

Center for Domestic Peace Domestic Violence Facts Sheet – 2017/2018

MYTH 1

Domestic violence does not happen in Marin County.

FACTS

1. Domestic violence is the number one violent crime police respond to in Marin County.
2. In FY 17/18, law enforcement referred 704 domestic violence cases to the District Attorney, with 338 cases filed.
3. Of the estimated 1,800 cases under supervision by the Probation Department at any time, approximately 23% involve some form of domestic violence.
4. In FY 17/18, Center for Domestic Peace served:
 - A. 4,454 callers on the Emergency English and Spanish Hotlines.
 - B. 435 survivors and children in our Emergency Shelter and Second Step Transitional Housing Program for a total 30,161 bednights.
 - C. 454 survivors in the Legal Systems Advocacy Program, helping them with restraining orders, child custody, police reports, criminal cases, and other legal issues.
 - D. 112 callers on the ManKind hotline for abusers.

MYTH 2

Domestic violence is a behavior which occurs randomly. The batterer is just out of control and there is no pattern or logic to this behavior.

FACTS

1. Domestic violence is learned, not caused by genetics; a choice the abuser makes; not caused by alcohol/drugs; it is influenced by institutional and societal responses; found in every level of society
2. Domestic violence is a pattern of deliberate behavior to maintain power and control over one's partner. In an abusive relationship, the level of violence tends to increase in frequency & severity over time.
3. Homicide is a leading cause of traumatic death for pregnant and postpartum women in the US, accounting for 31% of maternal injury deaths.
4. A batterer who subjects his partner to forced sex in addition to physical violence is twice as likely to kill her as a batterer who inflicts physical violence only.
5. Victims of one episode of strangulation are 700 percent more likely to be a victim of attempted homicide by the same partner.
6. When there is a gun in the home with a history of domestic violence, there is a 500% higher chance that a woman will be murdered.
7. Women who have experienced domestic violence are 80 percent more likely to have a stroke, 70 percent more likely to have heart disease, 60 percent more likely to have asthma and 70 percent more likely to drink heavily than women who have not experienced intimate partner violence.
8. Up to 71% of domestic violence victims with companion animals reported that their abusers had threatened, injured, or killed their pets.
9. In one study, 48% of domestic violence victims with companion animals surveyed had stayed in an abusive situation because they had nowhere to take their pets.

MYTH 3

Domestic violence is perpetrated equally by men and women.

FACTS

1. 1 out of every 5 U.S. women has been physically assaulted by an intimate partner, compared with 1 out of every 14 U.S. men. (The U.S. Department of Justice, Office of Justice Programs).
2. More than one third of all women intentionally killed worldwide are killed for a current or former intimate partner. (UN World Report, 2018).
3. Nearly 1 in 5 women have been raped in their lifetime, while 1 in 71 men have been raped in their lifetime.
4. The Centers for Disease Control (CDC) has reported that intimate partner violence presents the single greatest risk of injury for women in the United States.
5. Violence against women is primarily intimate partner violence: according to a CDC study, 64.0% of the women who reported being raped, physically assaulted, and/or stalked since age 18 were victimized by a current or former husband, cohabiting partner, boyfriend, or date. In comparison, only 16.2% of the men who reported being raped and/or physically assaulted since age 18 were victimized by such a perpetrator.
6. Women are much more likely than men to be victimized by a current or former intimate partner. Women are 84 percent of spouse abuse victims and 86 percent of victims of abuse at the hands of a boyfriend or girlfriend and about three-fourths of the persons who commit family violence are male.
7. In intimate partner-related homicide cases, 82% of the victims are women whereas, only 18% are men
8. Findings suggest that the rates of intimate partner violence in same-sex relationships are similar to those in heterosexual relationships (Shipway, 2004).

MYTH 4

Domestic violence is an adult problem only.

FACTS

1. Nearly 1.5 million high school students nationwide experience physical abuse from a dating partner in a single year.
2. One in three adolescents in the U.S. is a victim of physical, sexual, emotional or verbal abuse from a dating partner, a figure that far exceeds rates of other types of youth violence.
3. One quarter of high school girls have been victims of physical or sexual abuse.
4. One in four teens in a relationship reporting being called names, harassed, or put down by their partner via cell phone/texting.
5. Most female and male victims of intimate partner violence (69% of female and 53% of male victims) experienced some form of intimate partner violence for the first time before 25 years of age.
6. Females ages 16-24 are more vulnerable to intimate partner violence than any other age group— at a rate almost triple the national average.
7. A third (32%) of female homicides among adolescents between the ages of 11 and 18 are committed by an intimate partner.

MYTH 5

Seniors do not experience domestic violence.

FACTS

1. In FY 17/18, Center for Domestic Peace's housing programs, advocacy services, Spanish and English hotlines, and support groups served 365 age 55 and older.

2. According to the best available estimates, between 1 and 2 million Americans age 65 or older have been injured, exploited, or otherwise mistreated by someone on whom they depended for protection.