

APPENDIX 1 STATISTICS ON DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

VICTIMS: WHO IS AFFECTED

Global

- Domestic violence is both a national and a worldwide crisis. According to a 2000 UNICEF study, 20-50% of the female population of the world will become victims of domestic violence.¹
- The United Nations Development Fund for Women estimates that at least 1 of every 3 women globally will be beaten, raped or otherwise abused during her lifetime. In most cases, the abuser is a member of her own family.²
- A 2005 World Health Organization study found that of 15 sites in 10 countries-representing diverse cultural settings-the proportion of ever-partnered women who had experienced physical or sexual IPV in their lifetimes ranged from 15% in Japan to 71% in Ethiopia.³

U.S. Population

- Nearly 1 in 4 (25%) women report experiencing violence by a current or former spouse or boyfriend at some point in her life.⁴
- In the U.S. 2 million women are battered by their partners each year.⁵
- Nearly 3 out of 4 (74%) of Americans personally know someone who is or has been a victim of IPV. 30% of Americans say they know a woman who has been physically abused by her husband/boyfriend in the past year.⁶

Gender

- Women are much more likely than men to be victimized by a current or former intimate partner.⁷
- Women account for 85% of victims while men account for 15%.⁸ In other words, women are *5 to 8 times more likely* than men to be victimized by an intimate partner.⁹
- Women are 84% of spouse abuse victims and 86% of victims of abuse at the hands of a boyfriend or girlfriend and about 75% of the persons who commit family violence are male.¹⁰
- The vast majority of domestic assaults are committed by men. Even when men are victimized, 10% are assaulted by another man. In contrast, only 2% of women who are victimized are assaulted by another woman.¹¹

Age

- Women of all ages are at risk for domestic and sexual violence, and those age 20 to 24 are at the greatest risk.¹²
- Young women age 20 to 24 also experience the highest rates of rape and sexual assault, followed by those 16 to 19.¹³ /Women age 18 and 19 experience the highest rates of stalking.¹⁴
- Younger victims of IPV were least likely to report the violence to the police.¹⁵

Income

- IPV affects people regardless of income. However, people with lower annual income (below \$25K) are at a 3-times higher risk than people with higher annual income (over \$50K).¹⁶ *Please note that those with less resources are more likely to report incidents of violence and this statistic does not reflect upscale abuse.
- On average between 1993 and 2004, residents of urban areas experienced highest level of nonfatal IPV. Residents in suburban and rural areas were equally likely to experience such violence, about 20% less than those in urban areas.¹⁷

Race

- Women of all races are about equally vulnerable to violence by an intimate partner.¹⁸
- Black and white women experienced IPV at similar rates for every age group except age 20 to 24. Among that group, there were 29 violent victimizations per 1,000 black women compared to 20 per 1,000 white women.¹⁹
- Between 1993 and 2005, rates of nonfatal IPV decreased for white females, white males, and black females. Between 2004 and 2005, rates of IPV remained stable for white females at 3.1 per 1,000 persons age 12 or older; black females at 4.6 per 1,000 persons age 12 or older; white males at .7 per 1,000 persons age 12 or older.²⁰
- Average annual rates of IPV between 1994 and 2004 are approximately the same for non-Hispanic and Hispanic females and males.²¹

Immigrant Women*

- Abusers often use their partners' immigration status as a tool of control.²² In such situations, it is common for a batterer to exert control over his partner's immigration status in order to force her to remain in the relationship.²³
- 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.²⁴

- Battered immigrant women who attempt to flee may not have access to bilingual shelters, financial assistance, or food. It is also unlikely that they will have the assistance of a certified interpreter in court, when reporting complaints to the police or a 911 operator, or even in acquiring information about their rights and the legal system.²⁵
- Married immigrant women experience higher levels of physical and sexual abuse than unmarried immigrant women, 59.5% compared to 49.8%, respectively.²⁶
- A recent study in New York City found that 51% of intimate partner homicide victims were foreign-born, while 45% were born in the U.S.²⁷
- 48% of Latinas in one study reported that their partner's violence against them had increased since they immigrated to the U.S.²⁸
- A survey of immigrant Korean women found that 60% had been battered by their husbands.²⁹

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE INCIDENTS

- Every 9 seconds in the U.S. a woman is assaulted or beaten.³⁰
- The majority of nonfatal intimate partner victimizations of women (2/3) in the U.S. occur at home.³¹
- In this country, a man beats up a woman every 12 seconds. That's 7,200 outbursts of violence every day, 50,400 every week, 2,620,800 every year.³²
- According to a national crime victimization survey, 6 times as many women are hurt by their husbands and lovers as are hurt by strangers.³³
- Estimates range from 960,000 incidents of violence against a current or former spouse, boyfriend, or girlfriend to 3 million women who are physically abused by their husband or boyfriend per year.³⁴
- On average between 2001 and 2005, nonfatal intimate partner victimizations accounted for 22% of the violent crimes against females age 12 or older compared to 4% of nonfatal violent crimes against males age 12 or older.³⁵
- Battering increases during (1) Pregnancy (2) Infant children who demand mother's time (3) Adolescence. Adolescents either became supportive of their mother and attempted to stop the batterer from harming her, or they identified with the batterer and began to abuse their mother themselves.³⁶
- Several studies show a correlation between lethality and animal abuse where women report a pet had been threatened, injured, or killed by their abuser.³⁷ In another survey, 20% of women delayed leaving the abusive situation out of fear their pet would be harmed.³⁸

SEPARATION VIOLENCE

- Separated and divorced individuals are at a greater risk of nonfatal IPV.³⁹
- Women separated from their husbands were victimized by an intimate at rates higher than married, divorced, widowed or never married women.⁴⁰
- In 1995 the Bureau of Justice Statistics found that women separated from their husband were 3 times more likely to be victimized by their spouse than divorced women, and 25 times more likely to be victimized by their spouse than married woman.⁴¹
- Although divorced and separated women compose only 7% of the population in U.S., they account for 75% of all battered women. They report being battered 14 times as often as women still living with their partners.⁴²
- 75% of domestic assaults reported to law enforcement agencies were inflicted after separation of the couples.⁴³
- Nearly 75% of battered women seeking emergency medical services sustained injuries after leaving the batterer.⁴⁴
- A 1997 report from the Florida Governor's Task Force on Domestic and Sexual Violence found that 65% of intimate homicide victims physically separated from the perpetrator prior to their death.⁴⁵

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE HOMICIDES

- On average more than 4 women a day are murdered by their husbands or boyfriends in the U.S.⁴⁶
- Other studies have found that women are most likely to be murdered when attempting to report abuse or to leave an abusive relationship.⁴⁷
- Government statistics indicate that 1,500 to 2,000 women are murdered by partners and ex-partners per year, comprising more than 33% of all female homicide victims, and that these homicides almost always follow a history of violence, threats, or stalking.⁴⁸
- Only 20% of all homicides are committed by strangers, even though this is the violence that captures our fear and attention. The other 80% are committed by people we know.⁴⁹
- Most intimate partner homicides occur between spouses, though boyfriends/girlfriends have committed about the same number of homicides in recent years.⁵⁰

- Between 1993 and 2004, IPV on average made up 22% of nonfatal intimate partner victimizations against women. The same year, intimate partners committed 3% of all violent crime against men.⁵¹
- Homicide is the second leading cause of traumatic death for pregnant and recently pregnant women in the U.S., accounting for 31% of maternal injury deaths.⁵²
- About 15% of serious assaults are reported to the police... Only 78% of these reports lead to police action, this means that police come into contact with approximately 12% of all severely violent acts. But only half of these contacts lead to the criminal justice system. So, now ...only 6% of severely violent episodes lead to the batterer entering criminal justice system... In about 94% of the cases of severe assault, there are no legal consequences at all for the batterer... About 2/3 of cases that enter the criminal justice system end up in court. When cases do go to court, a conviction occurs 50% of the time. But quite often the conviction involves either a suspended sentence or probation. When all these factors are taken into account only about 1 out of every 10,000 acts of battering result in a fine or a jail sentence.⁵³

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE & HEALTH CARE

Injuries:

- About 50% of all female victims of IPV report an injury of some type, and about 20% of them seek medical assistance.⁵⁴
- In 2008, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention published data collected in 2005 that finds that women experience 2 million injuries from IPV each year.⁵⁵
- A 2002 study by the U.S. Department of Justice found that most victims injured by IPV did not report seeking professional medical treatment for their injuries.⁵⁶
- 1 out of 4 (25%) women's visits to emergency rooms are due to DV.⁵⁷
- 37% of women who sought treatment in emergency rooms for violence-related injuries in 1994 were injured by a current or former spouse, boyfriend or girlfriend.⁵⁸
- Nearly 75% of the battered women seeking emergency medical services sustained injuries after leaving the batterer.⁵⁹
- Among 218 women presenting in a metropolitan emergency department with injuries due to violence, 28% required hospital admission and 13% required major medical treatment.⁶⁰
- A 2005 study using data from a national telephone survey of 8,000 women about their experiences with violence, found that on average, women who reported injuries as a consequence of their most recent incident of physical IPV visited the emergency room twice, a physician more than 3 times (3.5), a dentist more than 5 times (5.2) and made nearly 20 visits (19.7) to physical therapy.⁶¹

Mental Health Care:

- IPV results in more than 18.5 mental health care visits each year.⁶²
- 37% of battered women have symptoms of depression,⁶³ 46% have symptoms of anxiety disorder,⁶⁴ and 45% experience PTSD.⁶⁵
- A study of 84 women diagnosed with depression who disclosed IPV revealed that 18.6% of abused women reported Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD), compared to 6.7% of non-abused women. The same study found that 53.5% of abused women reported sleeping problems/nightmares, compared to 23.3% of non-abused women.⁶⁶
- 56% of women who experience IPV are diagnosed with a psychiatric disorder.⁶⁷ 29% of all women who attempt suicide were battered.⁶⁸
- The emotional effects of partner violence are a factor in more than 25% of female suicide attempts and are a leading cause of substance abuse in adult women.⁶⁹

FAMILY VIOLENCE & CHILDREN

Who is Affected:

- 15.5 million children in the U.S. live in families in which IPV occurred at least once in the past year, and 7 million children live in families in which severe partner violence occurred.⁷⁰
- The UN Secretary-General's Study on Violence Against Children conservatively estimates that 275 million children worldwide are exposed to violence in the home.⁷¹
- Children under age 12 are residents of the households experiencing IPV in 38% of incidents involving female victims.⁷²
- On average between 2001 and 2005, 38% of children witnessing IPV were young girls and 21% were young boys.⁷³
- The National Woman Abuse Prevention Project reports that children are present in 41 to 55% of homes where police intervene in DV calls.⁷⁴
- In a single day in 2008, 16,458 children were living in a DV shelter or transitional housing facility. Another

6,430 children sought services at a non-residential program.⁷⁵

- By the age of 18, children in America will have witnessed 200,000 acts of violence in the media.⁷⁶

Injuries:

- More than 90% of battered women said that their children have witnessed their battering.⁷⁷
- The U.S. Advisory Board on Child Abuse and Neglect suggests that DV may be the single major precursor to child abuse and neglect fatalities in this country.⁷⁸
- Approximately 1 in 4 incidents (25%) of relationship abuse involves injury to children.⁷⁹
- Children may indirectly receive injuries. They may be hurt when household items or weapons are thrown or used, when their mothers who are being attacked by the batterer are holding them.⁸⁰
- In homes where partner abuse occurs, children are 1,500 times more likely to be abused.⁸¹

VICTIMS SEEKING ASSISTANCE

- Domestic violence is one of the most chronically underreported crimes.⁸²
- Most do not report the violence to police, largely because they fear reprisals from their abuser.⁸³
- 50% of battered women never tell anyone about it, according to a poll by Louis Harris & Associates.⁸⁴
- Based on reports from 10 countries, between 55 to 95% of women who had been physically abused by their partners had never contacted non-governmental organizations, shelters, or the police for help.⁸⁵
- At least 1 in 5 women reporting physical abuse had never told anyone about it.⁸⁶
- Victims may wait to contact counselors or seek nonemergency care after an initial delay period of several days.⁸⁷
- On average, 21% of female victims and 10% of male victims of nonfatal IPV contact an outside agency for assistance. Of those females and males contacting an outside agency, 45% contact a private agency.⁸⁸
- Nearly 2.2 million people called a DV crisis or hot line in 2004 to escape crisis situations, seek advice, or assist someone they thought might be victims.⁸⁹
- Reporting domestic violence to police appears to reduce the risk of a husband attacking his wife again by as much as 62%.⁹⁰
- A recent study found that 44% of victims of DV talked to someone about the abuse; 37% of those women talked to their health care provider.⁹¹ Additionally, in 4 different studies of survivors of abuse, 70 to 81% of the patients studied reported that they would like their healthcare providers to ask them privately about IPV.⁹²

LAW ENFORCEMENT

- Statistically, only 10% of victims call the police for help. Of these, most stated that the police were ineffective: when the police left, the assault was renewed with added vigor.⁹³
- Only approximately 25% of all physical assaults, 20% of all rapes, and 50% of all stalkings perpetuated against females by intimate partners are reported to the police.⁹⁴
- On average, only 70% of nonfatal IPV is reported to law enforcement. Of those not reporting, 41% of male and 27% of female victims (34% average) stated victimization being a private/personal matter as reason for not reporting, 15% of women feared reprisal, 12% of all victims wished to protect the offender, and 6% of all victims believed police would do nothing.⁹⁵
- 80% of batterers were violent only in their domestic relations. 80% of them had never been brought before the criminal justice system prior to the battering incident.⁹⁶
- 1/3 of all police time is spent responding to IPV disturbance calls.⁹⁷

Restraining Orders

- TROs are issued in America at the rate of more than 1,000 every day.⁹⁸
- Approximately 20% of the 1.5 million people who experience IPV annually obtain civil protection orders.⁹⁹
- Approximately 50% of the orders obtained by women against intimate partners who physically assaulted them were violated. More than 2/3 (66%) of the restraining orders against intimate partners who raped or stalked the victim were violated.¹⁰⁰
- More than 17% of homicide victims had filed for a protection order against the perpetrator at the time of the murder.¹⁰¹
- 50% of women in one study said the TRO worsened their case.¹⁰²
- In a U.S. Department of Justice study, 1/3 (33%) women had continuing problems after getting restraining orders.¹⁰³
- In one study nearly 50% of the victims who obtained a protection order were re-abused within 2 years.¹⁰⁴

APPENDIX 2 Timeline & History of Domestic Violence Movement

- **753 B.C.E.** During the reign of Romulus in Rome, wife beating is accepted and condoned under The Laws of Chastisement that permit a husband to beat his wife with a rod as long as its circumference is no greater than the girth of the base of his right thumb, hence “The Rule of Thumb.” This notion is perpetuated throughout most of Europe.¹⁰⁵
- **1866** American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals is formed. It predates the founding of the Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children, established in 1875. Both predate any organization aimed at preventing cruelty to women.¹⁰⁶
- **1871** Alabama is the first state to rescind the legal right of men to beat their wives. Massachusetts also declares wife beating illegal.¹⁰⁷
- **1882** Maryland is the first state to pass a law that makes wife-beating a crime, punishable by 40 lashes, or a year in jail.¹⁰⁸
- **1960’s** Beginning of feminist movement in America.
- **1964** Haven house in Pasadena, California treats battered women married to alcoholic men. Between 1964-1972 it shelters over 1000 women and children.¹⁰⁹
- **1967** Maine is one of the first states to create domestic violence shelter as the grass-roots movement begins.¹¹⁰
- **1971** Grass-roots organization in London opens first women’s shelter in Europe. “Erin Pizzey founded the first known refuge in England in 1971. The house was donated by the local housing council and became known as Chiswick Women’s Aid. Originally it served as a meeting place for women who wanted to talk. Almost immediately, however, women who were being beaten and did not want to return home came for safety and refuge, not just to talk.”¹¹¹
- **1972** July issue of Ms. Magazine reports in the “No Comment” section an ad for a bowling alley in Michigan which reads “Have some fun. Beat your wife tonight. Then celebrate with some good food and drink with your friends.”¹¹²
- up until **1974** people were still questioning whether significant numbers of battered women really existed.¹¹³
- **1975** Most states permitted wife to file criminal charges against husband who inflicted injury or abuse.
- **Late 1970’s** The term domestic violence was coined after these crimes began to receive more attention in the community.¹¹⁴
- **1976** The Domestic Violence Act allows for temporary exclusion from the house of the violent partner using a civil injunction with the possibility of attaching powers of arrest for subsequent violation.¹¹⁵
- **1978** National Coalition Against Domestic Violence (NCADV) is born after extensive organizing efforts by feminists nationwide.¹¹⁶ Initial goals emphasize gaining financial aid for shelters and grassroots services, sharing information, and supporting research beneficial to the movement.¹¹⁷
- **1979** More than 250 battered women’s shelters established in the U.S.¹¹⁸
- **1981** October established as National Domestic Violence Awareness month. National Coalition Against Domestic Violence (NCADV) declares Oct 17th national day of unity for battered women across country.¹¹⁹
- **1981** There are nearly 500 established battered women’s shelters in U.S.¹²⁰
- **1981** Restraining orders are granted only for divorce, separation, or custody proceedings in 12 states.¹²¹
- **1981** Nilda Rimonte, Filipino victim, creates ‘Every Women’s Shelter’ in Los Angeles, the first shelter in U.S. for Asian women.¹²²
- **1983** Over 700 shelters in operation nationwide serving 91,000 women and 131,000 children per year.¹²³
- **1985** New York Asian Women’s Center is formed. It sponsors programs to combat violence against Asian women.¹²⁴
- **1987** National Coalition Against Domestic Violence (NCADV) created nationwide effort to educate and promote understanding of IPV to help victims.¹²⁵
- **1989** U.S. has 1,200 battered women programs which shelter 300,000 women and children per year.¹²⁶
- **1990** A survey of several hundred therapists regarding DV cases reveals that 41% failed to identify obvious evidence of violence. None of the therapists identified the lethality of the situation. Those who did identify conflict minimized the severity and 55% said they would not intervene. 14% said they would work on the couples ‘communications style.’¹²⁷

- **1992** U.S. surgeon general ranks abuse by husbands as leading cause of injuries to women aged 15 to 44.¹²⁸ AMA releases guidelines for doctors to screen women for signs of domestic violence.¹²⁹
- **1994** Congress passes the Violence Against Women Act (VAWA), part of the federal Crime Victims Act, which funds services for victims of rape and DV, allows women to seek civil rights remedies for gender related crimes, and provides training to increase police and court officials' sensitivity.¹³⁰ It creates for the first time a federal right to sue the assailant for gender-based violence and provides that states and American Indian nations give full faith and credit to each other's restraining orders.¹³¹
- **1996** National DV hotline launched to address the growing need of victims needing to reach out for help.¹³²
- **1996** Over 1,200 battered women's shelters in U.S. sponsored by approximately 1800 IPV agencies.¹³³
- **1997** National DV summit said DIMA will clarify legal and privacy issues associated with domestic violence.¹³⁴
- **1997** More than 2,000 shelters and safe-house networks across the U.S., and still there are not enough. Animal shelters outnumber DV centers by approximately 10 to 1 in Florida.¹³⁵
- **2005** AMA developed guidelines on appropriate clinical responses to domestic violence outlined in *Diagnostic and Treatment Guidelines on Domestic Violence*.¹³⁶

APPENDIX 3 TIMELINE for South Asian Women's Organizations

1983 Sneha established in Hartford, Connecticut.

1985 Manavi established in New Brunswick, New Jersey.

1987 Michigan Asian Indian Family Services (MAIFS) established in Livonia, Michigan.

1989 Sakhi established in New York, New York.

1989 Apna Ghar established in Chicago, Illinois.

1989 Asha established in Rockville, Maryland.

1990 South Asian Network (SAN) established in Los Angeles, California.

1991 Sahara established in Artesia, California.

1991 Maitri established in San Jose, California.

1992 Narika established in Berkely, California.

1993 Sakhi and Manavi co-organize "South Asian Immigrant Women: Our Social Realities," the first South Asian women's conference in the U.S. hosted at Columbia University.

1994 Violence Against Women's Act (VAWA) passed by Congress as a United States federal law. Protects the rights of DV victims and ensures immigrant women are able to self-petition for green cards so they are not dependent on their abusers.

1995 Raksha established in Atlanta, Georgia.

1996 Daya established in Houston, Texas.

1996 Saheli established in Boston, Massachusetts.

1996 Chaya established in Seattle, Washington.

1997 South Asian Women's Empowerment and Resources Alliance (SAWERA) established in Portland, Oregon.

1998 Kiran established in Raleigh, North Carolina, and then restarted in 2008.

2000 Dr. Margaret Abraham, former board member of Sakhi, publishes *Speaking the Unspeakable: Marital Violence among South Asian Immigrants in the United States*.

2000 Sandhya Nankani publishes anthology *Breaking the Silence: Domestic Violence in the South Asian American Community*.

2002 Asha Ray of Hope established in Columbus, Ohio.

2004 Sahara established in Miami, Florida.

2004 Arizona South Asians for Safe Families (ASAFSF) established in Scottsdale, Arizona.

2004 Saathi established in Rochester, New York.

2005 Chetna established in Dallas Fort Worth, Texas.

2006 Asha Kiran “ray of hope” established in Huntsville, Alabama.

2006 Peechan established in Tampa, Florida.

2007 Shamita Das Dasgupta, founder of Manavi, publishes *Body Evidence: Intimate Violence Against South Asian Women in America*.

2008 Breakthrough nonprofit organization launches the award-winning Bell Bajao “ring the bell” campaign. Recognized in 2010 by the Clinton Global Initiative. Encourages men and boys to participate in ending domestic violence by ringing the bell and getting involved.

2012 The Power to Break Free Foundation established to promote domestic violence education and create a national voice for South Asian victims and SAWO’s.

Note: This timeline highlights the establishment of many of these SAWO’s which are 501(c)(3) nonprofits. It does not include their milestones such as the creation of helplines, safe-houses, support groups, etc. Please see the resource list on our website at www.power2breakfree.com for contact information on these groups.

APPENDIX 1

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APPENDIX 2

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