**DID YOU KNOW?**

- One in every four women will experience domestic violence in her lifetime.\(^1\) One in 33 men have experienced an attempted or completed rape.\(^2\)
- An estimated 1.3 million women are victims of physical assault by an intimate partner each year.\(^3\)
- The majority (73%) of family violence victims are female. Females were 84% of spousal abuse victims and 86% of abuse victims at the hands of a boyfriend.\(^4\)
- The cost of intimate partner violence exceeds $5.8 billion each year, $4.1 billion of which is for direct medical and mental health services.\(^5\)
- Boys who witness domestic violence are twice as likely to abuse their own partners and children when they become adults.\(^6\)

**CHALLENGES**

- Massachusetts shelters reported that victims’ average length of stay has more than doubled in 2005, primarily due to housing shortages.\(^7\)
- Due to a serious lack of space, thousands of victims are turned away each year from residential services.\(^7\)
- Due to lack of shelter and housing for GLBT domestic violence victims, an overwhelming number become homeless due to the abuse.\(^7\)

**STATEMENTS FROM SERVICE PROVIDERS**

“A shortfall of services manifests itself quite concretely, when victims call a shelter or community-based program for help and do not get it—and this happens thousands of times each year!”

- Advocate, Jane Doe

“We are constantly fighting to increase funding for Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender domestic violence organizations in Massachusetts.”

- Advocate, Gay Men’s Domestic Violence Project

**DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AND SEXUAL ASSAULT IN MASSACHUSETTS**

- More than 33,000 women and children were served by community-based domestic violence programs in Massachusetts in 2005.\(^7\)
- The statewide domestic violence hotline, SafeLink, answered 21,637 domestic violence calls in 2006.\(^7\)
- There were 42 victims killed in domestic violence related incidents and 37 incidents of domestic violence related homicide in 2007.\(^7\)
  - There were fifteen victims of domestic homicide in only the first half of 2006, which was equal to the total killed in 2005.
  - There have been 24 domestic violence homicides so far in 2008, including 5 children.
- There were 28,760 protection orders issued in Massachusetts in 2005.\(^7\)
  - 82% of the perpetrators were male.\(^7\)
  - During this same period, 4,347 adults (88% of whom were male) were arraigned for violating orders for protection.\(^7\)
- There were 2,582 incidents of sexual assault in Massachusetts between July 1, 2005 and June 30, 2006.\(^8\)
  - 1,742 of these cases were forcible rape.\(^9\)

**STATE RESOURCES**

The Massachusetts Coalition Against Sexual Assault And Domestic Violence

[www.janedoe.org](http://www.janedoe.org)

Jane Doe brings together organizations and people committed to ending domestic violence and sexual assault. They create social change by addressing the root causes of this violence, and promote justice, safety and healing for survivors. As advocates for responsive public policy, the coalition also promotes collaboration, raises public awareness, and supports its member organizations to provide comprehensive prevention and intervention services.

For more information or to get help, please contact the Massachusetts Coalition Against Domestic Violence Hotline at 1-877-785-2020

The National Domestic Violence Hotline at 1-800-799-SAFE
The National Sexual Assault Hotline at 1-800-656-HOPE

NCADV Public Policy Office · 1633 Q St NW # 210 · Washington, DC 20009 · (202) 745-1211 · Fax: (202) 745-0088 [publicpolicy@ncadv.org](mailto:publicpolicy@ncadv.org)
The Public Policy Office of the National Coalition Against Domestic Violence (NCADV) is a national leader in the effort to create and influence Federal legislation that positively affects the lives of domestic violence victims and children. We work closely with advocates at the local, state and national level to identify the issues facing domestic violence victims, their children and the people who serve them and to develop a legislative agenda to address these issues. NCADV welcomes you to join us in our effort to end domestic violence.

*This chart is important to note because children who are exposed to domestic violence are more likely to exhibit behavioral and physical health problems including depression, anxiety, and violence towards peers. They are also more likely to attempt suicide, abuse drugs and alcohol, run away from home, engage in teenage prostitution, and commit sexual assault crimes.*

**SOURCES**