



## WOMEN AND FAMILY VIOLENCE

### Women and Family Violence YWCA of Salt Lake City

Domestic violence is primarily, though not exclusively, a crime committed by men against women. “Domestic violence includes a pattern of assaultive and coercive behaviors, including psychological, sexual, and physical abuse, used by an individual to hurt, dominate and control an intimate partner.”

- Salber, P and Taliaferro, E. *The Physician’s Guide to Domestic Violence*

#### Prevalence

In 2004/05 5,842 individuals (2,666 women, 32 men, and 3,144 children) were sheltered in Utah’s 16 domestic violence shelters and 44,678 domestic violence crisis calls were answered. During the same year 1,944 requests for shelter could not be filled because domestic violence shelters were full.<sup>i</sup>

In 2003 there were more than 12,000 domestic violence calls for service to local law enforcement agencies.<sup>ii</sup> From 1995 to 2003 domestic violence cases (temporary protective orders) filed in Utah district courts more than doubled from 2,673 to 5,846.<sup>iii</sup>

Annually one-third of Utah’s homicides are domestic violence related.<sup>iv</sup> Utah ranks 16<sup>th</sup> in the U.S. in the number of females murdered by males in single victim/single offender homicides.<sup>v</sup>

#### Reporting

Women are six times more likely to report a violent crime that is committed by a stranger, than a violent crime committed by an intimate partner.<sup>vi</sup>

In a recent Utah survey, 75% of those who had experienced domestic violence did not report the crime.<sup>vii</sup>

#### Demographics

A recent study showed that 10% of all women treated in the local emergency department of LDS Hospital had been physically assaulted by their partner in the past year; 40% indicated that they had in their lifetime, with no difference according to race, religion or socioeconomic circumstance.<sup>viii</sup>

A recent review of 49 domestic violence–related homicides in Utah over a three year period showed that 63% of victims were White, non-Hispanic adults.

#### Family Violence and Poverty and Homelessness

Women who leave domestic violence situations often face poverty, isolation and homelessness. Among cities surveyed for the 2003 Conference of Mayors, 44% identified domestic violence as a primary cause of homelessness.<sup>ix</sup>

“Families make up 50 percent of Utah’s homeless population. Eighty-two percent of these families are headed by single parents, most of whom (69%) are females.”<sup>x</sup> In a recent Utah study, 81% of long-term welfare recipients identified themselves as being victims of domestic violence.<sup>xi</sup>

Victims of domestic violence often return to their abusers because they cannot find long-term housing.<sup>xii</sup>

#### Local Domestic Violence Resources:

YWCA of Salt Lake City 24-hour Crisis Line: 801.537.8600  
Utah’s Statewide Domestic Violence LINK Line: 1-800-897-LINK

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## References

- <sup>i</sup> DCFS G1 Summary Form, 2005.
- <sup>ii</sup> Salt Lake County Sheriff's Department, Salt Lake City Police Department, West Valley City Police Department, 2004.
- <sup>iii</sup> Utah Children, *Measures of Child Well-being in Utah*, 2005.
- <sup>iv</sup> Utah Health Department, Vital Statistics 2004.
- <sup>v</sup> *When Men Murder Women*, Violence Policy Research Center, September 2003.
- <sup>vi</sup> American Psychological Association, *Violence and the Family: Report of the American Psychological Association Presidential Task Force on Violence and the Family*, 1996.
- <sup>vii</sup> Utah Commission on Criminal Justice, *Shedding Light: 2002 Utah Crime Victimization Survey*, 2003.
- <sup>viii</sup> Allen, Todd, M.D. et al, LDS Hospital, October 2002.
- <sup>ix</sup> The United States Conference of Mayors, *Sodexo Hunger and Homelessness Survey 2003*, December 2003.
- <sup>x</sup> Utah Issues, *Poverty in Utah*, 2004.
- <sup>xi</sup> M. Derr, *Domestic Violence Among Utah's Hard-To-Serve Welfare Families*, 1999.
- <sup>xii</sup> Correia, A., *Housing and Battered Women: A case study of domestic violence programs in Iowa*. Harrisburg, PA: National Resource Center on Domestic Violence. March, 1999.