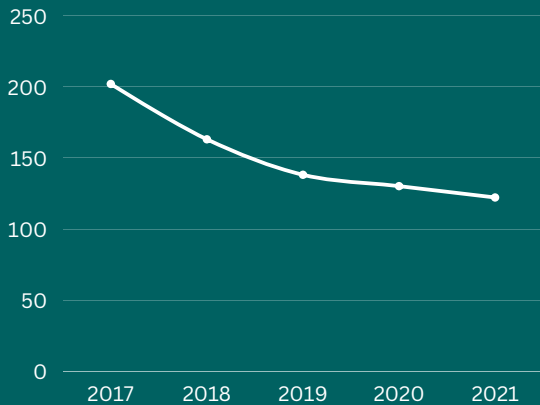




# Sexual & Domestic Violence in Whatcom County 2021



**COMMISSION**  
ON SEXUAL & DOMESTIC VIOLENCE



Reports of sexual assault to law enforcement continue to fall. This does NOT mean there were fewer offenses. Changes to how reports are tracked impacts these statistics.

## Events Impacting Survivors



### November 2021 Floods

Homelessness, trauma, and fewer resources for safety and support

### COVID



Continued isolation; Impacts on services, especially hospital forensic exams



### Protection Order Laws

Transformative changes to POs signed into law



### Changes to Sexual Assault Kit Testing

Progress made on backlog; kits must now be tested within 45 days

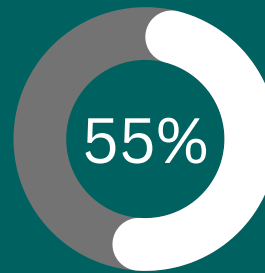


### Threats to Reproductive Justice

Survivors deserve the right to have children, not have children, and parent their children in a safe environment

**Domestic Violence Impacts Homelessness**  
More than half of the 18-24 year olds served by Northwest Youth Services' young adult housing programs experienced domestic violence at some point in their lives.

**11% were fleeing domestic violence.**



2012  5.5 contacts per client

2021  10.9 contacts per client

At DVSAS, the average number of contacts per client has increased significantly from a decade ago

**Read the full report: [dvcommission.org/2021-data-report](https://dvcommission.org/2021-data-report)**