

## **New Mexico Domestic Violence Facts**

### **Domestic violence is prevalent in New Mexico:**

- In 2010, law enforcement in New Mexico identified 19,587 incidents of domestic violence.<sup>1</sup>
- Of these 19,587 incidents, there were 6,787 children reported at the scene.<sup>1</sup>
- Of these 19,587 incidents, 37% of them reported an injury to the victim and 64% of them reported an injury to the child.
- Many victims do not call the police and so these numbers do not reflect the full extent of the problem. In 2005, a statewide survey of New Mexico adults on reported and unreported domestic violence found that 1 in 3 women and 1 in 7 men were a victim of domestic violence at some time in their lifetime.

### **Domestic violence has long-term effects:**

- **HEALTH:**
  - Domestic violence is tied to many of our nation's worst health problems. In a stunning finding, researchers concluded that major diseases, including cancer, stroke and heart disease, were linked to exposure to domestic violence as a child.<sup>2</sup>
  - Children exposed to multiple categories of abuse (physical, sexual or emotional) died, on average, 20 years earlier than their counterparts who had not been abused.<sup>3</sup>
- **HOMELESSNESS:**
  - The majority of homeless women (92%) have experienced physical or sexual abuse at some point in their lives, and 63% have been victims of intimate partner violence as adults.<sup>4</sup>
  - Nearly half of U.S. cities surveyed indicated that domestic violence was the primary cause of homelessness in their cities.<sup>5</sup>
- **SUBSTANCE ABUSE:**
  - Among victims, there is a connection between domestic violence and substance abuse, both as a risk factor and a consequence. Alcoholic women are more likely to report a history of childhood physical and emotional abuse.<sup>6</sup> Women who have been abused are 15 times more likely to abuse alcohol and 9 times more likely to abuse drugs.<sup>7</sup>
- **CRIME AND CYCLICAL VIOLENCE:**
  - Crime statistics repeatedly show a link between domestic violence and other criminal activity. Furthermore, children who are exposed to domestic violence are significantly more likely as adults to abuse their own families. Witnessing violence in the home is the strongest risk factor for transmitting violent behavior from one generation to the next.<sup>9</sup>

## References

- <sup>1</sup>Betty Caponera, Ph.D. Domestic Violence Trends in New Mexico, 2005 – 2009: An Analysis of Data from The New Mexico Interpersonal Violence Data Central Repository, February 2011.
- <sup>2</sup> Vincent J. Felitti, MD, FACP, Robert F. Anda, MD, MS, Dale Nordenberg, MD, David F. Williamson, MS, PhD, Alison M. Spitz, MS, MPH, Valerie Edwards, BA, Mary P. Koss, PhD, James S. Marks, MD, MPH, Relationship of Childhood Abuse and Household Dysfunction to Many of the Leading Causes of Death in Adults: The Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACE) Study, *American Journal of Preventive Medicine*, 1998;14(4)
- <sup>3</sup> Brown DW, et al. Adverse childhood experiences and the risk of premature mortality. *Am J Prev Med* 37(5), 2009.
- <sup>4</sup> Browne, A. 1998. "Responding to the Needs of Low Income and Homeless Women Who are Survivors of Family Violence." *Journal of American Medical Women's Association*. 53(2): 57-64.
- <sup>5</sup> The United States Conference of Mayors. 1999. *A Status Report on Hunger and Homelessness in America's Cities*, p.39.
- <sup>6</sup> National Institutes of Health, National Library of Medicine. "Effects of Domestic Violence on Substance Abuse Treatment." [www.nlm.nih.gov](http://www.nlm.nih.gov).
- <sup>7</sup> Shipway, Lyn. (2004) "Domestic Violence: A Handbook for Health Professionals.
- <sup>8</sup> ABA, 2000; Shaffer and Ruback, 2002; Wiebush et al., 2001
- <sup>9</sup> Break the Cycle.(2006). *Startling Statistics*.

Citation 2: For more information about the ACEs study, go to:

<http://www.cdc.gov/nccdphp/ace/>, <http://www.cestudy.org> or <http://www.sanctuaryweb.com>

Citation 9: [http://www.breakthecycle.org/html%20files/l\\_4a\\_startstatis.htm](http://www.breakthecycle.org/html%20files/l_4a_startstatis.htm)