

## AMERICAN ACADEMY OF NURSE PRACTITIONERS STATEMENT ON VIOLENCE

Violence is no respecter of gender, race, culture, religion, sexual orientation or socioeconomic background. Violence occurs across the lifespan. It permeates our homes, churches, communities, schools and workplaces.

WHEREAS approximately 1 out of 5 homicide victims are killed by family members.<sup>4</sup>

WHEREAS the national rate of child victimization is 13.9 per 1000 children.<sup>2</sup>

WHEREAS it is estimated that more than six thousand children nationwide died as the result of child abuse in 1997.<sup>6</sup>

WHEREAS the battering of pregnant adolescents is approximately 20% and is equal to or greater than many other complications of pregnancy.<sup>10</sup>

WHEREAS in 1997, over 6000 persons between the ages of 15-24 were victims of homicide, the second leading cause of death in this age group.<sup>2</sup>

WHEREAS violence against women is a universal problem that crosses national, social, racial and religious boundaries.<sup>4</sup>

WHEREAS approximately four million women per year are assaulted by their male partners, and women are five to eight times more likely than men to be victimized by an intimate partner.<sup>4,10</sup>

WHEREAS annually an estimated 1 million women and 1.4 million children are assaulted by a member of their family.<sup>1</sup>

WHEREAS a study of female homicides found that a personal relationship between the victim and perpetrator could be identified in 49% of the cases.<sup>4</sup>

WHEREAS since the passage of the Hate Crime Statistics Act of 1990, 70% of crimes against individuals based on their respective race, religion, ethnicity, sexual orientation or disability status include: 39% intimidation, 26% destruction / damage / vandalism, 18% simple assault, 13% aggravated assault.

WHEREAS approximately 36,000 persons age 65 or older are injured by a relative, intimate or close acquaintance that results in about 500 deaths annually.<sup>15</sup>

WHEREAS firearms are second only to motor vehicles as instruments of death in the United States.<sup>11</sup>

WHEREAS approximately 65% of the 17,000 murders in 1998 were committed with firearms.<sup>15</sup>

WHEREAS gun-related deaths are eight times higher in the United States than in other developed countries.<sup>11</sup>

WHEREAS firearms are associated with 70% of homicides and over 50% of suicides in the US.<sup>11</sup>

WHEREAS handguns constitute one-third of all firearms in the United States and have been linked to 70-90% of fatal gunshot wounds.<sup>11</sup>

WHEREAS children in the United States die of gunshot wounds at a rate twelve times higher than that of children from twenty-five other industrialized countries.<sup>11</sup>

WHEREAS sixty-eight percent of domestic assault incidents involve weapons.<sup>1</sup>

### THE AMERICAN ACADEMY OF NURSE PRACTITIONERS HEREBY RESOLVES TO:

- **Encourage health care providers to identify, treat and properly refer all victims of sexual assault and of child, partner and elder abuse.**
- **Promote the development of community educational programs to reverse the increasing incidence of abuse and neglect of children under age 18.**

- **Advocate the use of national guidelines for assessment, identification and referral of victims of violence.**
- **Support the inclusion of violence prevention content in the educational program for all health care providers.**
- **Support legislation to provide funding for educational and interventional programs designed to decrease the morbidity and mortality from all types of violence.**
- **Continue to support legislative efforts that both enforce existing laws and create additional laws that provide gun control measures to enhance the safety of society at large.**

## REFERENCES

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