

The Source

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The Quarterly Newsletter of the Michigan Resource Center on Domestic and Sexual Violence

Justice Department Finds That Intimate Partner Violence Declines, Along With Other Types Of Violent Crime

Reprinted from the Family Violence Prevention Fund Newsflash

The vast majority of victims of intimate partner violence in the United States are women. Most victims of domestic homicides—murders that were committed by intimate partners—are women. The percentage of female murder victims who were killed by their partners has remained virtually unchanged in recent years. But nonfatal incidents of intimate partner violence dropped dramatically from 1993 to 2001, according to a new Crime Data Brief from the Federal Bureau of Justice Statistics. As the rate of violent crime in the United States dropped by 50 percent, to an unprecedented low, the Justice Department also registered a steep drop in intimate partner violence. The new brief finds that from 1993 to 2001 intimate partner violence against women dropped by 49 percent.

Written by Callie Marie Rennison, Ph.D., *Intimate Partner Violence, 1993 – 2001* analyzes the findings of the National Crime Victimization Survey. It classifies intimate partner violence as rape/sexual assault, robbery, aggravated assault or simple assault committed by a current or former spouse, boyfriend or girlfriend.

In 1993, women in the United States were victims of 1.1 million nonfatal violent crimes committed by intimate partners, the brief found. In 2001, that number dropped to 588,490.

“It is certainly good news that violent crime of all kinds has decreased so dramatically in the United States, and that the rate of nonfatal domestic violence is decreasing as well,” said Family Violence Prevention Fund President Esta Soler. “But, unfortunately, our work is not nearly done. On average, three women are killed by their husbands or boyfriends every day in the U.S., and far too many women and children are victims of family violence. We do not yet know whether the economic hardships of the last year will drive incidents up again. We do know that the consequences will be tragic if we stop addressing the problem. We urgently need the federal and

state governments to continue funding the services and prevention that may be beginning to make a difference to families across this country.”

Victims of Intimate Partner Violence

Intimate partner violence is a crime that primarily affects women, according to *Intimate Partner Violence, 1993 – 2001*. In 2001, 85 percent of the victims of intimate partner violence were women, and violence committed by intimate partners made up 20 percent of violent crimes against women. In contrast, intimate partners committed three percent of the nonfatal violence against men. In 2001, 588,409 women and 103,220 men were victims of intimate partner violence. Simple assault committed by an intimate was the most common type of crime: 421,550 women were victims of simple assault in 2001. In addition, 41,740 women were victims of rape/sexual assault committed by an intimate partner; 44,060 women were victims of robbery committed by an intimate partner; and 81,140 women were victims of aggravated assault committed by an intimate partner.

Women also were much more likely than men to be victims of intimate partner homicide, finds the brief. In 2000, 1,247 women and 400 men were killed by their intimate partners in the U.S. In recent years, approximately 33 percent of female murder victims were killed by intimate partners; four percent of male murder victims were killed by intimates.

The intimate partner homicide rate has mirrored the overall homicide rate, declining over time. The number of men killed by intimates decreased by 68 percent from 1976 to 2000, and the number of women killed by intimates decreased by 22 percent over the same period. But, from 1993 to 2000, the proportion of female murder victims killed by an intimate increased slightly.

“Even with the lower rates of domestic violence,” Soler continued, “many shelters and service providers lack the resources to meet the needs of victims of violence. Successfully reducing and stopping domestic violence will take a long-term commitment of resources and energy.” *Intimate Partner Violence, 1993 – 2001* is available online at www.ojp.usdoj.gov/bjs/abstract/ipv01.htm.

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Visit us on the Web!



Access the entire Resource Center collection and order materials online at

www.mcadsv.org/mrcdsv

The Michigan Resource Center on Domestic and Sexual Violence is a collaboration of the Michigan Domestic Violence Prevention and Treatment Board and the Michigan Coalition Against Domestic and Sexual Violence.

New Resources

Available to borrow from the Michigan Resource Center

Print Materials:

- **Women of Courage: Inspiring Stories From the Women Who Lived Them**
- **Self-esteem Games: 300 Fun Activities That Make Children Feel Good About Themselves**
- **Act It Out: Expressive Ways to Heal from Childhood Abuse: A Safe, Self-guided Recovery Method For Adult Survivors of Sexual, Physical and Emotional Trauma**
- **This Bridge We Call Home: Radical Visions for Transformation**
- **Child Custody & Domestic Violence: A Call for Safety and Accountability**
- **Expanding Opportunities: A Grantmaker's Guide to Workplace Policies for Lesbian, Gay and Bisexual Staff**
- **Legal Issues in Counselling and Psychotherapy**
- **Possessing the Secret of Joy**
- **Understanding and Dealing with Violence: A Multicultural Approach**

In Brief: Domestic Abuse in Later Life

Nearly 77 million people, more than a quarter of the total U.S. population, are age 50 or older. The Canadian percentage is similar: 28.7% of Canada's 31 million residents are age 50 or older. Unfortunately, for the most part, older victims of family abuse fall through the cracks of existing services and research. Domestic violence and sexual assault programs predominately serve women between the ages of 18 and 45. Traditional adult protective services (APS) have focused mostly on frail elderly and incompetent victims, often defining the problem as an overwhelmed family caregiver who simply needs help. Although it seems as though older battered women should have at least two systems they can turn to for help, in practice neither system has been very successful at understanding and meeting the specific needs of older women (let alone older men) who are subject to tactics of power and control by their loved ones.

Too few studies have focused on elder abuse. Often domestic violence research is designed to exclude older victims. More quality research is required to better understand the prevalence of abuse in later life and effective interventions. Existing studies suggest the following:

- Most domestic elder abuse appears to be perpetuated by family members. Random-sample studies have found a higher percentage of spouse/partner abuse than abuse by other family members or caregivers.
- Research does not support caregiver stress or intergenerational violence as primary causes of abuse. In many cases, the dynamics appear to be similar to those experienced by younger battered women (power and control).
- Cultural values and background play a role in identifying abuse and help-seeking behavior. Older persons from different cultures, including Americans of European heritage, did not name the same behaviors as abusive. Many study participants indicated they would not contact helping agencies to report abuse.
- Many older victims do not seek services, especially from domestic abuse programs. Several researchers recommended using strategies (e.g., an empowerment model, support groups or peer counseling) like those used for younger battered women.

Over the next decades, the numbers of older Americans will increase significantly. Unfortunately, older people will begin or continue to experience abuse and neglect, often at the hands of family members, caregivers or someone they trust and love. Current service delivery does not meet the needs of these victims. Domestic violence and sexual assault programs must do a better job of designing services tailored for older persons. Adult protective services and the aging

network must learn to recognize the dynamics of abuse in later life and offer services that focus on safety, support and breaking the isolation of the victims. Researchers have a responsibility to do more quality research in the area of abuse in later life.

In Brief: Domestic Abuse in Later Life By **Bonnie Brandl and Loree Cook-Daniels** has been reprinted from the *Applied Research Forum, National Electronic Network on Violence Against Women*. The complete report, *Domestic Violence in Later Life* is available online at http://www.vawnet.org/VNL.2/Resources/Research/AR_later-life.pdf

CALCASA Stalking Packet

The California Coalition Against Sexual Assault (CALCASA) April 2002 *Campus Stalking* information packet by Connie J. Kirkland is now available online at: <http://www.vawnet.org/vnl/library/general/CALCASA-CampusStalking.pdf>. The packet highlights issues and suggests practical options for responding to stalking incidents that occur in U.S. college and university campus communities. The first section titled "History" defines stalking, mentions commonalities regarding state laws, and, highlights some specific on-campus and off-campus administrative and legislative options for responding to stalking. It describes why it's important for a victim to have a support network and safety plan and to document incidents. It cites research that "college-aged persons are primary targets of stalkers and much campus stalking is from within the campus community." Regarding cyberstalking, it notes that college students are one of the largest groups of internet users.

Citing that 90 percent of stalkers are male and 75 percent of victims are female, its "Frequently Asked Questions" section describes who stalkers tend to be, including their common motivations and present or prior relationships to the victim. *Campus Stalking* includes sections on definitions, assessing lethality, and statistics. Finally, the packet includes lists of internet and print resources.

This information packet is one of a series of publications that CALCASA has produced as part of their cooperative agreement with the U.S. Violence Against Women Office and is available online at the address listed above or by contacting the Resource Center.

Have Any Suggestions?

The Resource Center welcomes your suggestions for materials to add to the collection. Drop us an email at resource@mcadsv.org or give us a call at (517) 381-4663, ext. 17

Internet Resources for Male Survivors

Male Survivor provides an extensive list of articles on topics ranging from adult and adolescent sexual assault survivors, families of survivors, prevention and education, and bibliographies of resources for professionals and survivors.

www.malesurvivor.org

Sexual Abuse of Males: Prevalence, Possible Lasting Effects, and Resources by Jim Hopper, Ph.D. explores research on the sexual abuse of boys including literature reviews and recommendations, statistics, and men's stories of recovery.

www.jimhopper.com/male-ab

The New York City Gay & Lesbian Anti-Violence Project serves LGBT & HIV positive victims of violence and educates the public about violence directed within the LGBT community. The Web site provides statistical reports, information for survivors, and information on the National Coalition of Anti-Violence Programs.

www.avp.org

For Men Only: For Male Survivors of Sexual Assault examines issues unique to male survivors of sexual assault.

www.utexas.edu/student/cmhc/booklets/maleassault/menassault.html#anchor955175

Gay Men's Domestic Violence Project describes itself as a "grassroots, non-profit organization providing community education and direct services for clients. GMDVP offers shelter, guidance, and resources to allow gay, bisexual, and transgender men in crisis to remove themselves from violent situations and relationships."

www.gmdvp.org

Men Can Stop Rape provides information including information sheets on male survivors of sexual assault and supporting male survivors.

www.mencanstoprape.org

The Survivor Project is an organization dedicated to addressing the needs of intersex and trans survivors of domestic and sexual violence through expanding access to resources and to opportunities for action and education. Includes "Guide to Intersex and Trans Terminologies" and a resource for intersex, trans or anti-violence activists to use in order to advocate for intersex and trans survivors of domestic and sexual violence.

www.survivorproject.org

Stop Prisoner Rape seeks to end sexual violence committed against men, women, and youth in all forms of detention. Includes fact sheets, research on prison rape, handbooks for survivors and families, and how to take action.

www.spr.org

New MNA Publications

Nonprofit Links 2002-2003: A Resource and Networking Directory

This resource contains key information about more than 600 nonprofit organizations in Michigan including contact information, address, telephone number and mission statements. Also included are yellow pages containing resources for nonprofit organizations. *Michigan Nonprofit Compensation and Benefit Survey 2002*

Information about nonprofit compensation and benefits is now available. The 2002 Nonprofit Compensation & Benefit Survey contains information on 41 nonprofit positions identified by organizational size and geographic location. The book includes information on health insurance and other employee benefits. *Michigan Public Policy Handbook: A Lobbying Guide for 501(c)(3) Nonprofits*

This handbook, the first of its kind, answers the most frequently asked questions related to lobbying by nonprofits. What is lobbying? What are the Michigan and IRS reporting procedures for lobbying? Can you use funding from a foundation to work on public policy?

All of these publications are available to borrow from the Resource Center or to purchase a copy directly from the Michigan Nonprofit Association, visit their Web site at www.mnaonline.org.

New Resource: It's My Life Now

A new book, *It's My Life Now: Starting Over After an Abusive Relationship or Domestic Violence* by Meg Kennedy Dugan, M.A. and Roger R. Hock, Ph.D. is now available at the Resource Center. This resource offers encouragement and practical advice to women who seek to repair their self-esteem, assess their safety, and move on to better lives after surviving an abusive relationship. Offering guidance and support, this book is designed to assist women conquer emotional pain, master psychological conflicts of feelings of love for the abuser and deal effectively with the practical considerations of a new life including care for children. In addition to many handy self-exploration exercises, the material serves to address and break down many myths about surviving domestic violence. Assessing the economic, psychological and physical effects of abuse, *It's My Life Now* is a great new resource.

**How safe is your college?
Access recent campus statistics and
other materials online at
www.securityoncampus.org**

New Resources

Available to borrow from the Michigan Resource Center

Print Materials:

- **Our Boys Speak: Adolescent Boys Write About Their Inner Lives**
 - **My Sisters' Voices: Teenage Girls of Color Speak Out**
 - **Children's Perspectives on Domestic Violence**
 - **Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender Youth: Pressing Needs and Promising Practices**
 - **Why Does He Do That? Inside the Minds of Angry and Controlling Men**
 - **Everybody's Different: Understanding and Changing Our Reactions to Disabilities**
 - **Lucky**
 - **On Prejudice: A Global Perspective**
 - **Your Values, My Values: Multicultural Services in Developmental Disabilities**
 - **Part of the Community: Strategies for Including Everyone**
- Video Materials:**
- **Macho**
 - **A Patient Not Seen: Coercion, Prostitution and Medical Awareness**

The Michigan Resource Center on Domestic and Sexual Violence is a collaboration of the Michigan Domestic Violence Prevention and Treatment Board and the Michigan Coalition Against Domestic and Sexual Violence.

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MICHIGAN DOMESTIC VIOLENCE PREVENTION & TREATMENT BOARD



Resources Available Via Fax-on-Demand from the Michigan Resource Center on Domestic and Sexual Violence

The Resource Center staff is pleased to offer a selection of frequently requested materials and other important documents to our patrons via fax-on-demand. This technology will allow our patrons to have immediate and 24-hour access to resources.

Instructions for Using Fax-On-Demand:

- 1) To access the system, please pick up the handset or press the Hook (or Unhook) button on the fax machine.
- 2) Dial (517) 347-1060 (Do Not Press Start).
- 3) You will be prompted by a welcome message. Next, you will be asked to enter the two digit box number of the desired material, followed by the # sign. You may request up to five boxes during this session.
- 4) If you need another box number please enter the number followed by the # sign.
- 5) When finished with your session please press ##. Then, press the Start button to begin receiving your requested materials.

If you have any questions, need assistance or are having problems with the system, please call us at (517) 381-4663. We are more than happy to assist you.

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