

Statistics

General Statistics

- Studies show that child abuse occurs in 30-60% of family violence cases that involve families with children. (Carter LS. Weithorn LA. Behrman RE. Domestic violence and children: analysis and recommendations. *The Future of Children*. 9(3):4-20, 1999 Winter.)
- Approximately 4 million adolescents have been victims of a serious physical assault, and 9 million have witnessed serious violence during their lifetimes. (Kilpatrick D. Saunders B. *The Prevalence and consequences of child victimization: summary of a research study*. Washington DC: U.S. Dept. of Justice, Office of Justice Programs, National Institute of Justice, 1997)
- Every year, 3 to 10 million children witness domestic violence. (Carter LS. Weithorn LA. Behrman RE. Domestic violence and children: analysis and recommendations. *The Future of Children*. 9(3):4-20, 1999 Winter.)
- 1 in 12 High Schoolers is threatened or injured with a weapon each year. (OJJDP, *Juvenile Offenders and Victims: 1999 National Report*, 1999).
- In New Haven, CT, 39% of 6th, 8th, and 10th grade students had seen someone shot at in the preceding year. (Schwab-Stone M. Chen C. Greenberger E. Silver D. Lichtman J. Voyce C. *No safe haven II: the effects of violence exposure on urban youth*. *American Academy of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry*. 38(4):359-367, 1999, Apr.)
- In Miami, FL, more than 90% of the high school students witnessed community violence and 44% had been a victim of a violent crime. (Berman S. Kurtines W. Silverman W. Serafini L. *The impact of exposure to crime and violence on urban youth*. *American Journal of Orthopsychiatry*. 66(3): 329-36, 1996, Jul.)
- In Richmond, VA, 88% of the children in one neighborhood heard gunfire near home, and 25% saw someone killed. (Kliwer W. Lepore S. Oskin D. Johnson P. *The role of social and cognitive processes in children's adjustment to community violence*. *Journal of Consulting and Clinical Psychology*, 66(1):199-209, 1998.)
- African-American youth seem to be the ethnic group most exposed to violence, followed by Latinos, and Caucasians—regardless of economic status (Crouch, J; Hanson, R.; Saunders, B; Kilpatrick, D; Resnick, H. *Income, race/ethnicity, and exposure to violence in youth: Results from the national survey of adolescents*. 2000).

- Lower income households will witness violence more than children in higher income households (Crouch, J; Hanson, R.; Saunders, B; Kilpatrick, D; Resnick, H. Income, race/ethnicity, and exposure to violence in youth: Results from the national survey of adolescents. 2000). Parents underestimate a child's exposure to violence (Richters, J.; Martinez, P. The NIMH Community Violence Project: I. Children as victims of and witnesses to violence. 1993)

Child Abuse and Neglect

- Child abuse is 15 times more likely to occur in families where domestic violence is present. (Stacy, W. and Shupe, A. The Family Secret. Boston, MA. Beacon Press, 1983.)
- 3,195,000 abused or neglected children were reported in 1997--a 41% increase since 1988 (Wang and Daro, 1998).
- In 1996 1,185 children died of abuse or neglect. 82% of the victims are under the age of five, 42% never reached their first birthday (www.nsba.org).

Community Violence

- A comparison of delinquent and non-delinquent youth found that a history of family violence or abuse is the most significant difference between the two groups (Miller, G. "Violence By and Against America's Children," Journal of Juvenile Justice Digest, XVII(12) p.6. 1989)
- According to the United States Department of Justice, law enforcement agencies arrested approximately 2.8 million juveniles in 1997. Of that number, 2,500 were arrested for murder and 121,000 for other violent crimes. Juveniles accounted for 19% of all arrests, 14% of murder arrests, and 17% of all violent crime arrests. (Juvenile Offenders and Victims: 1999 National Report, Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention)
- In 1997, the National Center for Health Statistics listed homicide as the fourth leading cause of death for children ages 1 through 4, third for youth ages 5 through 14, and second for persons ages 15 through 24. (National Center for Health Statistics. Death Rates for Selected Causes, by 5-year Age Groups 1997.)

- The U.S. has the highest rates of childhood homicide, suicide, and firearm-related death among industrialized countries. (CDC's Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report, February 7, 1997, Vol 46, No. 5, Rates of Homicide, Suicide, and Firearm-Related Death Among Children ñ 26 Industrialized Countries.)
- The overall firearm-related death rate among U.S. children aged 15 years or less was nearly 12 times higher than among children in the other 25 industrialized countries combined. (CDC's Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report, February 7, 1997, Vol. 46, No. 5, Rates of Homicide, Suicide, and Firearm-Related Death Among Children ñ 26 Industrialized Countries)
- 17% of persons arrested in 1999 were under the age of 18. (FBI, 2000, Crime in the United Statesó1999)
- In 1996, handguns were used to murder 2 people in New Zealand, 15 in Japan, 30 in Great Britain, 106 in Canada, 213 in Germany and 9,390 in the United States. (Legal Community Against Violence, 2000)
- Each year an estimated \$2.3 billion are spent on medical care for the nation's gunshot victims. Almost half of that sum is paid by U.S. taxpayers. (Legal Community Against Violence, 2000)
- Guns in this country cause the death of approximately 12 young people (those 19 years of age and under) each day. The overall firearm-related death rate among children under the age of 15 is nearly 12 times higher than among children in 25 other industrialized countries combined. (Legal Community Against Violence, 2000)

Domestic Violence

- Children who witness violence at home display emotional and behavioral disturbances as diverse as withdrawal, low self-esteem, nightmares, and aggression against peers, family members and property. (Peled, Inat, Jaffe, Peter G. & Edleson, Jeffrey L. (Eds.) Ending the Cycle of Violence: Community Responses to Children of Battered Women. Thousand Oaks, California: Sage Publications, 1995.)
- Over 3 million children are at risk of exposure to parental violence each year. (Carlson, B.E. "Children's Observations of Interparental Violence" in Edwards, A.R. (ed.). Battered Women and Their Families. New York: Springer. pp. 147-167. 1984).

- In a national survey of over 6,000 American families, 50% of the men who frequently assaulted their wives also frequently abused their children. (Straus, M.A. & Gelles, R.J. (eds.). Physical violence in American families. New Brunswick, NJ, Transaction Publishers. 1990.)
- In 1995, the FBI reported that 27% of all violent crime involves family on family violence, 48% involved acquaintances with the violence often occurring in the home (National Incident-Based Reporting System, Uniform Crime Reporting Program, 1999).
- Straus and Gelles (1996) have estimated that over 29 million children commit an act of violence against a sibling each year. (Straus, M. & Gelles, R. 1998. How violent are American families: estimates from the national family violence survey and other studies. In: Family Abuse and Its Consequences: New Directions in Research (G. Hotaling et al., Eds))
- Studies show that child abuse occurs in 30-60% of family violence cases that involve families with children. ("The overlap between child maltreatment and woman battering." J.L. Edleson, Violence Against Women, February, 1999.)

School Violence

- High school seniors from metropolitan and non-metropolitan areas were about equally likely to report being victimized at school in the last twelve months. (The Condition of Education: 1999, National Center for Education Statistics, 1999)
- In a 2001 survey of high school students, 17.4% had carried a weapon to school during the 30 days preceding the survey. (Grunbaum Ja. KannL. Kinchen SA. Williams B. Ross Jg. Lowry R. Kolbe, L. Youth risk behavior surveillance - United States, 2001. In: Surveillance Summaries. June 28, 2002. MMWR 2002:51(No. SS-4))
- In 1999, 12- through 18-year-old students living in urban and suburban locales were equally vulnerable to serious violent crime at school. (Indicators of School Crime and Safety, 2001)
- In 1999, one in six teachers report having been the victim of violence in or around school. This compares to one in nine teachers in 1994. (The Metropolitan Life Survey of the American Teacher, 1999: Violence in America's Public Schools - Five Years Later, Metropolitan Life, 1999)

- Nationwide, 15% of high school students had participated in a physical fight in 1998. (Juvenile Offenders and Victims: 1999 National Report, Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention, 1999)
- 57% of expulsions for bringing firearms to school involved high school students, 33% involved junior/middle school students, and 10% involved elementary school students. (Gun-Free Schools Act Report: School Year 1998-1999, U.S. Department of Education, 10/02)

Violence in the Media

- Huston and colleagues have estimated that the average 18-year-old will have viewed 200,000 acts of violence on television (Huston, A.C., Donnerstein, E., Fairchild, H. et al. Big World, Small Screen: The Role of Television in American Society. Lincoln, NE: University of Nebraska Press, 1992.)
- 41% percent of American households have three or more televisions (Nielsen Media Research, 2000).
- 56% of children ages 8-16 have a television in their rooms (Annenberg Public Policy Center, 2000. Media in the Home 2000)
- Percentage of television-time children ages 2-7 spend watching alone and unsupervised: 81 (Kaiser Family Foundation, 1999. "Kids and Media @ the New Millennium.")
- Television alone is responsible for 10% of youth violence. (Senate Judiciary Committee Staff Report, 1999.)
- Average time per week that the American child ages 2-17 spends watching television: 19 hours, 40 minutes (Nielsen Media Research, 2000)
- Percentage of day care centers that use TV during a typical day: 70 (Tashman, Billy. "Sorry Ernie, TV Isn't Teaching." New York Times. Nov 12, 1994.)
- Hours per year the average American youth spends in school: 900 (Barber, Benjamin. Harper's. Nov 1993: 41)
- Hours per year the average American youth watches television: 1,023 (Nielsen Media Research, 2000)