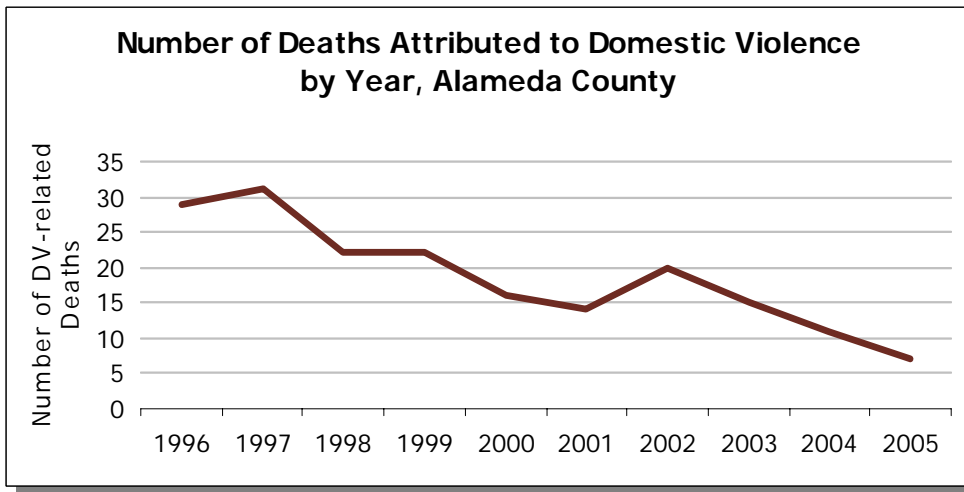




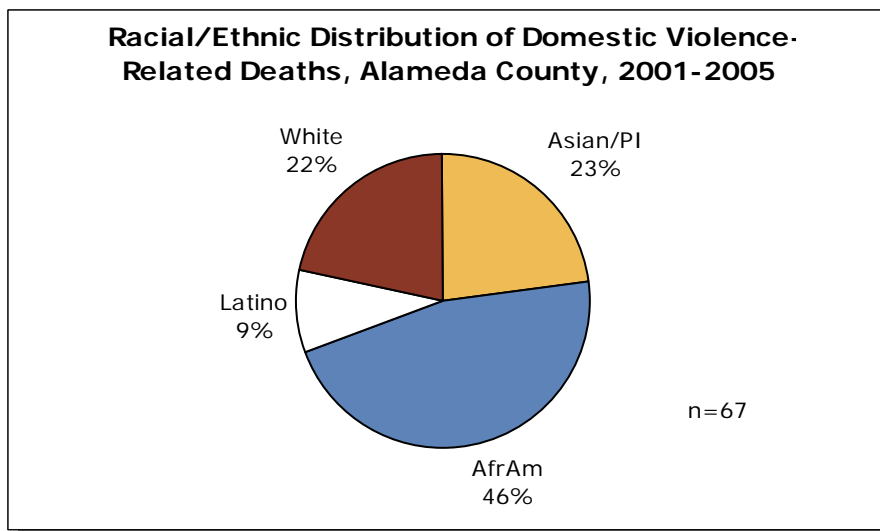
Domestic Violence in Alameda County: A Fact Sheet

Domestic violence may include physical, sexual, verbal, emotional, psychological abuse, and/or economic control used by a person their current or former intimate partners in an attempt to exercise power and authority which has a destructive, harmful effect on individuals, the family and the community.

Deaths Related to Domestic Violence



The annual number of domestic violence deaths has declined in the last ten years. The highest number of deaths was 31 in 1997 and the lowest was seven in 2005.



The proportion of DV-related deaths to African Americans has increased, from 37% in 1996-2000 to 46% in 2003-2005.

- The most common manner of DV-related death is the use of a gun (33%) followed by the use of a knife (21%). The overall percentage of deaths due to firearms has decreased from 52% in 1998-2000 to 33% in 2003-2005.
- From 2001-2005, about 79% of victims were killed by their partner (husband, boyfriend, wife, or girlfriend) or ex-partner. In most cases (80%) this assailant was male. There were no cases of females killing their ex-partners.
- Twenty percent of victims were killed by a close relative: son, grandson, father, or daughter. A substantial proportion of domestic violence deaths were due to a son killing his parent (14%). In these seven cases, the sons were adults at the time of the homicide. In two cases, a history of mental illness was noted and in one case the killing was ruled a justifiable homicide (self-defense).

Temporary Restraining Orders



- In Alameda County, the number of temporary restraining orders (TROs), domestic violence calls to law enforcement, and calls to DV shelters has increased over the last five years. In 2005, 3,572 TROs were filed.
- The five domestic violence shelters in Alameda County received 13,586 calls to their 24-hour crisis line during the fiscal year 2005. They sheltered 721 women and 584 children, providing a total of 32,841 bed nights.

Calls for Assistance

Though currently, the number of domestic violence-related calls to law enforcement jurisdictions (e.g. police, BART police, sheriff's office) is fewer than it was in the 1990s, the number of calls has started to increase again. In 2005, there were 7,887 domestic violence-related calls the highest number since 2000.

Domestic Violence-Related Calls for Assistance by Year, Alameda County

Year	Total	# with Weapons	% with Weapons ¹
1990	10,634	7,159	67.3%
1991	10,365	7,173	69.2%
1992	11,580	8,180	70.6%
1993	10,733	8,374	78.0%
1994	10,487	8,024	76.5%
1995 ²	5,020	4,173	83.1%
1996	8,880	4,701	52.9%
1997	10,917	5,047	46.2%
1998	10,884	5,038	46.3%
1999	9,194	3,729	40.6%
2000	6,283	3,191	50.8%
2001	5,743	2,814	49.0%
2002 ³	6,997	2,612	37.3%
2003	6,491	2,341	36.1%
2004	7,521	2,587	34.4%
2005	7,887	2,969	37.6%

¹ Weapons include hands, feet, fist, firearms, knives, etc.

² Oakland Police Department was unable to provide complete data for 1995.

³ In April 2002, the Criminal Justice Statistics Center modified the definition of personal weapon to include only those assaults that were aggravated. This corresponds to a notable decrease in the number of personal weapons reported.

Where domestic violence is concerned, we must be far more proactive in our thinking, as opposed to simply reacting to the issues or crises of the day.

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National Statistics

- Child abuse is 15 times more likely to occur in families where domestic violence is present. Men who have witnessed domestic violence as children, are three times more likely to abuse their own wives/partners than children of non-violent parents.
- Children living in poverty are 18-22 times more likely to be abused, 44 times more likely to be neglected, and 60 times more likely to die from maltreatment, compared to children living above the poverty line.
- In the United States, every nine seconds a woman is physically abused by her husband.
- Battering is the single largest cause of injury to women in the United States. It exceeds rapes, muggings, and auto accidents combined.
- Family violence is not caused by out-of-control anger, stress, alcohol and drugs, relationship problems, illness, genetics, or victim's behavior. Risk factors for family violence include intergenerational abuse and socio-economic factors (e.g. poverty, unemployment, social norms and values).
- Battered women are at increased risk for receiving inadequate care, for having low birth weight babies, using drugs and alcohol during pregnancy, and having mental health problems, dramatically affecting their children's health.

References

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- Family Violence Prevention Fund, SF, CA. *National Consensus Guidelines: On Identifying and Responding to Domestic Violence Victimization in Health Care Settings*. First Printing: September, 2002 Updated: February, 2004. (Available at www.endabuse.org/programs/healthcare/files/Consensus.pdf.)
- The Commonwealth Fund.
- *Preventing Domestic Violence: A Blueprint for the 21st Century*. California Department of Health Services.
- Alameda County Death Review Team.
- Data on temporary restraining orders by Alameda County District Attorney's Office.
- Services provided by shelters were provided by individual shelters.



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