DOMESTIC VIOLENCE STATISTICS

Domestic Violence Fatalities in Washington State

- Between January 1, 1997 and June 30, 2006, at least 359 people were killed by domestic violence abusers in Washington state. (This number most likely represents an undercount, as a significant portion of homicides are unsolved, some homicides may be mistakenly classified as accidents, and some missing persons cases may actually be homicides.) The homicide victims included domestic violence victims, their friends, family members, new partners and intervening law enforcement officers. The majority of the homicide victims (62%) were women killed by their current or former husband or boyfriend.[6]
- In 2005, 50% of women who were murdered in Washington state were killed by their current or former husband or boyfriend.
- Some domestic violence abusers killed their children along with their partner, or instead of their partner. Between January 1, 1997 and June 30, 2006, abusers killed at least 32 children in the context of violence towards their intimate partner.
- Homicide-suicides comprised a significant portion of domestic violence homicides. Almost a third (32%) of the 320 abusers who committed homicides between January 1, 1997 and June 30, 2006, committed homicide-suicides. An additional twelve abusers killed themselves after attempting homicide.
- Firearms were the most common weapon used in domestic violence homicides. Between January 1, 1997 and June 30, 2006, domestic violence abusers used firearms to kill 56% of domestic violence homicide victims.

Source: *If I Had One More Day: Findings and Recommendations from the Washington State Domestic Violence Fatality Review,* Kelly Starr and Jake Fawcett for the Washington State Coalition Against Domestic Violence, 2006.

Domestic Violence in Washington State

- Washington police departments responded to 49,980 domestic violence calls in 2006. These included domestic violence homicides, rapes, assaults, robberies and arsons (see Appendix A for breakdown by crime and county).
- Victims of domestic violence reported 12,267 violations of protection orders in 2006 (see Appendix A for breakdown by county).

Source: Washington Association of Sheriffs and Police Chiefs, *Crime in Washington State 2006*.

[6] The Washington State Domestic Violence Fatality Review (DVFR) defines a domestic violence fatality as any fatality caused by a domestic violence abuser's efforts to gain power and control over their intimate partner. This differs from Washington's legal definition of domestic violence; thus, the DVFR's statistics are different from those reported by official legal resources, such as the Washington Association of Sheriffs and Police Chiefs.

- In Washington state fiscal year (FY) 2006,[7] domestic violence programs provided emergency shelter to a total of 6,147 domestic violence victims and their children. Because of space and funding limitations, domestic violence programs had to refuse 36,522 requests for shelter.[8]
- Washington state domestic violence programs served 19,456 adults and children in FY 2006. Services provided include: support groups, help obtaining protection orders, legal advocacy, shelter and individual counseling.
- The Washington State Domestic Violence Hotline answered 22,370 calls in FY 2006.

Source: Washington State Department of Social and Health Services, Children's Administration, Division of Program and Policy.

General Facts about Domestic Violence

- In a national survey, almost 25% of women reported having been physically assaulted and/or raped by a current or former intimate partner at some point in their lifetime.

Source: Patricia Tjaden and Nancy Thoennes, "Extent, Nature, and Consequences of Intimate Partner Violence: Findings from the National Violence Against Women Survey," National Institute of Justice and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, 2000.

- In a recent survey of women in Washington state and Idaho, 44% of respondents reported having experienced intimate partner violence in their adult lifetime.

Source: Robert Thompson, Amy Bonomi et al., "Intimate Partner Violence Prevalence, Types, and Chronicity in Adult Women," *American Journal of Preventive Medicine* 30, no. 6, 2006.

- Women are the victims of intimate violence significantly more often than men. In 2001, women accounted for 85% of the victims of intimate partner violence and men accounted for approximately 15% of the victims nationally. In 2001, intimate partner violence made up 20% of violent crime against women. The same year, intimate partners committed 3% of all violent crime against men.

Source: U.S. Department of Justice, Bureau of Justice Statistics, Crime Data Brief, *Intimate Partner Violence, 1993-2001,* February 2003.

- Research has indicated that approximately 25% of teens experience dating violence, and that pregnant and parenting teens experience even higher levels of violence in their relationships. In a 2005 study of teen mothers receiving Temporary Aid to Needy Families, 55% reported having experienced domestic violence in their relationship within the previous twelve months, and 66% of that group experienced some form of birth control sabotage by their boyfriend as well.

Source: Jody Raphael, "Teens Having Babies: The Unexplored Role of Domestic Violence," *The Prevention Researcher* 12, no.1, 2005.

[7] Washington state fiscal year 2006 covers dates July 1, 2005 – June 30, 2006.
[8] This number includes individuals for whom there was no space available, individuals seeking shelter who were not victims of domestic violence, or individuals who had certain needs the shelter could not accommodate. This is not an unduplicated number.

- A significant number of domestic violence homicides occur after or as the victim is attempting to end the relationship. In at least 47% of the homicides committed by a domestic violence abuser in Washington state, the victim had left, divorced, or separated from the abuser, or was attempting to leave or break up with the abuser at the time of the murder. In a Florida study, 60% of the women killed were separated or in the process of leaving.

  Source*: If I Had One More Day: Findings and Recommendations from the Washington State Domestic Violence Fatality Review,* Kelly Starr and Jake Fawcett for the Washington State Coalition Against Domestic Violence, 2006, and Neil Websdale, *Understanding Domestic Homicide,* Northeastern University Press, 1999.

- The U.S. Department of Justice reported that 37% of all women who sought care in hospital emergency rooms for violence-related injuries were injured by a current or former spouse, boyfriend or girlfriend.

  Source: Michael Rand, *Violence-related Injuries Treated in Hospital Emergency Departments,* U.S. Department of Justice, Bureau of Justice Statistics, August 1997.

- Fifty percent of men who frequently assault their wives also frequently assault their children, and the U.S. Advisory Board on Child Abuse and Neglect suggests that domestic violence may be the single major precursor to child abuse and neglect fatalities in this country.

  Source: Murray Straus and Richard Gelles, *Physical Violence in American Families: Risk Factors and Adaptations to Violence in 8,145 Families,* Transaction Publishers, 1990, and U.S. Advisory Board on Child Abuse and Neglect, *A Nation's Shame: Fatal Child Abuse and Neglect in the United States, Fifth report,* U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, 1995.

- Research indicates that a lack of financial resources is one of the most commonly given reasons domestic violence victims stay with or return to an abusive partner.

  Source: Martha Davis, "The Economics of Abuse: How Violence Perpetuates Women's Poverty," in Ruth Brandwein, ed., *Battered Women, Children, and Welfare Reform: The Ties that Bind,* Sage Publications, 1999, and Eleanor Lyon, *Poverty, Welfare and Battered Women: What Does the Research Tell Us?"* Welfare and Domestic Violence Technical Assistance Initiative, National Resource Center on Domestic Violence, 1997.

The Washington State Coalition Against Domestic Violence can provide local, state and national statistics on domestic violence. Interviews with Coalition staff can assist journalists in accurately reflecting the context of domestic violence crimes, local resources available for victims and abusers, and the opinions of experts in the field. Please contact Kelly Starr, Communications Coordinator, at 206-389-2515 ext. 210 or kelly@wscadv.org.

APPENDIX A

Domestic Violence Crimes Reported by Washington State Law Enforcement Agencies for the Year 2006[1]

County	Murder	Rape	Robbery	Aggravated Assault	Simple Assault	Burglary	Larceny	Motor Vehicle Theft	Arson	Protection Order Violations	**County Totals**
Adams	1	0	0	4	78	0	10	4	0	73	**170**
Asotin	0	0	0	15	154	1	0	0	0	31	**201**
Benton	3	9	0	62	666	8	4	1	0	153	**906**
Chelan	1	0	0	10	366	6	0	1	0	270	**654**
Clallam	0	7	1	32	393	14	10	3	0	115	**575**
Clark	3	33	9	210	1780	27	37	6	1	140	**2246**
Columbia	0	0	0	1	8	0	0	0	0	0	**9**
Cowlitz	2	0	2	53	747	5	0	0	0	245	**1054**
Douglas	1	0	0	18	136	3	0	0	0	31	**189**
Ferry	0	0	0	0	26	0	0	0	0	10	**36**
Franklin	1	6	2	32	375	3	5	1	0	142	**567**
Garfield	0	0	0	0	6	0	0	0	0	4	**10**
Grant	0	2	3	29	554	10	1	3	0	212	**814**
Grays Harbor	2	1	0	19	430	8	1	0	0	154	**615**
Island	0	1	0	7	200	0	1	0	1	37	**247**

County	Murder	Rape	Robbery	Aggravated Assault	Simple Assault	Burglary	Larceny	Motor Vehicle Theft	Arson	Protection Order Violations	**County Totals**
Jefferson	0	1	3	6	142	3	2	0	0	31	**188**
King	8	83	63	1095	6863	241	311	19	20	2989	**11692**
Kitsap	2	19	1	158	1038	22	16	5	2	661	**1924**
Kittitas	0	0	0	1	165	3	0	1	0	64	**234**
Klickitat	0	0	0	11	102	0	0	0	0	15	**128**
Lewis	0	3	0	29	461	21	2	5	1	166	**688**
Lincoln	0	0	0	1	45	1	0	0	0	20	**67**
Mason	1	6	3	31	258	22	4	1	0	144	**470**
Okanogan	1	0	0	20	187	1	0	0	0	22	**231**
Pacific	0	0	0	12	171	0	0	0	0	22	**205**
Pend Oreille	1	0	0	2	62	0	0	0	0	4	**69**
Pierce	9	61	29	871	5889	261	239	72	0	2086	**9517**
San Juan	0	0	0	1	31	0	0	0	0	26	**58**
Skagit	0	3	5	39	638	19	4	2	2	304	**1016**
Skamania	0	2	0	2	93	0	0	0	1	27	**125**
Snohomish	3	23	8	226	2890	48	26	7	2	829	**4062**
Spokane	9	6	10	402	2337	47	35	7	0	1184	**4037**
Stevens	1	0	2	6	243	0	1	0	0	115	**368**

County	Murder	Rape	Robbery	Aggravated Assault	Simple Assault	Burglary	Larceny	Motor Vehicle Theft	Arson	Protection Order Violations	**County Totals**
Thurston	3	4	5	153	1255	25	11	3	2	514	**1975**
Wahkiakum	0	0	0	5	21	0	0	0	0	2	**28**
Walla Walla	0	4	2	30	223	4	12	1	0	77	**353**
Whatcom	1	18	3	78	763	32	26	6	1	459	**1387**
Whitman	0	2	0	10	99	1	1	0	0	1	**114**
Yakima	3	10	7	106	1578	50	84	23	2	888	**2751**
Statewide Totals	**56**	**304**	**158**	**3787**	**31473**	**886**	**843**	**171**	**35**	**12267**	**49980**

[1] Information from *Crime in Washington State 2006,* published by the Washington Association of Sheriffs and Police Chiefs. Data is from 242 participating local law enforcement agencies statewide; 29 agencies did not provide reports.