

Fall 2020

Domestic Violence Key Resources/Background

Domestic Violence Statistics

Every day, countless adults and children experience domestic violence. Often hidden, the symptoms of domestic violence or intimate partner violence, are far reaching. Below are some current statistics. With awareness comes change.

The Issue

- **1 in 3 women** have experienced rape, physical violence, and/or stalking by an intimate partner in the U.S.
- **Nearly half of all women and men** in the U.S. have experienced psychological aggression by an intimate partner.
- **Every minute, about 20 people** are physically abused by an intimate partner in the U.S. Over the course of a year, that equals **more than 10 million women and men**

How the Women's Center & Shelter of Greater Pittsburgh (WC&S) is Making a Difference [Data for July 1, 2019 to June 30, 2020]

- Provided counseling and advocacy to **more than 7,000 adults and children** experiencing intimate partner violence.
- WC&S' Hotline Advocates provided counseling and safety planning to **nearly 4,000** crisis Hotline callers.
- WC&S' Legal Advocacy department provided **more than 6,000** hours of Legal Advocacy to **nearly 5,000** victims of domestic violence crime.
- Housed **400 adults and children** in the Emergency Shelter, for a total of **17,050** nights, serving **more than 50,000** meals to residents.

Upcoming Milestones/News Hooks

- **October is Domestic Violence Awareness Month**
 - WC&S will be hosting a [FREE virtual lunch & learn series](#) that explores the intersection of domestic violence and issues like gender and racial identity, finances and housing, and family health.
- **October 22 is Purple Thursday** – a national day of action each October for people to wear purple, raise awareness, be a voice, and start a conversation using [#PurpleThursday](#) about domestic violence.
- **Domestic Violence and COVID-19** – with “shelter in place” orders, victims of domestic violence are trapped working and living in their homes with their abusers, isolated from people and resources that could help them.
 - Since Pennsylvania’s stay-at-home order was put in place, WC&S' Hotline has received **20-43% fewer calls** each month compared to last year.
 - Worldwide, domestic violence was the **single most reported category of violence** from January to May 2020 (comprising more than one-third of all violent incidents).
 - **83%** of domestic violence victims report that the abuse affected their ability to do their job.
 - [STANDING FIRM](#), a program of WC&S, offers programs and training for employees to effectively **recognize, respond, and refer** employees who are experiencing domestic violence in a remote work environment. Their annual event [STAND UP for STANDING FIRM](#) will take place virtually October 8, 2020 and will feature keynote speaker Rachel Louise Snyder, author of *No Visible Bruises*.

Vital Voices



“As the season turns yet again but we remain stuck in a global pandemic, I find myself feeling as I often have over the last six months — filled with hope, pride, and determination because of the way our staff, board, supporters, and clients have responded to these unprecedented times. We have never stopped serving; we continue to serve and to meet the current and anticipated needs of survivors who reach out for help. We are here.” - **Nicole Molinaro, President/CEO, Women's Center & Shelter of Greater Pittsburgh**



“You come to a point where you just don't realize the extent of the abuse. You don't see a way out so you stop looking for one until something happens that opens your eyes. And then, you are just completely overwhelmed. But Women's Center & Shelter was a way out and literally saved our lives.” - **Elizabeth, DV survivor**

About Women's Center & Shelter of Greater Pittsburgh

For more than 45 years, [Women's Center & Shelter of Greater Pittsburgh](#) has been a leader in providing safety, shelter, support, and guidance to all survivors of domestic violence. In addition to providing emergency shelter, we also provide a wide variety of non-residential services, such as: legal advocacy, medical advocacy, counseling, support groups, batterer intervention, a children's program, and more.

Help and Hope are Available 24/7

WC&S recently **added text and online chat features** to its **24-Hour Hotline** to allow people experiencing domestic violence during stay-at-home orders to discreetly reach out for assistance. In addition, the [RUSafe app](#) assesses the potential for domestic violence in a relationship and connects victims across the country with hotlines and nearby emergency shelters.



2020 and Beyond

There are many ways the Pittsburgh community can help to support domestic violence victims and survivors during this challenging time, including meal donations, providing necessities, or making a financial contribution. Visit [WCSCanHelp.org/shop-to-help](#) to learn more.

We will be sharing new data and resources regularly as well as news about upcoming programs or ways the community can get involved. Please stay connected and let us know how we can help with stories you're working on.

Looking to connect with one of the WC&S experts or receive written responses for an upcoming story? Reach out to Emily Moorhead, 412.894.4565, emilym@wcpittsburgh.org.