, and racial and ethnic backgrounds. Women of all ages, income levels and race-ethnicities are victims of violent acts including rape, sexual assault, domestic violence, dating violence, and stalking. And many more women are living their lives as survivors of violence. With the creation of the Violence Against Women Act in 1994, large gains have been made in preventing and ending violence against women. Yet, while gains have been made in addressing violence against women, violence against young women and girls including child abuse and neglect, stalking, sexual assault and rape, and dating violence has been overlooked by our society.^a To that end, the YWCA advocates for policies that will prevent and help eliminate violence against women and girls.

Week
without
Violence

The YWCA Week Without Violence™, the third week in October, is an international initiative that was created by YWCA USA in 1995 to mobilize the women, men and children to take action against violence in our homes, schools, work places and communities.

ywca position

The YWCA supports public policies that protect victims, hold perpetrators accountable, and work to eradicate sexual assault and domestic violence, trafficking of women, and dating violence. The YWCA recognizes the need for anti-violence programs and policies to be culturally sensitive in both their approaches to combating violence against women and in responding to victims of violence.

Specifically, we support the continuance and full funding for the Victims of Crime Act (VOCA) and Violence Against Women Act (VAWA). The YWCA also supports legislation that ensures employment stability and economic security for victims of violence against women.

facts

Women experience violence throughout their lives including during child-

hood, youth, and young adulthood.

Young women ages 24 and younger experience many forms of violence including dating violence, sexual assault, stalking, witness family violence and child abuse.

Young women between the ages of 16-24 are the most vulnerable to domestic violence, experiencing the highest per capita rates of non-fatal intimate partner violence.²

Black women between the ages of 20–24 experience domestic violence at a higher rate than their White counterparts. For this age group, there were 29 acts of domestic violence per 1,000 Black women and 20 per 1,000 White women.³ Both Black and White women experience domestic violence at similar rates for every other age group.

Latina women experience violence. Approximately 7.9% of Latinas will be raped, 21.2% will be physically assaulted, and 4.8% will be stalked by a

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spouse, boyfriend or ex-boyfriend during their lifetime.⁴

Young women with lower annual household incomes experience domestic violence at significantly higher rates than women with higher annual household incomes. Females ages 16 to 19 with a household income of \$7,500 or less, were twice as likely to experience domestic violence than those females in the same age category with higher household incomes.⁵

Access to safe and affordable housing is critical to the short-term safety planning and long-term economic needs of violence victims and their families. In a survey by the U.S. Conference of Mayors, 56% of cities surveyed cited domestic violence as a primary cause of homelessness.⁶ 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, and often as a result of the perpetrators actions poor landlord references, poor credit history and a lack of financial resources.

Every two minutes a woman is raped and every three minutes an attempted rape is committed.⁷

Women of all races and ethnicities experience rape. 34.1% Native American and Alaskan Native women, and 24.4% of mixed race women, 18.8% of Black women, 17.7% of White women, 6.8% Asian-Pacific Islander women reported that they had experienced a completed or attempted rape at some point in their lifetime.⁸

According to the Department of Justice, young women ages 12 to 24 are at the greatest risk for experiencing a rape or sexual assault. More than half of all rapes of women occur before age 18; 22% occur before age 12.¹⁰

resources

National Coalition Against Domestic Violence: <http://www.ncadv.org/>

National Women's Alliance: <http://www.nwaforchange.org/>

Rape, Abuse and Incest National Network (RAINN): <http://www.rainn.org>

U.S. Department of Justice Office on Violence Against Women: <http://www.ojp.usdoj.gov/vawo/>

United States Senate: <http://www.senate.gov/>

United States House of Representatives: <http://www.house.gov/>

Legislative Information on the Internet: <http://thomas.loc.gov/>

endnotes

¹ Fisher, Bonnie S., Francis T. Cullen & Michael G. Turner. (2000). The Sexual Victimization of College Women. See <http://www.ncjrs.org/pdffiles1/nij/182369.pdf>

² Department of Justice, Bureau of Justice Statistics, (October 2001) "Intimate Partner Violence and Age of Victim, 1993–1999." <http://www.ojp.usdoj.gov/bjs/pub/pdf/ipva99.pdf>

³ Bureau of Justice Statistics. (October 2001) Intimate Partner Violence and

Age of Victim, 1993–1999. U.S. Department of Justice, Office of Justice Programs. <http://www.ojp.usdoj.gov/bjs/pub/pdf/ipva99.pdf>

⁴ 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. <http://www.ncjrs.org/pdffiles1/nij/181867.pdf>

⁵ Bureau of Justice Statistics. (October 2001) Intimate Partner Violence and Age of Victim, 1993–1999. U.S. Department of Justice, Office of Justice Programs. <http://www.ojp.usdoj.gov/bjs/pub/pdf/ipva99.pdf>

⁶ The United States Conference of Mayors. (1999) A Status Report on Hunger and Homelessness in America's Cities. <http://www.usmayors.org/uscm/homeless/hunger99.pdf>

⁷ Rape, Abuse, and Incest National Network. <http://www.rainn.org/statistics.html>

⁸ Tjaden, Patricia and Nancy Thoennes. (November 2000) Full Report of the Prevalence, Incidence, and Consequences of Violence Against Women: Findings from the National Violence Against Women Survey. <http://www.ncjrs.org/pdffiles1/nij/183781.pdf>

⁹ Bureau of Justice Statistics. (October 2001) Intimate Partner Violence and Age of Victim, 1993–1999. U.S. Department of Justice, Office of Justice Programs. <http://www.ojp.usdoj.gov/bjs/pub/pdf/ipva99.pdf>

¹⁰ 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. <http://www.ncjrs.org/pdffiles1/nij/181867.pdf>