



## The Facts: Domestic Violence in California

The California Partnership to End Domestic Violence (the Partnership) is California's only statewide membership coalition wholly dedicated to advocating on behalf of domestic violence survivors, and the agencies and advocates that serve them. The Partnership believes that working together, advocates and legislators can end domestic violence. Every day we inspire, inform and connect all those concerned with this issue, because together we're stronger.

Together with our statewide membership of 200 organizations and individuals, the Partnership has built upon a 30-year history of successful policy advocacy, while forging new territory to provide statewide leadership and pass legislation to ensure safety and justice for domestic violence survivors and their children.

### **Domestic Violence in California – Incidence and Prevalence**

- According to the California Women's Health Survey (CWSH), approximately 40% of California women experience physical intimate partner violence in their lifetimes.<sup>1</sup>
  - 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 147 domestic violence fatalities in 2011. While all other homicides are decreasing (i.e., gang related, robbery) domestic violence homicides increased by 13% from 2009 to 2011.<sup>2</sup>
  - Of the 147 domestic violence homicides in 2011, 129 of the victims were female and 18 were male.
  - These accounted for 11.8% of all homicides in California.
- California law enforcement agencies received 157,634 domestic violence-related calls in 2012.

### **Programs and Services**

- In 2011, domestic violence programs in California provided essential, lifesaving services for victims and their children fleeing violence. Through the year:
  - Programs provided 562,612 bednights for victims and their children;
  - Advocates answered 117,129 hotline calls;
  - 20,320 victims received emergency food and clothing; and
- On just one day in 2013, 5,263 victims and their children received services at domestic violence programs in the state.

- On that same day 872 requests for services went unmet, largely due to lack of resources.<sup>3</sup>
- 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.<sup>4</sup>
  - The average starting salary of a full-time, salaried front-line advocate in California is \$27,793.<sup>5</sup>

## Teen Dating Violence

- There were at least 20 teen dating violence murders in California between 2009 and 2012.<sup>6</sup>
- According to the California Student Survey (CSS), at least one incident of physical dating violence was reported by 5.2% of 9<sup>th</sup> graders and 8.2% of 11<sup>th</sup> graders.<sup>7</sup>
  - Among students who had a boy/girlfriend, the rates of dating violence were 8.8% in 9<sup>th</sup> grade and 12.8% in 11<sup>th</sup> 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.<sup>8</sup>
- 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.<sup>9</sup>
- Adolescent dating violence is also highly predictive of dating violence victimization and perpetration in young adulthood.<sup>10</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> 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.

<sup>2</sup> "Homicide in California 2011." California Department of Justice, Division of California Justice Information Services, Bureau of Criminal Information and Analysis, Criminal Justice Statistics Center: 2012.

<sup>3</sup> National Network to End Domestic Violence (NNEDV). (2014 March). Domestic Violence Counts 2013: A 24-hour census of domestic violence shelters and services across the United States. Washington, DC.

<sup>4</sup> National Network to End Domestic Violence (NNEDV). (2010 January). Domestic Violence Counts 2009: A 24-hour census of domestic violence shelters and services across the United States. Washington, DC.

<sup>5</sup> Ibid.

<sup>6</sup> See <http://www.safeatschools.org/2012/03/school-age-dating-abuse-in-california.html>.

<sup>7</sup> 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.

<sup>8</sup> Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (2009). United States Youth Risk Behavior Survey. Atlanta, GA.

<sup>9</sup> See: Kendler, K.S., Bulik, C. M., Silberg, J., Hettema, J.M., Myers, J., & Prescott, C.A. (2000). Childhood sexual abuse and adult psychiatric and substance abuse disorders in women. *Archives of General Psychiatry*, 57, 953-959. Silverman, J.G., Raj, A., Mucci, L.A., & Hathaway, J.E. (2001). Dating violence against adolescent girls and associated substance use, unhealthy weight control, sexual risk behavior, pregnancy, and suicidality. *Journal of the American Medical Association*, 286(5), 572-579. Ackard, D. M., & Neumark-Sztainer, D. (2002). Date violence and date rape among adolescents: Associations with disordered eating behaviors and psychological health. *Child Abuse and Neglect*, 26(5), 455-473.

<sup>10</sup> Anu Manchikanti Gómez. (March 2011). Testing the Cycle of Violence Hypothesis: Child Abuse and Adolescent Dating Violence as Predictors of Intimate Partner Violence in Young Adulthood *Youth & Society* 43: 171-192, first published on January 7, 2010.