

2003 Domestic Abuse Incident Report

Introduction

The Wisconsin Department of Justice's Office of Crime Victim Services, with the cooperation of district attorneys' offices across the state, presents the Wisconsin Domestic Abuse Incident Report for 2003. The purpose of the report is to provide information about the occurrence of domestic violence in Wisconsin. It uses data reported to the Department of Justice by most counties in the state. The quality of the data presented is entirely dependent on the accuracy and consistency of data collection and reporting procedures at the county level. Therefore, the Department acknowledges all those who make this report possible. If you have any questions regarding the information contained in the 2003 Domestic Abuse Incident Report, please contact the Office of Crime Victim Services at (608) 261-8645.

Acknowledgements

Primary contributors to this report include victim/witness coordinators, law enforcement agencies and support staff in district attorneys' offices across the state. The cooperation of these individuals and agencies makes a statewide report of domestic violence data possible. The Department recognizes that the district attorneys who oversee quality collection and accurate reporting of data from their counties exhibit a sincere dedication to their community, to victims of domestic violence and to efforts to reduce domestic violence through effective public policy.

Report Methodology

Under Wisconsin Statutes, s. 968.075 (9), each county is required to provide data regarding domestic abuse incidents to the Department of Justice. The Wisconsin Domestic Abuse Incident Report uses data entered at the county level into the PROTECT system (a case management system used by a majority of Wisconsin district attorneys' offices) and in counties without PROTECT access, data that was entered into a custom web-based application. Data from January to December of the report year is pulled in July of the following year to allow time for dispositions and sentences to be processed. The data is combined in a DOJ database which generates reports and tables. There is one exception to this methodology: Milwaukee County sends data in paper reports. For that reason, Milwaukee County data is not fully integrated with the tables in this report. The Department and Milwaukee County are working together to develop electronic transfer of data which can be fully integrated with the rest of the counties represented in the report. In the interim, a supplemental Milwaukee County report is compiled from the reports submitted to DOJ.

Definitions

For the purposes of this report, **domestic abuse** is defined by Wisconsin Statutes, s.968.075, as the intentional infliction of physical pain, injury or illness; intentional impairment of physical condition; sexual assault; or a physical act that causes the other person to reasonably fear that any of these actions will occur. Domestic abuse applies to acts engaged in by an **adult** person against his or her spouse, former spouse, an adult with whom the person resides or formerly resided, or an adult with whom the person has a child in common. This report defines an **offender** as a person who perpetrates **domestic abuse** and has contact with a law enforcement agency as a result of the offense, regardless of whether an arrest is made. The **victim** is defined as a person who is the target of domestic abuse and has contact with a law enforcement agency as a result, regardless of whether an arrest is made. An **incident** is defined as a single occurrence of domestic abuse that is reported to the district attorney's office.

The report does not include statistics of child victims or perpetrators under age 18, with the exception of the *Domestic Homicide* report.

Limitations

Racine County does not contribute data for the report and therefore is not represented in any of the data sets.

The Domestic Abuse Incident Report reflects only those incidents reported to law enforcement *and* referred to district attorney's offices. For a variety of reasons, such as fear for safety, lack of resources, religious beliefs and personal philosophy, domestic abuse is often not reported to law enforcement. Therefore, the data should be used as a significant representation of domestic violence in Wisconsin, but not as a complete picture.

The Department of Justice is completing a five-year project to automate and streamline data collection and presentation. Statistics in this report should not be directly compared to statistics from previous reports due to the significant difference in methodology. Reports from 2003 forward can be compared to one another.

The most significant limitation to this report is that some Milwaukee County statistics are presented independently of the other reporting counties. Future reports will integrate Milwaukee County data into all data sets presented.

Any reference to a statute reflects the statute as it was worded during the year of this report.

Reports

Reports marked with an "" asterisk include Milwaukee County data*

**2003 Domestic Abuse Incident Report: Executive Summary*

2003 Domestic Abuse Incident Report: Victim/Offender Relationship, Ethnicity, Gender, Age

2003 Domestic Abuse Incident Report: Arrest Data

**2003 Domestic Abuse Incident Report: County Comparison By Population: Incidents & Arrests*

**2003 Domestic Abuse Incident Report: Top Charges Issued Statewide & Milwaukee County*

2003 Domestic Abuse Incident Report: Disposition of Charges

2003 Domestic Abuse Incident Report: Sentencing Reports

**2003 Domestic Abuse Incident Report: Milwaukee County*

**2003 Domestic Abuse Incident Report: Domestic Homicide Statistics*