

CONFRONTING DOMESTIC VIOLENCE IN SPOKANE COUNTY

3,900 VICTIMS EACH YEAR

many more are unseen and unheard

Domestic violence (DV) is a silent epidemic—most cases are invisible to society. There are approximately 3,900 confirmed victims each year, although there are about 13,500 potential victims associated with all DV-related calls to law enforcement.¹ It's estimated that 1 in 3 women and 1 in 10 men experience DV. DV in Spokane is likely under-reported.²

FAMILY VIOLENCE, ALSO REFERRED TO AS DOMESTIC VIOLENCE, IS VIOLENCE OR ABUSE IN ANY FORM BY ONE PERSON AGAINST ANOTHER IN A DOMESTIC (I.E. FAMILY) SETTING, AND INCLUDES INTIMATE PARTNER VIOLENCE. DOMESTIC VIOLENCE IS A MAJOR PROBLEM AFFECTING ALL SECTORS OF SOCIETY.



14,500 CALLS¹

TO LAW
ENFORCEMENT
ANNUALLY

3,300 DOMESTIC VIOLENCE CASES ANNUALLY³

ACCOUNTING FOR
25% OF ALL
CRIMINAL CASES

43% OF DV CHARGES DISMISSED³

Though most charges result in a guilty verdict (51%), many dismissals could be avoided. 6% of charges result in a deferral or are found not guilty.

TOP COMMUNITY PRIORITY

Family violence was the number one issue voted by stakeholders in the 2018 community needs assessment.

1 OUT OF 3 PERPETRATORS

RE-OFFEND³ WITHIN 2 YEARS



1 IN 3 YOUTH⁴

**EXPERIENCE VERBAL ABUSE IN
THEIR FAMILY**

1 IN 5 YOUTH⁴

**HAVE WITNESSED ABUSE BETWEEN
ADULTS MORE THAN ONCE**

1 IN 5 YOUTH⁴

**HAVE BEEN ABUSED BY
AN ADULT**

1 IN 10 YOUTH⁴



**EXPERIENCE
INTIMATE PARTNER
VIOLENCE**

Disclaimer: The Spokane Regional Health District Data Center does not warrant that the data provided them was accurate or complete. Every attempt was made to accurately interpret the data; however, definitions of DV are inconsistent between jurisdictions (e.g. city and county) as well as sectors (e.g. law enforcement and judicial systems), contributing to challenges with reporting and interpretation of data.

Data Sources and Notes:

(1) National Incident-Based Reporting System, Nov. 2016 to Oct. 2017.

Individual cases were determined by evaluating the number of cases assigned a unique law enforcement case number.

(2) Smith, S. G., et al. 2015. The national intimate partner and sexual violence survey:2015 data brief. / Retrieved from <https://www.cdc.gov/violenceprevention/nisvs/2015NISVSdatabrief.html/>. May 16, 2018.

(3) Washington State Administrative Office of the Courts, 2012-2016. Court information includes all criminal non-traffic cases of DV for both the Courts of Limited Jurisdiction and the Superior Court obtained from a data request paid for by the Spokane Regional Domestic Violence Coalition. There are multiple reasons why a court case may be dismissed: the victim may request dismissal, there may be inadequate evidence to prosecute, and charges may be dropped in exchange for a plea to another charge.

(4) Washington State Healthy Youth Survey, 2016.

(5) Comprehensive Hospital Abstract Reporting System (CHARS), 2016-2017. Hospital charge data from hospitalizations related to adult and child abuse and neglect. Most DV victims do not seek medical treatment. Nonetheless, direct, urgent medical treatment alone results in hospital charges of approximately \$6.7 million per year in Spokane County.

All analyses conducted by the Data Center at Spokane Regional Health District. Sponsorship and technical assistance provided by the Spokane Regional Domestic Violence Coalition.

Contact the DataCenter@SRHD.org | 509.324.1698 | TDD 509.324.1464 | www.srhd.org



**\$6.7
MILLION**⁵

**IN HOSPITAL
CHARGES
ANNUALLY**



**MORE THAN
2,000
CHILDREN**¹

**DOCUMENTED
AS VICTIMS OR
WITNESSES OF
A DV-RELATED
CRIME**

1,490 children and youth were identified as victims in DV-related incidents. Another 580 children were identified as witnesses. These numbers underestimate true exposure due to inconsistencies in tracking, but are known to have long-term consequences.