



In Touch

Nebraska Domestic Violence Sexual Assault Coalition

4th Quarter 2011

Where, after all, do universal human rights begin? In small places, close to home.
-Eleanor Roosevelt

National Intimate Partner and Sexual Violence Survey



The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's National Intimate Partner and Sexual Violence Survey (NISVS) is an ongoing, nationally-representative telephone survey that collects detailed information on sexual violence, stalking, and intimate partner violence victimization of adult women and men in the United States.

The survey collects data on past-year experiences of violence as well as lifetime experiences of violence. The 2010 survey is the first year of the survey and provides baseline data that will be used to track trends in sexual violence, stalking and intimate partner violence. CDC developed NISVS to better describe and monitor the magnitude of these forms of violence in the U.S.

On December 14, 2011, the CDC released The National Intimate Partner and Sexual Violence Survey (NISVS) 2010 Summary Report. The findings show that, on average, 24 people per minute are victims of rape, physical violence, or stalking by an intimate partner in the United States. Over the course of a year, that equals more than 12 million women and men. Those numbers only tell part of the story – more than 1 million women reported being raped, and over 6 million women and men were a victim of stalking.

These findings emphasize that sexual violence, stalking, and intimate partner violence are widespread and a major public health problem in the United States. The report underscores the heavy toll of this violence, particularly on women; the immediate impacts of victimization; and the lifelong health consequences of these forms of violence.

The report also contains tables with state specific information. It is important to keep in mind that the prevalence estimates are based on a sample and not a census of the U.S. population. The report shows that the Lifetime Prevalence of Rape, Physical Violence, and/or Stalking by an Intimate Partner in Nebraska is approx. 38.5%. The lifetime prevalence for men in Nebraska is approx. 26.1%.

Additional information, including a full summary of the report, a fact sheet, and a toolkit about the report, can be found on the NISVS website, www.cdc.gov/violenceprevention/NISVS/index.html.

Source: Center for Disease Control and Prevention, NISVS website, http://www.cdc.gov/ViolencePrevention/pdf/NISVS_FactSheet-a.pdf

In this issue:	
<i>Prevention Efforts; Stalking Awareness Month</i>	2
<i>Holidays...A Time for Festivities Not Fear</i>	3
<i>Domestic Violence Awareness Month; Teen Dating Violence</i>	4
<i>Program News</i>	5
<i>What's New at the Coalition</i>	6
<i>What's New at the Coalition</i>	7
<i>Mark Your Calendar</i>	8

Step Up! Speak Out! - Prevention Efforts in Nebraska

The Coalition would like to welcome Christine Carberry to the position of Prevention Coordinator. Until recently, Chris served as the Behavioral Health Program Coordinator for the Coalition. She began as the Prevention Coordinator in October.

The newly released results of the National Intimate Partner and Sexual Violence Survey 2010 Summary Report included implications for prevention, many of which mirror the focus areas of the Coalition. The categories included in the report are:

- ⌘ Implement prevention approaches
 - ⌘ Promote healthy relationships among youth
 - ⌘ Address beliefs, attitudes, and messages that condone, encourage, or facilitate sexual violence, stalking, or intimate partner violence
- ⌘ Ensure appropriate response
 - ⌘ Provide survivors with coordinated services and develop a system of care to ensure healing and prevent the recurrence of victimization
 - ⌘ Ensure access to services and resources
- ⌘ Hold perpetrators accountable
- ⌘ Support efforts based on strong research and data
 - ⌘ Implement strong data systems for monitoring and evaluation
 - ⌘ Identify ways to prevent first-time perpetration of sexual violence, stalking, and intimate partner violence

To read the complete section on prevention implications, visit the NISVS website at www.cdc.gov/violenceprevention/NISVS/index.html

For more information about prevention activities, contact Chris at chrisc@ndvsac.org or 402-476-6256.

January is National Stalking Awareness Month



January is recognized nationally as Stalking Awareness Month. According to the results of the 2010 National Intimate Partner and Sexual Violence Survey by the Centers for Disease Control, over 6 million women and men were a victim of stalking in the United States.¹

Information, brochures, posters and more can also be obtained through the National Stalking Resource Center (National Center for Victims of Crime), www.ncvc.org/src. The SRC also has a new 15 minute video available, *The Use of Technology to Stalk*. The DVD is available free of charge.

If you would like information about stalking or ideas for Stalking Awareness Month, please contact Sarah, sarahb@ndvsac.org or 402-476-6256.

1. CDC, National Intimate Partner and Sexual Violence Survey, www.cdc.gov/violenceprevention/NISVS/index.html

Holidays... A Time for Festivities Not Fear

The holiday season is seen as a time of joy, of peace, and of celebration. Unfortunately the holidays can be a time of trauma and pain for many survivors of domestic and sexual violence.

In the midst of the holiday season, it is important to continue outreach efforts to survivors of domestic and sexual violence. To date, there is no comprehensive national study linking the holiday season with an increase in intimate partner violence. Review of some studies indicate that calls to crisis programs decrease during the holiday season. However, some crisis programs have anecdotal information regarding the struggles faced by survivors during the holidays.

Victims and survivors may experience additional stress during the holiday season, and may ask for additional support. Considerations include:

- ▶ survivors may need additional emotional support from advocates, crisis lines, and others in their support system;
- ▶ Safety plans may need to be re-evaluated, especially if there is increased contact with the perpetrator;
- ▶ Shelter programs may need to allow additional time for respite, quiet talks and other forms of relaxation; and
- ▶ Shelter staff may assist families with creating new holiday traditions that do not include the perpetrator.

As with any type of support, advocates should acknowledge and validate the differences among the survivors accessing the program. Not everyone celebrates the same holidays, and some may not celebrate any holidays at all.

Despite the limited and inconclusive data available, many communities experience increased media and public attention to domestic violence during the holidays. Advocates can use this opportunity to increase public awareness that domestic violence does not stop during the holidays and that the abuse and violence experienced by victims may be exacerbated (although not caused) by the financial stress and alcohol consumption that often accompany the holidays.

One resource for raising awareness is the "Holidays Shouldn't Hurt" posters created by Voices of Men, led by Ben Atherton-Zeman. The posters include the tagline and then various photos of a woman, man, teenager, child or family. Underneath the photo is the statement "All I want for the holidays is to feel safe in my home." The subtitle reads, "No one has the right to control the life of another human being. If you're feeling tense or scared in your home or in your relationship - you are not alone, and help is available. Call our hotline at XXX-XXXX." If you're using holiday stress as an excuse to control or abuse the people you love, please stop; the holidays shouldn't hurt."

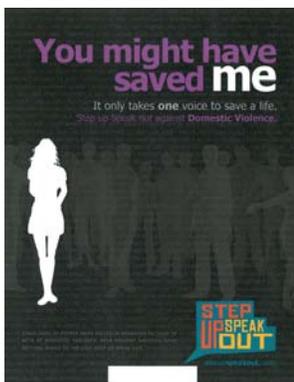
The posters are in a Microsoft Word document so that local contact information can be inserted. To view and/or download the posters, visit www.voicesofmen.org/holidays-shouldnt-hurt-campaign.html.

For more information, contact Michelle, michellez@ndvsac.org or 402-476-6256.

Domestic Violence Awareness Month

Each year October is recognized nationally as Domestic Violence Awareness Month. Numerous activities are held around the state to raise community awareness and to shine a spotlight on domestic violence. The local domestic violence/sexual assault programs held a variety of events, including:

- ⌘ Staged readings of *In My Daughter's Name*, an original play about domestic violence;
- ⌘ Candlelight vigils and prayer vigils;
- ⌘ Presentations to high schools, colleges, and community organizations;
- ⌘ Local proclamations with local mayors and on the state level;
- ⌘ Displays of the Clothesline Project;
- ⌘ Fall festival for families to promote healthy interactions and relationships;
- ⌘ Annual law enforcement appreciation dinner; and
- ⌘ Distributing purple awareness month materials, such as purple ribbons, purple suckers and purple light bulbs.



The Coalition worked with a marketing agency to create a new poster for public awareness. The poster is modeled after the national “Remember My Name” project, and includes names of people in Nebraska that were murdered by a domestic violence perpetrator.

Although October has passed, the need for community awareness and response to domestic violence still exists. For information regarding how you can help in your community, contact the local domestic violence/sexual assault program. If you do not know the name of the local program, visit the Coalition’s website at www.ndvsac.org.

February is National Teen Dating Violence Awareness Month

February is recognized nationally as Teen Dating Violence Awareness Month. Dating violence is a growing issue in the United States. Studies have found that 1 in 3 adolescent girls in the United States is a victim of physical, emotional, or verbal abuse from a dating partner, a figure that far exceeds victimization rates for other types of violence affecting youth.¹

Resources on teen dating violence include:

- ⌘ National Resource Center for Teen Dating Violence Awareness Month, <http://www.teendvmonth.org/>
- ⌘ Teen Dating Abuse Helpline, www.loveisrespect.org
- ⌘ National Dating Violence Resource Center (National Center for Victims of Crime), www.ncvc.org



Brochure available from the National Dating Violence Resource Center, www.ncvc.org

For information about this awareness month, including possible activities and resources, please contact the Coalition.

1. Teen Dating Violence Fact Sheet, Break the Cycle, <http://www.teendvmonth.org/sites/default/files/docs/tdvam-btc-fact-sheet.pdf>

National Teen Dating Abuse Helpline, 1-866-331-9474 or www.loveisrespect.org

Program News

Haven House Purchases Shelter

Haven House Family Service Center recently purchased a new shelter facility! The shelter was opened in July, and can serve two families comfortably, more depending on the make-up of the family and individual needs. The funds needed for the facility came from community donors.

Before opening this shelter, Haven House rented property for a shelter for approximately fifteen years. The previous shelter did not allow for Haven House to meet all the needs of their clients. With a new shelter, Haven House is allowed the proper space and facilities to better provide services. This includes enhancing the security measures to provide better protection for survivors staying at the shelter.

Haven House is a non-profit organization, which offers intervention and prevention services for survivors of domestic violence and sexual assault. They serve the following counties: Cedar, Dixon, Wayne, Dakota, Thurston. More information about Haven House can be found at www.havenhousefsc.com.

Information from Haven House personnel and their website, www.havenhousefsc.com.

Heartland Family Service Receives Kudos from National Hotline

The National Domestic Violence Hotline (NDVH) receives calls from across the nation and connects the survivor with their local program. NDVH recently contacted the Coalition to share this story about Safe Haven, a program of Heartland Family Service in Papillion. The Coalition is thankful for the excellent services provide by Safe Haven, and all the programs in Nebraska.

I just had the most amazing call with a domestic violence program in Bellevue, NE. The survivor was strangled pretty bad this morning. The police were called and her abuser was taken to jail. The problem was that she needed to go to the hospital to get checked out because there was still a lot of pain and she had little children. Without anyone to watch the children she didn't feel like she could go to the hospital. She had no friends, family, or neighbors to ask for help so we called SafeHaven looking for a hail mary.

Safehaven sent 2 dv advocates out to her house (on a Sunday afternoon). The 2 advocates are going to go with her to the hospital and help her with the children while she gets examined by a doctor.

Changes to *In Touch* Newsletter

As you may have noticed, the frequency of the *In Touch* newsletter has changed. Instead of being distributed bi-monthly, the newsletter will be circulated on a quarterly basis.

The newsletter will also be distributed primarily through electronic means. **If you currently receive the newsletter in a printed format, please provide an email address.** This will assist the Coalition in reducing printing and postage costs. Your contact information can be sent to Michelle at michellez@ndvsac.org or shared by calling 402-476-6256.

A small number of newsletters will still be printed for those without access to email. The newsletter will continue to be posted on the Coalition's website, www.ndvsac.org.

What's New at the Coalition?

Coalition Staff Changes

Due to the current economic climate, several state Coalitions and national resource organizations have experienced significant budget cuts, resulting in reductions in staff. Unfortunately the Nebraska Domestic Violence Sexual Assault Coalition is no exception to this.

In 2012 the Coalition will consist of the following eight positions.

- ▶ Executive Director, Lynne Lange (ExecutiveDirector@ndvsac.org)
- ▶ Accountant/Grant Manager, Xing Meng (xingm@ndvsac.org)
- ▶ Domestic Violence Program Coordinator, Sarah Balcom (sarahb@ndvsac.org)
- ▶ Sexual Violence Program Coordinator, Michelle Zinke (michellez@ndvsac.org)
- ▶ Prevention Coordinator, Christine Carberry, (chrisc@ndvsac.org)
- ▶ Legal Director, Robert Sanford (roberts@ndvsac.org)
- ▶ Project Attorney, Carly Beusch (carlyb@ndvsac.org)
- ▶ Executive Coordinator, Angela Rystrom (angelar@ndvsac.org)

The Coalition remains committed to supporting victims and survivors as well as organizations that work with them. The Coalition may be smaller in size, but the focus and dedication remains strong.

Board of Directors Update

The Board of Directors of the Nebraska Domestic Violence Sexual Assault Coalition held its quarterly Board meeting in November.

Officers of the Board serve for a two year term. Because of this, elections were not held this November. The current Executive Committee of the Board is:

- Linda Olson, Chair, O'Neill;
- Carmen Hinman, Vice-Chair, Fairbury;
- Donna Goad, Treasurer, McCook;
- Andrea Rodriguez, Secretary, Norfolk; and
- Sue Wortmann, Parliamentarian, Raymond.

The Board and Coalition staff would like to thank the following outgoing Board members for their service: Nikki Gausman (Kearney), Tricia Freeman (Bellevue), and Kathy Jones (Omaha). For more information about the Coalition's Board of Directors, please contact Lynne (ExecutiveDirector@ndvsac.org) or Linda (executivedirector@brighthorizonsne.org).

Executive Director Selected for National Committee

Lynne Lange, Executive Director of the Coalition, was recently selected to be part of the Program Committee of the National Network to End Domestic Violence (NNEDV). Nationally only three new individuals were chosen to join the committee.

The Program Committee works in partnership with NNEDV program staff to determine program priorities and identify technical assistance needs related to the NNEDV membership. They also provide guidance and input to NNEDV with regard to emerging issues from the field and serves as a "think tank" for programmatic concerns.

What's New at the Coalition?

Cultural Services Update

Due to budget restrictions, the Coalition has made changes to the cultural services project. This project includes the Linea de Crisis (statewide Spanish hotline), assistance with immigration relief options, cultural outreach meetings, and cultural competency trainings.

The coalition and its Board of Directors value the Cultural Services, and is committed to maintaining the provision of these services. The Coalition will still provide the majority of these services; however, the structure has changed.

Due to the loss of the Rural VAWA grant, the office in Lexington will be closed as of January 13, 2012. Unfortunately the current two staff positions at that office will be eliminated.

The Coalition values the dedication, passion, and commitment that Kellie and Tish have shown as the cultural services staff. The Coalition wishes them the best in their future endeavors and knows that they will remain strong advocates for victims and survivors. The Coalition has been fortunate to have such expertise devoted to the cultural services project, and this was a difficult decision for all involved.

Going forward, we will be serving immigrant victims of abuse through our Legal Assistance to Victims (LAV) "LAPTOP" project. This grant source was recently renewed for two years, and we were fortunate enough to receive an extra \$33,435.00 each year that can go toward attorneys to assist immigrant victims.

The current cases will be transferred to the Coalition's Lincoln office, and will be completed by LAPTOP attorneys. The LAPTOP program connects victims of domestic violence, sexual assault, and stalking to attorneys at no cost to the victim. The Coalition will also accept future cases by placing them with attorneys through this project as well as through working with the Immigration Clinic at the UNL College of Law.

The local program and the victim will not need to go through the three step process that is currently required to secure an attorney through the LAPTOP project. Immigration cases will come straight to the Coalition, which will expedite the process.

The crisis line will remain up and running. The Coalition will contract with Spanish speaking advocates to answer the line, similar to what has been done in the past. There is also some funds available for translation/interpretation services.

Opportunities for discussions and meetings regarding cultural outreach will be incorporated into existing training opportunities. Additional meetings, teleconferences and webinars can be planned as needed.

If you have questions about the changes to the cultural services project, please contact Lynne, ExecutiveDirector@ndvsac.org or 402-476-6256. If you have questions about legal assistance for immigrant victims of violence, please contact Robert (roberts@ndvsac.org) or Carly (carlyb@ndvsac.org).

Nebraska Domestic Violence
Sexual Assault Coalition
1000 O Street, Suite 102
Lincoln, Nebraska 68508
www.ndvsac.org



NDVSAC is a proud member agency of the
Community Services Fund. Learn more at:
www.communityservicesfund.org

2012 NDVSAC Board of Directors

Linda Olson, Chair, O'Neill
Carmen Hinman, Vice-Chair, Fairbury
Donna Goad, Treasurer, McCook
Andrea Rodriguez, Secretary, Norfolk
Sue Wortmann, Parliamentarian, Raymond

Dawn Conley, Papillion
Jeanie Gilbert, North Platte
Suellen Koepke, Broken Bow
Shelby Jones-Schellpeper, Ogallala
Christon MacTaggart, Omaha
Francine McKenzie, North Platte
Bob Moyer, Lincoln
Jamie Snyder, Columbus
Hilary Wasserburger, Gering

Mark Your Calendar

Upcoming Events

January 2012

No events are scheduled in January at this time.

February 2012

- | | |
|----------|--|
| TBA | Peer Review: Women's Center for Advancement, Omaha, NDVSAC, 402-476-6256 |
| 8 | Nebraska African American Domestic Violence Action Committee (NAADVAC) Annual Conference, Lincoln, Family Violence Council, 402-489-9292 |
| 9-10 | Directors Day, Grand Island, NDVSAC, 402-476-6256 |
| 11 | NDVSAC Board Meeting, Grand Island, NDVSAC, 402-476-6256 |
| 27-Mar 1 | 2nd World Conference of Women's Shelters, Washington DC, NNEDV, www.nnedv.org |

The Coalition's 2012 Calendar of Events will be disseminated in January 2012. If you have questions about upcoming training opportunities, please contact the Coalition at 402-476-6256.