



Domestic Violence Facts

While some people may be aware of how rampant abuse is in America, here are some sobering facts on domestic violence in this country:

- Requests for emergency shelter by homeless families with children increased in 88% of U.S. cities surveyed in 2003.
- One study found that 46% of homeless women reported staying in an abusive relationship because they had nowhere else to go.
- Almost half of women receiving funds from Temporary Assistance to Needy Families (TANF) reported domestic violence as a factor in their need for assistance.
- More than 16% of Kern County, California's residents live below the national poverty level, compared to the 9.2% of families below poverty level for the U.S. (U.S. Census Bureau 2000).
- The 2003 Kern County Assessment listed homelessness as one of the county's primary unmet needs.
- 49% of the female householders with children below the age of five are below the national poverty level in Kern County.
- According to the Domestic Abuse Women's Network (DAWN), "Nationally, one half of all homeless women and children are fleeing domestic violence."
- Between 3.3 and 10 million American children witness domestic violence annually.
- Studies have found that child abuse occurs in up to 70% of families that experience domestic violence.
- Children who witness domestic violence are more likely to attempt suicide, abuse drugs and alcohol, run away from home, and engage in teenage prostitution.
- Battering is the single major cause of injury to women, more significant than car accidents, rapes and muggings.

- The emotional and psychological abuse inflicted by batterers may be more costly to treat than the physical injury.
- Isolation and embarrassment alienate women and children from the support of family and friends.
- NCADV estimates 1.3 million women are victims of physical assault by an intimate partner each year. Many of these victims are forced to stay with or return to their abusive partners because of a lack of available shelter or affordable housing.
- In 2000, more than half of the U.S. cities surveyed by the U.S. Conference of Mayors identified domestic violence as a primary cause of homelessness.

In the report titled "California Domestic Facts," The National Coalition Against Domestic Violence (NCADV) published the following facts regarding domestic violence in California:

- Every year, almost six percent of California's women suffer physical injuries from domestic violence.
- 169 murders were the result of intimate partner violence in California in 2004.
- In 2004, 138 women in California were killed by their husbands, ex-husbands, boyfriends or ex-boyfriends California law enforcement received 186,439 domestic violence calls in 2004.
- In 2000, about 28.8% of domestic violence victims in California neither sought help nor had knowledge about domestic violence programs in their communities.

But thanks to the graciousness of God and the work he has done through use at Alpha House, these are some more positive facts:

- During its first full year of operation (1993), we at Alpha House provided services to 83 women.
- The numbers served remained consistent over the years with an average of 90 – 100 served each year.
- In 2006, 93 women received help, not including children.
- Since 1992, we were able to help over 1,500 individuals escape abusive homes, locate housing and employment, and create a new life for themselves and their children.
- In just the past 18 months we have assisted more than 20 families to find permanent housing, and in some cases subsidized the first month's rent payment.