

**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 county in a calendar year

**DENOMINATOR:** Total adult population (18 yrs. and older) in a county in a calendar year

**HEALTHY PEOPLE 2000 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 (18 and older)**

Year	California				County			
	Number of calls	Rate	95% Confidence Interval		Number of calls	Rate	95% Confidence Interval	
			Lower	Upper			Lower	Upper
1990	195,819	8.9	8.8	8.9	53,743	8.2	8.1	8.3
1991	203,630	9.1	9.0	9.1	61,069	9.2	9.2	9.3
1992	240,826	10.6	10.5	10.6	69,437	10.4	10.3	10.5
1993	236,895	10.3	10.3	10.4	67,732	10.1	10.1	10.2
1994	250,439	10.9	10.8	10.9	72,991	10.9	10.8	11.0
1995	246,315	10.6	10.6	10.7	75,639	11.3	11.2	11.4
1996	227,899	9.8	9.7	9.8	72,725	10.9	10.8	10.9
1997	220,156	9.3	9.2	9.3	67,805	10.0	9.9	10.1
1998	196,832	8.2	8.1	8.2	62,278	9.1	9.1	9.2
1999	186,406	7.6	7.6	7.6	59,834	8.7	8.6	8.8

DENOMINATOR: Total adult population (18 and older)	
State	County
22,073,265	6,540,863
22,434,634	6,615,683
22,771,850	6,680,728
22,919,730	6,678,592
23,027,636	6,692,649
23,158,473	6,693,906
23,340,409	6,699,792
23,705,548	6,766,759
24,080,238	6,819,775
24,485,146	6,882,636

**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.

**Source:** Special Report, "Total Domestic Violence Calls Received by Type of Weapon, by County, 1990-1998, California Department of Justice, Division of Law Enforcement, Law Enforcement Information Center.

Criminal Justice Profile, 1999, Crime and Delinquency in California, California Department of Justice, Division of California Justice, Division of California Justice Information Services, Criminal Justice Statistics Center

Denominator data: State of California, Department of Finance, 1970-2040 Race/Ethnic Population Estimates for Counties with Age and Gender Detail, Sacramento, California, December, 1998