



DOMESTIC VIOLENCE FACTS: LOUISIANA



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

- Hurricanes Katrina and Rita caused economic hardship on funding, in particular, the Governor's Office on Women's Policy's budget, 87% of which goes towards funding for local programs that fight domestic violence, and was cut by over \$200,000.⁷
- Lack of public transportation, particularly in rural areas, makes it difficult for victims of domestic violence in Louisiana to access the help and safety they need.⁷
- Louisiana's domestic abuse battery law includes only opposite-sex partners who are currently living, or have previously lived, in the same residence.⁸

STATEMENTS FROM SERVICE PROVIDERS

"We built a safe, nurturing school for children of battered women residing in our shelter where, with the support of the community, the students excelled academically and were safe. Then, in December 2004, an act passed as part of No Child Left Behind stated that children in shelters cannot be separated from regular school settings, and we had to close the school."

~Advocate, Cackasieu Women's Shelter

"Our greatest struggle is the overwhelming need for safe shelters and resources for battered women and children. Our 45 bed shelter is constantly full and the need grows every day."

~Executive Director,
Faith House of Acadiana

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AND SEXUAL ASSAULT IN LOUISIANA

- In 2005, 8,686 women and 4,607 children received domestic violence services from non-residential programs or in residential shelters in Louisiana.⁷
- More than 3,500 orders for protection were issued in 2005.⁷
- 1,562 forcible rapes were reported in Louisiana in 2006.⁸
- In 2005, Louisiana had the third highest number of females murdered by males in the nation.⁹
 - ◇ 84% of the female victims in Louisiana who were murdered by males knew their offender.⁹
 - ◇ 20 of those victims were wives, common-law wives, ex-wives, or girlfriends of the offender.⁹
 - ◇ 58% were killed with a firearm.⁹

STATE RESOURCES

Louisiana Coalition Against Domestic Violence
www.lcadv.org

- ◇ The Coalition is a statewide network of battered women's programs, supportive organizations, and individuals who share the goal of ending violence against women and children in Louisiana and push for improvements in domestic violence policy.

Louisiana Foundation Against Sexual Assault
www.lafasa.org

- ◇ The Foundation provides a collective voice of survivor concerns and needs in the state of Louisiana. Services include: a Sexual Assault Resource Center; education on sexual assault issues to the public, sexual assault crisis centers and allied professionals; developing and implementing a state-wide Sexual Assault Nurse Examiners program; providing consultation and technical assistance; training for investigators and first responders; and developing public policy.

For more information or to get help, please contact the
Louisiana Domestic Violence Hotline at
1-888-411-1333

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

Domestic Violence – Where to Get Help

| Domestic Violence Resource | Contact Information |
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| Louisiana Coalition Against Domestic Violence (LCADV) | State-wide Domestic Violence Hotline: 1-888-411-1333 www.lcadv.org |
| National Domestic Violence Hotline | 1-800-799-SAFE (7233) www.thehotline.org |
| Louisiana Foundation Against Sexual Assault | www.lafasa.org |
| Domestic Violence Advocates and Support Contacts (An Abuse, Rape and Domestic Violence Resource Collection) | Louisiana specific information: www.aardvarc.org/dv/states/ladv.shtml |