

# NATIONAL COALITION AGAINST DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

## MALE VICTIMS OF VIOLENCE FACTS

### WHY IT MATTERS

Men, as well as women, are victimized by violence. Sexual abuse and rape of men and boys creates substantial physical and psychological harm upon victims and perpetuates the cycle of violence. However, male victims often feel too embarrassed to report violence perpetrated against them or to seek services.<sup>1</sup> In April 2005, the National Domestic Violence Hotline received 176 calls from male victims, about 1.16% of the calls from that month.<sup>2</sup>

### DID YOU KNOW?

- According to the U.S. Department of Justice, almost 54% of all men experienced physical assault as a child at the hands of an adult caretaker.<sup>3</sup>
- Men who witnessed domestic violence as children are twice as likely to abuse their own partners and children than those who did not witness domestic violence.<sup>4</sup>
- In 2003, 78% of murder victims were male.<sup>5</sup>

### THE EFFECTS OF VIOLENCE

- According to the National Center for Victims of Crime, men experience many of the same psychological reactions to violence as women. These include:<sup>6</sup>
  - Guilt, shame, and humiliation
  - Anger and anxiety
  - Depression
  - Withdrawal from relationships
- According to a study published by the American Medical Association, boys are less likely to report sexual abuse due to fear, anxiety associated with being perceived as gay, the desire to appear self-reliant, and the will to be independent.<sup>7</sup>

### INTIMATE PARTNER VIOLENCE

- 16% of the 3.2 million physical assaults committed against men every year in the United States are perpetrated by a current or former spouse, cohabitating partner, boyfriend or girlfriend, or date.<sup>8</sup>
- 5.5% of male homicide victims were murdered by a spouse, ex-spouse, boyfriend, or girlfriend.<sup>9</sup>
- 40% of gay and bisexual men will experience abuse at the hands of an intimate partner.<sup>10</sup>
- One study found that when women commit acts of non-lethal violence against their male partners, 65% act in self-defense, and 30% react in response to previous abuse by their partners. The remaining 5% of female perpetrators act without the intent to assert power and control over their partners.<sup>11</sup>
- Women committing lethal acts of violence against their male partners are 7 to 10 times more likely than men to act in self-defense.<sup>12</sup>

### SEXUAL ABUSE / ASSAULT

- 1 in 33 men have been victims of completed or attempted rape.<sup>13</sup>
- 1 in 5 male prisoners have been pressured or forced into sex while incarcerated.<sup>14</sup>
- 94% of perpetrators of sexual abuse against boys are men.<sup>15</sup>
- 1 in 6 boys will be sexually abused by age 16.<sup>16</sup>
- 31% of sexual abuse victims under the age of 6 are male.<sup>17</sup>
- Since the rate of HIV is 5 to 10 times higher in prisons, the prevalence of sexual assault in prisons places inmates at a higher risk of contracting HIV and other sexually transmitted diseases.<sup>18</sup>

### PERPETRATORS

- In a 2000 U.S. Department of Justice study, men perpetrated 85.8% of all assaults against men.<sup>19</sup>
- Male-perpetrated assault is more likely to consist of strangulation, beating with closed fists, and the use of guns and other weapons whereas, female-perpetrated assault is more likely to consist of kicking, slapping, and throwing objects.<sup>20</sup>
- According to the U.S. Department of Justice, 90% of murderers are male.<sup>21</sup>
- Two-thirds of men who have been stalked were stalked by other men.<sup>22</sup>

### BARRIERS TO SEEKING SERVICES

- Adult men are less likely to report violence and seek services due to embarrassment, the assumption that others will not believe them, and the belief that others will ridicule them.<sup>23</sup>
- Because men are more likely to be financially independent and less likely to experience fear upon leaving a violent relationship, men are less likely to seek emergency shelter services.<sup>24</sup>
- Battered gay men and lesbians overwhelmingly seek the services of gay-specific organizations, social service agencies, and individual counselors.<sup>25</sup> However there are only a few resources that exist for battered LGBT victims.



The Public Policy Office of the National Coalition Against Domestic Violence (NCADV) is a national leader in the effort to create and influence Federal legislation that positively affects the lives of domestic violence victims and children. We work closely with advocates at the local, state and national level to identify the issues facing domestic violence victims, their children and the people who serve them and to develop a legislative agenda to address these issues. NCADV welcomes you to join us in our effort to end domestic violence.

## IF YOU NEED HELP

If you or someone you know is the victim of abuse and would like more information, please call:

**National Domestic Violence Hotline at 1-800-799-SAFE**

Rape, Abuse, and Incest National Network's **National Sexual Assault Hotline at 1-800-656-HOPE**

**National Child Abuse Hotline at 1-800-4-A-CHILD**

## HOW TO HELP

- Ask your state and Federal legislators to support policies and provide funding to services that assist victims of domestic violence, sexual assault, child abuse, and prison rape.
- Encourage victims of domestic violence, sexual assault, child abuse, and prison rape to report the abuse and seek services.
- Encourage local schools and youth programs, including teachers, counselors, and athletic coaches, to seek training on how to recognize children and teens who are in violent situations and how to provide resources to intervene in cases of abuse or violence.
- Ask local schools, churches, civic organizations, community centers and businesses to post information on victim service provider hotlines.
- Volunteer at a domestic violence shelter or rape crisis center or make a donation to a local victim service program.
- Become a member of a local, state, or national domestic violence or sexual assault advocacy organization to learn more about what is happening in the effort to stop and prevent domestic violence and sexual assault.

## SOURCES, as of 6-30-06

<sup>1</sup> Felson, R.B., & Pare, P.P. (2005). The Reporting of Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault by Nonstrangers to the Police. *Journal of Marriage and Family*, 67(3), 597-610.

<sup>2</sup> National Domestic Violence Hotline. (2005, Spring). Hotline Stats. *Hotlines*, p. 2.

<sup>3</sup> Thoennes, N., & Tjaden, P. (2000). *Full Report of the Prevalence, Incidence, and Consequences of Violence Against Women: Findings from the National Violence Against Women Survey*. National Institute of Justice and Centers for Disease Control and Prevention: <http://www.ncjrs.gov/pdffiles1/nij/183781.pdf>.

<sup>4</sup> Strauss, M., Gelles, R., & Smith, C. (1990). *Physical Violence in American Families: Risk Factors and Adaptations to Violence in 8,145 Families*. New Brunswick: Transaction Publishers.

<sup>5</sup> Catalano, S. (2005). *National Crime Victimization Survey: Criminal Victimization, 2004*. Bureau of Justice Statistics: <http://www.ojp.usdoj.gov/bjs/pub/pdf/cv04.pdf>.

<sup>6</sup> The National Center for Victims of Crime. (1997). *Male Rape*. <http://www.ncvc.org/ncvc/main.aspx?bName=DocumentViewer&DocumentID=32361#5>.

<sup>7</sup> Holmes, W.C., & Slap, G.B. (1998). Sexual Abuse of Boys: Definitions, Prevalence, Sequelae, and Management. *Journal of the American Medical Association*, 280(21), 1855-1862.

<sup>8</sup> Thoennes & Tjaden. (2000).

<sup>9</sup> Fox, J.A., & Zawitz, M.W. (2004). *Homicide Trends in the U.S.: Trends by Gender*. Bureau of Justice Statistics: <http://www.ojp.usdoj.gov/bjs/homicide/gender.htm>.

<sup>10</sup> Greenwood, G.L. (2002). Battering and Victimization among a Probability-Based Sample of Men who have Sex with Men. *American Journal of Public Health*, 92, 1964-1969.

<sup>11</sup> Miller, S., & Meloy, M. (2006). Women's Use of Force: Voices of Women Arrested for Domestic Violence. *Violence Against Women*, 12(1), 89-115.

<sup>12</sup> Saunders, D.G. (2002). Are Physical Assaults by Wives and Girlfriends a Major Social Problem? *Violence Against Women*, 8(12), 1424-1448.

<sup>13</sup> Thoennes & Tjaden. (2000).

<sup>14</sup> Struckman-Johnson, C., & Struckman-Johnson, D. (2000). Sexual Coercion Rates in Seven Midwestern Prisons for Men. *The Prison Journal*, 80(4), 379-390.

<sup>15</sup> Snyder, H.N. (2000). *Sexual Assault of Young Children As Reported to Law Enforcement: Victim, Incident, and Offender Characteristics*. Bureau of Justice Statistics: <http://www.ojp.usdoj.gov/bjs/pub/pdf/saycrle.pdf>.

<sup>16</sup> Hopper, J. (2006). *Sexual Abuse of Males: Prevalence, Possible Lasting Effects, and Resources*. <http://www.jimhopper.com/male-ab/>.

<sup>17</sup> Snyder. (2000).

<sup>18</sup> Stop Prisoner Rape. (2006). *The Basics on Rape Behind Bars*. [http://www.spr.org/en/doc\\_01\\_factsheet.html](http://www.spr.org/en/doc_01_factsheet.html).

<sup>19</sup> Thoennes & Tjaden. (2000).

<sup>20</sup> Thoennes & Tjaden. (2000).

<sup>21</sup> Catalano, S. (2005).

<sup>22</sup> Thoennes & Tjaden. (2000).

<sup>23</sup> Felson & Pare. (2005).

<sup>24</sup> Hamberger, L.K., & Guse, C. (2002). Men's and Women's Use of Intimate Partner Violence in Clinical Samples. *Violence Against Women*, 8(11), 1301-1331.

<sup>25</sup> Merrill, G., & Wolfe, V. (2000). Battered Gay Men: An Exploration of Abuse, Help-Seeking, and Why They Stay. *Journal of Homosexuality*, 39(2), 1-30.

For more information please see our website at [www.ncadv.org](http://www.ncadv.org).