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| **Males Can Be Victims of Domestic Violence Too** |

Usually when we hear about domestic violence in the news, a **woman** is the victim, but according to new research we found on the Website DailyFinance.com, domestic violence strikes just as many **men** as women. When a man is being abused, the results are more likely to be deadly! Why?

For starters, psychologists say there’s a general public perception that women are more vulnerable than men, so they can’t possibly be abusers. That may explain why a recent survey found that **half** of all people believe there are times when it’s okay for a wife to slap her husband. Yet it’s hard to find anyone who believes the opposite is true. That kind of thinking makes men reluctant to report abuse, because they might be perceived as “weak” or “unmanly.” Consider what happened to Tiger Woods, when the news first broke about his extra-marital affairs. “Saturday Night Live” ran a skit showing an actor being beaten by his wife with a golf club, for **comedic** purposes. No one would ever find it funny for a man to beat a woman. You may also remember what happened to actor Phil Hartman, after he was shot and killed by his own wife back in 1998. Psychologists say when that story first broke, a common reaction for most people was to wonder what **he** did wrong, to drive his wife that crazy?

One problem this new study revealed is that male victims of domestic abuse have very few places to turn for help. In fact: Of the estimated 1,500 shelters in North America providing housing and food for victims of domestic abuse, **only one** provides services exclusively to men. Calling the police doesn’t always help either. That's because when a man calls the police to report domestic violence, statistics show that police are three times more likely to arrest **him** - even if he’s the victim!

So what **can** you do if you’re a victim? Right now, the Domestic Abuse Helpline for Men and Women provides the only national toll-free hot line that specializes in helping male victims of domestic abuse. You can reach them online, at [DAHMW.org](http://dahmw.org/), or call them toll free, at 1-888-7-HELPLINE. If you’re in Canada, you can try [SafeCanada.CA](http://www.safecanada.ca/).

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| **It's Disturbing How Teens React to Domestic Violence** |

In February, you may have heard about the disturbing fight between pop singer Rihanna and her boyfriend Chris Brown. According to a police report, Brown allegedly punched, bit, and choked Rihanna so badly that she suffered multiple cuts and bruises, and was admitted to the hospital. Perhaps **more** disturbing than the fight itself is how teenagers across North America have reacted to it. According to a poll by the Boston Public Health Commission, **more than half** of all teenagers believe **Rihanna’s** to blame for the attack! When reports surfaced that the couple had reconciled, one female ninth-grader commented: “Rihanna probably feels bad that it was her fault, so she took him back.”

As you might expect, that reaction has left many domestic violence experts feeling very concerned. Exactly why would anyone blame the victim here? Leslie Morgan Steiner is a columnist who wrote the book *Crazy Love* about her own experiences with domestic violence. She believes that blaming a victim for their own abuse is an inadvertent byproduct of people who try to oversimplify abusers. For example, most people automatically assume that an abusive man is a “horrible” and “villainous” human being. So it’s natural to wonder: “How could anyone fall in love with someone like that? Something must be wrong with **that woman!**” The truth is, violent people often have deeply complex issues of their own. Steiner points out that many abusers are usually victims themselves. In Chris Brown’s case, he recently admitted that he endured abuse as a child at the hands of his stepfather. Steiner says that doesn’t excuse his behavior. It just magnifies the importance of breaking the cycle of abuse as soon as possible.

That’s why experts believe that all this talk about Rihanna and Chris Brown will be a good thing in the long run because it shines a light on abusive violence, and reminds people that abuse is **a crime!** If you or anyone you know is the victim of abuse, we recommend getting help from the National Domestic Violence Hotline. You can contact them online at [NDVH.org](http://www.ndvh.org/) or call them directly at 1-800-799-SAFE. That’s 800-799-7233

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| **Domestic Violence Has Increased During the Recession** |

There’s something on the rise as the economy sinks, and it’s not pretty. I’m talking about violence. According to the Associated Press, cases of **domestic abuse** and **shaken baby syndrome** are up dramatically from last year. Alane Fagin runs Child Abuse Prevention Services in Long Island. She says with layoffs, foreclosures, and savings accounts dwindling – a lot of people are feeling stressed out and overwhelmed. Sadly, the American home is becoming more violent. Here are some troubling statistics:

* The National Domestic Violence Hotline had a   **21%** increase in calls over the last year, and over **half** of those callers said there’d been a recent change in the family’s financial situation.
* Counselors at The Women’s Center of San Joaquin County in California say the number of clients getting restraining orders has increased **50%** this year. They blame the economy - the county leads the nation in foreclosures.
* Milwaukee had a **40%** increase in homicides related to domestic violence in the first half of this year. Police Chief Edward Flynn believes the jump is related to the recession.
* Workers at two hospitals in Massachusetts reported **nine** infants with shaken baby syndrome in three months, about double the cases in the same period last year. Also, Schneider Children’s Hospital on Long Island has had **five**cases in the past six months, MORE than double the cases from the previous year. Amy Wicks, a spokeswoman for the National Center on Shaken Baby Syndrome, says a lot of fathers have been laid off and now they’re home with the screaming baby. Sometimes the stress pushes them over the edge. Mindy Perlmutter, spokeswoman for the Nassau County Coalition for Domestic Violence, says the economy is not the only factor in abuse cases. It doesn’t cause someone to be abusive. Many poor people never abuse their loved ones. However, if someone’s inclined to be abusive, losing a job and being home 24/7 may give them more opportunity and fuel a fire that’s already burning.

If someone you know has become abusive, go to [NDVH.org](http://www.NDVH.org). That’s the website for the National Domestic Violence Hotline.

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| **You Shouldn't Model Your Relationship After "Twilight"** |

The “Twilight” phenomenon is affecting real life romances! According to MSNBC, men are furiously working out to replicate one character’s fairy-tale abs. Girls are complaining that their boyfriends aren’t living up to the impossibly high standards of vampire-hero Edward. However, experts warn that we shouldn’t get our romantic cues from the story, because Edward may be considered a romantic boyfriend, but in real life he’d be classified as a stalker. Bella, the human girl he falls for, may seem like a love-struck teen, but in real life, she’d be considered a victim of domestic violence. So here are a few reasons why you shouldn’t base your relationship on “Twilight”:

* First, **don’t lose your identity while in a relationship. Edward and Bella are so infatuated with each other; they don’t have any other interests.** Experts say you have to be a whole, well-rounded person to have a successful relationship. Relying on one person to be everything in your life puts too much pressure on them, and if you’re too dependent on the relationship, and it ends, you’ll have nothing.
* The next reason you shouldn't model your relationship after “Twilight:” **Dating a stalker is dangerous, not romantic**! In the story, Edward lurks in the shadows and follows Bella’s every move - even watching her sleep, and she finds this romantic! Here’s the chilling truth: 76% of women killed by their husbands or boyfriends were stalked by them before they were killed. Stalking isn’t romantic in real life.
* Also, **watch out for controlling behavior.** Edward persuades Bella to leave her family and friends, takes complete control over their physical relationship and urges Bella to get an abortion when she becomes pregnant. According to the Mayo Clinic, those three behaviors are all signs of domestic violence.
* The last romantic lesson from “Twilight” – **look for signs of physical violence.** Edward constantly threatens to feed on Bella’s blood. If your boyfriend roughhouses with you or jokes about hurting you, be careful. The *threat* of violence often escalates into the real thing, and in real life, there won’t be a pack of werewolves to save you.

# Domestic violence rate unchanged, Statistics Canada finds

#### Last Updated: Thursday, July 14, 2005 | 6:34 PM ET

##### [CBC News](http://www.cbc.ca/news/credit.html)

The overall rate of domestic violence in this country remains unchanged in the latest study from Statistics Canada.

In a new report released Thursday, the agency said that seven per cent of women and six per cent of men end up abused by their current or former partners.

The numbers are based on data gathered between 1999 and 2004. They show that, since 1999, the five-year rate of spousal violence has remained unchanged at seven per cent

In terms of numbers, an estimated 653,000 women and 546,000 men "encountered some form of violence," Statistics Canada said.

The report comes out of interviews with 24,000 Canadians randomly contacted by phone.

The agency found that rates of spousal violence were highest among certain segments of the population: people between the ages of 15-24; people in relationships of three years or less; people who were separated; and people in common-law unions.

The data collected show the nature and consequences of spousal violence were more severe for women than for men.

Female victims of spousal violence were more than twice as likely to be injured as male victims.

Women were also three times more likely to fear for their life, and twice as likely to be the targets of more than 10 violent episodes.

And, overall, female victims were twice as likely as male victims to be stalked by a previous spouse. Eleven per cent of female victims and six per cent of male victims reported being stalked by a previous boyfriend or girlfriend.

Only one per cent of female victims reported being stalked by a current spouse or boyfriend.

The data touch on a painful issue for Janet Manezes. She was terrorized by her former husband and says she's dumbfounded to hear the overall rate of spousal abuse hasn't changed.

"I was so suppressed and frightened and fearful of him that there were times when my son and I would hide in the basement," she told CBC News.

Manezes spoke about how the man in question was "threatening me, throwing me out of the house with hardly any clothes on."

Still, Karen Mihorean a chief analyst for Statistics Canada, said the survey did see some encouraging news.

"I think it's good news that previous relationships are among those that we are seeing decreases in because we also know people are at greatest risk from a previous partner to experience spousal violence," she told CBC News.

Mihorean believes efforts by federal and provincial governments have helped with the decline.

# Woods, wife suspected of domestic violence: report

#### Last Updated: Friday, March 12, 2010 | 9:39 PM ET [Comments12](http://www.cbc.ca/sports/story/2010/03/12/sp-woods-responders.html#socialcomments)[Recommend10](http://www.cbc.ca/sports/story/2010/03/12/sp-woods-responders.html)

##### The Associated Press

Tiger Woods crashed his sport utility vehicle into a fire hydrant at 2:30 a.m. on Nov. 27, resulting in emergencey responders being called. (Eric Gay/Associated Press)

The ambulance crew that responded after golfer Tiger Woods crashed his SUV would not allow his wife to ride with him to the hospital because they thought it was a case of domestic violence, documents released Friday by the Florida Highway Patrol show.

But a police officer who responded said he didn't know where the crew got that information because he never heard it from anyone at the scene.

The reports also show that Woods' wife, Elin, turned over two bottles of pain pills to troopers after the Nov. 27 crash outside the couple's suburban Orlando home.

Tiger Woods crashed his sport utility vehicle into a fire hydrant at 2:30 a.m., and when police officers arrived they found him lying in the street.

The couple told investigators Elin Nordegren smashed the back window of the SUV with a golf club so she could unlock a door and pull her husband out.

Woods, the world's No. 1 golfer, has strenuously denied his wife abused him.

"Elin never hit me that night or any other night. There has never been an episode of domestic violence in our marriage, ever," Woods said during a televised apology last month.

The crash led to disclosures that Woods had affairs with several women. He was charged with careless driving and fined $164 US.

The report showed Health Central Hospital, which treated Woods after the crash, refused to release blood test results to investigators without a warrant. The state attorney's office wouldn't request one, saying there wasn't enough probable cause that a crime had been committed.

Cpl. Thomas R. Dewitt, one of the highway patrol investigators, also wrote in his report that he asked for videotape from a security camera at the Woods' home.

"There were two cameras that should have documented [the vehicle] leaving the driveway and portions of the crash," Dewitt wrote.

But the golfer's lawyer, Mark NeJame, told him the couple didn't know if the camera worked and couldn't figure out how to remove the tape.

NeJame told Dewitt he had looked at monitors inside the home and they were blank. There is no indication in Dewitt's report that officers got video despite several requests.

NeJame said he had no comment on the report.

Messages left with the hospital's ambulance service and the FHP were not immediately returned.

There has been speculation recently that Woods is preparing for a return to professional golf.

Two people with knowledge of Woods' plans told The Associated Press on Thursday that he intends to remain out of golf at least until the Masters in early April. The two spoke on condition of anonymity because only Woods is supposed to release such information.

Woods has been practising at Isleworth near his Orlando home the last two weeks, and swing coach Hank Haney flew there recently to work with him.

Woods has not played professionally since Nov. 15, when he won the Australian Masters in Melbourne. It was his 82nd career victory.

Read more: <http://www.cbc.ca/sports/story/2010/03/12/sp-woods-responders.html#ixzz1FqTkvDfM>

# Trial delays, wisecracking judge cited in domestic violence report

#### Last Updated: Friday, January 23, 2009 | 3:32 PM NT [CBC News](http://www.cbc.ca/news/credit.html)

Complainants involved in domestic assault and related cases brought before the courts in central Newfoundland have had to wait significantly longer for justice than in other jurisdictions, a new report has found.

Volunteers with the Purple Heart Campaign Project, spearheaded by Cara Transition House, a women's shelter in Gander, sat in on 47 different cases to assess how the courts deal with family violence issues.

While a typical case in Canada takes about 32 weeks to go to trial, the report found that complainants in the Gander area — the majority of whom are women — wait an average of a year.

Ann Marie Connors, the director of Cara Transition House, said that extra wait can add to the stress and anxiety that complainants feel.

"They seemed to be endless," Connors said, describing delays witnessed during the 10-month-long monitoring campaign.

"[The volunteers] noted that some of those delays were always to accommodate the accused — maybe their lawyer wasn't available or they had work outside the province," she said.

The report found that while many personnel showed sensitivity to the plight of victims of crime, there were lapses.

In one case, the report noted, a judge rolled his eyes as he listened to a victim explain the details of an assault.

In another, a judge "made wisecracks in the courtroom," with jokes that a volunteer thought was inappropriate for the case at hand. In a small number of cases, the report noted that judges appeared distracted or uninterested in proceedings.

As for lawyers, Connors said that volunteers found that some defence lawyers were not consistently sensitive to victims.

As well, she said the volunteers found that a Crown lawyer on one occasion with few family violence-related charges, without an explanation to the complainant.

In another, the Crown dropped an assault charge in exchange for a guilty plea to a drug offence.

The report calls for greater education about domestic assaults for judges, lawyers and police officers.

# Domestic violence cases decrease in Toronto

#### Last Updated: Friday, April 18, 2008 | 9:03 AM ET

#### [CBC News](http://www.cbc.ca/news/credit.html)

Toronto Police say they're expanding their campaign to fight domestic violence in the city's ethnic communities.

The news came as police released new numbers on domestic violence.

They say the number of cases handled by police dropped by five per cent last year.

While the numbers are down slightly, police say their work is far from over.

Deborah Viddie, the new head of the Toronto Police domestic violence unit, said people from some countries need to be educated about the lack of tolerance for domestic violence and the rights of women in Canada.

Mehjabeen Khan, a counsellor who deals with victims of domestic violence, said police and social workers can face a lot barriers when talking to women in ethnic communities.

"When we talk to these women and we say, 'You know what, this is not something that should happen or you have a right not to be abused,' they don't understand the language because sometimes they don't even have the word."

Khan said the goal is to get ethnic communities to think differently about domestic violence. She said the only way to do that is to involve the community.

That's exactly what Toronto Police say they're doing.

Last year, they did 31 presentations to ethnic neighbourhoods about domestic violence. With the help of those communities, they plan to do even more next year.