



CALIFORNIA DOMESTIC VIOLENCE FACT SHEET

Rates of Domestic Violence

- According to the California Women's Health Survey (CWHS)¹, approximately 40% of California women experience physical intimate partner violence in their lifetimes (male lifetime prevalence rates are not available).
- This same study¹ found younger women, 18-24 years of age, were significantly more likely (11%) to be victims of physical intimate partner violence in the past year than women in other age groups.
- The CWHS¹ also revealed statistically significant higher rates of intimate partner violence among women who had been pregnant in the last five years (12%).
- Of those experiencing physical intimate partner violence, 75% of victims had children under the age of 18 years at home.¹

Prevalence of Teen Dating Violence

- According to the California Student Survey (CSS)², at least one incident of physical dating violence was reported by 5.2% of 9th graders and 8.2% of 11th graders.
 - Among students who had a boy/girlfriend, the rates of dating violence were 8.8% in 9th grade and 12.8% in 11th grade.²

Domestic Violence Homicides

- According to the California Department of Justice, Criminal Justice Statistics Center³, there were 113 domestic violence fatalities in 2008 (the most recent year for which data is available).
 - These accounted for 5% of all homicides in the State.³
 - Of the 113 domestic violence homicides in 2008, 99 of the victims were females (88%), and 14 were males (12%).³

Domestic Violence-Related Calls to Law Enforcement Agencies

- According to the California Department of Justice, Criminal Justice Statistics Center⁴, there were 174,649 domestic violence-related calls for assistance in 2007 (the most recent year for which data is available).
 - Of these calls, 40% involved the use of weapons.⁴

Victims Seeking Services

- On average, 150,000 victims seek assistance from domestic violence hotlines funded by the State every year.⁵
 - In one day alone, domestic violence programs in California answered over 922 crisis calls—an average of 38 calls per hour.⁶
 - Tragically, on that same day, 492 requests for assistance went unmet due to lack of resources.⁶
- This same report revealed that California domestic violence programs served 3,674 people in just one day—a 17% increase over the recent three-year average.⁶
- Victims accessing services from State-funded domestic violence programs report serious threats to their personal safety: 65% have weapons used against them.⁵



Emergency Shelter

- There are an estimated 107 domestic violence programs in California offering a total of 3,592 shelter beds—an average of 34 shelter beds per program.⁷
- Between 2001-07, over 91,000 victims found refuge in State-funded domestic violence shelters.⁵
 - Of the average 15,179 people sheltered by State-funded domestic violence programs each year, about half are adults (47%) and the other half are children (53%).⁵
 - The average length of stay in emergency shelters is 34 nights.⁵
- In just one day, domestic violence programs in California sheltered 2,121 victims—a 32% increase over the recent three-year average.⁶
 - However, on this same day, 333 requests for shelter were unmet due to lack of resources—up 7% from last year—and up 20% from the recent three-year average.⁶
 - The demand for emergency shelter is such that 72% of shelters report being regularly at or exceeding their capacities.⁸
- In fact, 44,000 adult victims were turned away from State-funded domestic violence shelters during the last six years because shelters were full—this translated to an average of 7,348 adult victims turned away per year.⁵
 - State-funded domestic violence programs serve approximately two-thirds (67%) of those requesting shelter (67%)—they turn away about one-third (33%) due to capacity limitations.⁵
 - In such instances, programs attempt to work with turned-away victims to explore other shelter options, motel voucher and safety planning, spending an average of 41 minutes working with a victim to find alternative services.⁹

Counseling and Other Services

- Over the last six years, State-funded domestic violence programs provided individual counseling to 197,717 victims—averaging nearly 34,000 victims counseled each year.⁵
 - 108,414 victims participated in group counseling over this same period, averaging approximately 18,000 victims participating in group counseling each year.⁵
- Domestic violence programs also provided emergency food and/or clothing to over 216,695 victims during the last six years, thereby meeting 83% of those requests.⁵
- Most domestic violence programs in California serve children who have been witnesses to and/or victims of domestic violence.
 - State-funded domestic violence programs counseled over 50,000 children during the last six years—an average of 8,350 children counseled per year—this met 77% of the need.⁵

Domestic Violence Programs

- Domestic violence programs in California provide life-saving services with very limited staff:
 - 54% of programs have fewer than 20 employees—in fact, 28% of programs function with fewer than 10 paid staff.⁶
 - The average starting salary of a full-time, salaried front-line advocate in California is \$27,793.⁹
 - Even before the recent economic downturn, 25% of California programs struggled to provide competitive wages and benefits for staff retention.⁸
- On average, annual budgets for domestic violence programs in California are around \$1.4 million—of which about one-third (32%) comes from unrestricted revenue.⁸



- ¹ Weinbaum, Z., Stratton, T., Roberson, S., Takahashi, E., & Fatheree, M. (2006). Women experiencing intimate partner violence, California, 1998-2002. In Weinbaum, Z. & Thorfinnson, T. (eds.) *Women's Health: Findings from the California Women's Health Survey, 1997-2003*. California Department of Health Services, Office of Women's Health. Sacramento, California, May 2006. Chapter 12.
- ² Tenth Biennial California Student Survey 2003-2004, Skager, Bailey, and Bates, jointly sponsored by California Attorney General's Office California Department of Education Department of Alcohol and Drug Programs, Winter 2007, published by the California Attorney General's Office Bill Lockyer, Attorney General.
- ³ "Homicide Calls 2008." California Department of Justice, Criminal Justice Statistics Center's Homicide File 2008.
- ⁴ "Crime in California." California Department of Justice, Division of California Justice Information Services, Bureau of Criminal Information and Analysis, Criminal Justice Statistics Center: 2007.
- ⁵ "From the Past to the Present: A Six-Year Retrospective of Data Collected from Domestic Violence Programs in California," Blue Shield of California Foundation, Blue Shield Against Violence, December 2008.
- ⁶ "2009 Domestic Violence Counts: The National Census of Domestic Violence Services," National Network to End Domestic Violence, 2010.
- ⁷ "California Domestic Violence Shelters: Safety, Support and Services" (CAADV/CPEDV, 2005).
- ⁸ "2008 Domestic Violence Program Highlights," Blue Shield of California Foundation, Blue Shield Against Violence, July 2008.
- ⁹ "National Census of Domestic Violence Services," National Network to End Domestic Violence, 2009.