

Violence Against Women Fact Sheet

Definition

The United Nations defines violence against women as any act of gender-based violence that results in, or is likely to result in, physical, sexual or mental harm or suffering to women, including threats of such acts, coercion or arbitrary deprivation of liberty, whether occurring in public or in private life.

Global Facts

At least one out of every three women around the world has been beaten, coerced into sex, or otherwise abused in her lifetime — with the abuser usually someone known to her.¹

In a number of countries, a rapist can go free under the Penal Code if he proposes to marry the victim.²

United States Facts

In 2005, 1,181 women were murdered by an intimate partner.³

Women experience about 4.8 million intimate partner-related physical assaults and rapes every year.⁴

The Justice Department estimates that one in five women will experience rape or attempted rape during their college years, and that less than five percent of these rapes will be reported.⁵

Oklahoma Facts

An estimated 12,000 Oklahoma women are affected by sexual violence each year.⁶

Native American women suffer violent crime at a rate three and a half times greater than the national average.⁷

On Sept. 17, the National Network to End Domestic Violence conducted its annual 24-hour national survey of domestic violence programs. On that single day in Oklahoma, 756 victims received services. Unfortunately, 73 people were turned away for lack of resources.⁸

¹ General Assembly. In-Depth Study on All Forms of Violence against Women: Report of the Secretary General, 2006. A/61/122/Add.1. 6 July 2006.

² Radhika Coomaraswamy. Integration of the Human Rights of Women and the Gender Perspective: Violence against Women. Report of the Special Rapporteur on violence against women, its causes and consequences. Cultural practices in the family that are violent towards women. E/CN.4/2002/93. 31 January 2002. 19.

³ Bureau of Justice Statistics, *Intimate Homicide Victims by Gender*

⁴ Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), *Understanding Intimate Partner Violence* (PDF)

⁵ National Institute of Justice (pages 6-7), *Sexual Assault on Campus: What Colleges and Universities Are Doing About It* (PDF)

⁶ *Sexual Violence Affects 12,000 Oklahomans Annually*. Oklahoma Department of Health. April 24, 2008.

⁷ *Native American Women and Violence*. Bughalia, Lisa. Published by NOW. Spring 2001.

⁸ *Culture of Violence*. Delcour, Julie. *Tulsa World*. Feb. 15, 2009.