

Domestic Violence & Sexual Violence

Domestic violence is any type of physical, sexual, or psychological harm done by a current or former partner or spouse (both heterosexual and same-sex); it also includes stalking, and loss of reproductive control such as refusal to use a condom. Domestic violence that includes abusive sexual behavior which take place within the context of a current or former intimate relationship is also referred to as intimate partner sexual violence.

About 12% ($\pm 1\%$) of respondents reported ever having been injured by an intimate partner, according to the 2011 Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System (BRFSS). Injuries by intimate partners were highest among females, those 25-64 years of age, those with household incomes less than \$50,000, and those who did not earn a college degree.

In the 2016 Healthy Youth Survey, 18% ($\pm 2\%$) of 10th graders in Washington reported that they had been made to engage in unwanted kissing, sexual touch or intercourse.

DOH and partner agencies are focused on reducing domestic violence and sexual violence by implementing comprehensive primary prevention and intervention strategies. Some of these strategies include addressing the needs of pregnant and parenting survivors of violence, training home visiting professionals in screening for domestic violence, and facilitating youth mentoring programs to develop skills for healthy relationships.



1 in 8

Washington adults report having been injured by an intimate partner



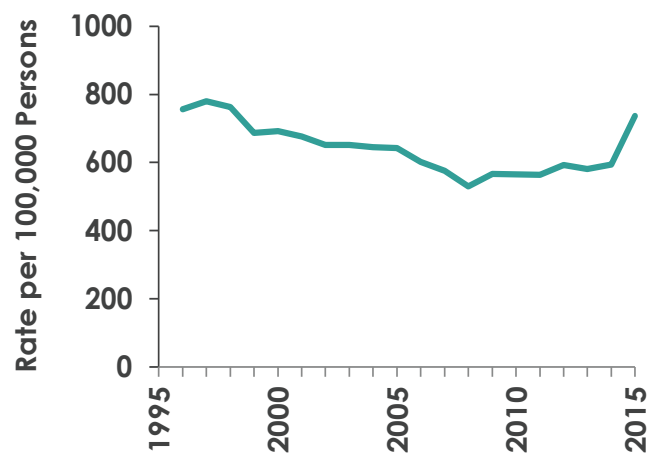
More than 1 in 6 Washington 10th graders have been made to engage in unwanted sexual activity



Time Trends

- In 2015, the domestic violence offenses rate in Washington State was 737 per 100,000 population (representing 51,491 offenses).¹
- Washington's rate of domestic violence offenses increased in 2015 after several stable years.

**Reported Domestic Violence Offenses
Washington State
CORE*, 1996-2015**

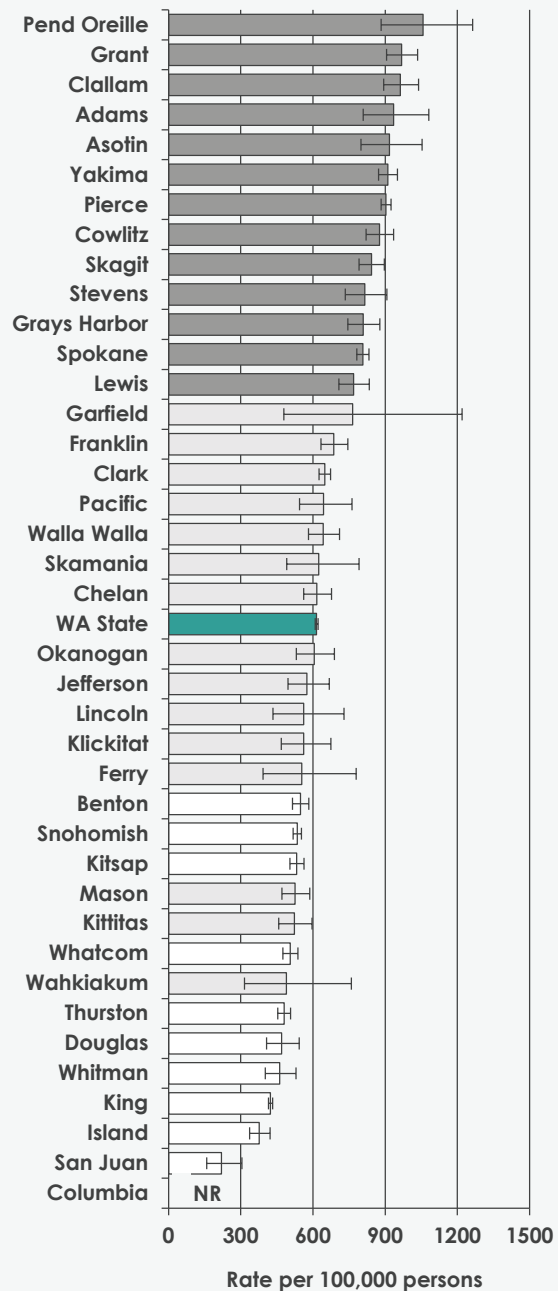


*DSHS CORE: Department of Social and Health Services, Community Outcome and Risk Evaluation Information System.

Geographic Variation

- In 2011-2015, domestic violence offense rates varied dramatically by county, from 220 per 100,000 in San Juan to 1057 per 100,000 in Pend Oreille County.
- Adams, Asotin, Clallam, Cowlitz, Grant, Grays Harbor, Lewis, Pend Oreille, Pierce, Skagit, Spokane, Stevens, and Yakima counties had higher domestic violence offense rates compared to the state rate.
- Benton, Douglas, Island, King, Kitsap, San Juan, Snohomish, Thurston, and Whitman counties had lower domestic violence offense rates than the state.

**Reported Domestic Violence Offenses
Washington Counties,
DSHS CORE, 2011-2015**



WA State
 Same as WA State
 Lower than WA State
 Higher than WA State

*DSHS CORE: Department of Social and Health Services, Community Outcome and Risk Evaluation Information System.
 NR: Not reported if RSE ≥ 30% or to protect privacy

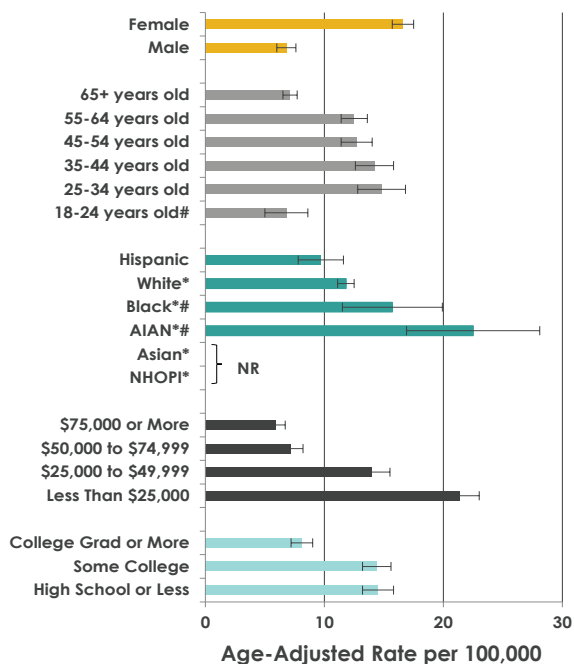
Disparities

The most current self-reported domestic violence data is from the 2011 BRFSS.

- Overall about 15% ($\pm 1\%$) of Washington adults reported experiencing domestic violence in their lifetime – 19% ($\pm 1\%$) of females and 10% ($\pm 1\%$) of males.
- About 12% ($\pm 1\%$) of Washington adults reported ever being injured by an intimate partner: 17% ($\pm 1\%$) of females and 7% ($\pm 1\%$) of males.
- Adults 25-64 years old had the highest rates of injury by an intimate partner.
- American Indian or Alaska Native (AIAN) adults reported a higher prevalence of injuries by an intimate partner compared to white adults.
- Individuals with lower household income were more likely to report injuries by an intimate partner (<\$50,000) compared to individuals with higher income.
- Injuries by intimate partners were higher among individuals who did not earn a college degree.

Note: Domestic violence offenses reported to the police are not available by selected demographics (e.g., age, gender).

Injured by Partner During Lifetime Washington State BRFSS, 2011



*Non-Hispanic (all races) | AIAN: American Indian/Alaska Native | NHOPI: Native Hawaiian/Other Pacific Islander

NR: Not reported if RSE $\geq 30\%$ or to protect privacy

#Relative standard error (RSE) is between 25% and 29%

Sexual Violence

Sexual violence includes rape, being made to penetrate someone else, sexual coercion, unwanted sexual contact, and unwanted noncontact sexual experience such as harassment and flashing.

Sexual violence can happen to anyone regardless of ethnicity, race, religion, profession, gender, sexual orientation or income. Sexual violence can occur in any type of relationship or be perpetrated by a stranger. Most perpetrators of sexual violence are known to their victims, but the type of relationship varies. For example, acts of sexual violence are often perpetrated by acquaintances and non-spouse relatives.

Intimate Partner Sexual Violence (IPSV) is one term used to refer to all forms of sexual assault that take place within the context of a current or former intimate relationship. IPSV is a form of domestic violence.

Sexual violence data in Washington that address time trends, and geographic and demographic variations are limited. DOH is working to strengthen state-level surveillance data.

The 2010-12 National Intimate Partner and Sexual Violence Survey (released 2017) gives insight into experiences of intimate partner sexual violence in Washington.

- A higher rate of women in Washington had experienced contact sexual violence in their lifetime compared to U.S. women, 45% ($\pm 6\%$) and 36% ($\pm 1\%$) respectively. This would mean that, on average, approximately 1,168,000 women in Washington had been victims of sexual violence during their lifetime.²
- In Washington, a current or former intimate partner was reported to be the perpetrator of sexual violence about 40% of the time.
- Twice as many women (45%) compared to men (22%) in Washington reported experiencing sexual violence in their lifetime.

The most recent youth data in Washington (2016) found that 18% ($\pm 2\%$) of 10th graders in Washington reported in the Healthy Youth Survey that they had been made to engage in unwanted kissing, sexual touch or intercourse.

How is Washington addressing domestic, sexual & intimate partner violence?

DOH and partner agencies are implementing domestic, sexual and intimate partner violence prevention and intervention strategies that include:

- Addressing the needs of pregnant and parenting survivors of violence (such as through the [Enlace Project](#)).
- Providing training to implement universal screening (using tools such as Futures Without Violence Safety Cards) and adapting guidelines for healthcare providers.
- Training home visiting professionals to increase comfort and skill level in screening for domestic violence, including advanced training to offer safety planning services to their clients as needed.
- Promoting healthy relationship skills, social norms change, and youth-facilitated

mentoring to connect youth with their peers. These efforts promote attitude and behavior change by talking about topics connected to intimate partner and sexual violence such as rigid gender roles, consent and respect.

In Washington, two projects funded by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention are underway. The first, the Rape Prevention and Education (RPE) program, implements comprehensive strategies focused on the primary prevention of sexual violence in multiple communities across Washington. The second project supports DOH's efforts to strengthen its capacity to track and monitor sexual violence indicator data. State-level data is important to better understand the burden of sexual violence perpetration in Washington and better inform prevention and intervention efforts to respond to this public health problem.

Evidence-based interventions to address domestic, sexual and intimate partner violence are available in the [CDC Technical Packages for Violence Prevention](#).

Technical Notes

Confidence Intervals: Definition and examples are described in [Appendix C](#)

Contact Sexual Violence. The National Intimate Partner and Sexual Violence Survey describes contact sexual violence as rape, being made to penetrate someone else, sexual coercion, and/or unwanted sexual contact.

Intimate Partner Violence. Intimate partner violence (IPV) is 'any type of physical, sexual, or psychological harm done by a current or former partner or spouse (both heterosexual and same-sex)'; IPV includes abusive behavior and is sometimes called domestic violence.²

Race and Ethnicity: Classification described in [Appendix C](#)

Relative Standard Error: Definition and how it was used is described in [Appendix C](#)

Sexual Violence. The National Intimate Partner and Sexual Violence Survey measures five types of sexual violence including rape, being made to penetrate someone else, sexual coercion, unwanted sexual contact, and unwanted non-contact sexual experiences such as harassment and flashing.³

Endnotes

¹Washington State Department of Social and Health Services. Risk and Protection Profile for Substance Abuse Prevention in Washington State. www.dshs.wa.gov/data/research/research-4.47-state.pdf. Published July 2017. Accessed September 11, 2017.

²Washington State Department of Health. Intimate Partner Violence has Serious Health Impacts in Washington State. www.doh.wa.gov/Portals/1/Documents/140-166-IntimatePartnerViolence-Factsheet.pdf. Accessed October 12, 2017.

³Smith, S.G., Chen, J., Basile, K.C., Gilbert, L.K., Merrick, M.T., Patel, N., Walling, M., & Jain, A. The National Intimate Partner and Sexual Violence Survey (NISVS): 2010-2012 State Report. Atlanta, GA: National Center for Injury Prevention and Control, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. US Dept. of Health and Human Services. www.cdc.gov/violenceprevention/pdf/NISVS-StateReportBook.pdf. Published April 2017. Accessed October 12, 2017.