



# Domestic Violence in Georgia

| Year                                       | 2007 | 2008 | 2009 | 2010 | 2011 | 2012 | 2013 | 2014 |
|--|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|
| <b>Number of DV Fatalities<sup>1</sup></b> | 118  | 111  | 123  | 135  | 112  | 134  | 120  | 120  |

## Georgia's Domestic Violence Statistics

- From 2003 through 2014, at least **1,400 Georgia citizens lost their lives** due to domestic violence.<sup>1</sup>
- Georgia was recently ranked **17<sup>th</sup> in the nation** for its rate of **men killing women**.<sup>2</sup>
- In **29%** of the cases studied through Georgia's Domestic Violence Fatality Review Project, **children witnessed the domestic violence homicides**.<sup>5</sup>
- **Firearms** were the cause of death in **65% of the recorded domestic violence fatalities** in 2014.<sup>1</sup>

**61,415**

In FFY 2014, the number of crisis calls to Georgia's certified domestic violence agencies.<sup>3</sup>

**68,313**

In 2013, the number of domestic violence incidents law enforcement officers responded to in Georgia.<sup>4</sup>

**23,010**

In 2013, the number of protective and stalking orders issued in Georgia.<sup>6</sup>

**7,741**

In FFY 2014, the number of victims and children who were provided refuge in a Georgia domestic violence shelter.<sup>3</sup>

**5,879**

In FFY 2014, the number of victims that made a request for shelter but request was not met due to lack of space (statistics are not collected by number of people).<sup>3</sup>

## **What is domestic violence?**

Domestic violence, also described by the terms family violence, intimate partner violence, and teen dating violence, is a widespread problem in Georgia and across the country.

The Office of Violence Against Women defines domestic violence as "a pattern of abusive behavior in any relationship that is used by one partner to gain or maintain power and control over another intimate partner."<sup>7</sup>

Common abusive tactics include:

- physical violence;
- sexual violence;
- isolation;
- economic abuse;
- emotional abuse;
- intimidation;
- reproductive coercion, and
- stalking.

Studies show that domestic violence is committed primarily by men against women; women and men in same-sex relationships experience domestic violence at the same rates as heterosexual women.

1. Georgia Commission on Family Violence, Georgia Coalition Against Domestic Violence (2014). 2014 Georgia Domestic Violence Fatality Review Annual Report and fatality counts.

2. Violence Policy Center (2015). "http://www.vpc.org/studies/wmmw2015.pdf"

3. Criminal Justice Coordinating Council.

4. Georgia Bureau of Investigation (2014). Retrieved from [http://gbi.georgia.gov/sites/gbi.georgia.gov/files/related\\_files/site\\_page/2012%20Crime%20Statistics%20Summary%20Report.pdf](http://gbi.georgia.gov/sites/gbi.georgia.gov/files/related_files/site_page/2012%20Crime%20Statistics%20Summary%20Report.pdf)

5. Georgia Commission on Family Violence, Georgia Coalition Against Domestic Violence, Fatality Review Project findings. [www.fatalityreview.com](http://www.fatalityreview.com)

6. Georgia Protective Order Registry, Georgia Crime Information Center (2014).

7. Office of Violence Against Women (OVW, US DOJ). <http://www.ovw.usdoj.gov/domviolence.htm> (2012)

## Murder Suicide in Georgia <sup>1</sup>

| Category  | 2010-2014 |
|---|-----------|
| Total lives lost  | 222       |
| Percentage of all recorded domestic violence-related deaths in Georgia                  | 36%       |
| Percentage of incidents involving a firearm   | 95%       |
| Percentage of incidents in which the perpetrator was male                               | 92%       |
| Percentage of incidents where the perpetrator and/or the victim were over the age of 60 | 25%       |
| Number of children killed during the course of an intimate partner murder-suicide       | 10        |
| Number of bystanders killed during the course of an intimate partner murder-suicide     | 6         |

## National Domestic Violence Statistics

- **1 in 4 American women** will **experience domestic violence** at some point in her lifetime.<sup>2</sup>
- Since 1976, each year about **30%** of all female murder victims are **killed by their intimate partner**.<sup>3</sup>
- **85%** of domestic violence is **committed by men against women**.<sup>3</sup>
- **Women and men in same-sex relationships** experience domestic violence at the **same rates** as heterosexual women.<sup>4</sup>
- **Immigrants and refugees** experience violence at the **same rates as other communities**.<sup>5</sup> However, immigrants and refugees experience increased barriers to services due to language access and fear about their immigration status.<sup>8</sup>
- **15.5 million children witnessed domestic violence** at least once in the past year.<sup>6</sup>
- Women are **more likely to be killed** by their partner **with a firearm** than **by all other means combined**.<sup>7</sup>

**1-800-33-HAVEN (voice/TTY & Spanish)**

*If you or someone you know is being abused, there are community and statewide resources available to you.  
Call the toll-free, 24-hour hotline for a confidential place to get help and find resources.*

### **For more information:**

Georgia Commission on Family Violence  
[www.gcfv.org](http://www.gcfv.org)

1. Georgia Domestic Violence Media Watch, Georgia Commission on Family Violence (2014).  
2. Black, M., et al. (2008). "Adverse Health Conditions and Health Risk Behaviors Associated with Intimate Partner Violence." *CDC: Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report*. 57 (5).  
3. U.S. Department of Justice (2000). Intimate Partner Violence Special Report. [www.ojp.gov/bjs/pub/pdf/ipv.pdf](http://www.ojp.gov/bjs/pub/pdf/ipv.pdf).  
4. Turell, S. C. (2000). "A descriptive analysis of same-sex relationship violence for a diverse sample." *Journal of Family Violence*. 15(3).  
5. Tjaden P., & Thoennes, N. (2000). "Full Report of the Prevalence, Incidence, and Consequences of Violence Against Women." National Institute of Justice. [www.ncjrs.gov/pdffiles1/nij/183781.pdf](http://www.ncjrs.gov/pdffiles1/nij/183781.pdf).  
6. Whitfield, C., et al. (2003). "Violent Childhood Experiences and the Risk of Intimate Partner Violence in Adults." *Journal of Interpersonal Violence*. 18 (2).  
7. Paulozzi, L., et al. (2001). "Surveillance for Homicide Among Intimate Partners." *CDC: Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report*. 50 (3).  
8. Dutton, M. A., Orloff, L., & Hass, G.A. (2000). "Characteristics of help-seeking behaviors, resources, and services needs of battered immigrant Latinas: Legal and policy implications." *Georgetown Journal on Poverty Law and Policy*. 7(2).