



DOMESTIC ABUSE INTERVENTION SERVICES

Domestic Violence Affects Us All

Domestic violence knows no boundaries — it touches every single facet of our community regardless of race, ethnicity, gender, sexual orientation, socio-economic status, educational background, professional status and disability status. Domestic abuse creates a ripple effect that impacts our schools, businesses, neighborhoods and our faith communities. **The truth is that domestic violence touches us all.**

Among Women of Color in Our Community...

- African-American women are about **three times** more likely to be murdered by a current or former intimate partner than members of other racial backgrounds¹.
- The **number one killer** of African-American women ages 15 to 34 is homicide by a current or former intimate partner².
- Hispanic women are **more likely** than non-Hispanic women to be raped by a current or former intimate partner, but **less likely** to report the abuse to authorities³.
- Nearly **30%** of African-American women have been or will be subject to intimate partner violence in their lifetime⁴.
- As many as **41-61%** of Asian women report experiencing physical and/or sexual violence by an intimate partner during their lifetime⁵.

Barriers to Seeking Help for Domestic Violence...

Although each community of color faces their own set of unique circumstances, there are common factors that exist that contribute to the difficulty of reaching out to support services as well as the prevalent under-reporting of domestic violence among women of color⁶. A few examples of barriers to seeking help include the following:

- 1) Victims may view the incident as a personal or private matter and often fear retaliation from their abuser
- 2) Distrust of law enforcement: fear of subjecting themselves and loved ones to a criminal and civil justice system they see as sexist, and/or racially and culturally biased
- 3) Skepticism and distrust that shelter and intervention services are not culturally or linguistically competent
- 4) Myths and negative stereotypes, such as communities of color are violent, which normalize domestic violence

For more information visit www.abuseintervention.org, call 608.251.1237 or email info@abuseintervention.org.

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¹When Men Murder Women: An Analysis of 2011 Homicide Data. Violence Policy Center (VPC), Washington DC, <www.vpc.org/studies/wmmw2013.pdf>

²Africana Voices Against Violence. Tufts University, Statistics, Medford, MA, 2002, <www.ase.tufts.edu/womenscenter>

³National Institute of Justice, "Extent, Nature, and Consequences of Intimate Partner Violence" Rockville, MD <www.ncjrs.gov/pdffiles1/nij/181867.pdf>.

⁴Intimate Partner Violence in the African American Community. Institute on Domestic Violence in the African American Community (IDVAAC), University of Minnesota, St. Paul, MN <www.idvaac.org/media/publications>

⁵1 The low end of the range is from a study by A. Raj and J. Silverman, Intimate partner violence against South-Asian women in Greater Boston Journal of the American Medical Women's Association. 2002; 57(2): 111-114. The high end of the range is from a study by M. Yoshihama, Domestic violence against women of Japanese descent in Los Angeles: Two methods of estimating prevalence. Violence Against Women. 1999; 5(8):869-897

⁶Women of Color Network Facts & Stats Collection. Women of Color Network, Harrisburg, PA <www.doj.state.or.us/victims/pdf/women_of_color_network_facts_domestic_violence_2006.pdf>