



Substance Use Disorders and Domestic Violence

Substance Use Disorders and Histories of Domestic Violence

Dr. Larry Bennett, chairperson of the Illinois Department of Human Services' Domestic Violence/Substance Abuse Interdisciplinary Task Force, presented the following information (not specific to Illinois):

- The incidence of substance abuse is significantly above 50% in most studies of batterers.
- 50–70% of women in substance abuse treatment are current domestic violence victims, which is about two times the rate of the general population.
- 50–70% of men seeking help with substance abuse problems are current batterers, which is about 3 to 4 times the rate of the general population.

According to Dr. Larry Bennett, the members of the task force agree that:

- While substance abuse and domestic violence are two special problems that necessitate different responses, they frequently overlap and occur at the same time.
- Both substance abuse and domestic violence have more than one cause, and not much evidence exists to support theories asserting that one problem causes the other.
- The prospect for addiction recovery is impaired and sobriety is threatened by domestic violence.

Source: Prevention First Incorporated. (n.d.). *Understanding and Preventing Domestic Violence*. Retrieved on December 27, 2004, from http://www.prevention.org/Pubs/19-3_Prevent.htm.

Substance Use and Domestic Violence Assailants

A 1995 study of domestic violence in Memphis, Tennessee, revealed that almost all assailants had used drugs or alcohol during the day of the assault.

- 92% of domestic violence assailants had used drugs or alcohol during the day of the assault, while 67% had used a combination of cocaine and alcohol.
- 45% of assailants were described as using alcohol, drugs, or both daily to the point of intoxication during the past month.
- 89% of incidents involved victims who had experienced previous assaults by their current assailants, while 67% of assailants were on probation or parole at the time of assault.
- Only 9% of assailants were either under treatment or had previously received treatment for substance abuse.

Source: National Institute of Justice. (1997). *Research Preview: Drugs, Alcohol, and Domestic Violence in Memphis, Summary of a Presentation by Daniel Brookoff, M.D., Ph.D.* October 1997.

Intimate Partner Violence Study - Chicago

The Illinois Criminal Justice Information Authority (ICJIA) began the *Chicago Women's Health Risk Study* (CWHRS) in 1997 and finished it in 1999. The study used a sample of intimate partner homicides involving women in Chicago and interviews with just over 700 pre-screened adult women seeking any kind of treatment at any of various participating Chicago healthcare providers. CWHRS findings include the following:

- Among women who experienced only one incident of abuse in the previous year, drug use by the intimate partner was a strong risk factor and that incident was severe or life-threatening.
- Drug or alcohol intoxication was more likely to have been involved in intimate partner murders than in occurrences of partner abuse against women that were not fatal.
- The drug or alcohol use of an intimate partner was present in murder cases involving women who had not been subjected to partner violence before.
- Intimate partner murder-suicides were more likely to have been associated with substance use than were occurrences of murder alone.

Source: Illinois Criminal Justice Information Authority. (2004). *Illinois' Multiyear Strategy to Control Drug and Violent Crime FFY2004*. Retrieved December 27, 2004, from <http://www.icjia.state.il.us/public/pdf/Byrne/ByrneStrategy.pdf>.

Intimate Partner Violence – National Costs

A report released by The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) estimates that the health-related costs of rape, physical assault, stalking, and homicide by intimate partners exceed \$5.8 billion each year.

- Of this total, nearly \$4.1 billion goes towards direct medical and mental health care services, and \$1.8 billion accounts for productivity losses.
- Moreover, the report points out that data limitations most likely underestimate the economic burden of intimate partner violence because it excludes important costs such as those related to legal and justice systems.

Source: National Center for Injury Prevention and Control. (2003). *Costs of Intimate Partner Violence Against Women in the United States*. Atlanta (GA): Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.