



Domestic Violence Press Kit

Utah Domestic Violence
Council
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THERE'S
NO EXCUSE FOR
ABUSE

Judy Kasten Bell, Executive Director

Dear Journalist

The Utah Domestic Violence Council (UDVC) is proud to present this press kit to the media of Utah. The purpose of this kit is to provide all Utah media outlets with the tools and information needed to provide the public with informative and accurate domestic violence related reports.

Founded in 1978 by the Division of Child and Family Services (DCFS), the UDVC was initially formed as a community forum to start the necessary dialogue about domestic violence in the state of Utah. The UDVC incorporated in 1993, and in 1994 the Council became independent of DCFS. In 1998 the UDVC was designated as a 501c3 not-for-profit organization.

The UDVC is recognized nationally as the state domestic violence coalition in Utah, therefore it receives its funding from two federal grants; the Family Violence Prevention and Services Act (FVPSA) state coalition grant, and the federal Violence Against Women Act (VAWA) grant. The VAWA grant is currently for outreach to underserved communities and training.

The UDVC is comprised of 36 voting members, from across the state and various disciplines, employs five staff and has 12 working committees. The Council also works closely with and provides funding for Utah's 23 local domestic violence coalitions, as well as collaborating with and providing resources and information to many individuals and agencies.

The UDVC's unique status as both a grass roots open community forum and a not-for-profit Council as well as its local and national relationships allow it to function with extraordinary efficiency and effectiveness. Throughout the past 25 years the UDVC has shown outstanding achievement in becoming the leader of the collaborative statewide effort to eliminate domestic violence in the state of Utah.

For more information about UDVC Community Meetings, please visit our website at www.udvc.org. You are welcome to attend the UDVC Community Meetings.



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Dear Journalist,

We are survivors of domestic violence. As survivors of domestic violence, we believe it is important that before you cover a story as traumatizing as domestic violence, you become educated on the subject. It is important for you to interview survivors so that your audience gets a better understanding of domestic violence. In interviews by local and national journalists regarding issues of domestic violence. It is clear that most reporters have similar questions. Before you start asking your questions, one of the most important things to remember is to never blame the victim. No one is to blame for the abuse except the abuser.

We recommend that instead of interviewing the victim of the immediate event, who may still be in a dangerous relationship, you may consider speaking to a survivor who is ready to talk about domestic violence. Survivors have begun the process of healing and moving on. Survivors are no longer victims and want people to focus on their strengths, not their past. Give each survivor a chance to express herself/himself and to tell his or her own story.

In each interview you conduct, focus on the positive. Survivors who agree to be interviewed want to help victims that aren't in a safe place by letting them know they are not alone and there is help available. The survivor is ready to talk and wants to send a message to the family and friends of all victims to tell them not to give up, but to continue to be supportive and available. Survivors want to tell the audience things that many times victims don't have the strength or freedom to say... yet.

Sincerely,

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Domestic Violence Facts and Statistics

Domestic violence crosses ethnic, racial, age, national origin, sexual orientation, religious and socioeconomic lines.

- During the period of July 1, 2005, through June 30, 2006, victims stayed 64,619 days in DV shelters throughout Utah; 3,513 adults and children received emergency shelter.
The Governor's Violence Against Women and Families Cabinet Council (2007) Utah DV Report
- By the most conservative estimate, each year 1 million women suffer nonfatal violence by an intimate.
Bureau of Justice Statistics Special Report: Violence Against Women: Estimates from the Redesigned Survey (NCJ-154348), August 1995, p. 3.
- By other estimates, 4 million American women experience a serious assault by an intimate partner during an average 12-month period.
American Psychl. Ass'n, Violence and the Family: Report of the American Psychological Association Presidential Task Force on Violence and the Family (1996), p. 10.
- Nearly 1 in 3 adult women experience at least one physical assault by a partner during adulthood.
American Psychl. Ass'n., Violence and the Family: Report of the American Psychological Association Presidential Task Force on Violence and the Family (1996), p. 10.
- 28% of all annual violence against women is perpetrated by intimates.
Bureau of Justice Statistics Special Report: National Crime Victimization Survey, Violence Against Women (NCJ-145325), January 1994.
- 5% of all annual violence against men is perpetrated by intimates.
Bureau of Justice Statistics Special Report: National Crime Victimization Survey, Violence Against Women (NCJ-145325), January 1994.
- During 1994, 21% of all violent victimizations against women were committed by an intimate, but only 4% of violent victimizations against men were committed by an intimate.
Bureau of Justice Statistics Special Report: Sex Differences in Violent Victimization, 1994 (NCJ-164508), September, 1997, pp. 1-3.
- In 1993, approximately 575,000 men were arrested for committing violence against women. Approximately 49,000 women were arrested for committing violence against men.
American Psychl. Ass'n, Violence and the Family: Report of the American Psychological Association Presidential Task Force on Violence and the Family (1996), p. 10.
- There were 29 domestic violence related deaths in Utah in 2006.
UDVC, (2006) Utah DV Related Deaths
- During 2006, the Utah Domestic Violence Information Line experienced its highest call volume since inception in the fall of 1993; it received 2,526 calls, served 4,308 people and gave 3,479 referrals.
Utah Domestic Violence Crisis and Information Line, 2006 Calendar Year
- In 2006 there were 18,027 total incident based reporting injuries to victims of domestic violence, up from 13,847 in 2005.
Crime in Utah (2006)

Domestic Violence Facts and Statistics, Continued

- At least two studies conclude that there is regular and repeated violence between spouses in 10 to 20 percent of all marriages and that at least one incident of physical violence occurs in 50 percent of all marriages.
Straus, M.A., R. Gelles, and S. Steinmetz. (1980). *Behind Closed Doors: Violence in the American Family*. New York: Anchor Press/Doubleday, Schulman. (1979). "A Survey of Spousal Violence Against Women in Kentucky."
- In 1991, 28 percent of all female murder victims were slain by their husbands or boy-friends.
Federal Bureau of Investigation. (1992). "Crime in the United States, 1991" Washington, D.C.
- Women who leave their batterers are at a 75 percent greater risk of being killed by the batterer than those who stay.
Hart, Barbara. (1988). "Domestic Violence Fact Sheet" National Coalition Against Domestic Violence. Washington, D.C.
- Fifty percent of all homeless women and children in this country are fleeing domestic violence.
Sheehan, Myra A. (1993). "An Interstate Compact on Domestic Violence: What are the Advantages?" *Juvenile and Family Justice Today*, 1(4):12-13,19.
- In 2001, about 85% of victimizations by intimate partners were against women (588,490) and 15% of victimizations were against men (103,220).
Rennison, Callie Marie and Sarah Welchans. (2003) *Intimate Partner Violence 1993-2001*. U.S. Department of Justice, Bureau of Justice Statistics. Washington, D.C.
- Violence against women occurs in 20% of dating couples.
American Psychl. Ass'n, *Violence and the Family: Report of the American Psychological Association Presidential Task Force on Violence and the Family* (1996), p. 10.
- An average of 28% of high school and college students experience dating violence at some point.
Brustin, S., *Legal Response to Teen Dating Violence*, *Family Law Quarterly*, vol. 29, no. 2, 331 (Summer 1995) (citing Levy, *In Love & In Danger: a teen's guide to breaking free of an abusive relationship*, 1993).
- During the 2005 calendar year 4,249 ex parte orders of protection were issued in Utah.
Utah Administrative Office of the Courts, (2005)
- In cases of marital or dating violence, which accounted for 82% of all protection order cases, 90% of defendants were male.
Adams & Powell, *Tragedies of Domestic Violence: A qualitative analysis of civil restraining orders in Massachusetts*, Office of the Commissioner of Probation, Massachusetts Trial Court, p. 9 (1995).
- More than 17% of domestic homicide victims had a protection order against the perpetrator at the time of the killing.
Florida Governor's Task Force on Domestic and Sexual Violence, *Florida Mortality Review Project*, 1997, p.46, table 15.
- Protection order defendants who had prior criminal histories were more likely to violate the order than those who did not.
Adams & Powell, *Tragedies of Domestic Violence: A Qualitative Analysis of Civil Restraining Orders in Massachusetts*, Office of the Commissioner of Probation, Massachusetts Trial Court, p. 17 (1995).
- The majority of women who seek temporary protection orders have complaints of serious abuse: physical assaults, threats to kill or harm her, or attempts or threats to take the children.
Buzawa & Buzawa ed., *Do Arrests and Restraining Orders Work?* p. 216 (1996).
- In one study of women seeking temporary protection orders, 56% has sustained physical injuries.
Buzawa & Buzawa ed., *Do Arrests and Restraining Orders Work?* p. 216 (1996).

Domestic Violence Facts and Statistics, Continued

- 60% of women in one study reported acts of abuse after the entry of a protection order, and 30% reported acts of severe violence.
Buzawa & Buzawa ed., Do Arrests and Restraining Orders Work? p. 223 (1996).
- One study showed 80% of women with temporary protection order said the order was somewhat or very helpful in sending the batterer a message that his actions were wrong. less than 50% of the women thought that the batterer believed he had to obey the order.
Buzawa & Buzawa ed., Do Arrests and Restraining Orders Work? p. 218 (1996).
- Most violations of protection orders leading to an arrest occurred within 90 days of the entry of the order.
Buzawa & Buzawa ed., Do Arrests and Restraining Orders Work? p. 200 (1996).
- 6% of protection order defendants were convicted of violating the order.
Adams & Powell, Tragedies of Domestic Violence: A Qualitative Analysis of Civil Restraining Orders in Massachusetts, Office of the Commissioner of Probation, Massachusetts Trial Court, p. 17 (1995).
- Female homicide victims are more than twice as likely to have been killed by an intimate partner than are male homicide victims.
Bureau of Justice Statistics: Female Victims of Violent Crime, December, 1996.
- There were 154 domestic violence homicides in Utah between 1984 and 1994. That number represents 28% of all the homicides during that period.
Utah Department of Public Safety
- 88% of victims domestic violence fatalities had a documented history of physical abuse.
Florida Governor's Task Force on Domestic and Sexual Violence, Florida Mortality Review Project, 1997, pp.46-48, tables 14-21.
- 70% of intimate-partner homicide victims are women.
Bureau of Justice Statistics Selected Findings: Violence Between Intimates (NCJ-149259) November, 1994.
- A woman is the perpetrator in 19% of domestic homicides.
Florida Governor's Task Force on Domestic and Sexual Violence, Florida Mortality Review Project, 1997, p.44, table 7.
- From 1994-1999, in Utah, a current of former intimate partner perpetuated 49% of female homicides.
Clinical Guidelines for Assessment and referral for Victims of DV: A Reference for Utah Health Care Providers, Utah Dept. of Health 2004
- The total number of referrals for domestic violence related child abuse was 4,096 during from July 1, 2005 through June 30, 2006.
Utah Division of Child and Family Services, (2006)
- Each year, an estimated 3.3 million children are exposed to violence by family members against their mothers or female caretakers.
American Psychl. Ass'n, Violence and the Family: Report of the American Psychological Association Presidential Task Force on Violence and the Family (1996), p. 11.
- 40-60% of men who abuse women also abuse children.
American Psychl. Ass'n, Violence and the Family: Report of the American Psychological Association Presidential Task Force on Violence and the Family (1996), p. 80.
- When children are killed during a domestic dispute, 90% are under age 10; 56% are under age 2.
Florida Governor's Task Force on Domestic and Sexual Violence, Florida Mortality Review Project, 1997, p.51, table 28.

Domestic Violence Facts and Statistics Continued

- A comparison of delinquents and non-delinquent youth found that a history of family violence or abuse was the most significant difference between the two groups.
Miller, G. (1989). Violence By and Against America's Children. Journal of Juvenile Justice Digest, 17 (12), p. 6.
- Children witnessing the violence inflicted on their mothers evidence behavioral, somatic, or emotional problems similar to those experienced by physically abused children.
Jaffe, P.G., D.A. Wolfe, & S.K. Wilson. (1990). Children of Battered Women: Issues in Child Development and Intervention Planning. Newbury Park, CA: Sage.
- Boys who have witnessed domestic violence are three times more likely to hit their wives than those who have not.
Stark, E. and Flitcraft, A. (1985). Woman-Battering, Child Abuse and Social Heredity: What is the Relationship? In N. Johnson (ed.), Marital Violence. London: Routledge and Kegan Paul.
- One in five women in Utah relate that their children witness or hear *verbal abuse*, while one in fourteen report their children witness or hear *physical abuse*.
Domestic Violence Incidence and prevalence Study conducted for Governor's Commission on Women and Families Dan Jones & Associates, Inc., April-May 1997
- In 2006 there were 18,027 total incident based reporting injuries to victims of domestic violence, up from 13,847 in 2005.
Crime in Utah (2006)
- Every year, domestic violence results in almost 100,000 days of hospitalizations, almost 30,000 emergency department visits, and almost 40,000 visits to a physician.
American Medical Association. (1991). "Five Issues in American Health" Chicago, IL.
- Businesses forfeit \$100 million in lost wages, sick leave, absenteeism and non-productivity.
Colorado Domestic Violence Coalition. (1991). Domestic Violence for Health Care Providers. 3rd Edition.
- Domestic violence is statistically consistent across racial and ethnic boundaries.
Bureau of Justice Statistics Special Report: Violence Against Women: Estimates from the Redesigned Survey (NCJ-154348), August 1995, p. 3.
- Research shows that approximately 900,000 parents are beaten or abused by their children each year. Approximately 551,011 elder persons were abused or neglected in a 1-year period.
The National Elder Abuse Incident Study (1996)
- Women ages 19-29 reported more violence by intimates than any other age group.
Bureau of Justice Statistics Special Report: Violence Against Women: Estimates from the Redesigned Survey (NCJ-154348), August 1995, p. 4.
- Women aged 46 or older are least likely to be battered by an intimate.
Bureau of Justice Statistics Special Report: Violence Against Women: Estimates from the Redesigned Survey (NCJ-154348), August 1995, p. 4.
- The prevalence of domestic violence among Gay and Lesbian couples is approximately 25 - 33%.
Barnes, It's Just a Quarrel', American Bar Association Journal, February 1998, p. 25.
- A battered woman who is not a legal resident, or whose immigration status depends on her partner, is isolated by cultural dynamics which may prevent her from leaving her husband or seeking assistance from the legal system. these factors contribute to the higher incidence of abuse among immigrant women.
Orloff et al., With No Place to Turn: Improving Advocacy for Battered Immigrant Women, Family Law Quarterly, vol. 29, no. 2, 313 (Summer 1995).

Media Resources

Local Resources

- Utah Domestic Violence Council
Judy Kasten Bell, Executive Director
(801) 521-5544
<http://www.udvc.org>
- Utah Department of Health, Domestic Violence Fatality Review Committee
<http://www.health.utah.gov/vipp/domesticViolence/homicide.html>
- 1994-1999 Intimate Partner Death Review Team Report
<http://www.health.utah.gov/vipp/pdf/ipvdrtreport.PDF>
- Utah Office on Domestic and Sexual Violence
<http://nomoresecrets.utah.gov/>
- Utah Department of Health Violence and Injury Program: Domestic Violence
<http://www.health.utah.gov/vipp/domesticViolence/overview.html>

National Resources

- U.S. Department of Justice, Office on Violence Against Women
<http://www.usdoj.gov/ovw/>
- National Network to End Domestic Violence
<http://www.nnedv.org/>
- National Coalition Against Domestic Violence
<http://www.ncadv.org/>
- End Abuse, Family Violence Prevention Fund
<http://endabuse.org/>
- National Center for Victims of Crime
<http://www.ncvc.org/>
- Intimate Partner Costs Statistics, CDC
http://www.cdc.gov/ncipc/pub-res/ipv_cost/IPVBook-Final-Feb18.pdf
- General Domestic Violence Statistic Packet, National Resource Center on Domestic Violence
<http://www.mcadv.org/mrcdsv/resource/stats/DV%20Stats%20NRC.pdf>

Victim Resources

Local Resource

- Utah Domestic Violence Info Line
1-800-897-LINK (5465)
<http://www.udvc.org>

National Resource

- National Domestic Violence Hotline
1-800-799-SAFE (7233)
<http://www.ndvh.org>

Warning Signs of Domestic Violence

This list identifies a series of behaviors typically demonstrated by batterers. All of these forms of abuse - psychological, economic, and physical – come from the batterer's desire for power and control. This list of behaviors should be used to help educate the public about how to recognize violent and unhealthy relationships. The behaviors listed are not all inclusive.

Verbal Attacks: Name-calling; mocking; accusing; blaming; yelling; swearing; making humiliating remarks or gestures; constantly pointing out your faults. Laughing at your goals.

Pressure Tactics: Rushing you to make decisions through intimidation; threatening to withhold money; manipulating the children; telling you what to do.

Disrespect: Interrupting; changing topics; not listening or responding; twisting your words; putting you down in front of other people; saying negative things about your friends and family.

Abusing Trust: Lying; withholding information; cheating; being overly jealous.

Emotional Withholding: Not expressing feelings; not giving support, attention, or compliments; not respecting your feelings, rights, or opinions.

Minimizing, Denying & Blaming: Making light of the abusive behavior and not taking your concerns about it seriously by making statements such as "You're too sensitive"; saying the abuse didn't happen; shifting responsibility for abusive behavior by blaming others or saying "This is your fault".

Economic Control: Interfering with your work or not letting you work; taking financial control; taking your car keys or otherwise preventing you from using the car; threatening to report you to welfare or other social service agencies.

Isolation: Preventing or making it difficult for you to see friends or relatives; monitoring phone calls and/or computer use; telling you where you can and cannot go; locking you in your home or a room in your home; taking all access to transportation and outside communication away.

Stalking and Harassment: Making uninvited visits or calls; following you; checking up on you; embarrassing you in public; refusing to leave when asked; checking your phone records, vehicle mileage and/or gas use; acting jealous and/or possessive.

Intimidation: Making angry or threatening gestures; use of physical size to intimidate; disappearing with the children; driving recklessly or threatening to harm other family members; threatening deportation or other legal ramifications.

Destruction: Destroying your possessions or essential household items; punching walls; throwing and/or breaking things– especially things that are important to you.

Threats: Making and/or carrying out threats to hurt you or others; threatening to obtain and use weapons of any kind.

Sexual Violence: Using degrading treatment or discrimination based on your sex or sexual orientation; using force, threats or coercion to obtain sex or perform sexual acts; telling lewd, crude jokes; making you have sex with others; making fun of your body and criticizing your sexual ability; touching you when you don't want to be touched; forced use of pornography.

Physical Violence: Being violent towards you, your children, other family members or household pets by slapping, punching, grabbing, kicking, strangling, pushing, biting, burning, stabbing, and/or shooting. Throwing things at you; holding you down; pulling your hair.

Suggested Interview Questions

- What made it difficult for you to leave? (Rather than, “Why did you stay?”)
- What advice would you give to someone in a situation similar to the one you were in?
- If a woman is not ready to leave, what can she do to prepare herself for when she is ready?
- Whom did you ask for help, where did you find help, or what services or service providers could have helped you? (Rather than, “Why didn’t you ask for help?”)
- Were police involved in your case; and if not, could the police have helped you? (Rather than, “Why didn’t you call the police?”)

The following recommendations are from survivors. If followed the suggestions will provide media persons a more complete and accurate interview while helping to keep survivors safe.

Do:

- Educate the audience about what they can do to recognize and help stop domestic violence.
 - Ask questions that will help the audience understand how to recognize domestic violence.
 - Explain why abusers batter: to gain power and control.
 - Explain the dangers in leaving and why it is difficult to leave a dangerous relationship.
- Consider the safety of the person being interviewed.
 - Be careful to not reveal locations or personal details.
 - Protect the privacy of children and family members involved.
- Craft questions carefully to avoid blaming the victim.
- Ask survivors to describe their process of becoming a survivor, then be willing to listen and let him or her share his or her experience.
- When possible, let the survivor decide when and where to talk, this will help give back some of the control the abuser took away.
- Ask questions to relate the survivor’s story to the issue at hand.
- Be aware that you may be triggering secondary trauma by asking questions.
- Screen interviews and stories for chances to educate the public about the dynamics of domestic violence. For example, if neighbors say, “Oh, he was such a nice guy,” remind the audience that part of the dynamics of DV often include the abuser having a kind of Jeckel and Hyde persona; abusers are often viewed as kind and compassionate by those outside the home.
- When doing any domestic violence story, always give local and/or national hotline numbers for victims to call.

Do *Not*:

- Focus on sensational details.
 - Push for more personal information than survivors want to give.
 - Second guess how a survivor reacted in specific situations.
 - Assume domestic violence is a cultural or economic issue.
 - Be judgmental or place any blame on the victim.
- Broadcast/print parts of a story that would put a survivor in danger.

*These recommendations have been adapted by those created by SOAR (Sisters Overcoming Abusive Relationships), a task force of the Rhode Island Coalition Against Domestic Violence.

Calendar of events:

First week of January: Domestic Violence Related Deaths press event

April: Sexual Assault Awareness month and Child Abuse awareness month

October: Domestic Violence Awareness Month