



For Immediate Release:

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Centers for Disease Control and Prevention Releases First-Ever National Survey of Intimate Partner Violence

Sacramento, December 14, 2011— The California Partnership to End Domestic Violence (the Partnership) today welcomed groundbreaking new survey data which highlights the urgent need for funding and services for victims of intimate partner violence. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) released its first National Intimate Partner and Sexual Violence Survey (NISVS), which describes the overwhelming prevalence of domestic violence, sexual assault, stalking and dating violence.

According to the survey of more than 16,500 adults, on average, 24 people per minute are victims of rape, physical violence, or stalking by an intimate partner in the United States. One in four women and one in seven men reported severe physical violence perpetrated by an intimate partner. The data show that women are the more frequent victims of intimate partner violence: they are four times more likely than men to be beaten; six times more likely to be slammed against something; and nine times more likely to be strangled or suffocated. Seventy-two percent of women and 18 percent of men reported being frightened by the violence they experienced.

The state-specific California statistics were equally troubling, revealing that the number of victims who will experience rape, violence and/or stalking in their lifetimes is 3,737,000. Tara Shabazz, the Partnership's executive director, said that the state statistics reveal what frontline advocates already knew.

“There is an epidemic of intimate partner violence in California, which poses a serious threat not just to victims, but to families and entire communities,” she

said. “This survey shows how crucial it is for the state to continue to fund domestic violence services and prevention programs. The health and safety of California families depend on it.”

The CDC report emphasizes the importance of youth prevention efforts. Approximately 80 percent of female victims experienced their first rape before the age of 25 and nearly half experienced the first rape before age 18.

Related Web Site

CDC page for the national survey: <http://www.cdc.gov/violenceprevention/nisvs/>

About the Partnership

The California Partnership to End Domestic Violence is California’s statewide domestic violence coalition, with organizational and individual members across California. Working at the local, state and national levels for nearly 30 years, the Partnership has a long track record of successfully passing over 100 pieces of legislation on behalf of domestic violence victims and their children. As the unified voice for California’s domestic violence agencies, the Partnership provides statewide leadership on public policy issues, offers professional training and services to domestic violence service providers and promotes public awareness through community outreach efforts. With offices in Sacramento, the Partnership’s member programs span the entire state.

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