

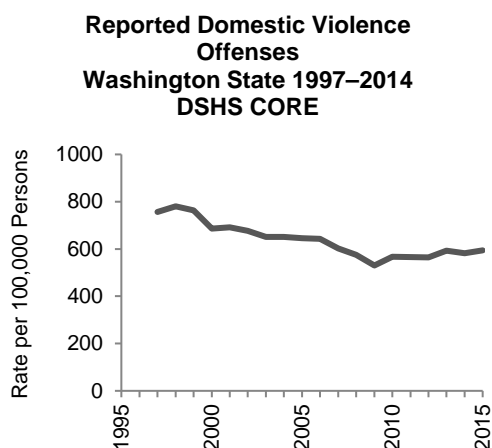
Domestic Violence

Definition: Domestic violence is a pattern of assault and coercion, including physical, sexual, and psychological abuse, as well as economic coercion, that adults or adolescents use against their intimate partners.¹ This report measures domestic violence as domestic violence-related offenses reported to the Washington Association of Sheriffs and Police Chiefs and physical assault and injury by an intimate partner as reported in the Washington State Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System. A person can be counted more than once in domestic violence-related offenses.

This is a data update of the *Health of Washington State* chapter [Domestic Violence](#) published in 2013.

Time Trends

In 2014, 40,768 domestic violence offenses were reported to the Washington Association of Sheriffs and Police Chiefs (WASPC), equivalent to 594 per 100,000 Washington residents. Between 1996 and 2008, data showed a 30% decline in reported domestic violence offenses from 39,998 offenses, equivalent to 756 per 100,000 Washington residents to 34,148 domestic violence offenses, equivalent to 530 per 100,000 Washington residents. There were large decreases in all violent crime during this time, both in Washington and nationally.² The observed drop in domestic violence offenses may be part of the larger trend. Since 2008, offense rates have remained relatively stable.



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

Not all domestic violence is reported to the police, and so police reports likely underestimate

the prevalence of domestic violence. National Crime Victimization Survey data show a decline in self-reports of U.S. domestic violence in the past year, from six per 1,000 persons in 2002 to four per 1,000 in 2014.³

Geographic Variation

Rates of domestic violence reported to the police vary by county (please see chart on page 2). Domestic violence rates range from 162 offenses per 100,000 people in San Juan County to more than 1,200 per 100,000 people in Pend Orielle County. County data reflect the location of the offense, not where the perpetrator or victim lives. Differing rates by county might reflect variability in willingness to report as well as differences in the number of events.⁴

Age and Gender

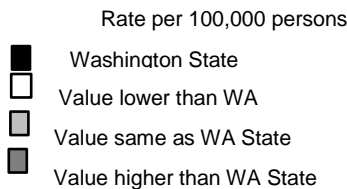
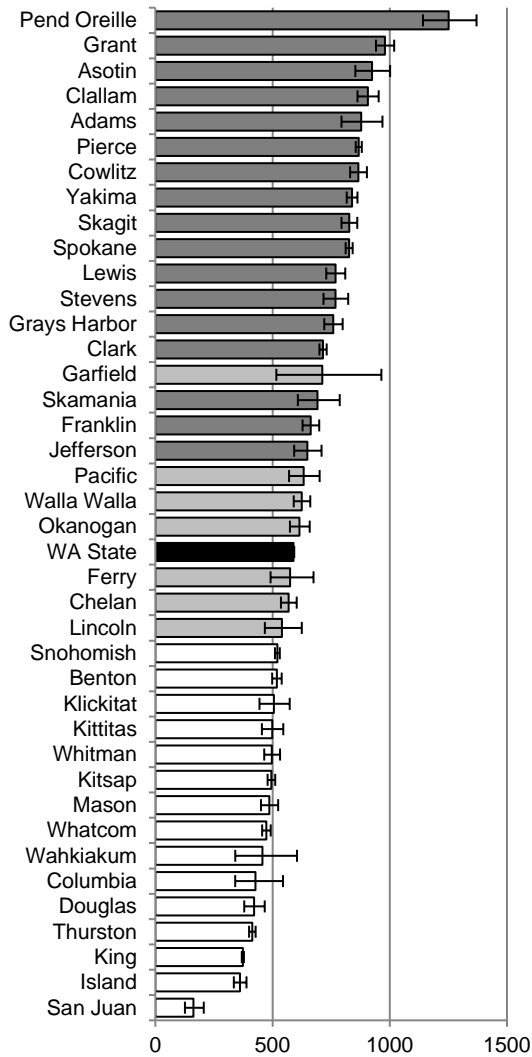
Washington domestic violence offenses reported to the police are not available by age and gender.

The 2003–2012 National Crime Victimization Survey data showed that women ages 18–24 had the highest rates of domestic violence and women ages 65 and older showed the lowest rates of domestic violence.⁴

Economic Factors and Education

Women living in low-income households are at heightened risk of domestic violence.⁵ A few studies that followed women over time suggest that poverty increases the risk for domestic violence, and domestic violence increases risk for poverty.⁶ Women's education levels are not consistently linked with domestic violence risk.

**Reported Domestic Violence Offenses
Washington Counties
DSHS CORE 2012–2014**



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

Race and Hispanic Origin

In a 2011 national survey, 52% of American Indian or Alaska Native, 41% of black, 30% of Hispanic and 31% of white women, and 15% of Asian or Pacific Islander women reported ever experiencing physical domestic violence.⁷

National Crime Victimization Survey data show the highest rates of domestic violence for Blacks and those of multiple races, and the lowest rates for Hispanic women.⁴ These differences are likely due largely to other factors associated with race, such as poverty. For example, one national survey found no racial differences after accounting for financial security, except among Asian women who were the least likely to report domestic violence.⁸

Data Sources (For additional detail, see [Appendix B](#))

The Washington State Department of Social and Health Services, Research Data and Analysis Division, Community Outcome and Risk Evaluation (CORE) Information System provided data on domestic violence offenses adjusted for non-reporting law enforcement agencies (also see <https://www.dshs.wa.gov/sesa/research-and-data-analysis/community-risk-profiles>). CORE obtains and integrates data annually from the Washington Association of Sheriffs and Police Chiefs (WASPC): Uniform Crime Report (UCR), National Incident-Based Reporting System (NIBRS), and Population Estimates: Washington State Office of Financial Management, Forecasting Division (see [Technical Notes](#)).

For More Information

Barnett OW, Miller-Perrin CL, Perrin RD. *Family Violence Across the Lifespan*, 3rd ed. Thousand Oaks, CA; 2011.

Department of Health Injury and Violence Prevention Program website, Information for Healthcare Providers, <http://www.doh.wa.gov/YouandYourFamily/InjuryandViolencePrevention/ViolenceAgainstWomen.aspx>

Office of Crime Victims Advocacy, Crime Victims Resource Guide,

<http://www.commerce.wa.gov/Programs/PublicSafety/OCVA/Pages/default.aspx>.

Washington State Coalition Against Domestic Violence, <http://www.wscadv.org/>

Technical Notes

Domestic violence offenses are crimes reported to a police or sheriff's department involving a domestic relationship, regardless of whether there was an arrest. The Washington Association of Sheriffs and Police Chiefs (WASPC) compiles and reports data. Reporting is not mandatory, although funding and grants are associated with participation. From 2000–2014, law enforcement jurisdictions covering approximately 96–99% of Washington's population reported to WASPC. Statutorily defined domestic relationships include spouses, former spouses, people who have a child in common, people related by blood or through marriage, and adults who reside together in the same household. Domestic violence-related crimes include criminal homicide, forcible rape, robbery, assault, burglary, larceny, motor vehicle theft, arson, and violations of protection and no-contact orders. WASPC classifies single events in which multiple crimes are committed according to the most serious

crime involved, in the order listed above. Thus, if a person both robs and assaults a victim, WASPC counts only the robbery. A perpetrator can be involved in more than one offense.

Columbia County data are based on 2012–2013 because none of the agencies reported data in 2014.

Acknowledgments

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Endnotes

¹ McColgan MD, Dempsey S, Davis M, Giardino AP. Overview of the problem. In Giardino AP, Giardino ER, eds. *Intimate Partner Violence*. St. Louis, MO: STM Learning, Inc.; 2010:1-29.

² U.S. Department of Justice, Federal Bureau of Investigation. *2014 Crime in the United States*. Washington, DC: U.S. Department of Justice, 2015. <https://www.fbi.gov/about-us/cjis/ucr/crime-in-the-u.s/2014/crime-in-the-u.s.-2014>. Accessed May 25, 2016.

³ Truman JL, Langton L. *Criminal victimization, 2014*. Bureau of Justice Statistics Bulletin NCJ 248973; 2015. <http://www.bjs.gov/content/pub/pdf/cv14.pdf>. Accessed April 25, 2016.

⁴ Truman JL, Morgan RE. *Nonfatal Domestic Violence, 2003-2012*. Washington, DC: Bureau of Justice Statistics; 2014. <http://www.bjs.gov/content/pub/pdf/ndv0312.pdf>. Accessed April 25, 2016.

⁵ Capaldi DM, Knoble NB, Shortt JW, Kim HK. A Systematic Review of Risk Factors for Intimate Partner Violence. *Partner Abuse*. 2012;3(2):231-280.

⁶ Goodman LA, Smyth KF, Borges AM, Singer R. When crises collide: How intimate partner violence and poverty intersect to shape women's mental health and coping? *Trauma, Violence Abuse*. 2009;10:306-329.

⁷ Breiding MJ, Smith SG, Basile KC, Walters ML, Chen J, Merrick MT. Prevalence and Characteristics of Sexual Violence, Stalking, and Intimate Partner Violence Victimization — National Intimate Partner and Sexual Violence Survey, United States, 2011. *MMWR Morb Mortal Wkly Rep*. 2014;63(SS08):1-18.

⁸ Cho, H. Racial differences in the prevalence of intimate partner violence against women and associated factors. *J Interpers Violence*. 2012;27:344-363.