

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

INDICATOR: Domestic violence-related calls for assistance

DEFINITION: The rate per 1,000 adult population (18 and older) of domestic violence calls to law enforcement agencies

NUMERATOR: Total domestic violence-related calls for assistance to law enforcement agencies by place of residence, in a calendar year

DENOMINATOR: Total adult population (18 yrs. and older) by place of residence, in a calendar year

HEALTHY PEOPLE 2010 OBJECTIVE: Reduce physical violence directed at women by male partners to no more than 27 per 1,000 couples (Objective 7.5)

Domestic violence-related calls for assistance in the adult population (ages 18 and older)

Year	California				LA County				DENOMINATOR: Total adult population (18 and older)	
	Number of calls	Rate	95% Confidence Interval		Number of calls	Rate	95% Confidence Interval		State	County
			Lower	Upper			Lower	Upper		
1990	195,819	8.9	8.8	8.9	53,743	8.2	8.1	8.3	22,073,265	6,540,863
1991	203,630	9.1	9.0	9.1	61,069	9.2	9.2	9.3	22,434,634	6,615,683
1992	240,826	10.6	10.5	10.6	69,437	10.4	10.3	10.5	22,771,850	6,680,728
1993	236,895	10.3	10.3	10.4	67,732	10.1	10.1	10.2	22,919,730	6,678,592
1994	250,439	10.9	10.8	10.9	72,991	10.9	10.8	11.0	23,027,636	6,692,649
1995	246,315	10.6	10.6	10.7	75,639	11.3	11.2	11.4	23,158,473	6,693,906
1996	227,899	9.8	9.7	9.8	72,725	10.9	10.8	10.9	23,340,409	6,699,792
1997	220,156	9.3	9.2	9.3	67,805	10.0	9.9	10.1	23,705,548	6,766,759
1998	196,832	8.2	8.1	8.2	62,278	9.1	9.1	9.2	24,080,238	6,819,775
1999	186,406	7.6	7.6	7.6	59,834	8.7	8.6	8.8	24,485,146	6,882,636
2000	196,880	7.9	7.9	7.9	60,960	8.8	8.7	8.8	24,882,708	6,946,009
2001	198,031	7.8	7.8	7.9	59,661	8.5	8.5	8.6	25,300,422	7,000,017

Note: Currently, there is no standard definition of or reporting system for domestic violence. Domestic violence is a complex issue involving many social and psychological forces. Therefore, reliance on a single indicator does not present a complete picture of the problem. To begin addressing these barriers, it is important to identify the existing data sources and understand their advantages and limitations. Local police jurisdictions' mandated reporting on "domestic violence-related calls for assistance" is one data source commonly used to describe the frequency of domestic violence in California, because it is population-based and easily accessible. However, these data only illustrate local law enforcement practices and response to domestic violence calls and are not an adequate source for measuring either the prevalence or incidence of domestic violence injuries.

Sources: California Department of Justice, Division of Law Enforcement, Law Enforcement Information Center Special Report, "Total Domestic Violence Calls Received by Type of Weapon, by County, 1990-2001", California Department of Justice, Criminal Justice Statistics Center, Criminal Justice Profiles 1998-2000
Denominator data: California Department of Finance, "Race/Ethnic Population with Age and Sex Detail, 1970-2040," Sacramento, California, December 1998