

Violence Against Women Marin Abused Women Services and Community Violence Solutions

Marin Abused Women's Services (MAWS)

734 A Street, San Rafael, CA 94901

415-457-2464

Women's Hotline English (415) 924-6616

Women's Hotline Spanish (415) 924-3456

Men's Hotline (415) 924-1070

maws.org

District Attorney Edward Berberian states: "....Family Violence is the number one violent crime occurring in Marin and it is imperative that intensive and effective intervention occur early...." Violence against women is a continuing and critical issue of great concern to the Women's Commission and the community.

In 2007 MAWS provided:

- Women's hotline assistance to 2,611 callers.
- Shelter and transitional housing 91 women and 122 children, for a total of 24,963 bed nights.
- Advocacy and assistance to 625 women needing restraining, protective or custody orders.
- Batterer intervention classes to 1600 participants at the County jail and San Quentin Prison.

Domestic Violence Statistics

Domestic violence is the number one crime police respond to in Marin County (DA).

30% of women in Marin County emergency rooms are there for injuries caused by domestic violence and 35% of teens report being abused by their boyfriends (MAWS).

Domestic violence is the number one reason for injuries to women in the U.S. It accounts for more emergency room visits than auto accidents, muggings and rapes combined (U.S. Center for Disease Control).

Domestic violence is the number one reason for death of women in the workplace (American Institute on Domestic Violence).

Domestic violence is the number one reason for traumatic death for pregnant and postpartum women in the US (American Journal of Public Health).

Domestic violence is the tenth leading cause for death of women worldwide (the World Health Organization).

40% of domestic cases begin during the first pregnancy. Pregnant women are at twice the risk for battery.

Domestic violence is associated with the following health risks:

- *Unintended pregnancy (Silverman, 2001)
- *Birth control sabotage (Center for Impact Research, 2000)
- *Abortion (Glander, 1998)
- *Mental health disorders (FVPF numerous)
- *Desire for mental health help (DHS, 2006)
- *Disease (Pelvic, cervical cancer, STD, HIV infection)
- *Disability (DHS 2006)
- Substance abuse (Werner, 2007)

Reducing domestic violence: MAWS and the Domestic Violence Response Team

The battered women's justice movement reports that there are a minimum of seven victim services that are necessary to continue the national trend of reducing the number of

women killed by their intimate partners, which has dropped by half since 1978. (Battered Women's Justice Project)

These services are:

- 1) a 24/7 domestic violence hotline,
- 2) a 24/7 domestic violence emergency shelter,
- 3) Domestic violence support groups,
- 4) 24/7 availability of protective orders,
- 5) A coordinated and collaborative domestic violence community response team of prosecutors, law enforcement, probation, courts, child protection, and victim service providers,
- 6) Batterer intervention programs,
- 7) Primary prevention programs for youth and adults.

Marin Abused Women's Services (MAWS)

MAWS serves a total of approximately 3000 victims each year, in its shelter, hotlines, support groups and advocacy programs.

MAWS serves 500-600 victims in our Women's Community Advocacy Program, which reaches out to victims who have made police reports.

During the past 4 years we have developed specialized outreach strategies, campaigns, and materials for Spanish speaking immigrants. This has resulted in a large increase in the number of Spanish speaking immigrants seeking political asylum and emergency shelter in our county. The same strategies are now being adapted for outreach with the African American and Asian communities.

MAWS serves 100-120 women and their children in the emergency shelter each year.

MAWS serves 150-200 women in our bilingual English/Spanish drop-in support groups each year.

Over 2000 callers utilize the 24 hour Women's English and Spanish hotlines each year. Emergency assistance and emotional support in both English and Spanish is provided (24 hours, 365 days a year) by trained hotline volunteers assisting in problem solving, personal safety, and police intervention. Hotline staff also assist in obtaining emergency shelter, medical and legal assistance, and child care, and provide referrals to community resources. The Hotline is one of the few in the Bay Area that provides 24-hour intake to help battered women access emergency shelter. Thirty percent of the calls are from women in life-threatening situations.

20-30 victims and their children reside in the MAWS Second Step Transitional Housing program. This facility provides affordable housing to formerly battered women and their children. In this supportive environment, women can seek job training education, employment, and permanent housing to develop the necessary skills to start new lives that are free of violence

Over 30,000 men have graduated from the ManKind program. The WomanKind program is growing as we offer batterer intervention training for women as well as men.

The Transforming Communities domestic violence and bullying prevention program for youth is brought to high schools and middle schools.

This model program has demonstrated that if specific anti-bullying policies, procedures and rubrics are implemented, and faculty are trained on how to respond to bullying, and students are trained on both how to stop their bullying and how to get help if they are victims, bullying can be eliminated. Our current campaign goal is the involvement of each school district countywide.

A Look at Marin County (lack of) Funding for MAWS

The MAWS emergency services for victims are not funded by county funds. In other bay area county's, MAWS has found that the domestic violence emergency services are funded by county money and are considered a priority.

One of the justifications given for not prioritizing the emergency shelter for funding has been the fact that it receives funds from the Marin Community Foundation (MCF). MCF has done a good job of supporting the work of MAWS over the past 20 years but that support will terminate February 09, according to MAWS Executive Director Donna Garske.

Each year volunteers provide between 10-15 full time positions on the MAWS hotline, leading support groups, and assisting in our emergency shelter. We have a committed community of caring volunteers. However, as the laws, policies and protocols regarding domestic violence response become more sophisticated, so too do the needs for specialized domestic advocates.

Garske: "The need for DV advocates is growing. It is not shrinking."

**Community Violence Solutions:
Administrative Offices
2101 Van Ness Street, San Pablo, CA 94806
510.237.0113**

Sexual Assault Statistics

47 sexual assaults reported to law enforcement in Marin County in 2006; 54 in 2007.

75% of rape victims experience serious post trauma symptoms one year later.

77% of completed rapes are committed by someone who knew the victim.

One in four women experience rape (including childhood sexual assault) within her lifetime.

One in ten males experience sexual assault - most often before the age of 18.

Rape and sexual assault continue to be the most underreported of violent crimes.

According to the FBI, three in ten of these crimes are reported.

One in four girls and one in six boys will be sexually assaulted by the age of eighteen.

Teens ages 16-19 are 3.5 times more likely than the general population to be victims of rape, attempted rape, or sexual assault.

Of the substances used in drug-facilitated rapes, ethanol (alcohol) is the most common

Community Violence Solutions

Community Violence Solutions (CVS), formerly Marin Rape Crisis, has provided services to Marin County women for more than two decades. CVS continues to serve large numbers of women experiencing sexual assault past or present. In the service fiscal year 07/08, 215 clients received crisis intervention (first contact) counseling; 133 persons received in-person counseling to assist in dealing with the aftermath. Accompaniment, advocacy and support group services were also provided. Staff and trained volunteers are on call to provide support both by phone and in-person, 24-hours-a-day, 7-days a week.

Child and adult victims receive immediate help through:

- 24-Hour Crisis Line Counseling
- In person support, including accompaniment to hospitals, police interviews, and legal proceedings.

Stepping Stones provides comprehensive treatment for approximately 400 individuals

Community Violence Solutions' Stepping Stones Counseling Center specializes in providing counseling for people whose lives have been affected by sexual assault. Services are available to child, adolescent and adult survivors of recent or past rape, incest, molestation or other forms of sexual abuse, as well as to friends or family members of sexual assault survivors. In a compassionate and non-judgmental setting, clients are helped to heal and to gain the self-confidence and understanding to move forward with their lives.

SART, Community Violence Solutions' Sexual Assault Response Team, provides a pool of specially trained on-call sexual assault nurse examiners to respond to the special needs of sexual assault victims. They perform the emergency medical exam needed to improve the evidence

collection process, thereby increasing the rate of prosecution of sexual assault crimes. SART examiners* also serve as expert witnesses in court.

Through SART, hospitals provide a dedicated examining room for evidence collection. SART has program sites at Marin General Hospital.

Community Violence Solutions provides prevention and outreach services throughout Marin County to raise awareness of the issue of sexual violence and to teach risk reduction strategies.

Classroom and community-based workshops are led by experienced facilitators and are offered at no charge. Issues addressed include sexual harassment, date rape, personal safety, and respectful communication. In prevention education programs, there were 2,242 participants in rape education prevention workshops, and 221 participants in community education workshops in Marin County in this reporting period. Male Ally Program sessions and self-defense workshops were given as well.

Special emphasis is placed on reaching youth through middle and high schools, as well as colleges, and educating teens about effective ways to protect themselves, respect each other, find support.

In addition, **Girls Assertiveness Training** workshops are offered after school or on weekends to help young women learn self-defense techniques and assertiveness skills. And, our new Male Ally Program works directly with boys and young men to teach the necessary skills males must develop in order to not participate in the perpetuation of sexual violence against women.

CVS also reports a crisis in funding. Rhonda James, exec. Dir. of CVS reports: "Marin has never provided funding at either the corporate or public level as long as I have been here." The Rape Crisis Center has shrunk to just over two full time employees in the entire county of Marin and is supported by state money only. Prevention and Outreach is down to a part-time position in Marin. Ms. James: "We have remained viable so far only because all have taken on more work as each lay-off has occurred."