

The Need: Domestic Violence Statistics

An estimated **1.3 million women** are victims of physical assault by an intimate partner each year. (National Centers for Injury Prevention and Control study, 2003.)

1 in every 4 women will experience domestic violence in her lifetime. (National Institute of Justice and the Centers of Disease Control and Prevention survey, 2000.)

92% of women who were physically abused by their partners did not discuss these incidents with their physicians; **57%** did not discuss the incidents with anyone.

(Various sources, including 90 S. Med. J. 1075 (1997); 13 Archives of Internal Med. 549 (1998); 152 Archives of Internal Med. (1992); and 5 Archives of Fam. Med. 153 (1996).)

Approximately **1 in 5 female high school students** reports being physically and/or sexually abused by a dating partner.

(Journal of the American Medical Association article, 2001.)

54% of all rape cases occur before victims reach 18 years of age. (Dating violence: Facts. (2007). Retrieved June 16, 2007, from www.ricadv.org/dating_facts.html)

Teens who experience violent relationship abuse are more likely to take risks sexually, are at risk of doing poorly in school, have an increased risk for depression, and alcohol use. **Girls are at higher risk for pregnancy and suicide attempts.**

(Archives of Pediatric Adolescent Medicine article, 2003.)

Nearly all female teenage rape victims know their attacker. 56% of teenage girls who are raped are raped by a date, 13% by a friend, and 11% by a boyfriend.

(*I Never Called it Rape*, by Robin Warshaw.)

Same-sex cohabitants reported more intimate partner violence than did opposite-sex cohabitants. Among women, 39.2% of the same-sex cohabitants and 21.7% of the opposite-sex cohabitants reported being raped, physically assaulted, and/or stalked by a marital/cohabiting partner at some time in their lifetime. (U.S. Department of Justice survey, 2000.)

It is estimated that anywhere between **3.3 million and 10 million children witness domestic violence annually.**

Research demonstrates that exposure to violence can have serious negative effects on children's development.

(National Center for Children in Poverty article, 2002.)

1 out of 14 men has been physically assaulted by a current or former spouse, cohabitating partner, boyfriend/girlfriend or date at some point in their lives.

(National Institute of Justice and Centers for Disease Control and Prevention report, 2000.)

The YLD is the home for young lawyers. The Division provides models to help young lawyers serve their communities, is committed to assuring that the legal profession reflects the society it serves, and aspires to the highest professional standards. The Division also provides tools and opportunities that young lawyers need to succeed both professionally and personally.

The YLD is the ABA's largest entity, composed of approximately 147,000 members and is open to all American Bar Association members under 36 years old or admitted to practice for five years or less.

*For more information about the
2008-2009 ABA YLD Public Service Project,
Voices Against Violence,
visit www.abanet.org/yld/dv*



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ABA Young Lawyers Division
Voices Against Violence



Young Lawyers
Division

2008-2009
Public Service Project

The Young Lawyers Division (YLD) of the American Bar Association (ABA) has a proud tradition of being the public service arm of the ABA. Each year, the YLD implements a public service project for its young lawyer affiliates and members to implement across the country. This year's project, *Voices Against Violence*, is designed to raise awareness of the issue of domestic violence, particularly teen dating violence, and to educate young lawyers about how they can help.

We are calling our over 147,000 members to action to encourage them to join their voices together to stop domestic violence. Young lawyers across the country can champion this cause by representing a victim in a pro bono matter, organizing a domestic violence awareness program, taking part in legislative advocacy, or supporting a domestic violence shelter. This brochure is intended to provide you with an overview of this year's project and to ask you to join your voice with ours to end domestic violence.

I hope you will join our efforts today. Additional information and resources can be found on the project's website at www.abanet.org/yld/dv.

Sincerely,

Lizz Acee, Chair
American Bar Association
Young Lawyers Division



Voices Against Violence is a call to action for young lawyers around the country to join forces to end domestic violence. The program was created to educate young lawyers about the epidemic of domestic violence, particularly among the teen population. It is our goal to engage young lawyers in efforts to respond to and prevent domestic violence in their communities. The program is a call to action for young lawyers around the country to join forces to end domestic violence. Following are some of the components of this year's project:

Voices Against Violence Video on Teen Dating Violence For Young Lawyers

This video educates the young lawyer about the prevalence of teen dating violence, how it affects younger victims and the importance of lawyer involvement. The video also explains how young lawyers can be involved in addressing this important national issue regardless of their area of practice or lack of prior experience or knowledge.

Young Lawyer Domestic Violence Awareness and Prevention Toolkit

Accompanying the video is a toolkit geared towards young lawyer members and state bar organizations. The toolkit provides an overview of the project, resources and information to help educate the young lawyer about domestic violence (particularly teen dating violence), and tools for implementing domestic violence prevention and awareness projects in their communities.

Voices Against Violence Website

Hosted on the YLD's homepage, the project website is a comprehensive resource providing information about the project, links to national and local resources, as well as our *Voices Against Violence* video and toolkit.

Legislative Advocacy

The YLD will raise awareness and engage young lawyers in supporting legislation to prevent domestic violence and to assist victims and survivors.

National Directory of Domestic Violence Projects and Programming

The YLD will continue to gather information from affiliates on the variety of existing domestic violence projects and programming from around the country, along with information on implementing those projects and programs. This information will be compiled into a directory that will be made available to affiliates at the end of the bar year.

YLD Conference Programming

As part of our programming throughout the bar year, there will be at least one program consistent with *Voices Against Violence* at each YLD conference. Working with local organizations, the YLD is also identifying domestic violence community service projects in which conference attendees can participate.

Domestic Violence Roundtables

Modeled after the Youth At Risk Roundtables organized by the ABA Commission for Youth At Risk, the YLD will host moderated roundtable discussions at its Fall, Midyear, and Spring Conferences. Local legal and social services providers, judges, and law enforcement personnel will be invited to the roundtables to network, discuss issues and challenges they are facing, explore new resources and partnerships, and establish working relationships to raise awareness and collaborate to help prevent domestic violence. A guide will be available to assist state bar organizations that wish to organize and host a roundtable in their community.