

# Children and Domestic Violence

## Nevada

There are 15 shelters and advocacy programs in Nevada that offer services for victims of domestic violence and their families. Services include 24-hour hotlines, peer counseling, advocacy, emergency food, clothing, and shelter. In 2000, the 15 domestic-violence agencies provided services to 10,809 Nevada children; of these 1,819 children spent time in domestic-violence shelters.

Based on police reports from cities and towns in Nevada between January 1, 2000 and December 31, 2000, children were present during 7,890 (38 percent) of the 20,648 reported cases of domestic violence.<sup>1</sup> These data underrepresent the number of incidents of domestic violence in which a child was present because (1) police reports may not be fully completed in all cases, and (2) not all cases of domestic violence are reported. These data underestimate the total number of children who experienced domestic violence in their homes, since more than one child may have been present at the incident.

## Significant Factors

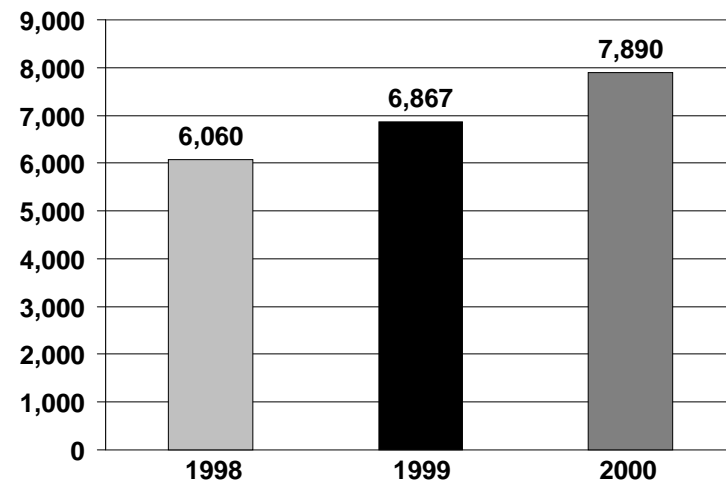
- ❖ Domestic violence is a serious social issue that affects all communities and cuts across racial, ethnic, and economic lines.<sup>2</sup> Children who experience adult domestic violence in their homes suffer trauma even if they, themselves, are not physically harmed. Children may experience violent events in the home in several ways. They may witness their mother being abused, hear their mother's cries or a batterer's threats, and/or observe the results of a violent event through their mother's injuries or broken furniture.<sup>3</sup>
- ❖ Children who grow up in violent homes are much more likely to become abusive partners or victims of abuse in adulthood. Over 80 percent of abusive partners had themselves either been victims of child abuse or had witnessed their mothers being abused.<sup>4</sup>

## Definition

*Children and Domestic Violence is the percentage of reported domestic violence incidents in which children under age 18 were present in the home. The data are based on police reports of domestic violence in 2000. Domestic violence is the use of physical force, or threat of force, against a current or former partner in an intimate relationship, resulting in fear and emotional and/or physical suffering.*

Note: Text provided by Sue Meuschke of the Nevada Network Against Domestic Violence (1-800-230-1955).

## Number of Domestic Violence Cases with Children Present in Nevada: 1998-2000



Source: Nevada Department of Motor Vehicles and Public Safety, 2000 *Crime and Justice in Nevada*.

# Children and Domestic Violence Continued

## Domestic Violence Incidents with Children Present, Nevada: 2000

<i>Contributing Agency</i>	<i>Total Number of Domestic Violence Incident Reports</i>	<i>Total Number of Incidents in Which a Child Was Present</i>	<i>% of Incidents with Children Present</i>
Carson SO	497	226	45
<u>Churchill County:</u>			
Churchill SO	79	38	48
Fallon PD	41	21	51
<u>Clark County:</u>			
Boulder PD	130	42	32
Clark Co. Schools PD	1	1	100
Henderson	1,528	577	38
LV Metro PD	12,613	4,536	36
Mesquite	77	15	19
North LV PD	1,351	704	52
UNLV PD	9	0	0
<u>Douglas County:</u>			
Douglas SO	256	85	33
<u>Elko County:</u>			
Elko SO	21	11	52
Carlin PD	186	89	48
Elko PD	100	49	49
Wells PD	2	1	50
Wendover PD	69	31	45
<u>Esmeralda County:</u>			
Esmeralda SO	2	2	100
<u>Eureka County:</u>			
Eureka SO	1	1	100
<u>Humboldt County:</u>			
Humboldt SO	35	19	54
Winnemucca PD	89	40	45
<u>Lander County:</u>			
Lander SO	19	9	47
<u>Lincoln County:</u>			
Lincoln SO	0	0	NA
<u>Lyon County:</u>			
Lyon SO	197	91	46

<i>Contributing Agency</i>	<i>Total Number of Domestic Violence Incident Reports</i>	<i>Total Number of Incidents in Which a Child Was Present</i>	<i>% of Incidents with Children Present</i>
Lyon SO	197	91	46
Yerington PD	5	4	80
<u>Mineral County:</u>			
Mineral SO	66	29	44
<u>Nye County:</u>			
Nye SO	272	131	48
<u>Pershing County:</u>			
Pershing SO	16	7	44
Lovelock PD	20	13	65
<u>Storey County:</u>			
Storey SO	34	14	41
<u>Washoe County:</u>			
Washoe SO	340	197	58
Reno PD	1,644	509	31
Sparks PD	904	382	42
Pyramid Lake PD	18	6	33
UNR PD	4	1	25
Washoe Co. Schl PD	7	3	43
<u>White Pine County:</u>			
White Pine SO	15	6	40
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>20,648</b>	<b>7,890</b>	<b>38</b>

\*SO = sheriff's office.

\*\*PD = police department.

Source: Data gathered from *Domestic Violence*, a report published by the Nevada Office of the Attorney General and the Nevada Uniform Crime Reporting (UCR) Program, February 25, 2002.