



NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
October 13, 2008

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DOMESTIC VIOLENCE DECREASING IN SAN DIEGO COUNTY ***Domestic Violence Hotline Celebrates 5-Year Anniversary***

Five years after the launch of the County of San Diego Domestic Violence Hotline, officials today announced that reports of domestic violence have decreased in the region.

During a news conference at the County Administration Center commemorating Domestic Violence Awareness Month, County health and elected officials reported that the number of domestic violence cases have dropped by 13 percent from 21,756 in 2003 to 18,874 in 2007. They also announced that in its first five years, the Domestic Violence Hotline received more than 27,000 calls.

But sadly, a total of 48 intimate partner-related fatalities occurred in San Diego County in 2006 and 2007, according to the 2008 Domestic Violence Fatality Report. In the past 11 years, there has been an average of 20 intimate partner-related deaths per year, and so far this year, there have been 11 intimate partner-related fatalities.

Supervisor Pam Slater-Price, who was recently named Legislator of the Year by San Diegans Against Crime for her advocacy in domestic violence, applauded the efforts of County law enforcement and service providers during the news event.

"Domestic violence affects people of all socio-economic backgrounds and possibly for generations if not properly addressed early on," said Slater-Price, who represents the Third District. "Thanks to the work of the County, early intervention can help stop the cycle of family violence."

According to the American Bar Association, about 1.3 million women and 835,000 men are physically assaulted by an intimate partner annually in the United States.

Nick Macchione, Director of the County's Health and Human Services Agency, spoke at the event and said: "We must do everything we can to help bring awareness to domestic violence and help victims get out of these dysfunctional and dangerous relationships."

Other event speakers included Kimberly Lagotta, Chief of the Family Protection Division of the District Attorney's Office; Danielle Lingle, Assistant Executive Director for the Center of Community Solutions; and Claudia Sinkule, whose daughter, Nicole, died at the hands of her abuser.

"We all saw small and subtle signs that Nicole was in trouble, but she hid it well," Claudia Sinkule said. "If you think there is a problem, there probably is. Educate yourself about domestic violence and reach out."

To learn more about the warning signs of domestic violence or to seek help, contact the County of San Diego Domestic Violence Hotline at (888) DV-LINKS (385-4657).

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