

# Domestic Violence in Georgia



## 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>1</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 rate** as heterosexual women.<sup>2</sup>

## Georgia Domestic Violence Statistics

From 2003 through 2016, at least **1,671** Georgia citizens lost their lives due to domestic violence.<sup>3</sup>

Georgia was recently ranked **8th** in the nation for its rate of men killing women.<sup>4</sup>

Firearms were the cause of death in **71%** of recorded domestic violence fatalities in 2016.<sup>3</sup>

**49%** of victims in cases studied by Georgia’s Domestic Violence Fatality Review Project began their relationship with the person who eventually killed them when they were between the ages of 13-24.<sup>3</sup>

In **37%** of the cases studied by Georgia’s Domestic Violence Fatality Review Project, children witnessed the domestic violence homicide.<sup>3</sup>

In 2015, law enforcement officers responded to **65,487** family violence incidents in Georgia.<sup>5</sup>

In 2015, there were **24,710** protective and stalking orders issued in Georgia.<sup>6</sup>

In FFY 2016, there were **53,414** crisis calls to Georgia’s certified domestic violence agencies.<sup>7</sup>

In FFY 2016, **5,390** victims and children who were provided **332,110** nights of refuge in a Georgia domestic violence shelter.<sup>7</sup>

In FFY 2016, **1,557** victims made a request for shelter but their request was not met due to lack of space.<sup>7</sup>

## Domestic Violence-Related Deaths in Georgia, by year<sup>2</sup>

Year	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016
Deaths	111	123	135	112	134	120	120	141	121

1. Office of Violence Against Women (2012). <http://www.ovw.usdoj.gov/domviolence.htm>
2. Turell, S. C. (2000). "A descriptive analysis of same-sex relationship violence for a diverse sample." Journal of Family Violence. 15(3).
3. Georgia Domestic Violence Fatality Review Annual Report (2016). [www.georgiafatalityreview.com](http://www.georgiafatalityreview.com)
4. Violence Policy Center (2016). <http://www.vpc.org/studies/wmmw2016.pdf>
5. Georgia Bureau of Investigation (2017). Personal Communication.
6. Georgia Protective Order Registry, Georgia Crime Information Center (2017). Personal Communication.
7. Criminal Justice Coordinating Council (2017). Personal Communication.

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## Murder-Suicide in Georgia<sup>3</sup>

Category	2016
Number of completed murder-suicides	20
Total lives lost	52
Percentage of all domestic violence-related deaths in Georgia	43%
Percentage of all domestic violence-related incidents that resulted in a death	28%
Percentage of incidents perpetrated by men	92%
Percentage of incidents that involved the use of a firearm	96%
Attempted murder-suicides where the victim or perpetrator died from their injuries	6

## National Domestic Violence Statistics

**1 in 4 women** and **1 in 7 men** have experienced severe physical violence by an intimate partner (e.g., hit with a fist or something hard, beaten, slammed against something) at some point in their lifetime.<sup>8</sup>

**1 in 7 women** and **1 in 18 men** have been stalked by an intimate partner during their lifetime to the point in which they felt very fearful or believed that they or someone close to them would be harmed or killed.<sup>8</sup>

From 1994 to 2010, about **4 in 5** victims of intimate partner violence were women.<sup>9</sup>

The presence of a gun in a domestic violence situation increases the risk of homicide by **500%**.<sup>10</sup>

Immigrants and refugees experience violence **at the same rates** as other communities.<sup>11</sup>

**15.5 million children** witnessed domestic violence at least once in the past year.<sup>12</sup>

Among high school students who dated, **21% of girls** and **10% of boys** experienced physical and/or sexual dating violence.<sup>13</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.

8. National Intimate Partner and Sexual Violence Survey (2010). [http://www.cdc.gov/violenceprevention/pdf/nisvs\\_report2010-a.pdf](http://www.cdc.gov/violenceprevention/pdf/nisvs_report2010-a.pdf).
9. Bureau of Justice Statistics (2012). <http://www.bjs.gov/index.cfm?ty=pbdetail&iid=4536>
10. Campbell, et al. (2003). Risk Factors for Femicide in Abusive Relationships: Results From a Multisite Case Control Study. Retrieved from <http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC1447915/>
11. 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).
12. Whitfield, C., et al. (2003). "Violent Childhood Experiences and the Risk of Intimate Partner Violence in Adults." Journal of Interpersonal Violence. 18 (2).
13. Vagi KJ, Olsen EOM, Basile KC, Vivolo-Kantor AM (2015). Teen dating violence (physical and sexual) among US high school students: Findings from the 2013 National Youth Risk Behavior Survey. JAMA Pediatrics; 169(5):474-482.