

YOU ARE NOT ALONE. THE FACTS ON DOMESTIC VIOLENCE.

- Every **9 seconds** in the U.S. a woman is assaulted or beaten.¹
- Around the world, at least **one in every three women** has been beaten, coerced into sex or otherwise abused during her lifetime. Most often, the abuser is a member of her own family.²
- **64 percent of women** who reported being raped, physically assaulted, and/or stalked since age 18 were victimized by a current or former husband, cohabitating partner, boyfriend or date.³
- Domestic violence is the leading cause of injury to women – more than car accidents, muggings and rapes combined.⁴
- In a national survey of more than 6,000 American families, 50 percent of the men who frequently assaulted their wives also frequently abused their children.⁵
- Studies suggest that up to **10 million children** witness some form of domestic violence annually.⁶
- 80% of runaways come from homes where domestic violence occurs.⁷
- **40 percent of girls** age 14 to 17 report knowing someone their age who has been hit or beaten by a boyfriend.⁸
- 94 percent of men in jail are witnesses or victims of domestic violence.⁹
- **92 percent of women** surveyed listed reducing domestic violence and sexual assault as their top concern.¹⁰

1 Bureau of Justice Statistics, *Violence Against Women: Estimates from the Redesigned Survey*, August 1998.

2 Heise, L., Ellsberg, M. and Gottemoeller, M., *Ending Violence Against Women*. Population Reports, Series L, No. 11., December 1999.

3 Patricia Tjaden and Nancy Thoennes, *Extent, Nature and Consequences of Intimate Partner Violence*, National Institute of Justice, 2000.

4 Surgeon General of the United States - Report of 1996.

5 Strauss, Murray A, Gelles, Richard J., and Smith, Christine. 1990. *Physical Violence in American Families; Risk Factors and Adaptations to Violence in 8,145 Families*. New Brunswick: Transaction Publishers.

6 Carlson, Bonnie E. (1984). Children's Observations of Interpersonal Violence. Pp. 147-167 in A.R. Roberts (Ed.) *Battered Women and their Families* (pp. 147-167). NY: Springer. Straus, M.A. (1992). Children as witnesses to marital violence: A risk factor for lifelong problems among a nationally representative sample of American men and women. Report of the Twenty-Third Ross Roundtable. Columbus, OH: Ross Laboratories.

7 San Diego Domestic Violence Council, 1998.

8 Children Now/Kaiser Permanente Poll, December 1995.

9 Pennsylvania Study of Prisons, 2000.

10 *Progress and Perils: New Agenda for Women*, Center for the Advancement of Women, June 2003.