



Domestic Violence in Georgia

Year	2009	2008	2007	2006	2005	2004	2003
Number of DV Fatalities¹	125	111	118	106	127	110	137

What is domestic violence?⁶

Domestic violence is about one person getting and keeping power and control over another person in an intimate relationship. The abusive person might be your current or former spouse, live-in lover, or dating partner. Domestic violence has been described as "a pattern of behavior in which one intimate partner uses physical violence, coercion, threats, intimidation, isolation and emotional, sexual or economic abuse to control and change the behavior of the other partner."⁵

PHYSICAL ABUSE: Grabbing, pinching, shoving, slapping, hitting, hair pulling, biting, etc. Denying medical care or forcing alcohol and/or drug use.

SEXUAL ABUSE: Coercing or attempting to coerce any sexual contact without consent, e.g., marital rape, forcing sex after physical beating, attacks on sexual parts of the body or treating another in a sexually demeaning manner.

ECONOMIC ABUSE: Making or attempting to make a person financially dependent, e.g., maintaining total control over financial resources, withholding access to money, forbidding attendance at school or employment.

EMOTIONAL ABUSE: Undermining a person's sense of self-worth, e.g., constant criticism, belittling one's abilities, name calling, damaging a partner's relationship with the children.

PSYCHOLOGICAL ABUSE: Causing fear by intimidation, threatening physical harm to self, partner or children, destruction of pets and property, mind games or forcing isolation from friends, family, school and/or work.

Georgia's

Domestic Violence Statistics:

- ◆ From 2003–2009, at least **834 Georgia citizens lost their lives** due to domestic violence.¹
- ◆ Georgia was recently ranked **15th** in the nation for its rate of **men killing women**. GA has been in the top 20 for all 10 years of the study.²
- ◆ In **42%** of the cases studied through Georgia's Domestic Violence Fatality Review Project, **children were present during the killing**.⁷

72,185

In 2009, the number of crisis calls to Georgia's certified domestic violence agencies.³

58,420

In 2008, the number of domestic violence incidents that law enforcement officers responded to in Georgia.⁴

7,756

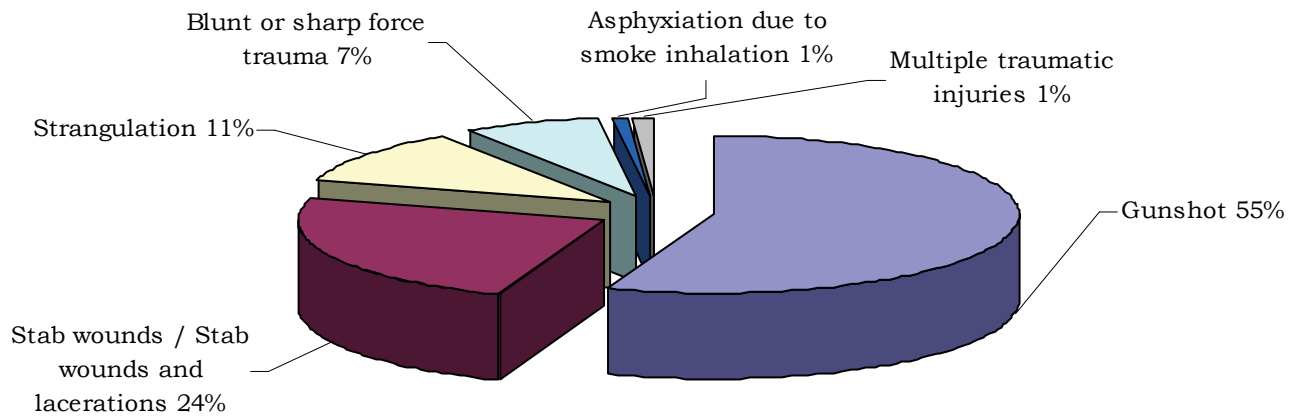
In 2009, the number of victims and their children who were provided refuge in a Georgia domestic violence shelter.³

2,483

In 2009, the number of victims who were turned away from a Georgia domestic violence shelter due to lack of space.³

1. Georgia Commission on Family Violence, Georgia Coalition Against Domestic Violence. 2009 Georgia Domestic Violence Fatality Review Annual Report. www.fatalityreview.com and homicide newspaper clippings from Georgia Commission on Family Violence and Georgia Coalition Against Domestic Violence (2009-2010).
 2. Violence Policy Center (2009). "When Men Murder Women." www.vpc.org/studies/wmmw2009.pdf.
 3. Georgia Department of Human Resources. Data provided to Georgia Coalition Against Domestic Violence by Georgia Department of Human Resource in January 2010.
 4. Georgia Crime Information Center (2009). 2008 Georgia Family Violence Statistics. services.georgia.gov/gbi/crimestats/viewFamilyViolenceStatReport.do.
 5. Mary Ann Dutton (1994). "The Dynamics of Domestic Violence: Understanding the Response from Battered Women." *Florida Bar Journal*. 24.
 6. WomensLaw (2007). "Domestic Violence." womenslaw.org/simple.php?sitemap_id=39.
 7. Georgia Commission on Family Violence, Georgia Coalition Against Domestic Violence (2010). 2009 Georgia Domestic Violence Fatality Review Annual Report. www.fatalityreview.com.

Cause of Death: Reviewed Domestic Violence Fatalities, 2004-2009¹



National Domestic Violence Statistics

- ◆ Since 1976, each year about **30%** of all female murder victims are **killed by their intimate partner**.²
- ◆ Nearly **one in three American women** report being physically or sexually abused by a husband or boyfriend at some point in their lives.³
- ◆ **85%** of domestic violence is **committed by men against women**.²
- ◆ **Women and men in same-sex relationships** experience domestic violence at the **same rates** as heterosexual women.⁴
- ◆ **Immigrants and refugees** experience violence at the **same rates as other communities**. However, immigrants and refugees experience increased barriers to services due to language barriers and fear about their immigration status.⁵
- ◆ A national survey reported that **50%** of the men who frequently assaulted their wives also frequently **abused their children**.⁶
- ◆ Women are more likely to be killed by their partner **with a firearm** than **by all other means combined**.⁷

1-800-33-HAVEN (voice/TTY)

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.

For more information:

Georgia Commission on Family Violence

www.gcfv.org

404.463.0350

Maggie@gcfv.org

1. Georgia Commission on Family Violence, Georgia Coalition Against Domestic Violence (2010). 2009 Georgia Domestic Violence Fatality Review Annual Report. www.fatalityreview.com.
2. U.S. Department of Justice (2000). Intimate Partner Violence Special Report. www.ojp.gov/bjs/pub/pdf/ipv.pdf.
3. The Commonwealth Fund (1999). Health Concerns Across a Woman's Lifespan. www.commonwealthfund.org/usr_doc/Healthconcerns_surveyreport.pdf?section=4039.
4. Elliot, P. (1996). "Shattering illusions: Same-sex domestic violence." In C. M. Renzetti & C. H. Miley (Eds.), *Violence in Gay and Lesbian Domestic Partnerships*. New York: The Haworth Press, Inc.
5. 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.
6. Strauss, Murray A. et al. (1990). *Physical Violence In American Families*. New Brunswick: Transaction Publishers.
7. Paulozzi, Leonard et al. (2001). "Surveillance for Homicide Among Intimate Partners." *CDC: Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report*. 50 (03).