

Situation Analysis:

Domestic Violence and Homelessness

Overview

Domestic Violence (DV) is a major contributor to homelessness, especially among women. According to the U.S. Conference of Mayors (2008), 28% of homeless families cited DV as the main reason for homelessness.

National data shows that about 63% of homeless women have experienced DV.*

In addition to immediate short-term shelter needs, individuals and families experiencing DV are dealing with the additional security issue related to their escape from their abuser.

Domestic violence and emotional abuse are behaviors used by one person in a relationship to control the other.

www.domesticviolence.org/definition/

July 20, 2011

Prepared by the Metropolitan Homelessness Commission.

Who Are Domestic Violence Victims?

There is no common denominator to define a typical DV victim, other than that the majority is female. DV victims come from all ethnic, economic and social backgrounds. While studies have shown that women with household incomes of \$7,500 or less are 17 times more likely to experience DV than women with household incomes of \$75,000 or more, advocates warn that this number is deceiving and just shows that low-income DV victims are more likely to report abuse.**

DV victims often are reluctant to seek help for various reasons including fear, shame, disbelief, low self-esteem, etc. Male DV victims typically have to overcome the additional stigma of ridicule and shame, which often leads to hiding the abuse.

Nearly a quarter of all women and 11% of men over 18 years of age have a lifelong history of DV victimization, according to a 2006 report by the Center for Disease Control and Prevention. The same study found that 31% of female victims are between the age of 45 and 54. Over 21% of male victims are between 25 and 34 years old.

Notes from the author:

Domestic Violence is a complex issue. Victims of DV who are attempting to leave their situations immediately deal with safety and housing issues.

Studies conducted at state and city levels consistently report that a high percentage of homeless women have experienced DV.

Domestic Violence & Children

A survey of 6,000 American families released in 1990 showed that 50% of men who frequently assaulted their wives also frequently assaulted their children.***

Effect of Domestic Violence

In a fact sheet released in 2011, the Center for Disease Control and Prevention states that:

- Intimate Partner Violence (IPV) - another term for Domestic Violence (DV) - affects 4.8 million women and 2.9 million men each year.
- IPV resulted in 2,340 deaths in 2007 (70% were female, 30% male).
- The economic cost of IPV on medical care, mental health services and lost productivity was an estimated \$5.8 billion in 1995 (which would be \$8.3 billion if ad-

DV rates in homeless women

- According to shelters in Virginia, 35% of their clients are homeless because of family violence.
- A study in Massachusetts released in 2007 found that 92% of homeless women had experienced severe physical or sexual assaults at some point in their lives. 63% were violated by an intimate partner.
- A survey in San Diego found that 50% of homeless women were DV victims.
- In Minnesota, 46% of homeless women said they had previously stayed in abusive relationships because they had nowhere else to go.

Families in Shelters

A survey conducted in 2000 found that two thirds of homeless families living in shelters in Kentucky, Tennessee or the Carolinas said they had experienced domestic violence.****

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*<http://www.nationalhomeless.org/factsheets/domestic.html>

**<http://www.aclu.org/FilesPDFs/housing%20paper.4.pdf>

*** <http://tcoalition.org/#/resources/stats-a-fact/domestic-violence-statistics.html>

****http://www.aclu.org/pdfs/womenrights/factsheet_homelessness_2008.pdf

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YWCA Nashville & Middle Tennessee

With about 51 beds available, the YWCA Nashville & Middle Tennessee is the largest Domestic Violence service provider in Tennessee

Last year the YWCA served 225 women and 160 children, providing a total of 15,700 bed nights.

The YWCA serves women with children up to 18 years of age, which is important as many homeless shelters cannot accept teenage boys.

While the DV shelters are equipped to serve only women and children, the YWCA on occasion has worked with local hotels who donated some bed nights for male DV victims.

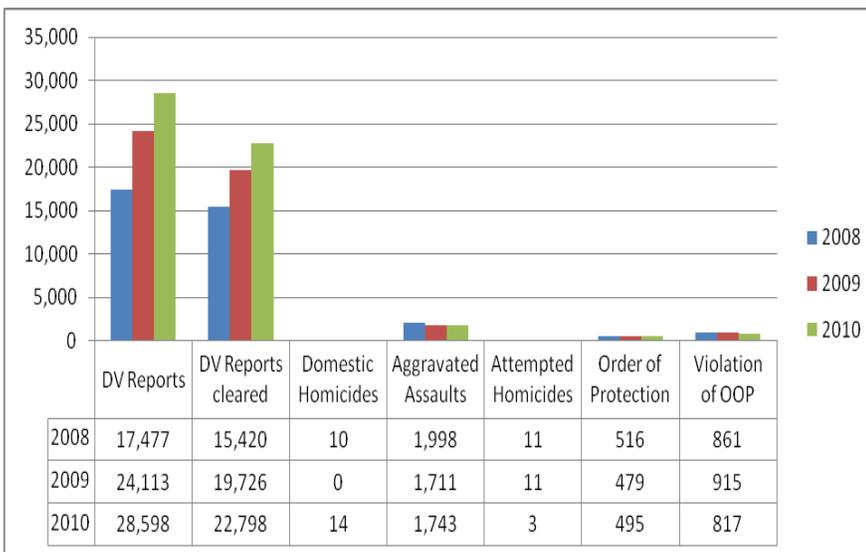
In 2010, the YWCA help line (615-242-1199) received more than 3,300 calls. This number includes non-emergency calls such as advice-seeking calls from relatives and friends who know of a DV situation.

The projection of the YWCA is that 55% of DV victims seeking shelter will exit to safe and sustainable housing. This number is not meant as a success rate, but reflects the intricate and complicated nature of Domestic Violence situations and relationships. Last year, 63% of women seeking shelter at the YWCA exited to safe and sustainable housing.

As of June 6, 2011, there have been 5 domestic violence-related homicides in Davidson County, 1 of which was a juvenile, and 13,699 reports of domestic violence. The number of reports is up 14% compared to this time last year.

www.ywcanashville.com/Programs/Domestic_Violence

Statistics from the Metro Police Department's Domestic Violence Unit:



Local Domestic Violence Hotline:

615-242-1199

or

1-800-334-4628

National Domestic Violence Hotline:

1-800-799-7233

National Rape & Sexual Assault Hotline:

1-800-656-4673

National Dating Abuse Helpline:

1-866-331-9474

Limited Data on DV victims

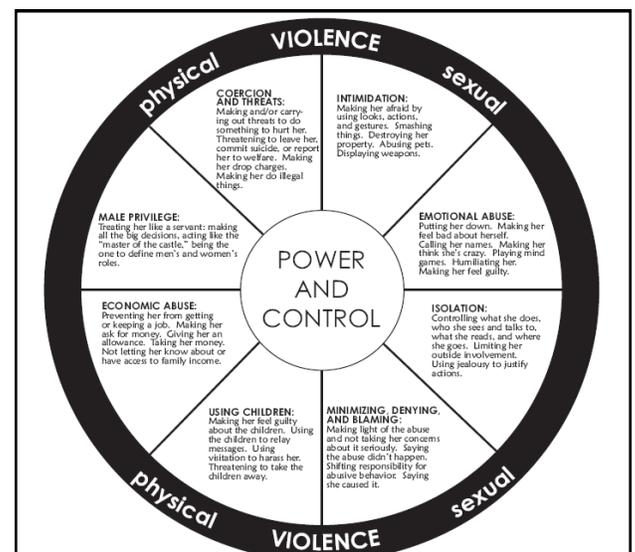
The Violence Against Women Act of 2006 prohibited providers from submitting data to the Homeless Management Information System (HMIS) database. The National Network to End Domestic Violence, however, undertook its own count to find accurate statistics. Consequently, a national census of DV services conducted on Sept. 17, 2009, showed that more than 30,433 DV victims received housing services from DV programs including emergency shelter and transitional housing.

Additional Information

The Tennessee Coalition to End Domestic & Sexual Violence conducted a survey in 2009, which received a 100% response rate from state DV service providers. The survey results are available at www.tncoalition.org.

Domestic Violence resources and shelter contact information is posted in the Where to Find Help section at www.thekeyalliance.org.

Power and Control Wheel



<http://cmhc.utexas.edu/pdf/PowerControlwheel.pdf>