

## Data on Intimate Partner Violence and Sexual Assault in Maine

September 25, 2008

### Intimate Partner Violence

- Each year over 15,000 women in Maine (3.0%) are frightened for their safety or the safety of their family or friends because of anger or threats by a current or former intimate partner (Maine BRFSS, 2007).
- Each year over 7,000 women in Maine (1.4%) are physically or sexually assaulted by an intimate partner (Maine BRFSS, 2007). (Note: National Surveys, such as the National Violence Against Women Survey conducted in 1995-1996 have found similar results (1.3%).)
- Over half (57%) of women who were physically or sexually assaulted by a partner within the past year were injured as a result of the violence (Maine BRFSS, 2007).
- In Maine, one crime of domestic assault is reported to police every 94 minutes (Maine Department of Public Safety, Crime in Maine Report, 2006)
- In 2006, there were 5,554 domestic assaults reported to police; this represents almost half (47.5%) of all reported assaults (Maine Department of Public Safety, Crime in Maine Report, 2006).
- About 45% of homicides in Maine each year are related to domestic conflicts (Maine Department of Public Safety, Crime in Maine Reports, 2003-2006).
- Twelve (12) individual men murdered thirteen (13) people in acts of Domestic Violence homicide from October 1, 2006 to September, 30, 2007 FY 07. The Homicide Victims relationships to their murderers are, 2 female intimate partners; 4 wives; 2 mothers; 2 fathers; 1 daughter, 1 son; and 1 brother (Maine Coalition to End Domestic Violence; <http://www.mcedv.org/news/documents/dvwatch.issue.2.pdf> )
- 5% of new mothers in Maine report experiencing abuse around the time of pregnancy (Maine PRAMS, 2004-2005).
- 70% of births to new mothers in Maine who experienced intimate partner violence around the time of pregnancy were not trying to get pregnant at the time they conceived (Maine PRAMS, 2004-2005)
- Almost 1 in 3 (29.4%) new mothers in Maine who experience domestic violence around the time of pregnancy were diagnosed with post-partum depression, compared to 12.5% of women who were not DV victims (Maine PRAMS, 2004-2005).
- In a single day, Maine's Domestic Violence Programs serve almost 500 clients (Domestic Violence Counts, Maine, 2007)  
[http://www.mcedv.org/news/documents/DVCounts07\\_Maine\\_Color.pdf](http://www.mcedv.org/news/documents/DVCounts07_Maine_Color.pdf) )
- Between October 1, 2006 to September 30, 2007, 16,280 people received services from Maine's statewide network of Domestic Violence Projects (Maine Coalition to End Domestic Violence; <http://www.mcedv.org/news/documents/dvwatch.issue.2.pdf>)

### Sexual Assault

- A recent study found that nearly one in five adult Maine residents report that they have been the victim of rape or attempted rape during their lifetime; 28.5% of female respondents and 7.4% of male respondents have experienced this devastating crime at

some point in their lives. (Rubin, Mark. *Maine Crime Victimization Report: Informing Public Policy for Safer Communities*. Muskie School of Public Service, University of Southern Maine, 2007.)

- Roughly 14,000 Maine residents may be the victim of rape or unwanted sexual activity during any 12 month period (Rubin, Mark. *Maine Crime Victimization Report: Informing Public Policy for Safer Communities*. Muskie School of Public Service, University of Southern Maine, 2007. )
- More than 1 in every 10 women in Maine (11.4%) have ever been raped (Maine BRFSS, 2006)
- Each year, one in every 250 women in Maine (0.4%) will be the victim of rape (Maine BRFSS, 2007).
- Among those who were ever sexually assaulted, 80% knew their attacker (Maine BRFSS, 2006).
- Almost half (48.6%) of Maine women who have ever been sexually assaulted have been diagnosed with depression (compared to 17.5% of those who had never been sexually assaulted); more than 1/3 (38%) have been diagnosed with anxiety disorder (compared to 14.2% of non-victims; Maine BRFSS 2006).
- According to the Children's Safety Network and Data Analysis Resource Center, the comprehensive costs of sexual abuse of children in Maine in 2004 were \$138,057,000. This estimate takes into consideration future earnings, medical and mental health expenses, and public programs, among other things (Cost of Child Abuse and Neglect in Maine , Children's Safety Network Economic and Data Analysis Resource Center at Pacific Institute for Research and Evaluation, Calverton, MD.)
- Each year about 330 rapes are reported to police, Maine Department of Public Safety, Crime in Maine report, 2003-2006); In 2007, there were 391 rapes reported to police in Maine. This is an increase of 15% from 2006. (Maine Department of Public Safety, Crime in Maine report, 2007.)
- In 2006, Maine's sexual assault support centers served over 1,900 individuals impacted by sexual violence, having over 9,000 contacts with these individuals. (Maine Coalition Against Sexual Assault, 2006.)
- In 2006, almost 90% of victims/survivors who called Maine's sexual assault crisis and support line were women; nearly 10% were men. (Maine Coalition Against Sexual Assault, 2006.)