



interfaith partnership against domestic violence
because no one should have to choose between faith and safety

Domestic Violence Statistics

- Globally, **one third of women (31%)** report being physically or sexually abused by an intimate partner.ⁱ
- Each of these victims has parents, brothers, sisters, partners, grandparents, neighbors, co-workers, children, fellow congregants, aunts, uncles, cousins, and friends, who will also be affected.
- In the U.S. more than three women are killed by intimate partners every day, more than **1200 women every year.**ⁱⁱ
- **During the first five years of the Iraqi war, 4,000 American soldiers were killed in combat. During those same five years, more than 6,000 Americans have been killed, not by enemies, but by lovers and intimate partners.**
- Pregnant and recently pregnant women are more likely to be victims of homicide than to die of any other cause.ⁱⁱⁱ
- More than **33%** of all female homicide victims are killed by their intimate partners.^{iv}
- Domestic violence is the leading cause of death for African American women aged 15 – 34 years.^v
- **3.3 million** American children witness abuse in their homes every year.^{vi}
- Between **12% and 35%** of teens have experienced some form of violence, from pushing and shoving to hitting, in a dating relationship.^{vii}

- Estimated annual U. S. health care costs for domestic violence:
\$4,100,000,000.^{viii}
- Victims from immigrant communities face additional barriers to safety:
 - Language
 - Isolation
 - Poverty
 - Immigration status
 - Documentation and employment issues
 - Racial, ethnic, and religious discrimination
 - Distrust of law enforcement
 - Distrust of government and its agencies^{ix}
- Studies show that “immigrant women often suffer higher rates of battering than U.S. citizens because they may come from cultures that accept domestic violence or because they have less access to legal and social services than U.S. citizens. Additionally, immigrant batterers and victims may believe that the penalties and protections of the U.S. legal system do not apply to them.”^x
- **Each year, more abuse victims, perpetrators, and family members seek help from clergy and religious leaders than all other helping professionals combined.**^{xi}

ⁱ U.S. Department of Justice, “Violence by Intimates: Analysis of Data on Crimes by Current or Former Spouses, Boyfriends, and Girlfriends,” March 1998.

ⁱⁱ Heise, L., Ellsberg, M. and Gottemoeller, M., “Ending Violence Against Women.” Populations Reports, Series L, No. 11., December 1999.

ⁱⁱⁱ Journal of the American Medical Association, 2001.

^{iv} U.S. Department of Justice, Bureau of Statistics, “Intimate Partner Violence 1993 – 2001,” February 2003.

^v African Voices Against Violence, Tufts University, Statistics 2002.

^{vi} The Commonwealth Fund, “Health Concerns Across a Woman’s Lifespan: 1998 Survey of Women’s Health,” May 1999.

^{vii} Simon and Golden, 1997.

^{viii} The Commonwealth Fund, “Health Concerns Across a Woman’s Lifespan: 1998 Survey of Women’s Health,” May 1999.

^{ix} Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, “Poised for Prevention: Advancing Promising Approaches to Primary Prevention of Intimate Partner Violence,” January 2007.

^x Orloff et al., 1995. “With No Place to Turn: Improving Advocacy for Battered Immigrant Women.” *Family Law Quarterly*. 29(2):313.

^{xi} Horton, Anne L and Williamson, Judith A., Abuse and Religion: When Praying Isn’t Enough, p. xi, Lexington Books, 1988.