



Domestic Violence in Whatcom County, 1998 - 2013

Eleventh Annual Report on Trends in Our Community Response to
Domestic Violence

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BWCCADV

**Bellingham - Whatcom County
Commission Against Domestic Violence**



1407 Commercial Street, Bellingham, WA 98225
360.312.5700 | www.dvcommission.org

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Executive Summary

This is the eleventh annual data report of domestic violence indicator data in Whatcom County, published by the Bellingham-Whatcom County Commission Against Domestic Violence (DV Commission).¹ Data for this report was collected from a variety of sources, including: Administrative Office of the Courts (AOC), Washington Association of Sheriffs & Police Chiefs (WASPC), Office of Financial Management, and Washington State Coalition Against Domestic Violence (WSCADV), as well as local Whatcom County agencies including courts, law enforcement, prosecution, probation, perpetrator treatment providers, and victim advocacy providers.

Notable indicators from this data report include the following:

Civil and Criminal Justice Indicators, 2013

- There were nearly 3,000 domestic violence-related calls for service to Whatcom County's law enforcement agencies.
- More than half of all misdemeanor offenses in Whatcom County were Assaults, and nearly one-third were Order Violations. 14 percent of all bookings into the Whatcom County Jail were domestic violence-related. This is a decrease from 2012, when 20 percent of all jail bookings were domestic violence-related.
- 16 percent of all felonies filed in Whatcom County Superior Court were domestic violence-related, and 89 percent of felonies resolved were found or pled guilty. The percentage of domestic violence felonies filed has been higher over the past three years than in all previous years.
- There was one intimate partner fatality in Whatcom County. There have been 12 intimate partner homicides in Whatcom County since 2009.
- 19 stalking offenses were reported by Whatcom County's law enforcement agencies.

Community Services, 2013

- 180 individuals were in domestic violence perpetrator treatment at some point during the year. This is the lowest number since data started being collected in 2003.
- More than 1,700 victims of domestic violence received safe and confidential emergency shelter, permanent housing, and/or advocacy and other supportive services from one of Whatcom County's domestic violence advocacy agencies.
- 29 percent of those counted as homeless during the Whatcom County Homeless Count (held in January 2014) listed domestic violence as a cause of homelessness, for a total of 102 households.

For additional information about this data, including sources and data trends, please take the time to review the full report, *Domestic Violence in Whatcom County, 1998 – 2013: Eleventh Annual Report on Trends in Our Community Response to Domestic Violence*.

¹ More information about the DV Commission, in addition to past Benchmark Reports, is at www.dvcommission.org.

Domestic Violence in Whatcom County: Law Enforcement

Note on Data on Domestic Violence Offenses

Like last year, this year's Domestic Violence Data Report includes a newer data collection method for domestic violence offenses reported by Whatcom County law enforcement agencies. Since 1980, all Whatcom County law enforcement agencies have reported all of their data, including domestic violence data, to the Washington Association of Sheriffs and Police Chiefs (WASPC) using the Summary Uniform Crime Report (UCR) program. However, at a national level, the FBI and other national agencies started using the National Incident-Based Reporting System (NIBRS) in the late 1980s.

Summary UCR data only reports the top eight crimes, and there is a hierarchy rule in place: for each incident, only one offense is counted, and that is the offense with the highest level of seriousness. NIBRS data is more thorough, as it includes more offense types, and more categories of crimes; additionally, if there is more than one offense occurring in a single incident, all offenses are reported.

In January 2008, the WASPC Executive Board made the decision and set the goal date for Washington State law enforcement agencies to convert from Summary UCR to NIBRS by January 1, 2012. The majority of agencies in Washington State and Whatcom County did meet the January 2012 deadline; however, extensions were granted to some agencies, including the Whatcom County Sheriff's Office. Since then, the Whatcom County Sheriff's Office has upgraded to the new data reporting method.

Therefore, the data on 2013 domestic violence offenses included in this year's Data Report are comprised only of NIBRS data; the data on 2012 domestic violence offenses are comprised of both Summary UCR and NIBRS data; and the data from 2011 and before are comprised of only UCR data.

Due to disparate reporting methods, data cannot be compared between NIBRS and Summary UCR, which means that data from 2012 and 2013 cannot be compared with data from previous years.

Domestic Violence Offenses²

In 2013:

- Whatcom County law enforcement agencies reported a total of 1,307 domestic violence offenses.³
- The Bellingham Police Department (BPD) reported 566 domestic violence offenses.
- The Whatcom County Sheriff's Office (WCSO) reported 414 domestic violence offenses.
- 327 domestic violence offenses were reported by all other law enforcement agencies, including Lummi Nation Tribal Police Department; Blaine, Everson-Nooksack, Ferndale, Lynden and Sumas Police Departments; and Western Washington University Police.

To see the breakdown of DV offenses by jurisdiction for 2013, see Table 1 on page 11.

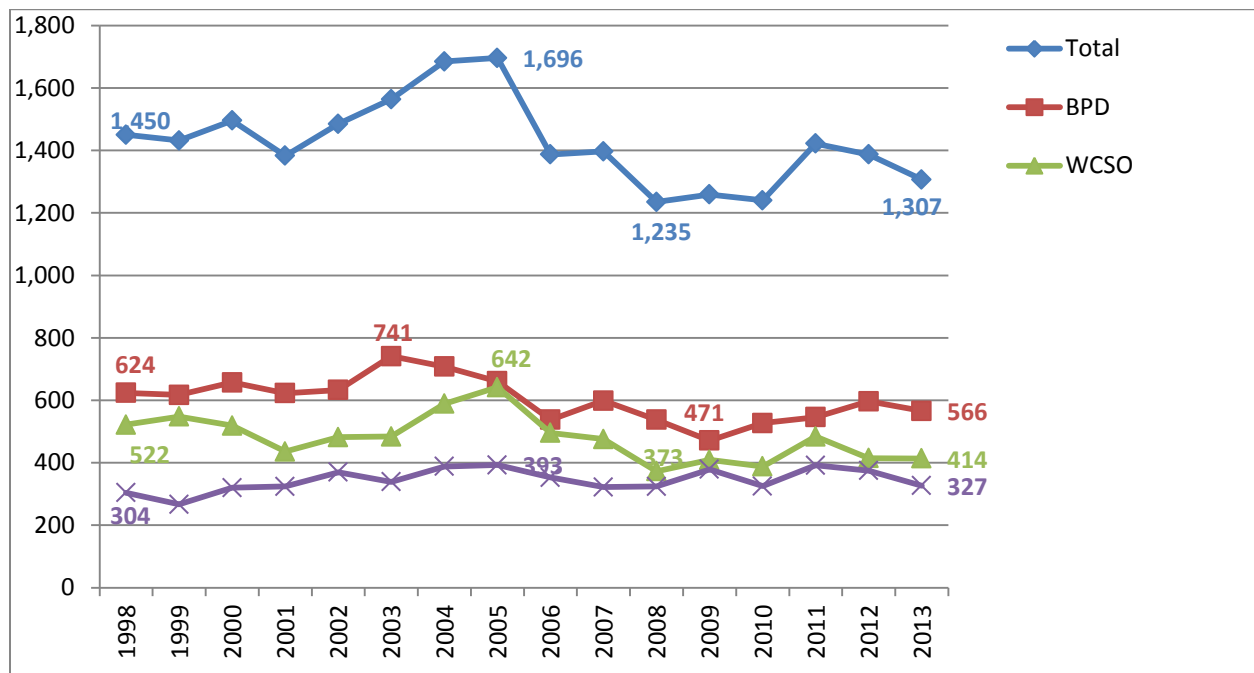


Figure 1 Domestic Violence Offenses: Whatcom County, 1998 – 2013

In 2013, 10 percent of all criminal offenses reported in Whatcom County were domestic violence-related. This is a lower number than in the past several years, when the number has ranged between 13 and 16 percent. It is also lower than the State percentage; in Washington State in 2013, 13 percent of all reported criminal offenses were domestic violence offenses.

² Data on domestic violence offenses is from the Washington Association of Sheriffs & Police Chiefs (WASPC). A definition and explanation of domestic violence offenses can be found in the glossary on page 28.

³ Data on domestic violence offenses from the Nooksack Tribal Police Department is not available for 2013, so is not included in these numbers.

Per Capita Rates of Domestic Violence Offenses⁴

In 2013:

- Whatcom County's per capita rate of domestic violence offenses was 6.4.
- The per capita rate of domestic violence for Washington State was slightly higher at 6.8.

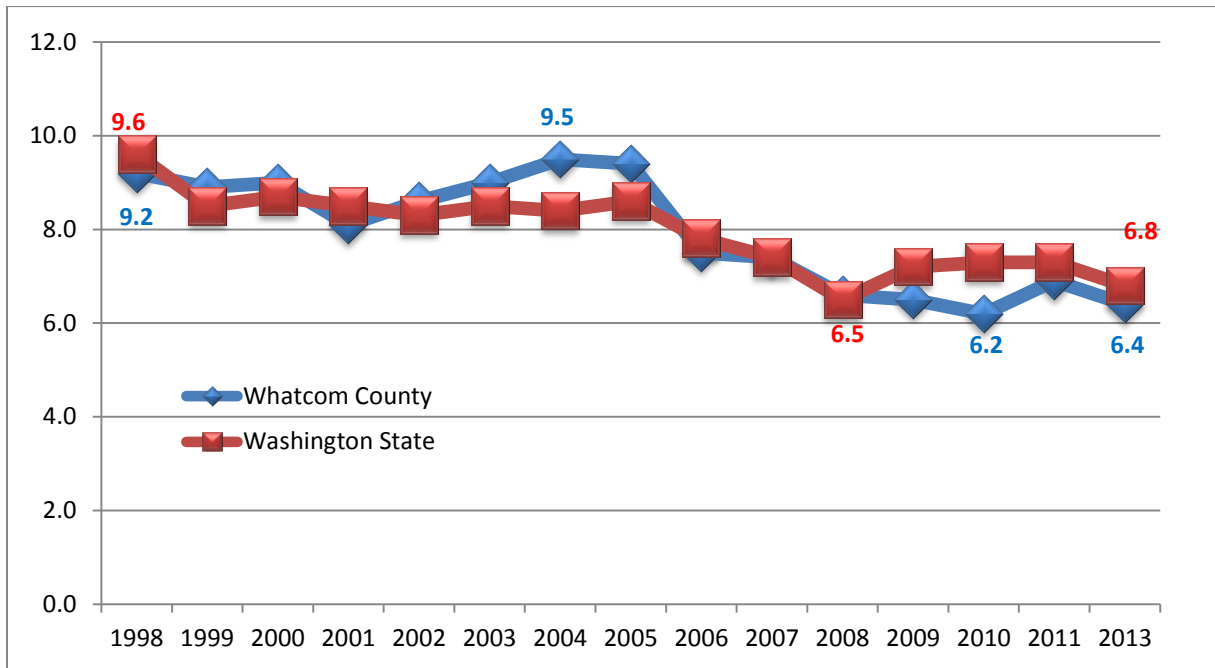


Figure 2 Domestic Violence Per Capita: Whatcom County and Washington State Offenses per 1,000 Residents, 1998 - 2013

Since 2005, Whatcom County's per capita rates of domestic violence have been either nearly the same as or lower than Washington state rates.

⁴ Per capita rate is defined as the number of reported domestic violence offenses for every 1,000 residents.

Verbal Domestic and Domestic Violence Offenses

In 2013:

- 1,608 verbal domestics⁵ were reported by Whatcom County law enforcement agencies⁶.
- 1,307 domestic violence offenses were reported by Whatcom County law enforcement agencies.

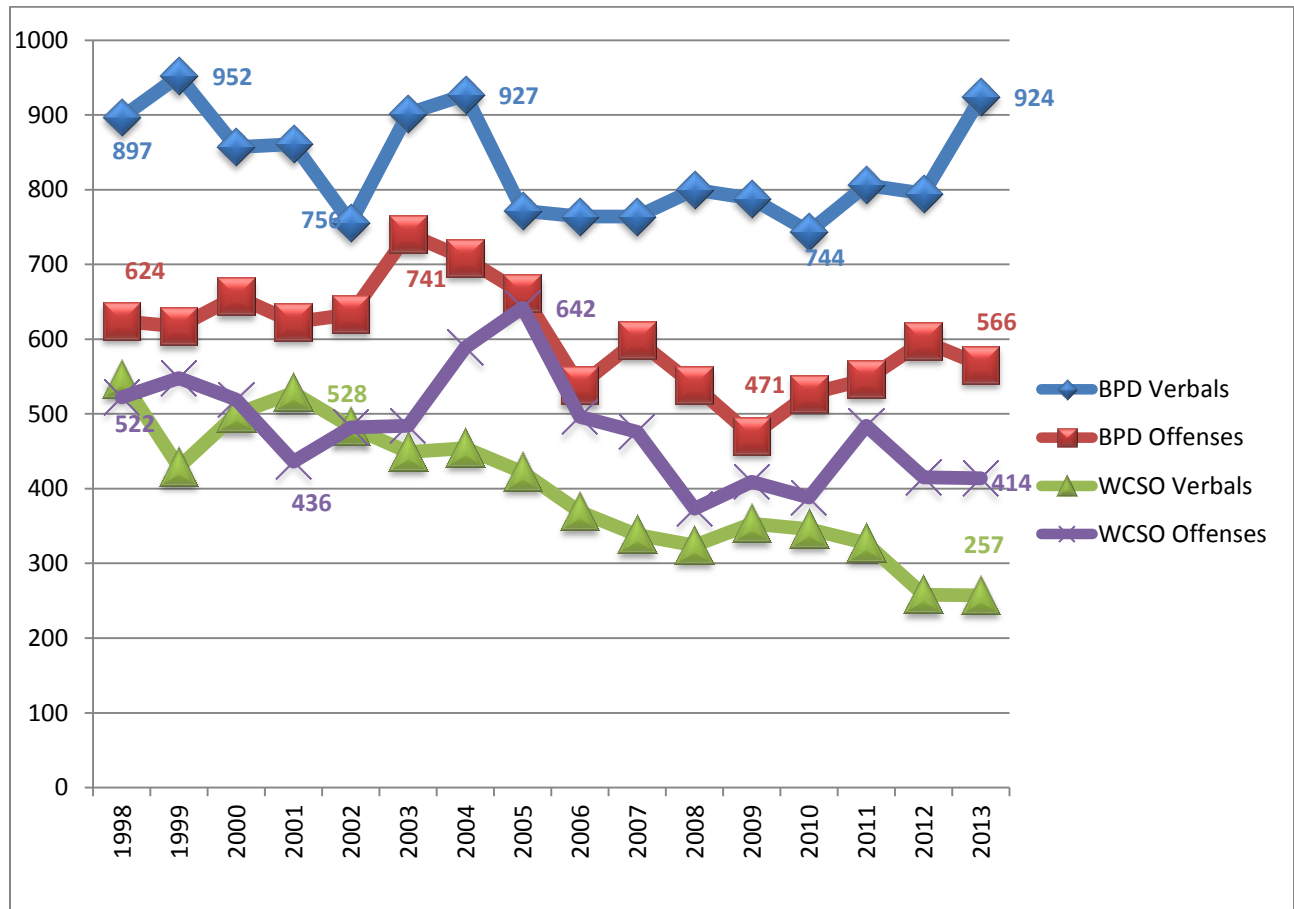


Figure 3 Verbal Domestic and Domestic Violence Offenses, 1998 – 2013, Bellingham Police Department and Whatcom County Sheriff’s Office

Every year for which data is available, the Bellingham Police Department (BPD) responded to more verbal domestics than domestic violence offenses. Every year since 2003, the Whatcom County Sheriff’s Office (WCSO) has responded to more domestic violence offenses than verbal domestics.

⁵ Verbal domestics represent incidents where law enforcement determines that no physical assault has occurred, and/or where no other conditions are met that warrant arrest.

⁶ Whatcom County law enforcement agencies include: Police Departments from the Cities of Bellingham, Blaine, Everson, Ferndale, Lynden, and Sumas; Whatcom County Sheriff’s Office; and Tribal Law Enforcement from the Lummi reservation. Data on DV offenses for the Nooksack Tribal Police Department was not available for 2013.

Verbal Domestic and Domestic Violence Offenses (continued)

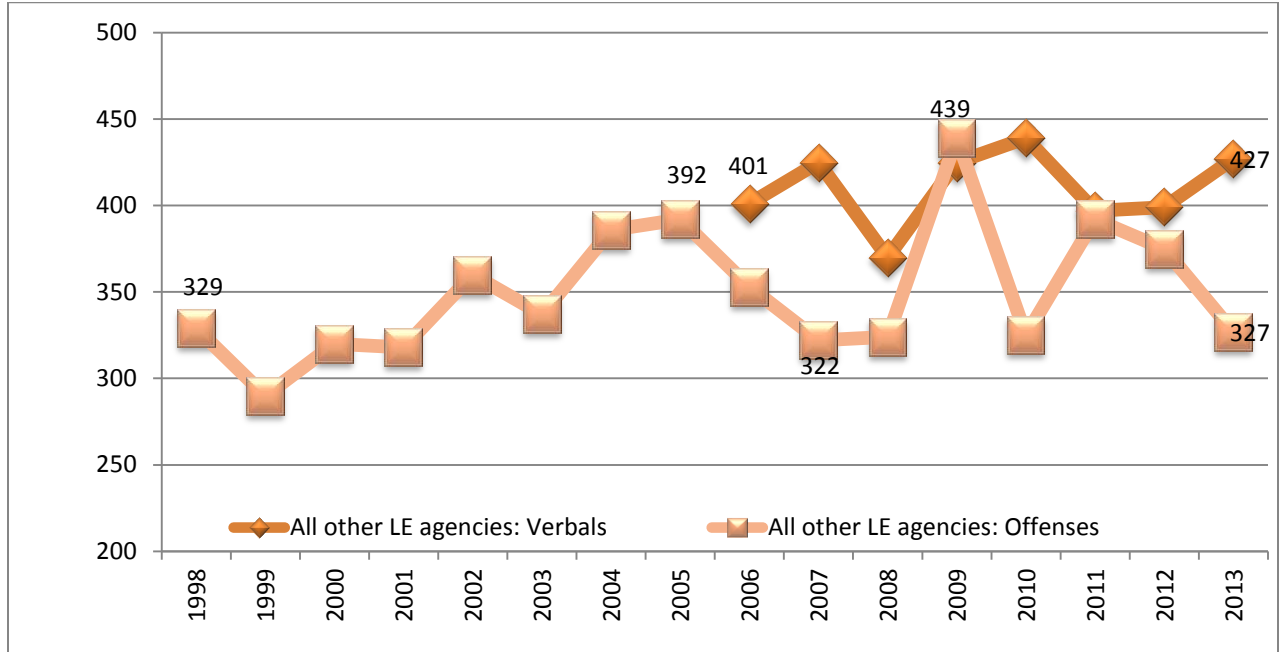


Figure 4 Verbal Domestic and Domestic Violence Offenses, 1998 – 2013, Blaine, Everson, Ferndale, Lynden, and Sumas Police Departments and Lummi Tribal Police

In every year since 2006, all other law enforcement agencies in Whatcom County responded either to more verbal domestics than domestic violence offenses, or to a nearly equal number of verbal domestics and domestic violence offenses.

Prior to 2006, data was not available on verbal domestics from the other law enforcement agencies in Whatcom County.

Domestic Violence Offenses by Category of Crime⁷

In 2013:

- More than half of all domestic violence offenses were Assaults (including Simple Assaults and Aggravated Assaults).
- Nearly one-third of all domestic violence offenses were Violations of Protection or No Contact Orders.

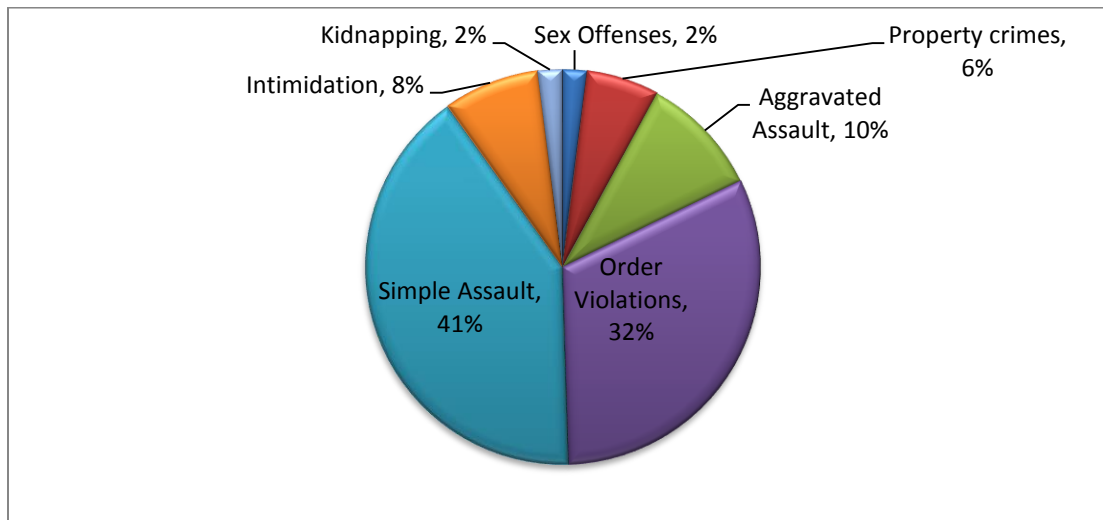


Figure 5 Domestic Violence Offenses in Whatcom County by Category of Crime, 2013

In 2013, Simple Assault (Misdemeanor Assault) represented the largest category of domestic violence-related crime with 41 percent of reported offenses falling into this category. Aggravated Assault (Felony Assault, assault that involves the use of a weapon and/or infliction of bodily injury) represented 10 percent of reported domestic violence offenses. Homicide represented less than 0.1 percent of Domestic Violence Offenses and is included with the Aggravated Assault (see pages 19 - 20 for more data on intimate partner homicides). Order Violations (i.e. violations of No Contact Orders or Orders for Protection, some of which are misdemeanors and some of which are felonies) constituted nearly a third of domestic violence offenses (32 percent). Other domestic violence offenses included Intimidation (8 percent), Property Crimes (6 percent), Sex Offenses (2 percent), and Kidnapping (2 percent).

In general, over the last several years, Simple Assault (Misdemeanor Assault) has accounted for more than half of domestic violence offenses, and Order Violations for approximately one-third. Aggravated Assault (or Felony Assault) generally accounts for between 6 to 7 percent; Property Crimes and Sex Offenses usually range between 2 to 6 percent. Kidnapping and Intimidation are new categories that were not reported on by Whatcom County law enforcement agencies prior to 2012.

⁷ Data on domestic violence offenses is from the Washington Association of Sheriffs & Police Chiefs (WASPC); terms used here follow the categories used by WASPC.

Domestic Violence in Whatcom County: Breakdown by Jurisdiction

JURISDICTION (POPULATION)	VERBAL DOMESTICS	DV OFFENSES	DV MISDEMEANORS
BELLINGHAM (82,310)	924	566	541
BLAINE (4,785)	58	27	51
FERNDALE (12,290)	128	86	70
LYNDEN (12,902)	62	44	26
SUMAS (1,499)	17	30	41
EVERSON & NOOKSACK (3,960)	48	20	35
WHATCOM COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE (88,276) ⁸	257	414	402
LUMMI NATION (6,500) ⁹	87	117	124
NOOKSACK TRIBE (400) ¹⁰	27	N/A ¹¹	5
WESTERN WASHINGTON UNIVERSITY	N/A	3	N/A
TOTAL	1,608	1,307	1,295

Table 1 Domestic Violence Data by Jurisdiction, 2013¹²

⁸ By statute, the WCSO also has a countywide responsibility and at times handles domestic violence-related incidents within the corporate limits of the municipalities, which means it has responsibility for the County's total 2013 population of 203,500. Some of their numbers may be generated within the municipal limits and the Indian reservations.

⁹ Out of the 6,500 reservation residents, 4,000 are tribal members. WCSO is sometimes called in to respond to non-tribal members; however, these calls are also included in the Lummi numbers.

¹⁰ Out of the 400 residents of Nooksack housing, 320 are tribal members. WCSO is always called in to respond to non-tribal members; however, these calls are also included in the Nooksack numbers.

¹¹ 2013 data was not available for the Nooksack Tribal Police Department.

¹² There may be some duplication between the WCSO, Tribal and University police departments, and other jurisdictions.

Domestic Violence in Whatcom County: Jail and the Courts

Jail Bookings

In 2013:

- The Whatcom County Jail reported 1,085 domestic violence-related bookings.

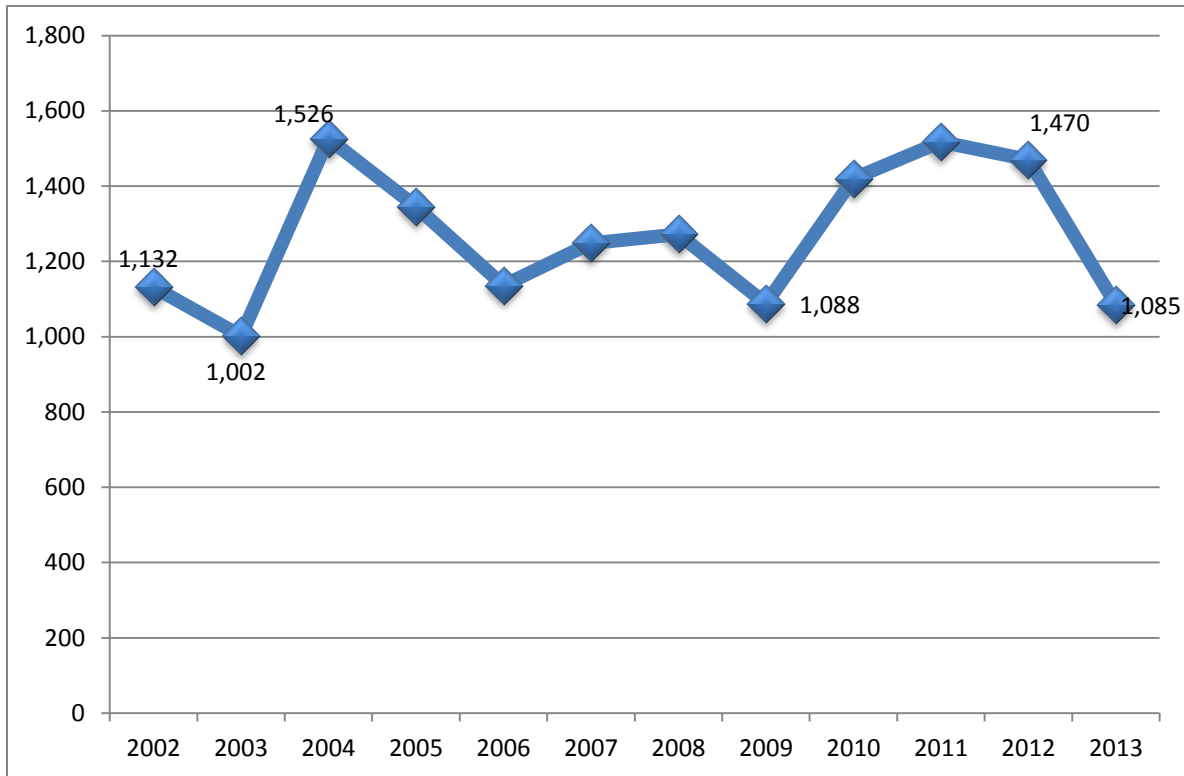


Figure 6 Domestic Violence Jail Bookings, 2002 - 2013

Between 2002 and 2013, an average of 1,270 individuals per year was booked into Whatcom County Jail on domestic violence-related offenses. Domestic violence consistently represents a significant category of jail bookings, accounting for 14 percent of total bookings in 2013. This is a decrease from 2012, when 20 percent of all jail bookings were domestic-violence related. The reasons for this decrease are unclear.

Changes in jail bookings are partially due to factors related to jail space, booking priorities, and the opening of the Alternative Correction Center in 2007. This makes longitudinal comparisons difficult.

DV Misdemeanor Charges: Filings and Resolutions

In 2013:

- Whatcom County Courts reported 1,295 misdemeanor domestic violence-related charge filings.¹³

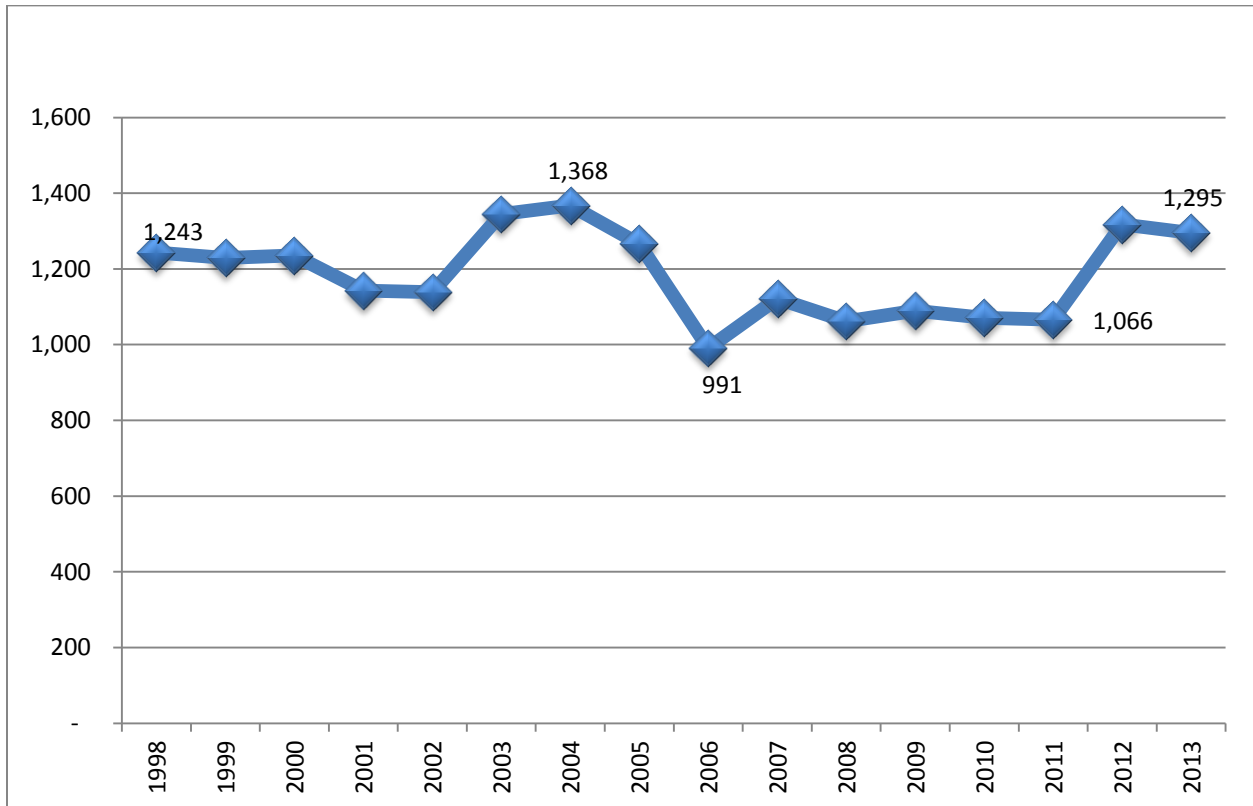


Figure 7 Domestic Violence Misdemeanor Charges Filed, 1998 - 2013

The number of domestic violence misdemeanors filed in 2013 represents a slight decrease from those filed in 2012. The 2012 and 2013 numbers both represent a noteworthy increase from the numbers of charges filed in the previous six years.

¹³ Whatcom County Courts in this data set include: Whatcom County District Court; Lummi and Nooksack Tribal Courts; and Bellingham, Ferndale, Sumas, Lynden, Everson-Nooksack, and Blaine Municipal Courts.

DV Misdemeanor Charges: Filings and Resolutions (continued)

In 2013:

- Whatcom County Courts¹⁴ reported 1,372 misdemeanor domestic violence charges resolved.
- 58 percent of misdemeanor charges resolved were found guilty (this includes charges found guilty, amended¹⁵, and guilty with deferred prosecution revoked).
- 39 percent of misdemeanor charges resolved were dismissed (this includes charges dismissed, dismissed without prejudice, and dismissed with prejudice).
- 1 percent of misdemeanor charges resolved were in deferred prosecution¹⁶ status, less than 1 percent was found not guilty, and less than 1 percent had another status.

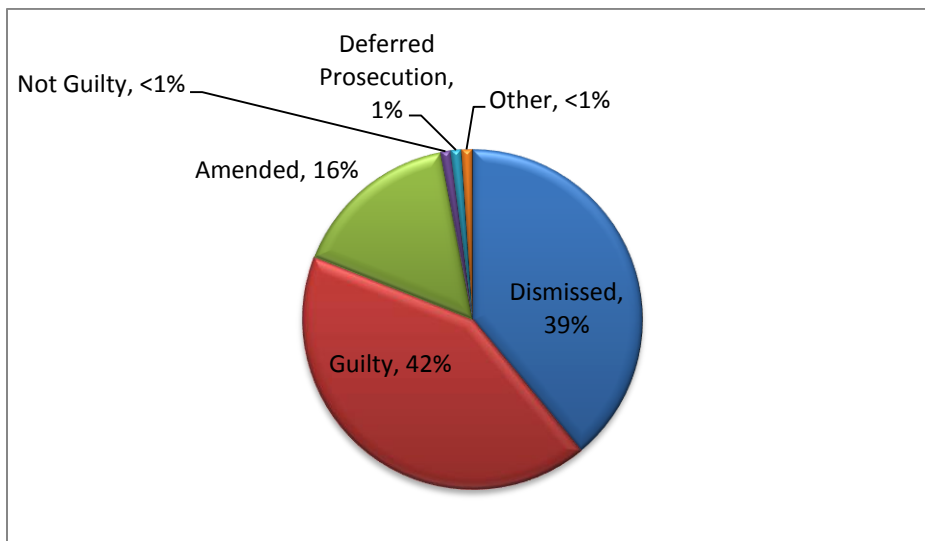


Figure 8 Domestic Violence Misdemeanors: Resolution of Charges, 2013

The outcomes of domestic violence misdemeanor charges resolved in the past eight years have remained steady. Guilty dispositions, including charges amended, have consistently accounted for more than half of all outcomes; Dismissed for between 38 and 50 percent; and Not Guilty for 1 percent or less.

It is important to note that these figures do not reflect the percentage of *defendants* who are found guilty or who have charges dismissed. For example, a single defendant may be charged with three domestic violence misdemeanors; all parties may ultimately agree that the defendant will plead guilty to one of the charges and that the lesser two of the charges will be dropped. As such, two of the defendant's charges would still be counted in the "Dismissed" category (and reflected in the figure above) even though the ultimate resolution of the case would be more accurately characterized by his/her "Guilty" disposition.

¹⁴ Whatcom County Courts in this data set include: Whatcom County District Court; Lummi Tribal Court; and Bellingham, Ferndale, Sumas, Lynden, Everson-Nooksack, and Blaine Municipal Courts. Nooksack Tribal Court reported no misdemeanor domestic violence charges resolved in 2013.

¹⁵ An amended disposition, or sentence, means that the defendant entered a guilty plea to a charge that was amended from the original charge. This could include dropping the "DV" designation.

¹⁶ With a deferred prosecution, the defendant stipulates to facts of the charge, agrees to an order of continuance, and agrees to comply with certain conditions within a set time period. If the defendant is found to be non-compliant in that time period, the charge will resolve as guilty. If the defendant complies with the agreement, the original charge may be amended or dismissed.

Felony Cases: Filings and Resolutions

In 2013:

- The Whatcom County Prosecutor's Office reported filing 231 felony domestic violence-related cases.
- 16 percent of all felonies filed by the Whatcom County Prosecutor's Office were domestic violence-related.
- 89 percent of felony DV cases resolved in 2012 were found or pled guilty (this includes the 13 percent of cases wherein the defendant pled to amended charges).

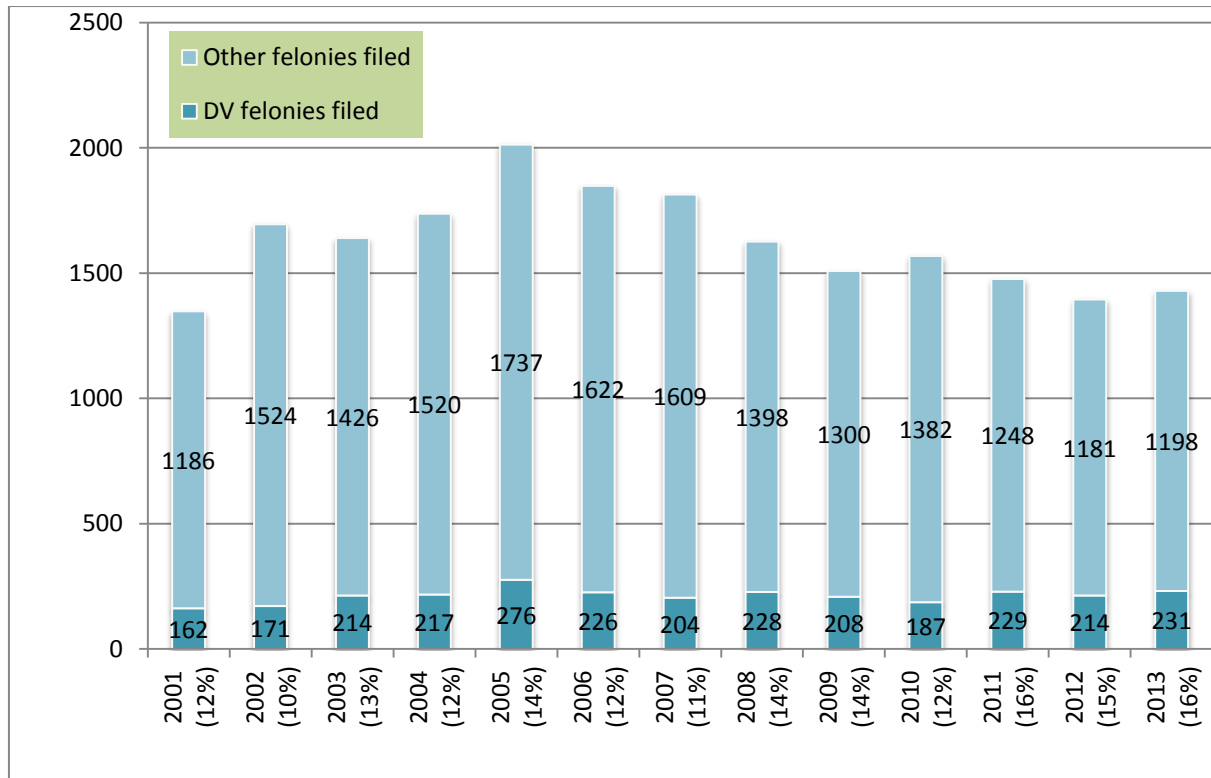


Figure 9 Domestic Violence Felony Cases Filed as a Percentage of All Felony Cases Filed, 2001 - 2013

The number of domestic violence felony filings remained nearly the same in 2013 as in the previous two years, after a significant increase in 2011. The number of felony domestic violence cases filed by the Whatcom County Prosecutor's has averaged 213 over the past thirteen years, with a low point of 162 in 2001 and a peak of 276 in 2005.

Domestic violence felonies filed as a proportion of all felonies filed has remained steady between 15 to 16 percent over the past three years, which represents an increase from previous years, when domestic violence cases made up between 10 to 14 percent of all felonies filed each year.

Felony Cases: Filings and Resolutions (continued)

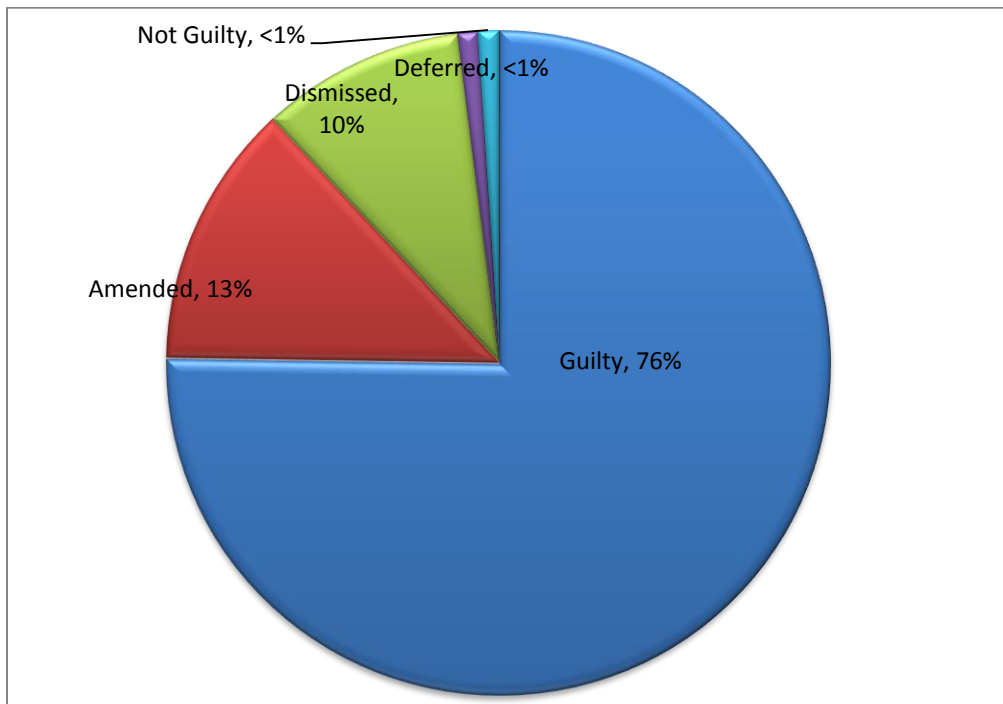


Figure 10 Domestic Violence Felonies: Resolution of Cases, 2013 (n=222)¹⁷

Over the 2013 calendar year, there were a significant number of domestic violence felony cases resolved (n=222). With respect to the outcomes of these cases, a majority of cases were resolved with either Guilty or Amended classifications, (76 percent and 13 percent, respectively).¹⁸ The remainder resulted in Dismissed (10 percent), Deferred (less than 1 percent), and Not Guilty (less than 1 percent) classifications.

¹⁷ N = the number of cases adjudicated in the calendar year of 2013.

¹⁸ An amended disposition, or sentence, means that the defendant entered a guilty plea to a charge that was amended from the original charge.

Probation Referrals

In 2013:

- Whatcom County District Court Probation was referred 738 domestic violence-related charges for supervision.

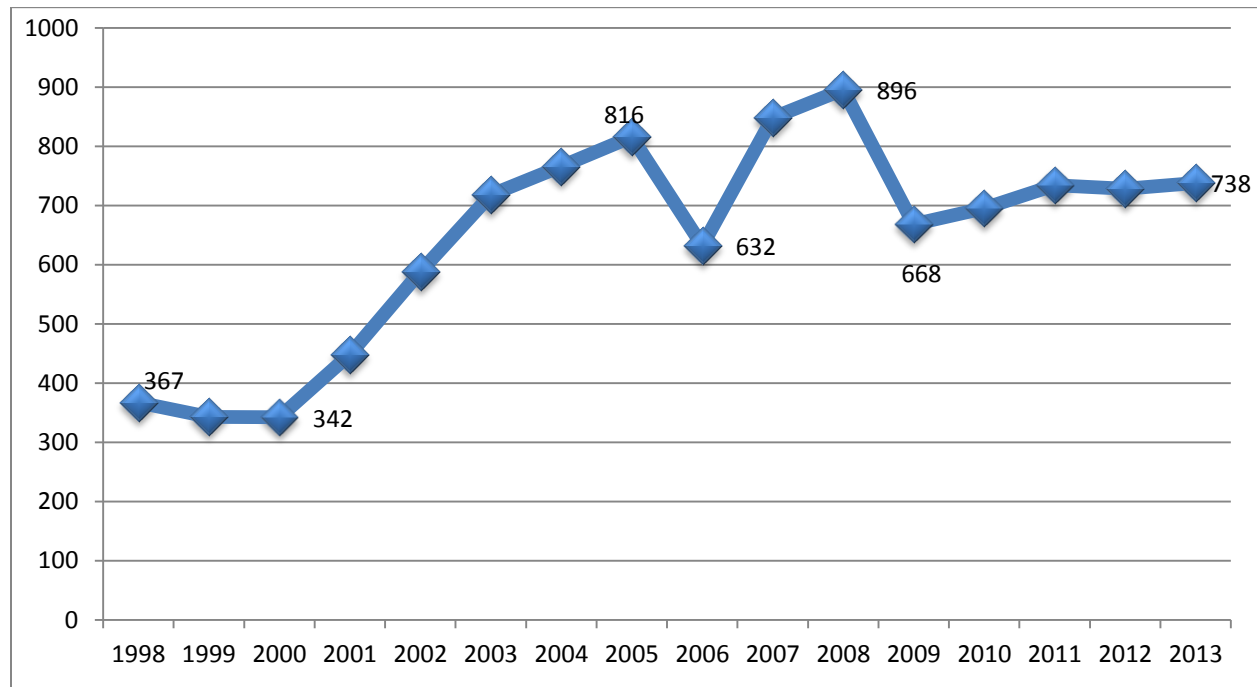


Figure 11 Whatcom County District Court Probation: Domestic Violence Charges for Supervision, 1998 - 2013

In 2013, Whatcom County District Court Probation was referred a total of 738 domestic violence-related charges for supervision. The number of domestic violence-related charges for supervision referred to District Court Probation has remained fairly steady since 2009.

The supervision rates catalogued since 2008 cannot be compared to preceding years due to significant changes in the scope of responsibility for Whatcom County District Court Probation. In August of 2007, Blaine Probation began referring all charges for supervision to Whatcom County District Court Probation. As such, Blaine cases are included in the number of charges for supervision reported for 6 months of 2007 and every year afterwards.

Domestic Violence Protection Orders (DVPOs)

In 2013:

- 386 Domestic Violence Protection Orders were filed in Whatcom County Courts.¹⁹
- The average number of protection orders filed each year over the past fourteen years is 358.

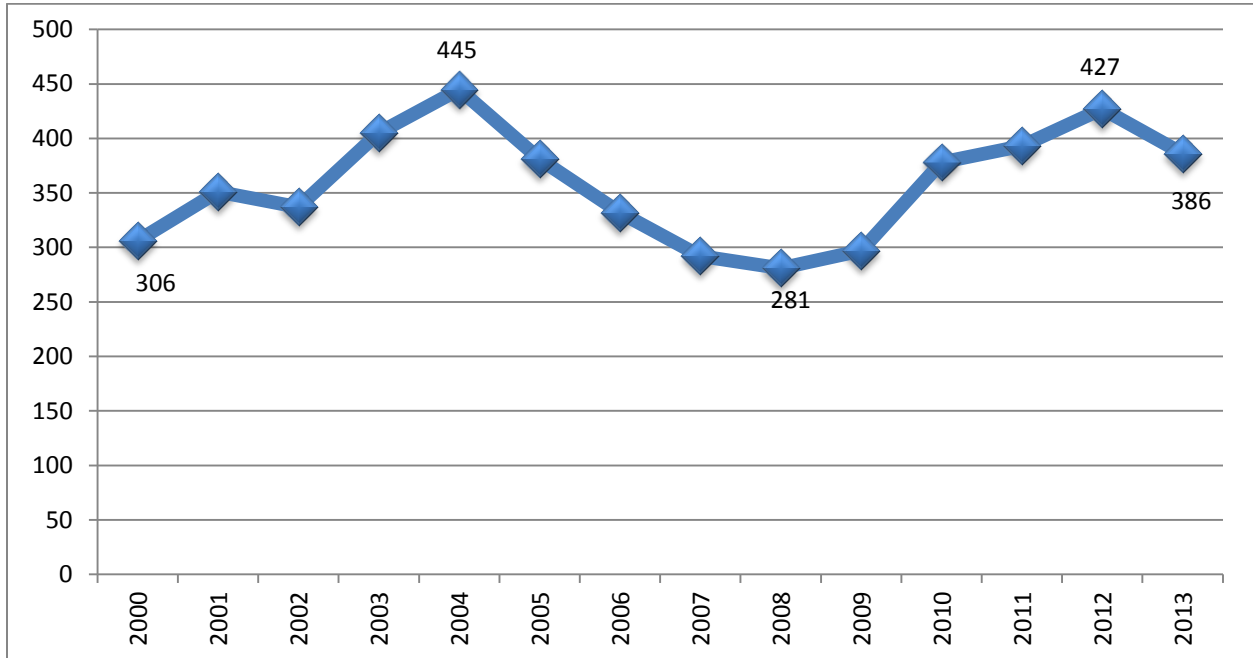


Figure 12 Domestic Violence Protection Orders Filed, 2000 - 2013

The number of domestic violence protection orders filed decreased in 2013, after increasing steadily for the four years prior.

¹⁹ Courts in this data set include: Whatcom County District and Superior Courts, and Lummi and Nooksack Tribal Courts.

Intimate Partner Fatalities²⁰

In 2013, there were:

- 1 intimate partner homicide in Whatcom County.
- 2 total homicides in Whatcom County.

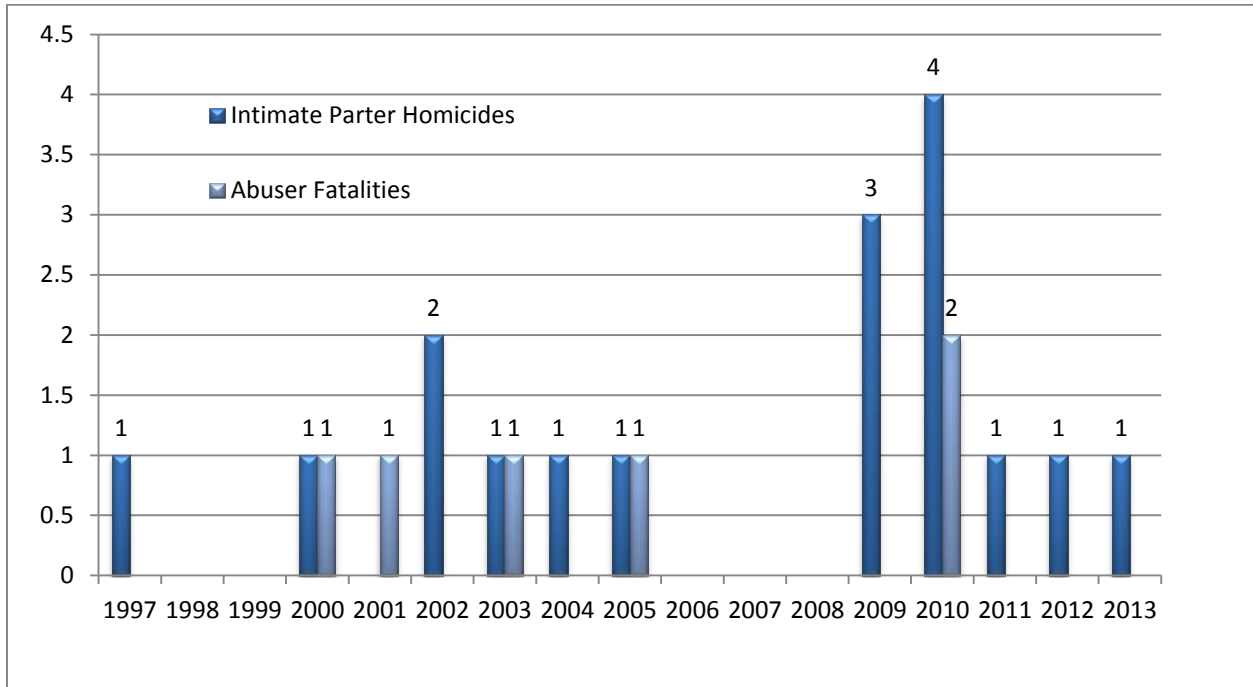


Figure 13 Intimate Partner Fatalities in Whatcom County, 1997 – 2013

In 2013, there was one intimate partner fatality in Whatcom County. Since 2009, there have been 12 intimate partner fatalities in Whatcom County.

On December 15, 2013, Ike Puis Scarborough, 33, was beaten by his girlfriend’s ex-boyfriend, David Solomon Jr, 34. Ike’s girlfriend had recently broken up with David and he was harassing her about her new relationship. David came to a hotel where Ike and the woman were staying. He broke the door down and beat Ike until he was nearly dead. Ike died the next day from injuries.

²⁰ This data, provided by the Washington State Coalition Against Domestic Violence (WSCADV), is for intimate partner violence fatalities. Other data in this report is for all domestic violence, which includes both intimate partner violence and family violence (e.g. an adult child against a parent, or two adult siblings).

Intimate Partner Fatalities (continued)

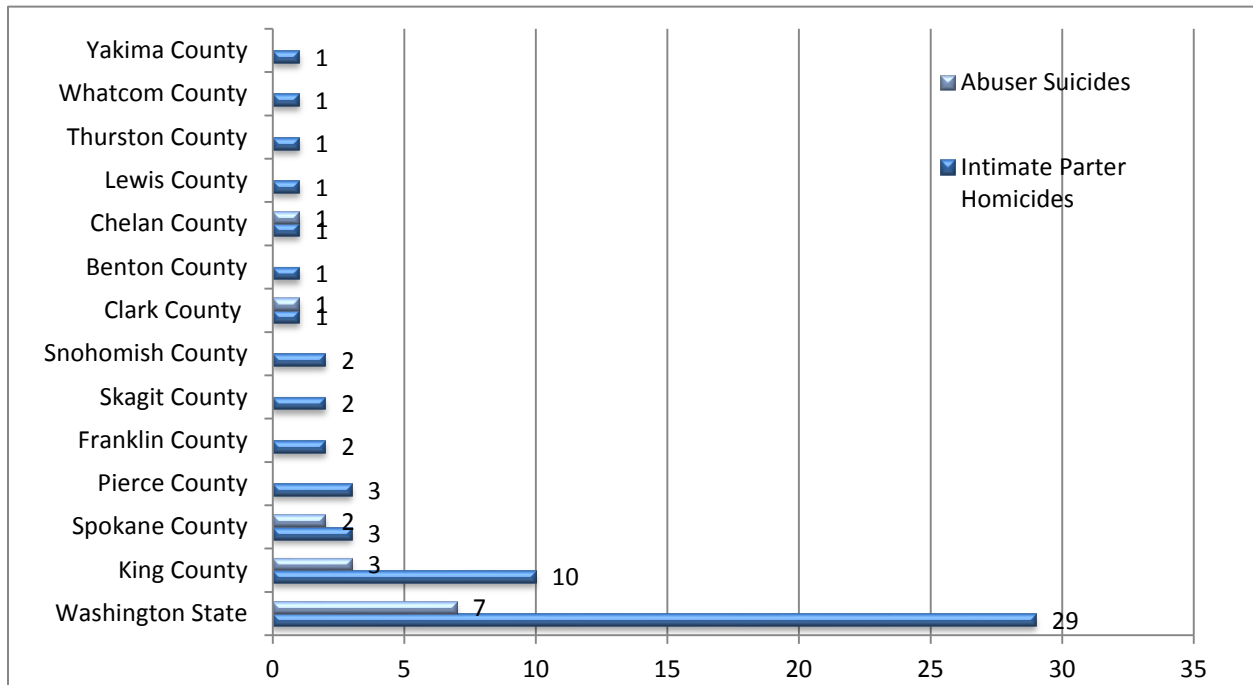


Figure 14 Intimate Partner Fatalities in Washington State, 2013

Figure 14 shows all counties in Washington State with one or more intimate partner fatalities in 2013, and the total number of intimate partner fatalities in Washington State in 2013.

In Whatcom County in 2013, there was one fatality associated with intimate partner violence. Washington State had a total of 36 intimate partner fatalities in 2013.

Stalking²¹: Law Enforcement and the Courts

Note: A definition for stalking can be found in the Glossary on page 30.

Stalking Offenses: Law Enforcement

In 2013:

- A total of 19 stalking offenses were reported by Whatcom County law enforcement agencies.²²

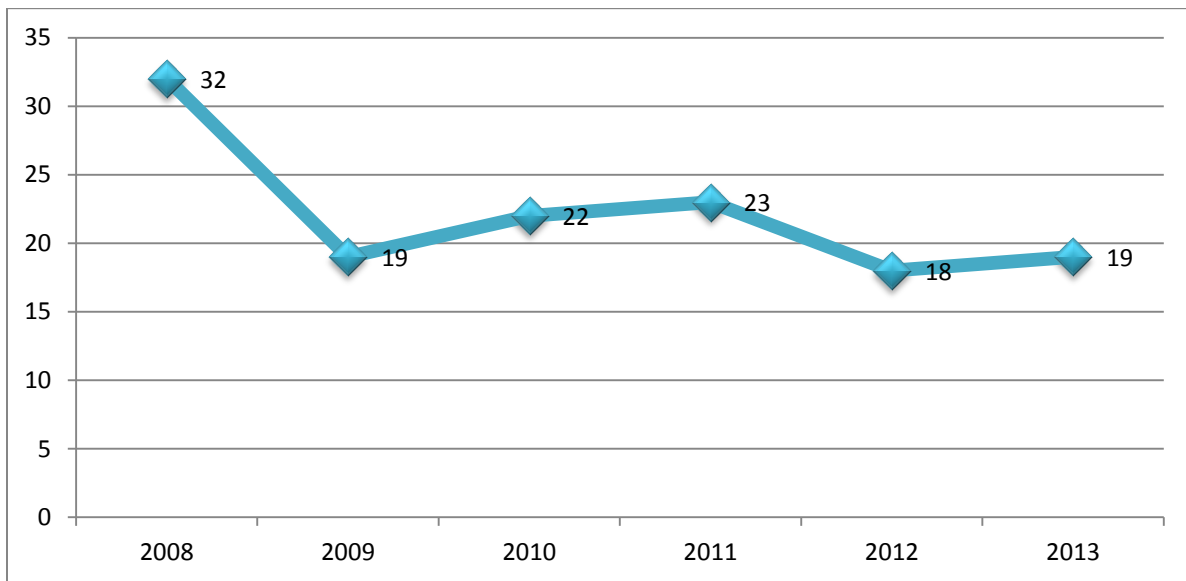


Figure 15 Stalking Offenses Reported to Whatcom County Law Enforcement Agencies, 2008 - 2013

Stalking offenses reported by all Whatcom County law enforcement agencies dropped significantly from 2008 to 2009, and then have remained steady from 2009 through 2013.

²¹ Unlike other data in this report, stalking data include both domestic violence and other stalking (e.g. stranger stalking).

²² Law enforcement agencies in this data set include: Bellingham, Blaine, Everson, Ferndale, Lynden, and Sumas Police Departments; Whatcom County Sheriff's Office; and Lummi and Nooksack Tribal Police Departments.

Misdemeanor Stalking Charges Filed²³

In 2013:

- 16 misdemeanor stalking charges were filed in Whatcom County Courts.

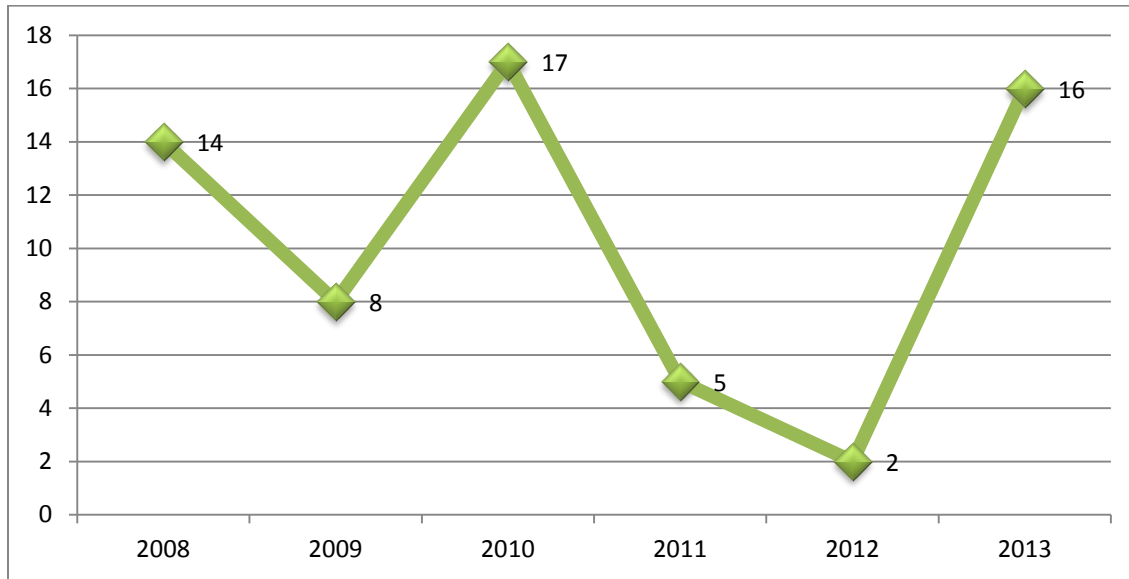


Figure 16 Misdemeanor Stalking Charges Filed in Whatcom County Courts, 2008 – 2013

In 2013, there were 7 stalking charges filed in Bellingham Municipal Court; 6 stalking charges filed in Blaine Municipal Court; and 3 stalking charges filed in Whatcom County District Court.

Total misdemeanor stalking charges filed in 2013 increased significantly from 2011 and 2012 numbers. The number of misdemeanor stalking charges filed in Whatcom County courts has varied widely from year to year over the six years for which data is reported.

²³ Whatcom County Courts in this data set include: Bellingham, Blaine, Everson-Nooksack, Ferndale, Lynden, and Sumas Municipal Courts; Lummi and Nooksack Tribal Courts; and Whatcom County District Court.

Felony Stalking Charges Filed

In 2013:

- 7 felony stalking charges were filed in Whatcom County Superior Court.



Figure 17 Felony Stalking Charges Filed in Whatcom County Superior Court, 2007 – 2013

The number of felony stalking charges filed in Whatcom County Superior Court has varied widely from year to year over the six-year time period for which data is reported.

Domestic Violence in Whatcom County: Services

Perpetrators: Evaluation and Domestic Violence Treatment²⁴

In 2013:

- 224 individuals completed Domestic Violence Evaluations.
- 180 individuals were in domestic violence perpetrator treatment at some point during the year.

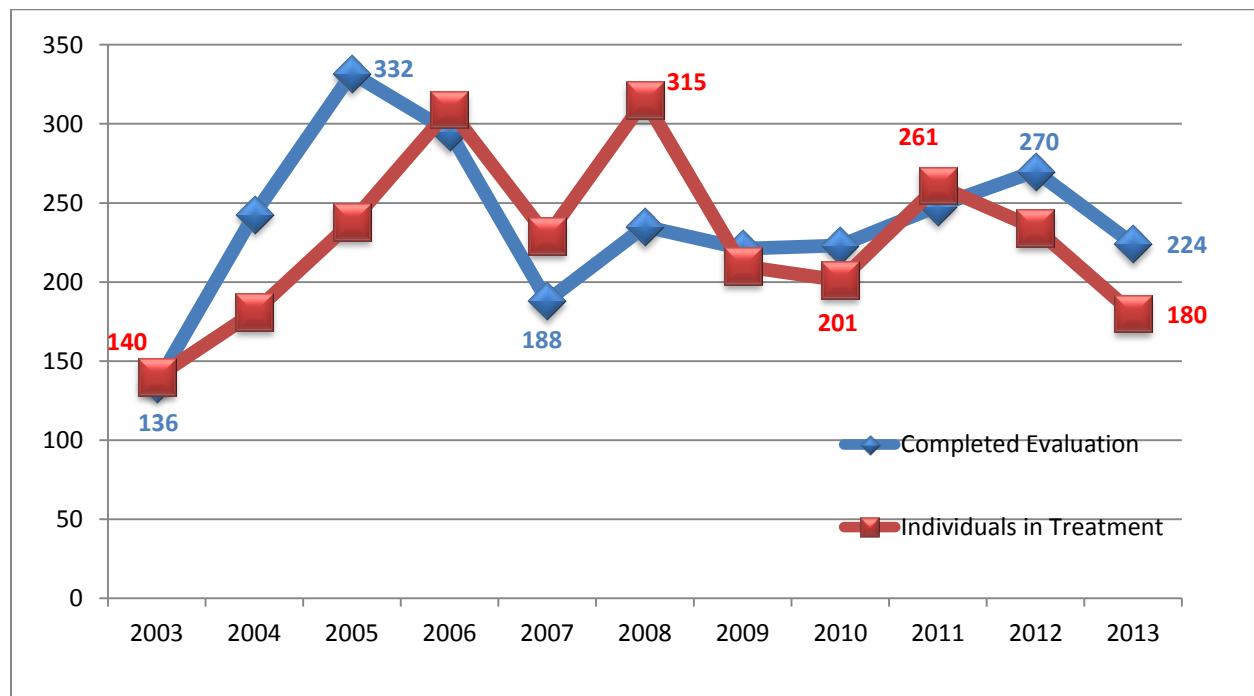


Figure 18 Domestic Violence Perpetrators: Evaluation and Treatment, 2003 - 2013²⁵

In 2013, 224 individuals completed a domestic violence evaluation, and 180 individuals participated in domestic violence treatment at some point in the year. The number of individuals who completed DV Evaluations (224) is notably lower than the average of 237 for the time period since 2003; it is also lower than the numbers from the past two years. The number of individuals in treatment at some point during the year (180) is significantly below the average of 227 for the time period since 2003, and the lowest number since this data started being collected in 2003.

There have been additions and subtractions to the data sources over the past two years. Between 2003 and 2010, the data was from Violence Intervention Professionals and Waterfront Counseling. In 2011, data was included from the Lummi Behavior Accountability Program as well; in 2012, data from Imaginative Solutions and Relationship Resources was collected in addition to the other three programs. In 2013, data from Imaginative Solutions was not collected, as that treatment program was no longer operating.

²⁴ In 2013, perpetrator treatment providers in this data set include: Lummi Behavior Accountability Program, Relationship Resources, Violence Intervention Professionals, and Waterfront Counseling.

²⁵ Includes individuals in treatment at any point during the calendar year.

Perpetrators: Evaluation and Domestic Violence Treatment (continued)

In 2013:

- 28 percent of all individuals in Domestic Violence Perpetrator Treatment completed treatment that year.
- 21 percent of all individuals in Domestic Violence Perpetrator Treatment were terminated due to noncompliance or arrest.

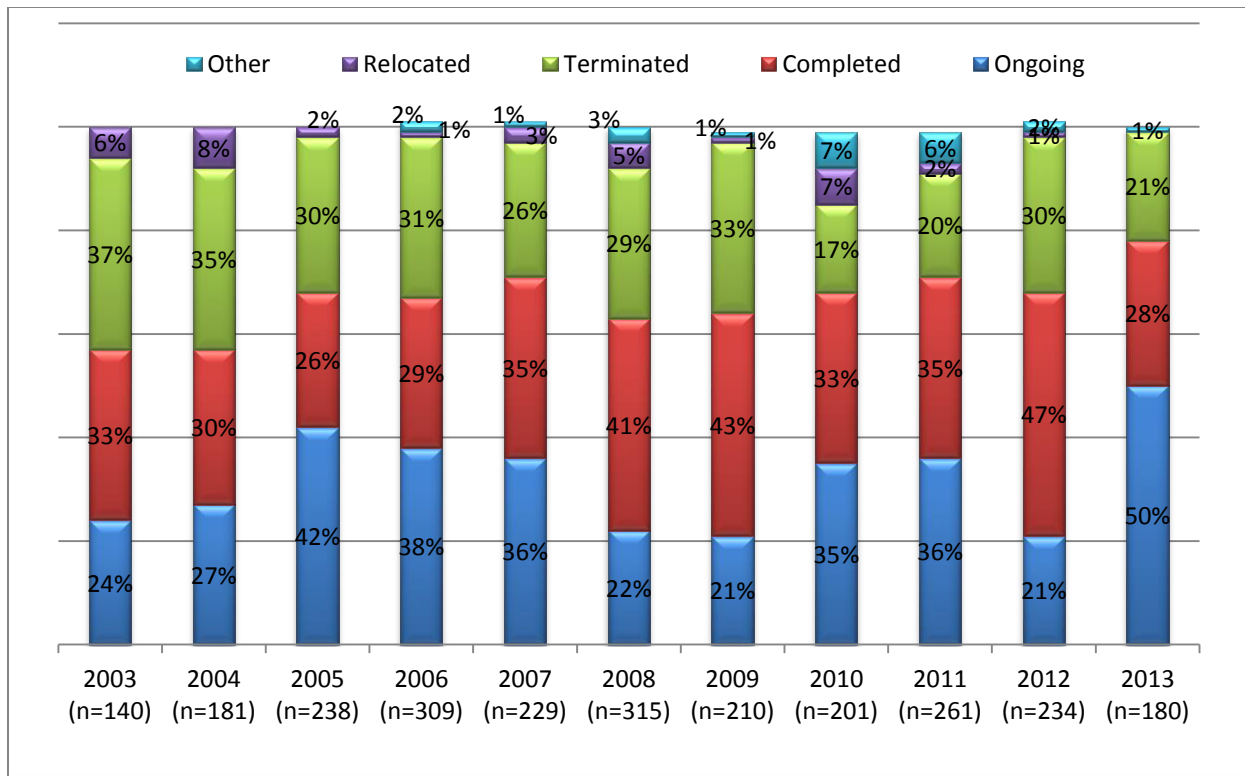


Figure 19 Domestic Violence Perpetrators: Treatment Status, 2003 - 2013^{26 27}

Since 2003, an average of 227 individuals has received perpetrator treatment at some point each year. An average of 32 percent of these individuals has been in ongoing treatment at the end of each year, an average of 35 percent has completed treatment, and an average of 28 percent has terminated for non-compliance and/or arrest.

²⁶ Due to rounding, the percentages may not add up to exactly 100%.

²⁷ Includes individuals in treatment at any point during the calendar year.

Victims: Domestic Violence Advocacy Services

In 2013, Whatcom County's domestic violence advocacy agencies provided more than 1,700 victims of domestic violence with the following:

- 115 women and 98 children were housed in safe and confidential emergency shelter.
- 35 families were placed in permanent housing through the DV Housing First Program.
- 1,488 domestic violence victims received a wide array of advocacy and other supportive services.

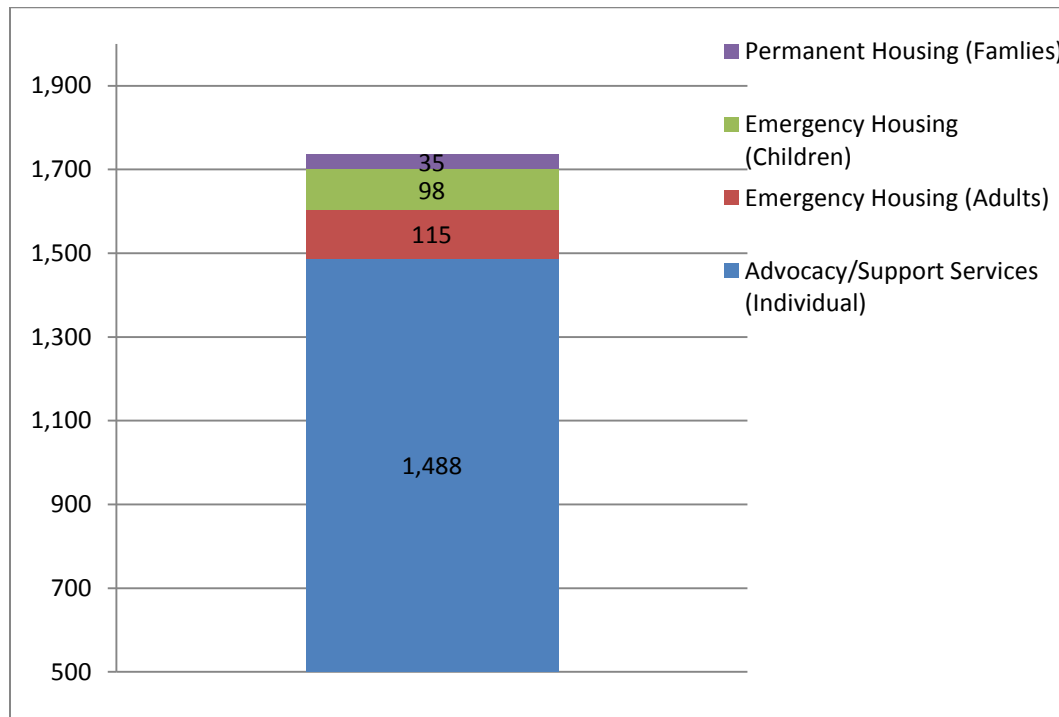


Figure 20 Domestic Violence Victims Served, 2013

These numbers include data from the following agencies:

- *Consultation and Sexual Assault Services (CASAS)*, at Western Washington University. CASAS provides on-going emotional support, medical/legal assistance, professional advocacy, information and referral, support groups, and academic advocacy.
- *Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault Services of Whatcom County (DVSAS)*. DVSAS provides advocacy counseling, legal advocacy, advocacy with Work First clients, and support groups.
- *Lummi Victims of Crime (LVOC)*. LVOC provides crisis intervention, support groups, legal advocacy, shelter, housing case management, and culturally relevant healing services.
- *Womencare Shelter*. Womencare Shelter provides emergency housing, housing case management, support groups, on-going advocacy, and legal advocacy.

Note: This is the first year that data from all agencies is being combined; therefore, there is no longitudinal data available. However, we believe this will provide a fuller picture of the numbers of domestic violence victims seeking and receiving safe housing, advocacy, and other support services in Whatcom County. There may be some duplication, as each agency uses separate and confidential tracking systems; therefore, if an individual or family sought services from more than one agency, that person(s) would be counted more than once.

Domestic Violence and Homelessness in Whatcom County

In 2014:

- 29 percent of those counted as homeless during the Whatcom County Homeless Count²⁸ listed domestic violence as a cause of homelessness, for a total of 102 households.

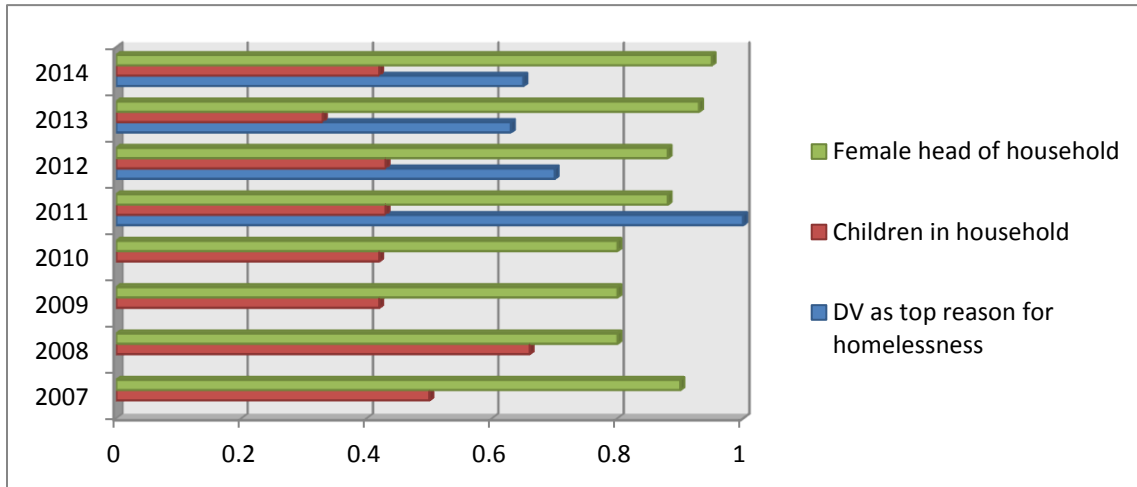


Figure 21 Demographics of Whatcom County Households, Homeless due to Domestic Violence, 2007 – 2014

In the eight years that Whatcom County has been conducting the point-in-time count, an average of 21 percent of those counted as homeless have listed domestic violence as a cause of homelessness, with an average of 75 percent citing domestic violence as a top reason. On average, 87 percent of those had female heads of household and 45 percent had children in the household. These homeless households may be residing in emergency shelter, a motel, or transitional housing; or unsheltered.

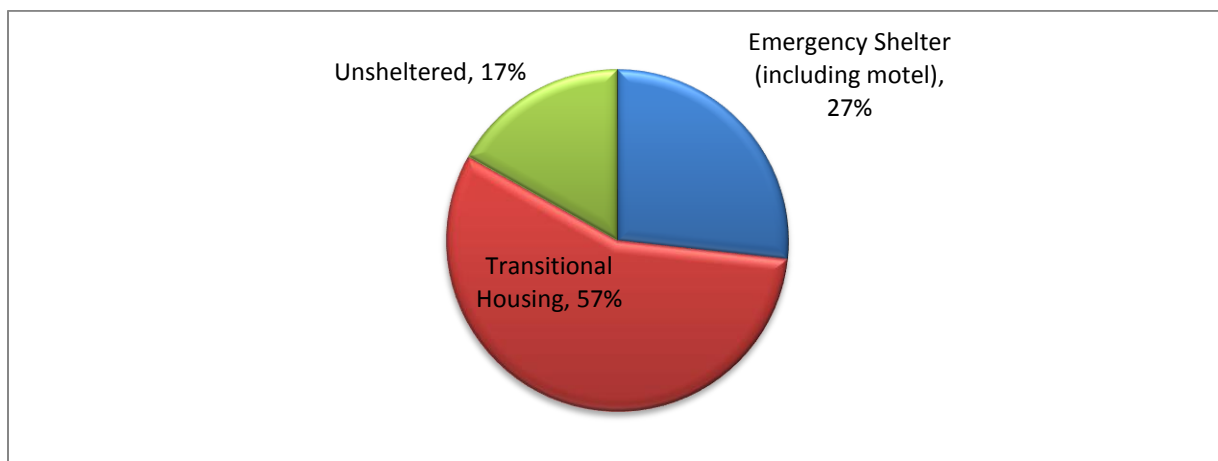


Figure 22 Location of Whatcom County Households, Homeless due to Domestic Violence, 2014

²⁸ The Whatcom County Homeless Count is a point-in-time census of homeless residents conducted on one day in Whatcom County.

Appendix A: Glossary

Domestic Violence, as defined by service providers

This is a working definition used by domestic violence perpetrator treatment and domestic violence victim service providers. Domestic violence is defined as a pattern of behavior used by an individual to establish and maintain coercive control over one's intimate partner. Domestic violence consists of physical, sexual, psychological, and/or emotional abuse and can be verbal or non-verbal.

Domestic Violence, as defined by the law

This is a definition used by the civil and criminal justice systems, including law enforcement, prosecution, probation, jails, and the courts. Washington State law (RCW26.50.010(1)) reads: "Domestic violence means:

- (a) Physical harm, bodily injury, assault, or the infliction of fear of imminent physical harm, bodily injury or assault, between family or household members;
- (b) sexual assault of one family or household member by another; or
- (c) stalking as defined in RCW 9A.46.110 of one family or household member by another family or household member."

Domestic Violence Offenses

Under Washington State law, an offense is considered to be domestic violence-related if it is committed by a family member (regardless of the family relationship) or by a household member. Domestic violence offenses can include, but are not limited to, crimes in the following categories: aggravated assault, simple assault, intimidation, burglary, larceny, motor vehicle theft, kidnapping, rape, violation of a no contact/protection order, and murder.

Felony Domestic Violence

Felony domestic violence crimes are defined as occurring when there is a family, household, or dating relationship, and one or both parties commit a crime against the person or property of the other. The nature of the charges filed may include both physical and non-physical assault offenses, including but not limited to, felony harassment/threats, violation of a no contact order, burglary, malicious mischief, robbery, kidnapping, unlawful imprisonment, assault and murder. The superior courts in the State of Washington have sole jurisdiction over the adjudication of cases when a felony offense is charged.

Misdemeanor Domestic Violence

Misdemeanor domestic violence crimes occur when there is a family, household, or dating relationship, and one or both parties commit a crime against the person or property of the other. Examples of this type of crime include: Violation of a Protection Order; Assault 4th Degree; Malicious Mischief; Disorderly Conduct; and Interfering with Reporting of Domestic Violence. Courts of Limited Jurisdiction (District and Municipal Courts) and Tribal Courts have jurisdiction over domestic violence related misdemeanors committed within their area of authority.

Verbal Domestic Violence

Law enforcement officers are frequently called to respond to situations that are categorized as "Domestic Violence – No Assault", or "Verbal Domestic Violence". These are incidents where law enforcement determines that no physical assault occurred, and/or where no other conditions were met to warrant probable cause for an arrest.

Jail Bookings

Due to inadequate jail space, Whatcom County Jail has had to prioritize those offenses that will be accepted for booking (versus being issued a citation and released). For the past several years, domestic violence offenses have been prioritized and typically accepted for booking. Comparatively, significant restrictions have been imposed on most other bookings. As a result, domestic violence-related offenses represent a significant proportion of jail bookings relative to all criminal bookings. Until space issues are remediated, accurate estimates regarding the proportion of offenders booked into jail for domestic violence-related offenses (versus all other offenses) will not be able to be determined.

Probation Services

Whatcom County District Court Probation provides probation services for Whatcom County District Court and the Municipal Courts of Bellingham, Everson-Nooksack, Lynden, Blaine, and Sumas. Lummi Tribal Court and Ferndale Municipal Court provide their own probation services.

Probation services are typically limited to misdemeanor cases, with felony domestic violence cases supervised by the Washington State Department of Corrections. It is important to note that the number of new referrals to probation does not correspond to the actual number of individuals requiring supervision by that department. For example, a single incident may result in two domestic violence charges. If the individual responsible for this incident is mandated to pre-trial probation supervision by the courts, the probation department counts this as two new referrals (corresponding to the number of charges). If during the same calendar year that same individual is convicted of one of those domestic violence charges and is ordered to two years of probation supervision, this is counted as an additional referral by the department. In summary, this individual's case will result in three new domestic violence probation referrals in one calendar year.

Intimate Partner Violence Fatalities

Intimate partner fatalities, as defined by the Washington State Coalition Against Domestic Violence (WSCADV) domestic violence fatality review, is a death that arises from an abuser's efforts to assert power and control over an intimate partner. Fatalities include:

- Homicides in which the victim was a current or former intimate partner of the person responsible for the homicide
- Homicides of people other than the intimate partner that occur in the context of intimate partner violence, or in the midst of a perpetrator's attempt to kill an intimate partner (for example, situations in which an abuser kills a current or former partner's friend, family member, or new intimate partner, or a law enforcement officer)
- Homicides that are an extension of or in response to ongoing intimate partner abuse (for example, cases in which an abuser takes revenge on a victim by killing the victim's children)
- Suicides of abusers that happen in the context of intimate partner violence

Protection Orders

A Domestic Violence Protection Order is a civil Court Order available to an individual who is a victim of domestic violence, or who is inflicted with the fear of violence by a family or household member (see RCW 26.50.510 for further definition). In general, Protection Orders may contain stipulations that include prohibiting contact of any kind between the abuser and victim, removing the abuser from a shared residence, awarding temporary custody of the children to the victim and setting parameters for visitation, and/or ordering an abuser to obtain a Domestic Violence Evaluation and Domestic Violence Perpetrator Treatment. Protection Orders are generally sought by individuals who are not involved in

criminal domestic violence cases, individuals for whom a criminal case does not resolve all safety issues, such as temporary custody and visitation arrangements of children, and individuals who are the alleged victim in criminal domestic violence cases which result in no conviction or a dismissal of the charges or case.

Domestic Violence Perpetrator Treatment

Washington Administrative Code 388-60-0025 establishes minimum standards for programs that treat perpetrators of domestic violence. In the State of Washington, the Department of Social and Health Services must certify all domestic violence perpetrator treatment providers. In order to be certified, the program must demonstrate that it meets the standards outlined in WAC 388-60-0025. These state codes assert that the focus of domestic violence perpetrator treatment programs is on ending the program participant's physical, sexual, and psychological abuse. Treatment must be based on strategies and philosophies that hold the participant accountable for the violent and abusive behaviors and are not blaming of the victim. The minimum treatment period for program participants is twenty-six consecutive weekly same gender group sessions followed by monthly sessions until a twelve-month period is complete.

Stalking

According to Washington State Law (RCW 9A.46.110), (1) A person commits the crime of stalking if, without lawful authority and under circumstances not amounting to a felony attempt of another crime: (a) He or she intentionally and repeatedly harasses or repeatedly follows another person; and (b) The person being harassed or followed is placed in fear that the stalker intends to injure the person, another person, or property of the person or of another person. The feeling of fear must be one that a reasonable person in the same situation would experience under all the circumstances; and (c) The stalker either: (i) Intends to frighten, intimidate, or harass the person; or (ii) Knows or reasonably should know that the person is afraid, intimidated, or harassed even if the stalker did not intend to place the person in fear or intimidate or harass the person.

Appendix B: Population Figures

Washington State's Office of Financial Management provided all population rates utilized in this report. Whatcom County and Washington State figures are as follows:

Year	Whatcom County	Washington State
1998	160,220	5,750,033
1999	164,282	5,830,835
2000	166,826	5,894,143
2001	170,600	5,974,910
2002	172,200	6,041,700
2003	174,500	6,098,300
2004	177,300	6,167,800
2005	180,800	6,256,400
2006	184,300	6,375,600
2007	188,300	6,488,000
2008	191,000	6,587,600
2009	193,100	6,668,200
2010	201,140	6,724,540
2011	202,100	6,767,900
2012	203,500	6,817,770
2013	205,800	6,882,400

Table 2 Whatcom County and Washington State Population Figures, 1998 - 2013

Appendix C: Socio-Demographic Data²⁹

Whatcom County and Washington State figures are as follows:

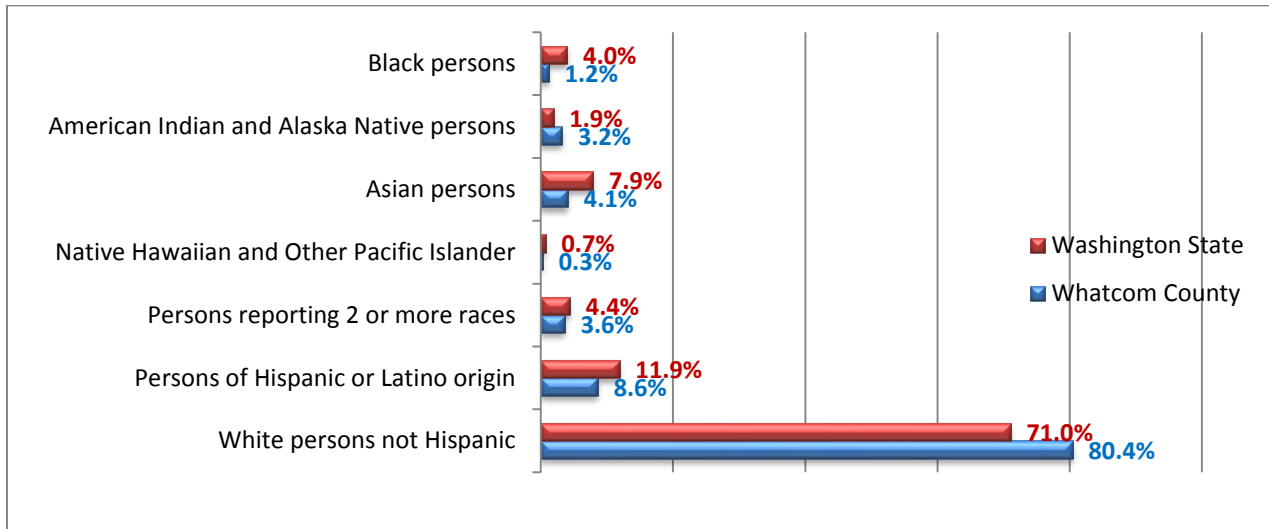


Figure 23 Whatcom County and Washington State Residents' Race and Ethnicity, 2013

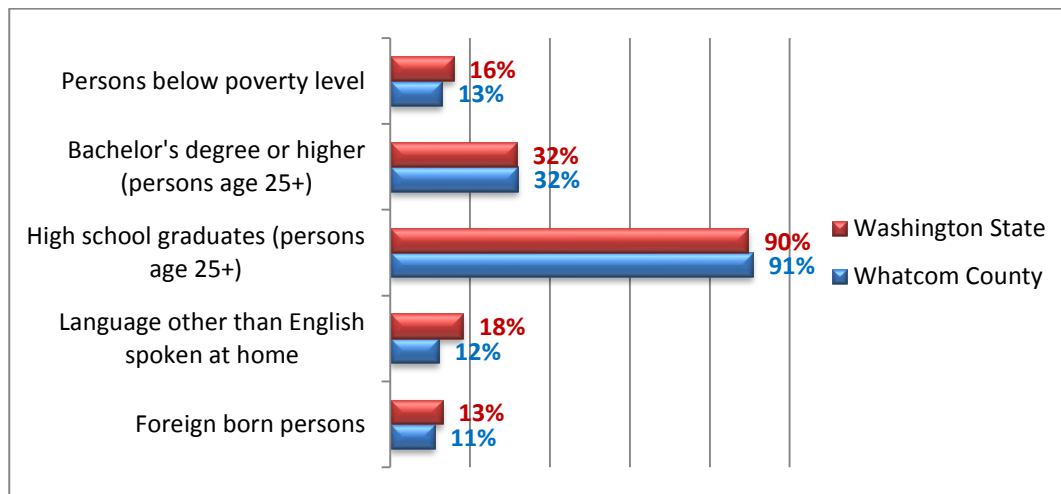


Figure 24 Whatcom County and Washington State Socio-Demographic Data, 2013

	Whatcom County	Washington State
Veterans	15,775	594,914
Households	79,244	2,619,995
Persons per household	2.48	2.52
Per capita money income in past 12 months	26,509	30,661
Median household income	51,639	59,374

Table 3 Whatcom County and Washington State Socio-Demographic Data, 2013

²⁹ The Socio-Demographic Data is from the Whatcom County QuickFacts from the U.S. Census Bureau, and is from 2013.

Acknowledgments

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DV Commission Members: 2014

Laurie Alexander
Karen Burke
Clifford Cook
Regina Delahunt
Mary Dumas
Bill Elfo
Sheri Emerson
Nikki Finkbonner
Gary Jensen
Mike Knapp
Chris Kobdish
Jon Komorowski
Dave McEachran
Kathy McNaughton

Terra Nevitt
Darlene Peterson
Rick Qualls
Linda Quinn
Manuel Reta
Dave Reynolds
Jolie Rhinehart
Mike Riber
Peter Ruffatto
Michael Sledge
Bruce Van Glubt
Greg Winter
Darla Woolman

DV Commission Staff

Susan Marks, Director
Meaghan Connell, Administrative Coordinator
Stacy Miller, STEP Supervisor
Liz Stuart, Project Supervisor



1407 Commercial Street, Bellingham, WA 98225
360.312.5700 | www.dvcommission.org

Providing leadership in our community's efforts to reduce and prevent domestic violence