Family Violence Statistics

- **One** out of six U.S. women and **one** out of thirty-three U.S. men have experienced an attempted or completed rape as a child or adult.
- **80%** of sex crimes are perpetrated by assailants that are known to the victim.
- Each year an estimated **3.3 million** children are exposed to violence against their mothers or female caretakers by family members.
- Studies show that child abuse occurs in **30 to 60 percent** of family violence cases that involve families with children.
  - (J.L. Edleson, "The overlap between child maltreatment and woman battering." Violence Against Women, February, 1999.)
- A survey of 6,000 American families found that **50%** of men who assault their wives, also abuse their children.
- Research shows that **80 to 90 percent** of children living in homes where there is domestic violence are aware of the violence.
- A number one predictor of child abuse is woman abuse. (Stark and Flitcraft, "Women at Risk: A Feminist Perspective on Child Abuse," International Journal of Health Services, 1988)
- The more severe the abuse of the mother, the worse the child abuse. (Bowker, Arbitell, and McFerron, "On the Relationship Between Wife Beating and Child Abuse," Perspectives on Wife Abuse, 1988)
- Some **80 percent** of child fatalities within the family are attributable to fathers or father surrogates. (Bergman, Larsen and Mueller, "Changing Spectrum of Serious Child Abuse," Pediatrics, 1986)
- In families where the mother is assaulted by the father, daughters are at risk of sexual abuse **6.51 times greater** than girls in non-abusive families (Bowker, Arbitell and McFerron, 1988)
- A child's exposure to the father abusing the mother is the strongest risk fact for transmitting violent behavior from one generation to the next.
- Male children who witness the abuse of mothers by fathers are more likely to become men who batter in adulthood than those male children from homes free of violence.
- Older children are frequently assaulted when they intervene to defend or protect their mothers.
- In a 36-month study of 146 children, ages 11-17, who came from homes where there was domestic violence, all sons over the age of 14 attempted to protect their mothers from attacks. Some **62 percent** were injured in the process.
  - (Roy, 1988)