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A Silent Epidemic

Facts & Figures about Domestic Abuse

October is National Domestic Violence Awareness Month. **CUT IT OUT**, a program of the **Salons Against Domestic Abuse Fund** hopes to raise awareness to help end this tragic pattern in American society.

- Nearly one-third of American women (31%) report being physically or sexually abused by a husband or boyfriend at some point in their lives, according to a **1998 Commonwealth Fund survey**.
- In 1999, 1,218 women – more than three women each day – were murdered by their husbands or boyfriends, according to the **Justice Department**.
- Four women in the United States are murdered each day by an intimate male partner. **U.S. Department of Justice, Bureau of Justice Statistics, Violence by Intimates, 2000**.
- A woman is battered by an intimate partner every 15 seconds in the United States. **National Institute of Justice and Centers for Disease Control, National Violence Against Women Survey, 1998**.
- Battering is the single largest cause of injury to women in the United States, accounting for 35% of visits by women to emergency rooms annually. **Violence Against Women, May 2000**.
- **The Family Violence Center**, a confidential shelter for victims of domestic violence provided 5,340 nights of shelter and served 434 women and children in 2001.
- **The National Crime Survey** estimates that 175,000 days per year are missed from paid work due to domestic violence. Costing \$3-5 billion annually due to absenteeism, increased health care costs, high turnovers and low productivity.
- **Approximately 20-30% of women in America experience some form of domestic abuse:**
 - One study showed that 30% of women who entered the emergency room with injuries were identified as having injuries caused by battering.
- **Domestic abuse affects the whole family:**
 - 80% of violent juvenile offenders and adult prisoners come from homes where domestic violence occurred.

- 63% of boys aged 11-20 who commit homicide murdered the men who were abusing their mothers.
- **Abuse doesn't stay at home:**
 - 74% of victims of domestic violence are harassed at work. Half lose their jobs.
 - It is estimated that 25% of the most acute workplace problems – absenteeism, low productivity, high turnover – stem directly from domestic abuse.
 - Incidents of domestic violence cost American businesses between \$3 and \$5 billion in medical expenses.
 - Homicide is the number one cause of death for women on the job. 20% are actually murdered by their partners at their workplace.
- **Abuse Kills:**
 - 42% of murdered women were killed by their intimate male partners.
 - Every 5 years, domestic violence kills as many women as the total number of Americans who died in the Vietnam War.
 - One out of 4 women who attempt suicide are battered. (Source: Georgia Dept. of Human Resources, Family Violence Teleconference Manual, 1992)

For more information on **CUT IT OUT**, please log on to www.cutitout.org.

CUT IT OUT is a program of the **Salons Against Domestic Abuse Fund** dedicated to mobilizing salon professionals and others to fight the epidemic of domestic abuse in communities across the United States.

CUT IT OUT builds awareness of domestic abuse and trains salon professionals to recognize warning signs and safely refer clients to local resources.

Partners include:

Clairol Professional, Stamford, CT, a division of P&G, and a leader in salon hair color for more than 70 years; with more U.S. salons carrying its flagship brand, Miss Clairol Professional, than any other hair color;

The National Cosmetology Association (NCA), Chicago, IL, the world's largest association of salon professionals, with more than 25,000 hairdresser, nail technician, esthetician, and beauty educator members;

Southern Living At HOME, Birmingham, AL, a company of Southern Progress Corporation and Time Inc., a home décor party plan company that has become the fastest growing in the history of direct sales.