CALIFORNIA DOMESTIC VIOLENCE FACT SHEET

Rates of Domestic Violence
- According to the California Women’s Health Survey (CWHS), approximately 40% of California women experience physical intimate partner violence in their lifetimes (male lifetime prevalence rates are not available).
- 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.
- The CWHS also revealed statistically significant higher rates of intimate partner violence among women who had been pregnant in the last five years (12%).
- Of those experiencing physical intimate partner violence, 75% of victims had children under the age of 18 years at home.

Prevalence of Teen Dating Violence
- 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.
  - Among students who had a boy/girlfriend, the rates of dating violence were 8.8% in 9th grade and 12.8% in 11th grade.

Domestic Violence Homicides
- According to the California Department of Justice, Criminal Justice Statistics Center, there were 113 domestic violence fatalities in 2008 (the most recent year for which data is available).
  - These accounted for 5% of all homicides in the State.
  - Of the 113 domestic violence homicides in 2008, 99 of the victims were females (88%), and 14 were males (12%).

Domestic Violence-Related Calls to Law Enforcement Agencies
- According to the California Department of Justice, Criminal Justice Statistics Center, there were 174,649 domestic violence-related calls for assistance in 2007 (the most recent year for which data is available).
  - Of these calls, 40% involved the use of weapons.

Victims Seeking Services
- On average, 150,000 victims seek assistance from domestic violence hotlines funded by the State every year.
  - In one day alone, domestic violence programs in California answered over 922 crisis calls—an average of 38 calls per hour.
  - Tragically, on that same day, 492 requests for assistance went unmet due to lack of resources.
- This same report revealed that California domestic violence programs served 3,674 people in just one day—a 17% increase over the recent three-year average.
- Victims accessing services from State-funded domestic violence programs report serious threats to their personal safety: 65% have weapons used against them.
Emergency Shelter

- There are an estimated 107 domestic violence programs in California offering a total of 3,592 shelter beds—an average of 34 shelter beds per program.\(^7\)
- Between 2001-07, over 91,000 victims found refuge in State-funded domestic violence shelters.\(^5\)
  - Of the average 15,179 people sheltered by State-funded domestic violence programs each year, about half are adults (47%) and the other half are children (53%).\(^5\)
  - The average length of stay in emergency shelters is 34 nights.\(^5\)
- In just one day, domestic violence programs in California sheltered 2,121 victims—a 32% increase over the recent three-year average.\(^6\)
  - However, on this same day, 333 requests for shelter were unmet due to lack of resources—up 7% from last year—and up 20% from the recent three-year average.\(^6\)
  - The demand for emergency shelter is such that 72% of shelters report being regularly at or exceeding their capacities.\(^8\)
- In fact, 44,000 adult victims were turned away from State-funded domestic violence shelters during the last six years because shelters were full—this translated to an average of 7,348 adult victims turned away per year.\(^5\)
  - State-funded domestic violence programs serve approximately two-thirds (67%) of those requesting shelter (67%); they turn away about one-third (33%) due to capacity limitations.\(^5\)
  - In such instances, programs attempt to work with turned-away victims to explore other shelter options, motel vouchering and safety planning, spending an average of 41 minutes working with a victim to find alternative services.\(^9\)

Counseling and Other Services

- Over the last six years, State-funded domestic violence programs provided individual counseling to 197,717 victims—averaging nearly 34,000 victims counseled each year.\(^5\)
  - 108,414 victims participated in group counseling over this same period, averaging approximately 18,000 victims participating in group counseling each year.\(^5\)
- Domestic violence programs also provided emergency food and/or clothing to over 216,695 victims during the last six years, thereby meeting 83% of those requests.\(^5\)
- Most domestic violence programs in California serve children who have been witnesses to and/or victims of domestic violence.
  - State-funded domestic violence programs counseled over 50,000 children during the last six years—an average of 8,350 children counseled per year—this met 77% of the need.\(^5\)

Domestic Violence Programs

- Domestic violence programs in California provide life-saving services with very limited staff:
  - 54% of programs have fewer than 20 employees—indeed, 28% of programs with fewer than 10 paid staff.\(^6\)
  - The average starting salary of a full-time, salaried front-line advocate in California is $27,793.\(^5\)
  - Even before the recent economic downturn, 25% of California programs struggled to provide competitive wages and benefits for staff retention.\(^8\)
- On average, annual budgets for domestic violence programs in California are around $1.4 million—of which about one-third (32%) comes from unrestricted revenue.\(^6\)


"From the Past to the Present: A Six-Year Retrospective of Data Collected from Domestic Violence Programs in California," Blue Shield of California Foundation, Blue Shield Against Violence, December 2008.


"California Domestic Violence Shelters: Safety, Support and Services" (CAADV/CPEDV, 2005).
