

Deputy Clerk Janto
110 E Main Street, Suite 215
Madison, Wisconsin 53703

Electronic Delivery

October 11, 2011

Dear Deputy Clerk Janto:

I offered testimony on behalf of the Wisconsin Coalition Against Domestic Violence in support of Petition 10-08 at the October 4, 2011 public hearing. During my testimony, Justice Roggensack asked me if I knew the percentage of domestic violence victims who have children. I responded that I did not know the statistics offhand and that I would be happy to provide the Court with this information at a later date. Below are statistics from two studies that, in part, answer Justice Roggensack's question.

- Forty-percent of households where domestic violence occurs are home to children under twelve, compared to 27% of households in the general population. Callie Marie Rennison & Sarah Welchans, Intimate Partner Violence: Bureau of Justice Statistics, Special Report, #NCJ 1782247 (Office of Justice Programs, 2000).
- Children are present in 41% to 55% of homes where police intervene in domestic violence calls. Department of Community Affairs, Domestic violence: A guide for health care professionals (State of New Jersey, 1990).

In addition, the Wisconsin Department of Children and Families reports that, of the 6,653 individuals who stayed at a domestic abuse shelter in Wisconsin between October 1, 2009 and September 30, 2010, 3,159 (47%) were children. Practically all of these children were accompanying their mothers, who were the primary victims of domestic violence.

I ask that you forward this information on to the Chief Justice and Justices.

Thank you,



Tony Gibart,
Policy Coordinator,
Wisconsin Coalition Against Domestic Violence.

