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Domestic Violence Fact Sheet

What Is Domestic Violence?

- Domestic violence is a pattern of assaultive and coercive behaviors, including physical, sexual, and psychological attacks, as well as economic coercion, that adults or adolescents use to gain power and control over their intimate partner or family member.
- Domestic violence is lethal, common, and affects people of all cultures, religions, ages, sexual orientations, educational backgrounds, and income levels.
- Domestic violence is always wrong and certain acts of domestic violence are a crime.
- Domestic violence happens in many different ways.

Prevalence in the United States

- On average more than three women a day are murdered by their husbands or boyfriends in the United States. ¹
- About 1 in 3 women (31.5%) in the United States has experienced physical violence by an intimate partner at some point in her lifetime. ²
- Women are much more likely than men to be victimized by a current or former intimate partner. ³ 85% of domestic violence victims are women. ⁴

¹ Catalano, Shannan. 2007. Intimate Partner Violence in the United States. U.S. Department of Justice, Bureau of Justice Statistics. Available at <http://www.ojp.usdoj.gov/bjs/intimate/ipvv.htm>.

² Center for Disease Control and Prevention. (2010). *National Intimate Partner and Sexual Violence Survey*. http://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/preview/mmwrhtml/ss6308a1.htm?s_cid=ss6308a1_e

³ National Crime Victimization Survey: Criminal Victimization, 2007. 2008. U.S. Department of Justice, Bureau of Justice Statistics. Available at <http://www.ojp.usdoj.gov/bjs/pub/pdf/cv07.pdf>.

⁴ Bureau of Justice Statistics Crime Data Brief, *Intimate Partner Violence, 1993-2001*, February 2003.

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Prevalence in Philadelphia

- An estimated 2,000 annual visits to Philadelphia emergency rooms are likely by women who were assaulted by a spouse, ex-spouse, boyfriend or ex-boyfriend (FY11).⁵
- In public testimony, the City of Philadelphia Office of Supportive Housing reported that domestic violence victims had filled 37% of the city's family shelter beds in general homeless shelters in the first three quarters of Fiscal Year 2012.⁶
- Women Against Abuse was forced to turn away 15,751 requests for shelter in FY2015, due to limited space in its two 100-bed emergency safe havens.
- There were 18 domestic violence homicides in Philadelphia in 2014,⁷ a 5.8% increase over 2013.
- Each year, the Philadelphia Police Dept. responds to more than 100,000 emergency 911 calls that are domestic in nature.
- Approximately 12,000 petitions for Protection From Abuse orders are filed in Philadelphia Family Court each year.

The Women Against Abuse iPledge[®] Campaign raises awareness to domestic violence and calls on the community to take a stand against this public health epidemic. For more information, visit www.iPledgeWAA.org.

⁵ Evelyn Jacobs Ortner Center on Family Violence. (2012). *Violence Against Women in Philadelphia – A Report to the City*. Philadelphia, PA: Sorenson.

⁶ Mintz, Dainette. 2012. Public Testimony to Philadelphia City Council Public Safety Committee. 19, March 2012.

⁷ Philadelphia Police Department.

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