

2015 Legislative Guide



Domestic Violence in Louisiana

There has been at least one domestic homicide in every parish in Louisiana.

- From 2010-2014, using multiple sources, LCADV identified 261 incidents, resulting in 281 domestic violence fatalities.
- 76% of intimate partner femicide victims have been stalked by their intimate partner. ¹
- 89% of femicide victims who had been physically assaulted had also been stalked in the 12 months before their murder. ¹

Domestic Homicide Data 2010-2014

Total number of domestic violence homicides: 281

- Committed with guns: 63%
- 38% had prior domestic violence charges or other violent history

ABOUT LCADV

Our Mission

To eliminate domestic violence through public education, systems change, social change, and public policy. To promote and strengthen quality comprehensive services for member programs and all individuals affected by domestic violence.

Our Work

The Louisiana Coalition Against Domestic Violence is the federally designated statewide coalition of programs and individuals working to end domestic violence in Louisiana. Our programs serve people from everywhere in Louisiana and from all backgrounds. We oppose violence as a means of control over others and support equality in relationships.

What Can We Do?

IMPROVE THE SAFETY NET FOR VICTIMS

45% of our parishes have very limited access to services for victims.

A 43% increase in the number of beds would be required to meet the current demand for shelter.

- **1 in 4 women will experience domestic violence in their lifetime.** This means there will be about **450,000 women who experience domestic abuse in Louisiana** over the course of their lifetimes - more than 5,000 adult women per year. ²
- To house the portion of these women and their children seeking shelter services, we would need 700 shelter beds throughout the state. We currently have 400.
- Programs were unable to meet 2,671 service requests in 2014 due to lack of resources.
- Currently there are only 35 parishes with permanent physical points of access to domestic violence services, which means either outreach offices or shelters.
- To even begin to meet the current need for shelter, the state line item for domestic violence services should be increased by a minimum of \$7 million.
- Ensuring housing protections for domestic violence survivors is crucial. Survivors are often forced to leave their homes due to lease provisions that allow eviction for domestic violence incidents.
- In a recent survey of domestic violence survivors in Louisiana, 28% of respondents had been asked by their landlord to leave their homes due to the actions of their abusers.

Quotes From Survivors Who Have Lost Housing

“My landlord stated the fighting and noise was a lease breaker.”

“They asked me and my kids to leave because he was punching holes in the wall.”

RECOGNIZE THE VALUE OF PROTECTION ORDERS

- Protection Orders are very effective. According to a 2009 study funded by the United States Department of Justice, threats and physical abuse dropped dramatically during the months after a survivor got a protective order.
 - * Threats to kill or harm decreased nearly 50%.³
 - * Moderate physical abuse decreased 61%.³
 - * Severe physical abuse decreased nearly 50%.³
- Strict enforcement of protection orders is vital. Violation of a protection order is a known lethality indicator. Offenders who are willing to violate a protection order more often reoffend and more often commit homicide.

RECOGNIZE THE DANGER OF STALKING

- The majority of stalking victims are stalked by someone they know. 66% of female victims and 41% of male victims of stalking are stalked by a current or former intimate partner.¹
- 2/3 of stalkers pursue their victims at least once per week, many daily, using more than one method.¹
- Weapons are used to threaten or harm victims in 1 out of 5 stalking cases.¹
- 79% of abused femicide victims reported being stalked during the same period that they were abused.¹
- In the 14 states that already require background checks for **all** gun sales, the rate of women murdered by an intimate partner with a gun was 38 percent lower than in other states – **and 54% lower than in Louisiana** – while the number murdered by other means was nearly identical.⁴
- Access to firearms increases the risk of intimate partner homicide more than five times, compared to instances where there are no weapons. In addition, abusers who possess guns tend to inflict the most severe abuse on their partners.⁵

References

¹Stalking Resource Center, National Center for Victims of Crime, Stalking Fact Sheet, 2012.

²Tjaden & Thoennes, National Institute of Justice and the Centers of Disease Control and Prevention Survey, 2000.

³Logan, T.K., R. Walker, W. Hoyt, T. Faragher, The Kentucky Civil Protective Order Study, 2009.

⁴U.S. Department of Justice, federal Bureau of Investigation, Supplementary Homicide Reports, 2011.

⁵J. C. Campbell, D; Webster, J; Koziol-McLain, C. R; et al. 2003. Risk Factors For Femicide in Abusive Relationships: Results From A Multi-Site Case Control Study. American Journal of Public Health. 93(7).

Louisiana Domestic Violence Programs

Program Name	Parishes Served	Office Number
Chez Hope	Assumption, St. Mary	337.828.4200
Jeff Davis CADA (Communities Against Domestic Abuse)	Jefferson Davis	337.616.8418
DART (Domestic Abuse Resistance Team)	Bienville, Claiborne, Jackson, Lincoln, Union, Winn, Grant	318.513.9373
Faith House	Acadia, Evangeline, Lafayette, St. Landry, Vermilion, Avoyelles, Rapides	337.267.9422
The Haven	LaFourche, Terrebonne	985.872.0757
Iris Domestic Violence Center	Ascension, Iberville, East Baton Rouge, West Baton Rouge, Pointe Coupee, East Feliciana, West Feliciana	225.389.3002
June N. Jenkins Women's Shelter	Beauregard, Vernon	337.462.1452
Metropolitan Center for Women and Children	Jefferson, St. Charles, St. James, St. John	504.837.5455
New Orleans Family Justice Center	Orleans	504.866.9554

Program Name	Parishes Served	Office Number
Oasis, A Safe Haven	Allen, Calcasieu, Cameron	337.436.4552
Safe Harbor	St. Tammany, Washington	985.626.5740
SNAP (Safety Net for Abused Persons)	Iberia, St. Martin	337.367.7627
St. Bernard Battered Women's Program	Plaquemines, St. Bernard	504.277.3177
SAFE (Southeast Advocates for Family Empowerment)	Livingston, St. Helena, Tangipahoa, Washington	985.542.8384
Taylor House, Project Celebration	DeSoto, Sabine, Natchitoches, Bossier, Caddo, Red River, Webster	318.256.3408
The Wellspring Alliance for Families	Caldwell, East Carroll, Franklin, Morehouse, Ouachita, Madison, Richland, Tensas, West Carroll, LaSalle, Concordia, Catahoula	318.651.9314



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