

# Intimate Partner Violence Fact Sheet

Virginia 2009

Intimate partner violence (IPV) is defined as a pattern of assaultive and coercive behaviors that may include inflicted physical injury, psychological abuse, sexual assault, progressive social isolation, stalking, deprivation, intimidation, and threats. These behaviors are perpetrated by someone who is, was, or wishes to be involved in an intimate or dating relationship with an adult or adolescent, and are aimed at establishing control by one partner over another.

## Intimate Partner Violence Facts, Virginia

- In Virginia, 1 in 5 women and 1 in 8 men report having experienced IPV at some point in their life.<sup>1</sup>
- Virginians with a lifetime history of IPV are more likely to report a medical diagnosis of depression or anxiety than those with no history of IPV.
- 22,515 arrests for assault and battery against a family or household member and 2,272 arrests for violation of a protective order were made in Virginia in 2007.
- In 2007, Virginia's domestic violence service providers responded to 47,526 crisis situations and provided 314,480 nights of shelter to 6,436 women, children, and men affected by intimate partner/domestic violence.<sup>2</sup>

### PREVENTION TIPS:

- Learn more about IPV in your community. Become educated about available resources and become involved in efforts to end abuse.
- Be aware of signs of abusive behaviors in your friends, children and others around you. Talk to them about and promote healthy relationships.
- Recognize the early signs of abuse in your own relationships. If your partner belittles you, tries to control where you go and who you see, threatens you or makes you fearful, get help.
- Tell people about what is happening. Talk to a friend or family member you trust. Tell your neighbors so they can call for help if they think you are in danger.
- Get help from your local domestic violence program. They can provide you with shelter, counseling for you and your children, financial assistance, court advocacy, and referrals to other agencies that may be able to help you.
- Recognize that IPV affects your health. Let your health care provider know if your partner is hurting you so that they can treat you, help you find services you need, and record/document any injuries.

### RESOURCES:

- Virginia Family Violence & Sexual Assault Hotline  
1-800-838-8238 (V/TTY)
- National Domestic Violence Hotline  
1-800-799-SAFE (7233)
- Virginia Sexual and Domestic Violence

<sup>1</sup>Most acts of intimate partner violence are not reported to authorities. As a result, statistics on the prevalence and incidence of IPV are underestimated. This data was collected from a phone surveys conducted in 2005 and 2006 conducted as part of the Virginia Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance Survey.

<sup>2</sup>"A Report from Virginia's Sexual and Domestic Violence Agencies" for 2007, Virginia Sexual and Domestic Violence Action Alliance.

Division of Injury and Violence Prevention  
Virginia Department of Health  
1-800-732-8333  
[www.vahealth.org/injury](http://www.vahealth.org/injury)