



## rape and abuse crisis center

advocacy. counseling. education.

### When Men are Victims of Domestic Violence

**Question:** *Why are there no shelters for battered men and why is there a lack of demand for men's shelters to be established?*

**Question:** *Why do so few male victims of domestic violence seek the help of available services?*

**Answer:** *Because the number of male domestic violence victims is low.*

- Current research findings concerning intimate partner violence indicate that females comprise 85% of the victims of intimate partner violence.<sup>1</sup>
- In over  $\frac{3}{4}$  of all family violence situations, the perpetrator is male.<sup>2</sup> Studies indicate that 5% or fewer cases of domestic violence are those in which the victim is male.<sup>3</sup>
- Research also demonstrates that much of female violence is in self-defense and inflicts less injury than male violence.<sup>3</sup>
- It is important to note that most men have fewer barriers and more resources that allow them easier exit from a relationship they consider to be abusive.

Even though the number of males who experience aggressive violence at the hands of their female partners is small, they are still victims and must be protected. Because male victims are rare, domestic violence centers and shelters are, for the most part, geared toward assisting the female victims of domestic violence. Feelings of shame, perhaps at not meeting the American stereotype of masculinity, keep many men from seeking services.

The Rape and Abuse Crisis Center of Fargo-Moorhead strives to be a safe place for all victims of domestic violence. Male victims who come to the Rape and Abuse Crisis Center will be provided safe shelter, transportation, financial assistance, help with filing Orders for Protection, and counseling or referrals when appropriate. They will be reminded that they are not responsible for another person's decision to behave in a violent manner. No one deserves to be harmed by their intimate partner.

Reference:

1. National Coalition Against Domestic Violence:  
[http://www.ncadv.org/files/Domesticviolencefactsheet\(national\).pdf](http://www.ncadv.org/files/Domesticviolencefactsheet(national).pdf)
2. United States Department of Justice <http://www.ojp.gov/content/pub/pdf/fvs08.pdf>
3. *Are Heterosexual Men Also Victims of Intimate Partner Abuse?* by Joanne Belknap and Heather Melton (March 2005):  
[http://www.vawnet.org/research/summary.php?doc\\_id=370&Find\\_type=web\\_desc\\_AR](http://www.vawnet.org/research/summary.php?doc_id=370&Find_type=web_desc_AR)

24-hour Crisis Line (701)293-7273  
[www.raccfm.com](http://www.raccfm.com)

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