



## FAMILY VIOLENCE

*A family is a place where minds come in contact with one another. If these minds love one another the home will be as beautiful as a flower garden. But if these minds get out of harmony with one another it is like a storm that plays havoc with the garden.*

**Buddha (563 BC - 483 BC)**

### The Picture in San Diego

"Domestic violence" means abuse committed against an adult or a minor who is a spouse, former spouse, cohabitant, former cohabitant, or person with whom the suspect has had a child, or is having, or has had a dating or engagement relationship.

Source: California State Penal Code, Section 13700

According to the County of San Diego Strategic Plan, children who witness domestic violence are more likely to experience health, emotional and behavioral problems, and become victims or perpetrators of violence.

Just under one-half of violent crimes (49%) crimes are reported to the police.

Source: 2001 National Crime Victimization Survey (NCVS, BJS, 2002)



In 2002, in San Diego...

- There were 21,855 domestic violence incidents, an increase of 6% from five years earlier (20,592 in 1998)
- Approximately 2.5 domestic violence incidents were reported to law enforcement each hour of the day

Source: Crime in the San Diego Region, Annual 2002, SANDAG

#### San Diego Family Justice Center

Opened in October of 2002, the San Diego Family Justice Center utilizes a multidisciplinary approach, bringing together law enforcement, forensic medical specialists, advocates, shelter and support services personnel to better serve victims of domestic violence.

707 Broadway, Suite 700, San Diego, CA 92101  
619-533-6000 or 1-866-933-HOPE (4673)

[www.familyjusticecenter.org](http://www.familyjusticecenter.org)

DV Hotline: 1-(800) 799-SAFE (7233)

#### Upcoming Local Events:

- City Heights National Night Out  
America's Night Out Against Crime  
Tues, August 5th 6:30 pm  
City Heights Urban Village  
Contact City Heights Town Council for more information (619) 563-0671
- Family Violence and Sexual Assault Institute (FVSAI)  
8th International Conference on Family Violence  
September 17-20, 2003  
San Diego, CA  
For more information visit:  
[www.fvsai.org](http://www.fvsai.org)

### Spotlight on a Local Organization

#### The Ahimsa Project for Safe Families

The Ahimsa Project for Safe Families is a partnership between the Center for Community Solutions (CCS), Social Advocates for Youth, San Diego (SAY, San Diego) and the California Department of Health and Human Service, serving the Mid-City community.

The Ahimsa Project is a family violence prevention and intervention program specifically designed to reach the underserved Latino, Vietnamese and Somali immigrants and refugee families in Mid-City.

The program includes community assessment, outreach, community

education, training for professional service providers, and advocacy.

The Ahimsa Project offers a variety of culturally-specific outreach programs to the Mid-City community, including a sewing circle, parenting and art classes, and community dialogues. These programs are focused on uniting the community with messages of harmony and non-violence.

For more information contact:

Amy Pan  
(619) 283 9624 ext. 209

## UCSD Center Activities

### Family Violence Rotation

All second year pediatric residents at UCSD and the Naval Medical Center, San Diego (NMCS), as well as second year medicine/pediatric residents at UCSD, participate in a two-week Family Violence Rotation. This rotation is based on the strengths of clinical faculty in addressing family violence in San Diego.

The rotation was developed in 2000 by Dr. Cynthia Kuelbs, with the assistance

of other Children's Hospital and UCSD faculty, to educate residents about prevention, recognition and treatment of family violence. The focus of the Family Violence Rotation is the interplay between domestic violence and child abuse.

Learners are encouraged to reflect on their experiences and to integrate primary prevention into their clinical

practice. The rotation is a collaborative effort of the staff, faculty, and resources of the Anne E. Dyson Community Pediatrics Training Initiative, Chadwick Center for Children and Families, and the UCSD Academic Center of Excellence on Youth Violence Prevention.

For more information contact Frank Silva, [fsilva@ucsd.edu](mailto:fsilva@ucsd.edu)

## Research Literature

*This section highlights current research to provide the latest insights and developments in the assessment, education, intervention and prevention of violence. Information on accessing the full text article is provided as available.*

Bensley, L., J. Van Eenwyk, et al. (2003). "Childhood family violence history and women's risk for intimate partner violence and poor health." *Am J Prev Med* 25(1): 38-44.

**BACKGROUND:** There is growing evidence for associations between generations in family violence and between family violence in both childhood and adulthood and women's health. Most studies focus on a subset of family violence (child abuse, witnessing intimate partner violence [IPV] as a child, and/or adult IPV), and few examine possible differences associated with the nature of abusive experiences, such as physical versus sexual abuse.

**METHODS:** A population-based telephone survey, the 1999 and 2001 Washington State Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System, asked a representative sample of 3527 English-speaking, non-institutionalized adult women whether they had been physically or sexually assaulted or witnessed interparental violence in childhood, and whether they had experienced physical assault or emotional abuse from an intimate partner in the past year. The survey also asked about current general health and mental distress in the past month.

**RESULTS:** The risks associated with childhood family violence experiences varied depending on the nature of those experiences. Women reporting childhood physical abuse or witnessing interparental violence were at a four- to six-fold increase in risk of physical IPV, and women reporting any of the experiences measured were at three- to four-fold increase in risk of partner emotional abuse. In contrast, women reporting childhood sexual abuse only were not at increased risk of physical IPV. Women reporting childhood physical abuse were at increased risk of poor physical health, and women reporting any type of childhood

family violence were at increased risk of frequent mental distress. Approximately one third of women reporting poor general health and half of women reporting frequent mental distress also reported at least one of the childhood experiences measured.

**CONCLUSIONS:** These findings underscore the role of childhood experiences of abuse and of witnessing family violence in women's current risk for IPV, poor physical health, and frequent mental distress.

Full text article is available on

<http://www.sciencedirect.com/science/journal/07493797>

## Web Resources

- Family Violence Prevention Fund <http://www.endabuse.org>
- National Center for Injury Prevention and Control, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention <http://www.cdc.gov/ncipc/default.htm>
- San Diego Domestic Violence Council <http://www.sandiegodvccouncil.org/sddvc.html>
- Stop Family Violence <http://stopfamilyviolence.org>
- U.S. Department of Justice, Office of Justice Programs [http://www.ojp.usdoj.gov/familyviolence/whats\\_new.htm](http://www.ojp.usdoj.gov/familyviolence/whats_new.htm)
- Find the latest facts, publications, and legislation, and learn about programs, technical assistance, and grants and funding resources regarding family violence. View In the Spotlight: Family Violence at [http://www.ncjrs.org/family\\_violence/summary.html](http://www.ncjrs.org/family_violence/summary.html)

*The mission of the UCSD Academic Center of Excellence on Youth Violence Prevention is to connect community assets with university resources to promote research and education on youth violence in San Diego*

[www.sdhealth.org/youth](http://www.sdhealth.org/youth)