The Facts: Domestic Violence in California

The California Partnership to End Domestic Violence (the Partnership) is California’s recognized domestic violence coalition, representing over 1,000 advocates, organizations and allied individuals across the state. Working at the local, state and national levels for nearly 40 years, the Partnership believes that by sharing resources and expertise, advocates and policymakers can end domestic violence. Every day we inspire, inform and connect all those concerned with this issue, because together we’re stronger.

Domestic Violence in California – Incidence and Prevalence

- According to the California Women’s Health Survey (CWHS), approximately 40% of California women experience physical intimate partner violence in their lifetimes.¹
  - This same study 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.
  - Of those experiencing physical intimate partner violence, 75% of victims had children under the age of 18 years at home.
- According to the California Department of Justice, Criminal Justice Statistics Center, there were 96 domestic violence fatalities in 2016.²
  - Of the 118 domestic violence homicides in 2015, 80 of the victims were female and 16 were male.
  - These accounted for 8% of all homicides in California.
- California law enforcement agencies received 164,569 domestic violence-related calls, 70,786 of which included a weapon, in 2016.³

Programs and Services

- In FY 2014-2015, domestic violence programs in California provided essential, lifesaving services for victims and their children fleeing violence. Through the year:
  - Programs provided 581,258 bednights for victims and their children;
  - Advocates answered 133,827 hotline calls;
  - 22,948 victims received emergency food and clothing;⁴ and
- On just one day in 2016, 5,568 victims and their children received services at domestic violence programs in the state.
  - On that same day 1,083 requests for services went unmet, largely due to lack of resources.⁵
- Domestic violence programs in California provide life-saving services with very limited staff:
  - 54% of programs have fewer than 20 employees and 28% have fewer than 10 paid staff.⁶
  - The average starting salary of a full-time, salaried front-line advocate in California is $27,793.⁷
Teen Dating Violence
• There were at least 20 teen dating violence murders in California between 2009 and 2012.⁸
• According to the California Student Survey (CSS), at least one incident of physical dating violence was reported by 5.2% of 9th graders and 8.2% of 11th graders.⁹
  ○ Among students who had a boy/girlfriend, the rates of dating violence were 8.8% in 9th grade and 12.8% in 11th grade.
• Victims of dating violence or sexual coercion are 3 times more likely to score more D’s and F’s in school than A’s.¹⁰
• Victims of teen dating violence and sexual assault are more likely to: suffer from psychiatric disorders and drug and alcohol abuse in adulthood, drive after drinking, engage in sexually risky behaviors, become pregnant, and attempt suicide.¹¹
• Adolescent dating violence is also highly predictive of dating violence victimization and perpetration in young adulthood.¹²

² “Homicide in California 2015.” California Department of Justice, Division of California Justice Information Services, Bureau of Criminal Information and Analysis, Criminal Justice Statistics Center: 2016.
³ “Crime in California 2016.” California Department of Justice, Division of California Justice Information Services, Bureau of Criminal Information and Analysis, Criminal Justice Statistics Center: 2017
⁷ Ibid.
⁸ See http://www.safeatbcschools.org/2012/03/school-age-dating-abuse-in-california.html