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Domestic Violence Cases Increase; New Video Helps Train Law Enforcement

San Diego County District Attorney [Bonnie M. Dumanis](#) said today a new training video to educate law enforcement about domestic violence will be shown to more than 5,000 sworn peace officers in San Diego County. The new training program comes amid law enforcement concerns that a worsening economy is resulting in an increase in domestic violence.

“We have seen a slight, but steady statistical increase in domestic violence prosecutions the past few years. As the economy worsens, it’s likely that trend will get even worse,” said DA Dumanis. “This new training video will help law enforcement identify and prevent domestic violence.”

Stressful economic circumstances like recession, unemployment and empty bank accounts often exacerbate situations where domestic violence already is a factor. Recent data from the [San Diego County Domestic Violence Hotline \(888-DV-LINKS\)](#) may suggest a link between financial stress and domestic violence. The hotline reported a 20% increase in calls for January 2009 as compared to January 2008.

Over a four year period, the number of domestic violence cases presented to the San Diego County District Attorney's Office varied from month-to-month, but the statistical trend shows an increase from 471 to 501 cases per month. There were 7,829 reports of domestic violence to the San Diego Police Department during 2008. There have been 232 known intimate partner-related fatalities between 1997 and 2008 in San Diego County—about 19 deaths each year.

The new training video, *Domestic Violence: You Make the Difference*, was mandated by the Police Chiefs Association to be shown to all sworn personnel in San Diego County. The video contains training on updates in the official domestic violence protocol for law enforcement and a special focus on the effects of domestic violence on children. More than 15 million U.S. children live in families in which partner violence occurred at least once in the past year.

The video was funded by the [San Diego District Attorney's Office](#) and produced in cooperation with San Diego County law enforcement, County of San Diego Office of Violence Prevention, Child Welfare Services, The Children's Initiative, San Diego Domestic Violence Council, Chadwick Center for Children and Families of Rady Children's Hospital, and the Center for Community Solutions.

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