

SPECIAL REPORT

Most DV Educational Programs Lack Accuracy, Balance, and Truthfulness



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SAVE: STOP ABUSIVE AND VIOLENT ENVIRONMENTS

An article in the Austin, Minn. *Daily Herald* described a local domestic violence training program:

Local law enforcement agents, social workers and county employees sat by helplessly Thursday night as “Lenny” savagely punched and pulled “Maria’s” hair, then kicked her while she was on the ground.¹

How many persons attending this program noticed the gender bias? Would they have been surprised if the roles had been reversed—if Maria was shown pummeling a prostrate Lenny? Or if it turned out that Maria had provoked the incident by attacking Lenny with a kitchen knife?

Each year the federal government spends \$76.3 million for domestic violence (DV) training, education, and public awareness programs (Appendix A). These training, education, and public awareness programs shape the understanding of judges, prosecutors, and the public-at-large regarding the profile and dynamics of partner abuse. These perceptions eventually serve to shape government policies, legislative initiatives, and legal decisions.²

Yet many of these programs may be systematically biased. This Special Report summarizes the current research on intimate partner violence, and then gauges the accuracy, balance, and truthfulness of selected educational programs that address this important social problem.

Research Findings

The CDC National Intimate Partner and Sexual Violence Survey (NISVS) reported the following 12-month prevalence rates for various forms of intimate partner aggression:³

	Male Victimization	Female Victimization
Sexual violence ⁴	2.5%	2.9%
Physical violence ⁵	6.5%	6.3%
Stalking ⁶	0.5%	2.8%
Psychological aggression ⁷	18.1%	13.9%

In the area of Control of reproductive and sexual health, lifetime victimization rates are 10.4% for men and 8.6% for women.⁸

In three of the five domains – Physical violence, Psychological aggression, and Control of reproductive and sexual health – men are more likely to be the victim, while in two domains – Sexual violence and Stalking – women are more likely to be victimized.

Consistent with the NISVS Physical violence results, other studies have found that women are more prone to be violent with their partners. Renee McDonald, PhD noted, “Differences were observed in the rates of male and female partner violence, with female

violence occurring more frequently.”⁹ One analysis of 302 men battered by their female partners found 35% of the men sustained severe physical injuries as a result of the violence.¹⁰ And one meta-analysis concluded, “Women were slightly more likely than men to use one or more act of physical aggression and to use such acts more frequently.”¹¹

These findings are consistent with hundreds of scholarly studies that have analyzed the nature, extent, and causes of domestic violence. Research demonstrates the following:¹²

- In about half of all cases, partner aggression is mutual.^{13,14}
- Female initiation of partner aggression is the leading reason for the woman becoming a victim of subsequent violence.¹⁵
- Self-defense accounts for only 10-20% of female partner aggression.^{16,17,18}
- About 38% of persons who suffer an injury from partner aggression are male.¹⁹

Although crime studies have addressed the domestic violence issue, such efforts are marked by severe methodological flaws (Appendix B).

The following sections evaluate the extent to which the domestic violence information that is provided on websites and in educational programs is consistent with the scientific research. This report first examines the domestic violence claims of one federal agency and three national organizations, followed by a review of the claims found in a variety of training programs.

AGENCIES AND ORGANIZATIONS

Department of Justice

In early 2010, SAVE undertook an analysis of *Practical Implications of Current Domestic Violence Research*, a report posted on the website of the DoJ Office of Justice Programs. Identifying numerous factual errors and biased statements, SAVE sent the DoJ a Data Quality Act letter requesting removal of the report until the questionable statements could be corrected.²⁰

As of March 2012, SAVE had not received a response to this request.

In late 2010, SAVE initiated an extensive review of every page of the website of the Department of Justice’s Office of Violence Against Women (OVW). The analysis concluded that overall, less than one in 10 of the domestic violence statements posted on, or found on documents linking from, the OVW website were found to meet minimum standards of accuracy, balance, and truthfulness.

To correct this deficiency, SAVE sent the OVW a Data Quality Act request in November 2010.²¹ The Office of Violence Against Women never responded to the letter.

A subsequent review of the OVW website revealed that the most egregious mis-statements had been removed. Nonetheless, gender-biased language remains, even though the OVW has been repeatedly instructed to address the needs of all victims of domestic violence, regardless of sex or gender identity.^{22,23,24}

National Network to End Domestic Violence

The National Network to End Domestic Violence (NNEDV) is one of the leading domestic violence organizations in the United States. According to its annual report, the NNEDV serves as the “national voice for the 56 state-wide and territorial coalitions against domestic and sexual violence.”

An analysis was conducted of the NNEDV “Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault Fact Sheet.” But a review of the Fact Sheet’s 30 claims reveals only 5 are truthful – see Appendix C. The remaining 25 claims are false, one-sided, outdated, misleading, unverifiable, and/or rely on studies relying on flawed methods.²⁵

Futures without Violence

Futures without Violence (formerly the Family Violence Prevention Fund) is a major recipient of VAWA funding. Unfortunately, many statements and images on its website portray domestic violence in a biased manner. On October 18, 2011, SAVE sent a letter to Futures without Violence. The letter noted,

Overall, your web pages present an overwhelming image of domestic violence that, time and time again, emphasizes male perpetration and female victimization. These examples illustrate the breadth of the bias:

- Names of programs (e.g., Coaching Boys into *Men*)
- Listings of resources (e.g., Resources for Working with Immigrant *Women*)
- Textual comments (e.g., “Imagine a place where every battered *woman* found the support she needed from her coworkers...”)
- Dubious statements of fact (e.g., “During *pregnancy*, abuse is more common than any other health problem.”)
- Repeated images of abusive *fathers*, but no images of abusive *mothers* (even though government surveys document a preponderance of maternal child abuse and neglect – http://faq.acf.hhs.gov/app/answers/detail/a_id/70)
- Posters (e.g., Accountability and Connection with Abusive *Men*)
- Public service announcements (e.g., Stairs and Neighbors)
- Radio micro-drama (e.g., Charlise, who is beaten by her *husband James*)

As of March 2012, no response had been received.

American Bar Association

The American Bar Association has published a number of documents on the topic of domestic violence. For example, the ABA report, *When Will They Ever Learn? Educating to End Domestic Violence*, opens with this claim: “Experts estimate that 2 to 4 million American women are battered every year.”²⁶ But family violence expert Richard Gelles has derided the “2 to 4 million battered women” claim as an unverifiable “factoid from nowhere.”²⁷

The ABA Commission on Domestic Violence (CODV) has published the flyer, *10 Myths about Custody and Domestic Violence and How to Counter Them*. A detailed critique of the ABA document undertaken by SAVE concludes, “of the 19 claims, only 2 are correct... Overall, the great majority of assertions and conclusions in the CODV flyer are found to be unsupported, misleading, or wrong.”²⁸

By this calculation, only one in 10 claims in the ABA flyer are truthful.

TRAINING PROGRAMS

Judicial Education

Judges play a pivotal role in the interpretation, implementation, and enforcement of our nation’s laws. Their rulings not only determine the outcome of the case at hand, they also send a signal to the entire criminal justice system regarding the types of cases deemed worthy of judicial action.

The West Virginia Coalition Against Domestic Violence has published a judicial education handbook, “For a Safer State of Family.”²⁹ The West Virginia handbook is insistent in discounting the existence of female aggressors:

Domestic violence educators are often challenged to use gender-neutral language when talking about intimate partner abuse. However, domestic violence is not gender neutral. The fact remains that the vast majority of heterosexual victims are women and the vast majority of heterosexual perpetrators are men.

Judges often rely on benchbooks to summarize the relevant laws and other key information about domestic violence. A review of these documents reveals substantial deficiencies:

- Alabama’s Domestic Violence Benchbook contains the claim, “National crime statistics show that about 95% of spouse-abuse victims are women.”³⁰ No mention is made of the well-known shortcomings of crime statistics.
- The benchbook from the New Mexico Judicial Education Center opens with this remarkable disclaimer: “The discussion in this chapter will assume a heterosexual relationship with a male abuser unless otherwise indicated.”³¹

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- The Tennessee Domestic Abuse Benchbook features dubious claims such as “Women are unlikely to commit homicide except in self-defense.”³²
- The West Virginia benchbook states baldly that “women are overwhelmingly the typical victims of domestic violence.” The book features the Power and Control Wheel³³—the identical diagram that appears in the previously discussed handbook by the West Virginia Domestic Violence Coalition.

The biases documented in this section challenge fundamental notions of truthfulness and fairness. One judge admitted that the information presented at a domestic violence seminar he attended “blew up...all my concept of constitutional protections.”³⁴

Law Enforcement Personnel

The Violence Against Women Act also funds training programs for law enforcement personnel. Again, serious factual deficiencies are evident:

- In Massachusetts, a police training manual advises officers to be wary of a male victim’s “excuses” such as, “She hit me first.” In addition, the manual encourages officers to downplay the significance of a man’s injuries, warning that “injury alone doesn’t determine who is the abuser.”³⁵
- In Maine, the state’s Criminal Justice Academy developed a predominant aggressor curriculum for law enforcement personnel titled, “Identifying Predominant Aggressors in Domestic Violence Cases.” Of the 13 “What is Domestic Violence” statements found in the document, only one was found to be verifiable and true.³⁶
- In New Hampshire, the Department of Justice Prosecution Protocol warns officers that alleged abusers may claim “to be the victim of an assault by the victim.”³⁷ This statement raises the question, Under what system of justice should a claim of innocence be interpreted as evidence of guilt?
- A California-based officer described the domestic violence training he attended as “so dripping with male hatred that everyone in the class felt uncomfortable, male and female officers alike.”³⁸

Such biased programs have real-world consequences. This California case eventually gave rise to a ground-breaking legal decision by the state Appeals Court:

David Woods was repeatedly assaulted by his wife, including having a liquor bottle cracked over his head, being repeatedly kneed in his groin, and having a shotgun pointed under his chin. At one point, his wife reached the point that she called the police requesting protection from herself.

When the police arrived, they promptly wrestled Mr. Woods to the ground. Despite his protests, the police would not release him until the couple's daughter informed the police, "No, it's not my daddy. It's Momma."³⁹

DOGGED PURSUIT OF AN IDEOLOGICAL AGENDA

The misrepresentations documented in this Special Report go beyond the occasional misstatement of fact, unwarranted generalization, editorial slip-up, or inadvertent transposition of numbers. The biases are found to be systematic, widespread, and highly resistant to correction.

This analysis of domestic violence claims points to a singular and troubling conclusion:

The bulk of domestic violence information is one-sided and systematically biased. Only one in 10 statements made by domestic violence organizations is accurate, balanced, and truthful.

It is difficult to gauge the precise effect that these programs have had on our nation's legal and criminal justice system, but the impact is believed to be substantial:

- Family researcher Richard Gelles has noted that "policy and practice seemed to be more influenced by ideologies and political values than actual research and evidence."⁴⁰
- "Police, prosecutors, judges, social workers, psychologists, parenting evaluators, counselors, et al, have been indoctrinated...that men commit 95 per cent of all domestic violence, [and] are more likely to abuse their children," recounts one attorney.⁴¹

Domestic violence expert Murray Straus has documented a variety of strategies by which some "have suppressed data on violence by women."⁴² Professor Straus reaches this sobering conclusion: "*History is full of atrocities carried out in the service of a moral agenda.*"

Domestic Violence Training, Education, and Public Awareness Programs Funded or Conducted by the Federal Government

Department of Justice:

Program	FY 2011 Estimated Budget (millions)
Office of Violence Against Women: Violence Against Women Act⁴³	
Sec. 101: STOP: Training	\$10.5*
Sec. 105: Court Training	\$2.8
Sec. 205: Training and Services for the Elderly	\$4.2
Sec. 303: Combat Domestic Violence in Middle and High Schools	\$2.5
Sec. 304: Violent Crimes on Campus	\$9.4
Sec. 401 : Engaging Men and Youth	\$2.8
Sec. 701: National Resource Center on Workplace Violence	\$1.0
Training Judicial Personnel for Child Abuse	\$2.4
Other DoJ Education and Public Awareness Activities	
Greenbook Initiative	\$1.0
OVW Public Awareness Initiatives	\$1.0
Publications ⁴⁴	\$1.0
TOTAL	\$38.6

Other educational programs are found in the following sections of VAWA, but their funding levels are unknown:

- Section 111: Grants for law enforcement training programs
- Section 204: Training and services to end violence against women with disabilities
- Section 302: Rape prevention and education
- Section 403: Public awareness campaign
- Section 503: Training and education of health professionals in domestic and sexual violence
- Section 833: Domestic violence information and resources for immigrants and regulation of international marriage brokers

* Total STOP budget for FY 2010: \$210.0 million. STOP is a formula grant that allocates 5% for training projects.

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Department of Health and Human Services:

Program	FY 2011 Estimated Budget (millions)
Family Violence and Prevention Services⁴⁵	
Formula Grants to States, State DV Coalitions, and to Tribes	\$7.9 [†]
Family Violence and Prevention Services: National and Special Issue Resource Centers	\$6.2
Centers for Disease Control and Prevention⁴⁶	
DELTA: Domestic Violence Prevention Enhancements and Leadership Through Alliances Program	\$6.0
Prevention Strategies	\$2.0
Prevention Resources	\$2.0
Other domestic violence publications and videos	\$1.0
TOTAL	\$25.1

State Department/US Agency for International Development (USAID):

Program	FY 2011 Estimated Budget (millions)
State Department – DV-related educational activities	
Office of Global Women’s Issues ⁴⁷	\$10.0
Contribution to United Nations UNICEF	\$1.0
Contribution to the United Nations Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM)	\$1.0
USAID Women in Development⁴⁸	
16 Days of Activism Against Gender Violence	\$0.5
Distribution of domestic violence publications	\$0.1
TOTAL	\$12.6

[†] Assumes 5% of the \$157.5 million Formula Grants budget is directed to training, education, and public awareness programs and activities.

Shortcomings of Crime Studies

A number of crime studies have addressed the domestic violence problem. Best-known is the National Crime Victimization Survey (NCVS), conducted by the U.S. Department of Justice. The NCVS is administered to a national sample of persons regarding the levels and types of crime they have experienced.

However, the NCVS exhibits a number of flaws. The NCVS instructions repeatedly remind the respondent that the survey's purpose is to study *criminal* activities:⁴⁹

- The survey opens with this introduction: "The Census Bureau is conducting a survey here and throughout the Nation to determine how often people are victims of *crimes*."⁵⁰
- Question 33 starts, "Before we get to the *crime* questions, I have some questions that are helpful in studying where and why *crimes* occur."
- Question 36 begins, "I'm going to read some examples that will give you an idea of the kinds of *crimes* this study covers."

The single question that identifies acts of domestic violence, Question 42a, queries if the respondent was "attacked or threatened by...a relative or family member." But most persons do not consider actions such as a slap on the face to be an attack or a crime. So it comes as no surprise that the NCVS reports that fewer than 1% of persons are victims of domestic violence each year. In contrast, community surveys report partner aggression prevalence rates that are more than 10 times higher.

These biases are compounded when a male is a victim of the aggression. Most men do not consider a shove to be an "attack," especially if the act is perpetrated by a wife or girlfriend.⁵¹ As researcher Donald Dutton explains, "These surveys, in turn, tend to filter out male reports of victimization."⁵² One study found male domestic violence victims are nine times less likely than female victims to summon law enforcement authorities for help.⁵³

For these reasons, the Department of Justice website emphasizes in bolded text, "**Violence between intimates is difficult to measure** -- because it often occurs in private, and victims are often reluctant to report incidents to anyone because of shame or fear of reprisal."⁵⁴

Analysis of the NNEDV “Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault Fact Sheet”

No.	Claim	Assessment	Explanation
<i>Incidence, Prevalence, and Severity</i>			
1	Nearly one in every four women are beaten or raped by a partner during adulthood.	Invalid, outdated, one-sided, misleading	<p>This claim relies on findings from the National Violence Against Women (NVAW) study. The survey was conducted 1995-1996, which renders many of its findings outdated. More importantly, the NVAW survey repeatedly uses the word “crime,” which tends to discourage reporting acts of minor aggression, which many persons don’t consider to be a crime. These flaws have the effect of substantially underestimating the true prevalence of domestic violence and invalidating many of the survey findings.⁵⁵</p> <p>In contrast to results of crime surveys such as the NVAW, hundreds of community-based surveys reveal women are at least as likely as men to engage in partner aggression.^{56,57}</p> <p>Sexual assault and rape of male inmates has been documented to be a significant problem, both for men⁵⁸ and boys.⁵⁹</p>
2	1 in 6 women and 1 in 33 men have experienced an attempted or completed rape.	Invalid, outdated, misleading	<p>Source of NNEDV claim: NVAW (see discussion regarding the NVAW under Claim #1).</p> <p>According to the CDC, 6.1% of teenage boys and 11.9% of teenage girls report having been pressured into sexual acts by their partner.⁶⁰</p>
3	Three women are killed by a current or former intimate partner each day in America, on average.	One-sided	<p>About one man is killed by a current or former intimate partner each day in America, on average.</p> <p>Female initiation of partner violence is the leading reason for the woman becoming a</p>

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			victim of subsequent violence. ⁶¹
4	Over 22 percent of women surveyed, compared to 7.4 percent of men, reported being physically assaulted by a current or former partner in their lifetime.	Invalid, outdated	Source of NNEDV claim: NVAW (see discussion regarding the NVAW under Claim #1). Lifetime prevalence studies are poor indicators of prevalence because they are biased by selective recall factors. Community surveys show men are at least as likely as women to be victims of domestic violence. ⁶²
5	Approximately 2.3 million people each year in the United States are raped and/or physically assaulted by a current or former spouse, boyfriend or girlfriend.	Invalid, outdated	Source of NNEDV claim: NVAW (see discussion regarding the NVAW under Claim #1).
6	Women who were physically assaulted by an intimate partner averaged 6.9 physical assaults per year by the same partner.	Invalid, outdated, one-sided	Source of NNEDV claim: NVAW (see discussion regarding the NVAW under Claim #1). The NVAW reported on page 39, "On average, male victims of intimate partner physical assault reported 4.4 assaults by the same partner."
7	Approximately 37% of women seeking injury-related treatment in hospital emergency rooms were there because of injuries inflicted by a current or former spouse/partner.	One-sided, outdated	This figure ignores emergency room visits by men for treatment of injuries caused by current or former spouses or partners. The study is based on emergency room visits in 1994.
8	Women are at an increased risk of harm shortly after separation from an abusive partner.	One-sided	This statement ignores the fact that men are also at increased risk of harm shortly after separation from an abusive partner.
<i>Children and Youth</i>			
9	Approximately 15.5 million children are exposed to domestic violence every year.	Truthful	

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10	Men exposed to physical abuse, sexual abuse, and adult domestic violence as children were almost 4 times more likely than other men to have perpetrated domestic violence as adults, according to a large study.	One-sided, misleading	One study has found that maternal intimate partner violence has <i>equally</i> harmful effects as paternal violence, ⁶³ and at least two studies have found maternal aggression is <i>more</i> strongly related to later partner violence, compared to paternal aggression. ^{64,65}
11	Incest accounts for half of all sexual abuse cases.	False	According to the Crimes Against Children Research Center, offenders are most often acquaintances (approximately 50%) followed by family members (approximately 25% to 33%) and strangers (7% to 25%). ⁶⁶
12	Children that are exposed to violence are more likely to attempt suicide, abuse drugs and alcohol, run away from home, engage in teenage prostitution, and commit sexual assault crimes.	Truthful	Children exposed to domestic violence are at greater risk of experiencing a broad range of social pathologies.
13	Girls and young women between the ages of 16 and 24 experience the highest rate of intimate partner violence.	False	Two large-scale CDC surveys reveal boys and young men are at significantly greater risk of being victims of partner aggression than girls and young women. ^{67,68}
<i>Costs</i>			
14	The cost of intimate partner violence annually exceeds \$5.8 billion, including \$4.1 billion in direct health care expenses.	One-sided	These statistics come from a CDC study that analyzed the costs of intimate partner violence only against women. The costs of intimate partner violence against men were included in the analysis.
15	Between one-quarter and one-half of domestic violence victims report that they lost a job, at least in part, due to domestic violence.	One-sided, misleading	The cited study did not examine the effects of domestic violence on male career paths. These studies were evaluated in a Government Accountability Office report. These studies lack scientific validity because the sample size is small, the respondents only consist of women from abuse shelters, the results are based on

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			unverified self-reports, and there is no control group. As a result, the GAO determines: “we cannot conclude that being a victim of domestic violence changes the likelihood that a woman will work.”
16	Women who experienced domestic violence were more likely to experience spells of unemployment, have health problems, and be welfare recipients.	One-sided, outdated	This statement from a 1990 report ignores the effects of domestic violence on male unemployment, health problems, or welfare status.
17	Domestic violence has been estimated to cost employers in the U.S. up to \$13 billion each year.	Unverifiable, outdated, probably false	<p>The cited report, which an extensive Internet search was unable to locate, appears to consist of rough estimates by unnamed experts. However, these persons put the estimate at \$3 to \$5 billion annually, not \$13 billion.</p> <p>The \$13 billion figure appears to come from another report.⁶⁹ However, the author of this report is not an economist or researcher. She is an advocate for federal domestic violence legislation.</p> <p>This is a good example of a frequently-cited domestic violence sound-bite that turns out to be a “factoid from nowhere.”</p>
18	In the U.S., rape is the most costly crime to its victims, totaling \$127 billion a year including medical costs, lost earnings, pain, suffering and lost quality of life.	Invalid, outdated	The original study uses an invalid methodology relying on jury verdicts, which include subjectively-determined awards for pain and suffering. The study is outdated, using crime statistics from 1987-1990.
19	New research shows that intimate partner violence costs a health plan \$19.3 million each year for every 100,000 women between the age of 18 and 64 enrolled.	One-sided, invalid	<p>This study did not analyze healthcare costs for male victims of domestic violence.</p> <p>Poverty status and income are two of the most important predictors of domestic violence. Lower income groups are also known to experience higher health care utilization rates. The study findings are therefore invalid because they did not control for income or poverty status.</p>

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			<p>The NNEDV Fact Sheet does not provide the citation for the study: Rivara FP et al. Healthcare utilization and costs for women with a history of intimate partner violence. <i>American Journal of Preventive Medicine</i> Vol. 32, No. 2, 2007.</p>																
<p><i>Progress for Domestic Violence Victims</i></p>																			
20	<p>Research estimates that VAWA saved nearly \$14.8 billion in net averted social costs in its first 6 years alone.</p>	False	<p>The cited research relies on the same study as the one cited under Claim #18 (see prior discussion about the weaknesses of the study methods).</p> <p>In addition, the study makes the assumption that “All reduction in violent criminal victimization of women after the implementation of VAWA-I was attributed to the VAWA-I program,” an assumption that the authors themselves admit is “most problematic.”</p> <p>As the following graph shows, domestic violence homicides started falling in the early 1980s, a decade before VAWA was passed in 1994. It is unreasonable to assume that VAWA was responsible for all, or even most of the reduction in domestic violence victimization following passage of the law:</p>																
<p>The graph shows a steady decline in intimate partner homicides from 1976 to 2004. The y-axis represents the number of victims, ranging from 0 to 3500 in increments of 500. The x-axis shows years from 1976 to 2004 in 5-year increments. The data points are approximately: 1976 (2800), 1980 (2600), 1985 (2400), 1990 (2200), 1995 (1800), 2000 (1600), and 2004 (1500).</p> <table border="1"> <caption>Intimate Partner Homicides, 1976-2004</caption> <thead> <tr> <th>Year</th> <th>Number of Victims</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr><td>1976</td><td>2800</td></tr> <tr><td>1980</td><td>2600</td></tr> <tr><td>1985</td><td>2400</td></tr> <tr><td>1990</td><td>2200</td></tr> <tr><td>1995</td><td>1800</td></tr> <tr><td>2000</td><td>1600</td></tr> <tr><td>2004</td><td>1500</td></tr> </tbody> </table>				Year	Number of Victims	1976	2800	1980	2600	1985	2400	1990	2200	1995	1800	2000	1600	2004	1500
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1976	2800																		
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21	<p>More victims report domestic violence to the police: There has been a 27% to 51% increase in reporting rates by women and a 37% increase in</p>	Probably truthful	<p>However, the NNEDV claim should state the time period for which the increase was observed.</p>																

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	reporting rates by men.		
22	The rate of non-fatal intimate partner violence against women has decreased by 63%.	One-sided	The rate of non-fatal intimate partner violence against men has also decreased. Claim should state the time period for which the decrease was observed.
23	[T]he number of women killed by an intimate partner has decreased 24%.	One-sided	The number of men killed by an intimate partner has also decreased, at a faster rate than the decrease in homicides of women. Claim should state the time period for which the decrease was observed.
24	Staying at a shelter <i>significantly</i> reduces the likelihood that a victim will be abused again. (Berk, Newton, and Berk, 1986) [‡]	False	The cited study found <i>non-significant</i> ($p = 0.13$) effects of the shelter stay – see discussion in the article following Table 3.
25	Working with a domestic violence advocate significantly reduces the likelihood that a victim will be abused again and improves the victim’s quality of life. (Bybee and Sullivan, 2002)*	Truthful	This randomized study found a community-based advocacy intervention succeeded in increasing resources, strengthening social support, enhancing quality of life, and reducing abuse rates for women in the intervention group. However, the study authors note, “the effect of the intervention on women’s re-abuse over time was relatively small.”
26	A 2008 study shows conclusively that the nation’s domestic violence shelters are addressing both urgent and long-term needs of victims of violence...	Misleading	The study did not survey a representative sample of abuse shelters, had a low recruitment rate (so the study participants likely are not representative of all shelter residents), and did not validate respondents’ answers. The study findings should be considered “tentative,” not “conclusive.”
27	... and are helping them protect themselves and their children.	False	The study did not use validated outcome measures such as post-stay arrest rates.

[‡] Claims 24 and 25 are based on two different studies, but are combined in the NNEDV Fact Sheet. For purposes of this analysis, the two claims are analyzed separately.

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<i>Overwhelming Needs Remain</i>			
28	In 2008, a 24-hour survey of domestic violence programs across the nation found that over 60,000 victims were served in one day.	Misleading	Most shelters do not require proof of abuse or physical violence. Many women are in the shelter not as a result of battering, but rather because they are homeless and/or substance-abusers. ⁷⁰ Hence, it is misleading to imply these persons are domestic violence “victims.”
29	Unfortunately, due to a lack of resources, there were almost 9,000 unmet requests for services.	Truthful	The NNEDV Fact Sheet should cite the source of the claim, which is http://www.nnedv.org/docs/Census/DVCounts2008/DVCounts08_NatlSummary_BW.pdf
30	In 2008 the National Domestic Violence Hotline received 236,907 calls, but over 29,000 of those calls went unanswered due to lack of resources.	Unverifiable	The claim does not provide a source for the statistics. The numbers could not be verified using a Google search or review of the website of the National Domestic Violence Hotline.

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- ⁴ *Ibid.* Tables 4.5 and 4.6.
- ⁵ *Ibid.* Tables 4.7 and 4.8.
- ⁶ *Ibid.* Tables 4.1 and 4.2.
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- ⁸ *Ibid.* Page 48. 12-month prevalence is not reported.
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