

ALTERNATIVES INCORPORATED

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE FACTS

Domestic violence is the use of power and control within an intimate relationship that threatens a person's well being. It's not always physical abuse. It can be mental, verbal, emotional, financial or sexual abuse. It affects all ages, both sexes, and people from all socioeconomic levels—the rich, the middle-class, and the poor. It is an epidemic affecting Americans in all communities.

- Domestic abuse affects one in four American families.¹
- Children who live in homes filled with domestic abuse have a greater risk of repeating the cycle—becoming abuse victims or abusers.¹
- Young women age 16 to 24 experience the highest rate of domestic violence; 16 per 1,000 persons.²
- On average, more than three women are murdered by their husbands or boyfriends in this country every day.³
- Domestic violence, caregiving stress, and poverty are the three top issues facing Central Indiana women.⁴
- For 6 percent of adults on probation in 2003, domestic violence was the most serious offense of which they had been convicted.⁵
- From July 2004 through June 2005, 10 children in Indiana were murdered by a parent, step-parent or a caretaker as a result of domestic violence.⁶
- Two-thirds of people who were victimized by an intimate reported that alcohol had been a factor.³
- A woman is victimized by her intimate partner every 1.1 seconds.⁷
- One rape/sexual assault is committed every 2.5 minutes.⁷
- Studies have found that child abuse occurs in up to 70% of families that experience domestic violence.⁸
- Homeless women who have been victimized face significant barriers to employment. Abusive partners often sabotage training and employment efforts. Furthermore, without appropriate support services, the emotional consequences of abuse may interfere with women's efforts to work.⁹

SOURCES

¹WTHR Channel 13, *Shattering the Silence* 2006 Campaign

²Hart, Timothy C. & Rennison, Callie. U.S. Department of Justice, Bureau of Justice Statistics, "Reporting Crime to the Police, 1992-2000." (March 2003).

³U.S. Department of Justice, Bureau of Justice Statistics (2003)

⁴Women's Fund of Central Indiana (2003)

⁵Lauren Glaze, "Probation and Parole in the United States, 2004," (Washington, DC: U.S. Department of Justice, 2004), 6, <http://www.ojp.usdoj.gov/bjs/pub/pdf/ppus04.pdf>, (assessed November 3, 2005).

⁶Indiana Coalition Against Domestic Violence, www.violenceresource.org.

⁷Shannan M. Catalano, "Criminal Victimization, 2004," (Washington, DC: Bureau of Justice Statistics, 2005), <http://www.ojp.usdoj.gov/bjs/pub/pdf/cv04.pdf>, (accessed October 26, 2005).

⁸Bowker, Arbitell & McFerron, "On the Relationship Between Wife Beating and Child Abuse," in Yillo & Gofrad, *Feminist Perspectives on Wife Abuse* 158, 162 (1998).

⁹The National Center on Family Homelessness, "Violence in the Lives of Homeless Women." (2004), www.familyhomelessness.org/facts.html

