Domestic Violence in Whatcom County, 1998 - 2010
Eighth Annual Domestic Violence Benchmark Report

Published October 2011
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Executive Summary

This is the eighth annual Benchmark 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), and Office of Financial Management, as well as local Whatcom County agencies including courts, law enforcement, prosecution, probation, perpetrator treatment providers, and victim service providers.

Many of the domestic violence indicators across the criminal and civil justice systems have been on the decline or remained steady over the past few years. For example, domestic violence offenses have been steady for the Bellingham Police Department since 2008, and for all other law enforcement agencies since 2006, while verbal domestics for all law enforcement agencies have been fairly steady since 2006. Additionally, the per capita rate of domestic violence in Whatcom County has been steadily decreasing since a peak in 2005, even while the rate in Washington State has increased since 2008.

The types and numbers of domestic violence offenses have also been similar over past years. Simple Assault (Misdemeanor Assault) continually accounts for more than half of all domestic violence offenses, and Order Violations (No Contact Orders or Protection Orders) for an additional one-third. The number of Misdemeanor Charges Filed and Resolved has remained steady since 2007, and Felony Charges Filed has consistently represented 10 – 14 percent of all felonies filed each year since 2001.

Several domestic violence indicators have increased. Domestic violence-related jail bookings increased significantly from 2009 to 2010, after having remained steady for the previous four years, and was at its highest level since 2004. In addition, domestic violence-related jail bookings were a higher percentage of total jail bookings in 2010 than in 2009. Probation referrals for domestic violence also saw a slight increase in 2010, and Domestic Violence Protection Orders Filed significantly increased in 2010. These increases could be partially attributed to rising population in Whatcom County.

Intimate partner fatalities also increased significantly in 2009 and then again in 2010. In 2010, Whatcom County had the third highest number of intimate partner fatalities of all Counties in the State of Washington (after King and Pierce Counties). This indicator underlies anecdotal information provided by law enforcement and prosecutors that although the rates of domestic violence are decreasing, the severity of violence within domestic violence incidents is increasing.

No clear trends have emerged from the data on perpetrator treatment. Meanwhile, for victim services, the number of victims receiving services from Crime and Sexual Assault Services (CASAS) has increased for the past four years; Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault Services (DVSAS) has decreased for the past four years (in part due to changes in their tracking system); Womencare Helpline has increased for the past four years; Womencare Shelter increased in 2010 after slight decreases each year for three years; and Lummi Victims of Crime has decreased for the past four years.

Data limitations prevent a causal analysis of the changes described above. Significant enhancement of existing data collection methodologies would be required to adequately address such questions.\(^2\)

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\(^1\) More information about the DV Commission, in addition to past Benchmark Reports, is at [www.dvcommission.org](http://www.dvcommission.org).

\(^2\) The issues related to data collection and analysis are addressed on pages 5 – 6 of the March 2005 Report: “Domestic Violence in Whatcom County: A Compilation of Data”, which can be found at [www.dvcommission.org/assets](http://www.dvcommission.org/assets).
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Domestic Violence in Whatcom County: Law Enforcement

Domestic Violence Offenses

In 2010:

- Whatcom County Law Enforcement Agencies reported a total of 1,240 domestic violence offenses.
- The Bellingham Police Department (BPD) reported 527 domestic violence offenses.
- The Whatcom County Sheriff’s Office (WCSO) reported 388 domestic violence offenses.
- 325 domestic violence offenses were reported by all other law enforcement agencies, including Lummi Nation and Nooksack Tribal Police Departments; Blaine, Everson-Nooksack, Ferndale, Lynden and Sumas Police Departments; and Western Washington University Police.

Figure 1 illustrates numbers of domestic violence offenses as reported by all Whatcom County Law Enforcement Agencies between 1998 and 2010. To see the breakdown of DV offenses by jurisdiction for 2010, see Table 1 on page 9.

![Figure 1 Domestic Violence Offenses: Whatcom County, 1998 – 2010](image)

The total number of offenses reported from both BPD and WCSO has declined since a peak in 2005, and has remained fairly steady over the past three years, while the number reported from all other Whatcom County law enforcement agencies has been fairly steady since 1998.

Domestic violence continues to represent a consistent proportion of the total criminal offenses that are reported in Whatcom County. In 2010, as in preceding years, approximately 13.4 percent of all reported criminal offenses in Whatcom County were domestic violence-related; in Washington State in 2010, approximately 14.6 percent of all reported criminal offenses were domestic violence related.

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3 Data on domestic violence offenses is from the Washington Association of Sheriffs & Police Chiefs. A definition and explanation of domestic violence offenses can be found in the glossary on page 27.
Per Capita Rates of Domestic Violence Offenses\

In 2010:
- Whatcom County’s per capita rate of domestic violence offenses was 6.2.
- The per capita rate of domestic violence for Washington State was slightly higher at 7.3.

Figure 2 illustrates both Whatcom County and Washington State per capita rates of domestic violence offenses between 1998 and 2010.

![Figure 2 Domestic Violence Per Capita: Whatcom County and Washington State Offenses per 1,000 Residents, 1998 - 2010](image)

Whatcom County’s per capita rate of domestic violence has been on a downward trend since a peak in 2004. Washington State’s per capita rate had also been on the decline between 2005 and 2008, but then has increased over the past two years.

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4 Per capita rate is defined as the number of reported domestic violence offenses for every 1,000 residents.
Verbal Domestics and Domestic Violence Offenses

In 2010:

- **1,529 verbal domestics** were reported by Whatcom County law enforcement agencies.
- **1,240 domestic violence offenses** were reported by Whatcom County law enforcement agencies.

Figure 3 compares the number of reported domestic violence offenses to the number of reported verbal domestics in each of the years evaluated.

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. Every year since 2006, all other law enforcement agencies in Whatcom County responded to more verbal domestics than domestic violence offenses.

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

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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 and Nooksack reservations.
Domestic Violence Offenses by Category of Crime

In 2010:

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

Figure 4 illustrates domestic violence offenses by category as reported by all Whatcom County law enforcement agencies in 2010.

Figure 4 Domestic Violence Offenses in Whatcom County by Category of Crime, 2010

In 2010, Simple Assault (Misdemeanor Assault) represented the largest category of domestic violence related crime with 53 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 7 percent of reported domestic violence offenses. Homicide represents 0.2 percent of Domestic Violence Offenses and is included with the Aggravated Assault (see pages 17 - 18 for more data on intimate partner homicides). Order Violations (i.e. violations of No Contact Orders or Orders of Protection, some of which are misdemeanors and some of which are felonies) constituted a third of domestic violence offenses (34 percent). Other domestic violence offenses included Property Crimes (4 percent) and Rape (2 percent).

The percentages in these categories have been consistent for the past several years. In general, Simple Assault (Misdemeanor Assault) has accounted for more than half of domestic violence offenses, Order Violations for approximately one-third, Aggravated Assault (or Felony Assault) for 6 – 7 percent, Property Crimes for 4 – 6 percent, and Rape for 1 – 2 percent.

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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

Table 1 shows Verbal Domestics, Domestic Violence Offenses, and Domestic Violence Misdemeanor Charges Filed broken down by jurisdiction. Note that there may be some duplication between the WCSO, Tribal and University police departments, and other jurisdictions.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>JURISDICTION (POPULATION)</th>
<th>VERBAL DOMESTICS</th>
<th>DV OFFENSES</th>
<th>DV MISDEMEANORS</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>BELLINGHAM (80,885)</td>
<td>744</td>
<td>527</td>
<td>429</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BLAINE (4,684)</td>
<td>66</td>
<td>43</td>
<td>37</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FERNDALE (11,415)</td>
<td>126</td>
<td>81</td>
<td>97</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LYNDEN (11,951)</td>
<td>40</td>
<td>58</td>
<td>28</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SUMAS (1,319)</td>
<td>21</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>28</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EVERSON &amp; NOOKSACK (3,821)</td>
<td>46</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>22</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WHATCOM COUNTY SHERIFF’S OFFICE (87,065)</td>
<td>346</td>
<td>388</td>
<td>349</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LUMMI RESERVATION (6,500)</td>
<td>116</td>
<td>105</td>
<td>81</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NOOKSACK HOUSING (400)</td>
<td>24</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>Unavailable</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WESTERN WASHINGTON UNIVERSITY</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>N/A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TOTAL</td>
<td>1,529</td>
<td>1,240</td>
<td>1,071</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Table 1 Domestic Violence Data by Jurisdiction: 2010

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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 2010 population of 201,140. Some of the numbers may be generated within the municipal limits and the Indian reservations.

9 Out of the 6,500 reservation residents, only 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, only 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.
Domestic Violence in Whatcom County: Jail and the Courts

Jail Bookings

*In 2010:*

- The Whatcom County Jail reported *1,420* domestic violence-related bookings.

Figure 5 illustrates the number of domestic violence-related jail bookings between 2002 and 2010.

![Figure 5 Domestic Violence Jail Bookings](chart.png)

Between 2002 and 2010, an average of *1,241* 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 *18 percent* of total bookings in 2010. This is an increase from 2009, when total domestic violence consisted of *14 percent* of all jail bookings. The reason for this increase is 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

In 2010:

- Whatcom County Courts reported 1,071 misdemeanor domestic violence-related charge filings.¹¹

Figure 6 illustrates the number of misdemeanor domestic violence charges filed in Whatcom County Courts between 1998 and 2010.

The number of DV Misdemeanors filed in 2010 is a slight decrease from the number filed in 2009, but continues a four-year trend of steady DV Misdemeanor filings.

¹¹ Whatcom County Courts in this data set include: Whatcom County District Court; Lummi Tribal Courts; and Bellingham, Ferndale, Sumas, Lynden, Everson-Nooksack, and Blaine Municipal Courts.
DV Misdemeanor Charges: Resolutions

In 2010:

- Whatcom County Courts\(^\text{12}\) reported 997 misdemeanor domestic-violence charges resolved.
- 54 percent of misdemeanor charges resolved were found guilty (this includes charges found guilty, amended\(^\text{13}\), and guilty with deferred prosecution revoked).
- 45 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 prosecution\(^\text{14}\) status, and less than 1 percent was found not guilty.

Figure 7 illustrates the outcomes of those domestic violence misdemeanor charges resolved in 2010.

**Figure 7 Domestic Violence Misdemeanors: Resolution of Charges**

The outcomes of domestic violence misdemeanor charges resolved in the past five years have remained steady. Guilty dispositions, including charges amended, have consistently accounted for more than half of all outcomes; Dismissed for between 40 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.

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\(^{12}\) Whatcom County Courts in this data set include: Whatcom County District Court; Lummi Tribal Courts; and Bellingham, Ferndale, Sumas, Lynden, Everson-Nooksack, and Blaine Municipal Courts.

\(^{13}\) 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.

\(^{14}\) 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 upon completion.
Felony Cases: Filings and Resolutions

In 2010:

- The Whatcom County Prosecutor’s Office reported filing 187 felony domestic violence-related cases.
- 85 percent of felony DV cases resolved in 2010 were found or pled guilty (this includes the 43 percent of cases wherein the defendant pled to amended charges).

Figure 8 shows the number of felony domestic violence cases filed by the Whatcom Prosecutor’s Office as a proportion of all felonies filed within a given year.

![Figure 8 Domestic Violence Felony CasesFiled as a Percentage of All Felonies Filed, 2001 - 2010](image)

The number of domestic violence felony filings dropped again between 2009 and 2010. The number of felony domestic violence cases filed by the Whatcom County Prosecutor’s has averaged at 209 over the past ten years, with a low point of 162 in 2001 and a peak of 276 in 2005. When looking at domestic violence felonies as a proportion of all felonies, there is even less variation from year to year, with domestic violence cases making up between 10 – 14 percent of all felonies each year.
Figure 9 illustrates the outcome of felony domestic violence cases that were resolved in 2010.

Over the 2010 calendar year, there were a significant number of domestic violence felony cases resolved (n=198). With respect to the outcomes of these cases, a majority of cases were resolved with either “Guilty” or “Amended” classifications, (42 percent and 43 percent, respectively). The remainder resulted in “Dismissed” (6 percent), or “Other” (9 percent) classifications.

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35 N = the number of cases adjudicated in the calendar year of 2010.
36 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 2010:

- Whatcom County District Court Probation was referred 695 domestic violence-related charges for supervision.

Figure 10 shows all domestic violence charges referred to Whatcom County District Court Probation during the years 1998 through 2010.

![Figure 10 Whatcom County District Court Probation: Domestic Violence Charges for Supervision, 1998 - 2010](image)

In 2010, Whatcom County District Court Probation was referred a total of 695 domestic violence-related charges for supervision. This is a slight increase from the 668 referrals in 2009, which was in turn a substantial drop from the 896 referrals in 2008, and a break from the trend of increasing referrals since 2000.

However, the supervision rates catalogued between 2007 and 2010 cannot be compared to preceding years based on 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 all of 2008, 2009, and 2010.
Domestic Violence Protection Orders

In 2010:

- **378 Domestic Violence Protection Orders were filed in Whatcom County Courts.**
- **The average number of protection orders filed each year over the past eleven years is 346.**

Figure 11 indicates the number of Domestic Violence Protection Orders filed in Whatcom County Courts between 2000 and 2010.

**Figure 11 Domestic Violence Protection Orders Filed**

The number of domestic violence protection orders filed has been on the increase for the past two years. The 378 protection orders filed in 2010 represents an increase since 2009, 2004 was the peak number of protection orders filed in the eleven-year time period.

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17 Includes Whatcom County District and Superior Courts, and Lummi and Nooksack Tribal Courts.
**Intimate Partner Fatalities**

In 2010, there were:

- **4 intimate partner homicides in Whatcom County.**
- **2 abuser suicides in Whatcom County.**
- Of the 8 total homicides in Whatcom County in 2010, 6 of them were domestic violence related – and 4 of those were the intimate partner homicides.

Figure 12 shows the number of intimate partner fatalities in Whatcom County from 1997 through 2010, broken down into the categories of intimate partner homicides and abuser suicides.

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**Figure 12 Intimate Partner Fatalities in Whatcom County, 1997 – 2010**

In most years, there were 0, 1, or 2 total intimate partner fatalities (including intimate partner homicides and abuser suicides) in Whatcom County. However, in 2009 that number increased to 3, and in 2010 increased again to 6.

Intimate partner violence fatalities in 2010 included:

- Sean D. Wilson killed his girlfriend’s daughter, Felicity Boonstra, in Maple Falls on January 7, 2010, in a murder-suicide.
- Daniel Salas killed his former girlfriend, Tawnia Costian, in Bellingham on February 5, 2010, in a murder-suicide.
- Lynda Holman killed her boyfriend, Mark McCollum, in Everson on February 15, 2010.

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18 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).
Figure 13 shows all counties in Washington State with 3 or more intimate partner fatalities in 2010, and the total number of intimate partner fatalities in Washington State in 2010.

In Whatcom County in 2010, there were 6 fatalities associated with intimate partner violence. Whatcom County had the third highest number of intimate partner fatalities of all counties in Washington State (after King County at 17 and Pierce County at 8). Washington State had a total of 55 intimate partner fatalities in 2010.

Eleven percent of all intimate partner fatalities in Washington State in 2010 occurred in Whatcom County.
Domestic Violence in Whatcom County: Services

Perpetrators: Evaluation and Domestic Violence Treatment\(^\text{19}\)

In 2010:

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

Figure 14 shows the number of individuals evaluated for domestic violence perpetrator treatment and the number of individuals who received treatment at any point during the year.

\[\text{Figure 14 Domestic Violence Perpetrators: Evaluation and Treatment, 2003 - 2010}^{20}\]

In 2010, 201 individuals participated in domestic violence treatment at some point in the year. There was a substantial drop in the number of 2009 participants (210) from the number of 2008 participants (315), followed by a slight drop in the number of 2010 participants (201) from the number of 2009 participants (210).

Domestic violence evaluations have remained fairly steady for the past three years.

No clear trends emerge from the eight-year period of data.

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\(^{19}\) Since 2008, services to perpetrators of domestic violence in Whatcom County were provided by two agencies: Violence Intervention Professionals and Waterfront Counseling.

\(^{20}\) Includes individuals in treatment at any point during the calendar year.
In 2010:
- 17 percent of all individuals in Domestic Violence Perpetrator Treatment were terminated due to noncompliance.
- One-third of all individuals in Domestic Violence Perpetrator Treatment in 2010 completed treatment that year.

Figure 15 demonstrates the treatment status for each person who received perpetrator’s treatment at some point in the year.²¹

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Figure 15 Domestic Violence Perpetrators: Treatment Status, 2003 - 2010²²

The proportion of individuals in ongoing treatment in 2010 increased, while the number of individuals completing treatment and terminated both dropped substantially from 2009.

Since 2003, an average of 228 individuals has received perpetrator treatment at some point each year. An average of 31% of these individuals has been in ongoing treatment each year, an average of 35% has completed treatment, an average of 30% has terminated, an average of 4% has relocated, and an average of 2% has left treatment for other reasons.

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²¹ Due to rounding, the percentages may not add up to exactly 100%.
²² Includes individuals in treatment at any point during the calendar year.
Victim Services

In 2010:

- 18 Western Washington University (WWU) students received Crime and Sexual Assault Support Services (CASAS) for domestic violence between January and June, and 12 students received assistance between July and December.

- 2,282 domestic violence victims received a wide array of services from Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault Services (DVSAS) of Whatcom County.

- 104 domestic violence victims received a wide array of services from Lummi [Nation] Victims of Crime (LVOC).

- 30 domestic violence victims received a wide array of services from Nooksack Victims of Crime. 2010 was the first year that Nooksack had a program dedicated to providing services to victims of domestic violence.

- 2,397 domestic violence victims utilized Womencare Shelter’s helpline, and 147 women and 129 children (for a total of 276) stayed at least one night in Womencare Shelter.

Note: Each agency has their own reporting methods and requirements, and tracks their number of unduplicated clients differently. In addition, each agency provides unique services to the victims they serve. Therefore, these numbers are not meant to be a comparison between the agencies or the victims they serve, but instead as a picture of the numbers of domestic violence victims seeking and receiving services in Whatcom County.
Victim Services: Crime and Sexual Assault Support Services (CASAS)

In 2010:
- 18 students received CASAS services between January and June 2010.
- 12 students received CASAS services between July and December 2010.

Figure 16 shows the number of domestic violence victims served each six-month period by Crime and Sexual Assault Support Services (CASAS) of Western Washington University.

Figure 16 Victims Served: Crime and Sexual Assault Support Services (CASAS), 2004 - 2010

CASAS confidential services include: 24 hour student helpline, medical/legal assistance, professional advocacy, information and referral, support groups, and academic advocacy. The numbers of students seeking CASAS services for domestic violence has been on an increase since 2007, though fall and spring semesters may include duplicates. Due to the summer break, it is typical that fewer students are served during the second half of the year.
Victim Services: Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault Services

In 2010:

- 2,282 domestic violence victims received services from DVSAS.

Figure 17 indicates the total number of domestic violence victims served by Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault Services (DVSAS) between 1999 and 2010.

In 2010, DVSAS provided services to 2,282 unduplicated domestic violence victims. These services include on-going advocacy counseling, legal advocacy, advocacy with WorkFirst clients, hotline calls, and support groups.

Figure 17 reveals a steady increase in the number of victims served between 1999 and 2006, followed by a sudden drop in 2007, a steadying out in 2008 and 2009, and then another drop in 2010. The sudden drop in 2007 was at least in part the effect of a new tracking system implemented by DVSAS in 2007 that made available for the first time a reliable count of clients with minimal duplication. Prior to 2007, DVSAS utilized a tracking system that was unable to identify returning clients. The second drop in 2010 is due to another tracking system implemented by DVSAS on June 1, 2009, which further reduced duplication and more clearly identified domestic violence clients by the type of services they received.

Though the current system does allow for the identification of returning clients, there may still be some duplication in the number of victims, as clients served by different DVSAS programs are counted separately in each program. There may also be some duplication due to anonymous callers to the DVSAS hotline.
Victim Services: Lummi Victims of Crime

In 2010:

- 104 domestic violence victims received services from Lummi Victims of Crime.

Figure 18 indicates the total number of domestic violence victims served by Lummi Victims of Crime between 2001 and 2010.

In 2010, Lummi Victims of Crime provided crisis intervention, support services, and/or legal advocacy services to 104 Native American victims of domestic violence. While LVOC’s service provision has fluctuated over time, an average of 120 Native victims received services from this agency each year. Over the past four years, there has been a small but steady decrease in the number of victims receiving domestic violence services from LVOC.
Victim Services: Womencare Shelter

In 2010:
- 2,397 domestic violence victims utilized Womencare’s Helpline.

Figure 19 reports the number of callers served by the Womencare Helpline between 1999 and 2010.

![Figure 19 Victims Served: Womencare Helpline Callers, 1999 - 2010](image)

After a decrease in callers between 2004 and 2006, utilization of the Womencare Helpline has been on the increase for the past four years. The number of callers in 2010 is the highest in the 12 years that data is available.

With the exception of anonymous callers, these numbers track unduplicated callers, regardless of how many calls each caller makes.

On January 1, 2010, Womencare began participating in Day One, a statewide program that connects domestic violence victims to shelter, safe housing, transitional housing, and community advocacy services through one network so that victims do not have to make multiple calls to shelters throughout the State when seeking services. This in part explains the increase in Helpline calls in 2010.
In 2010:
- 147 women obtained emergency housing at Womencare Shelter.
- 129 children obtained emergency housing at Womencare Shelter.

Figure 20 reports the number of women and children victims who received emergency housing and support services from Womencare between 1999 and 2010.

In 2010, a total of 276 people, including 147 women and 129 children, obtained emergency housing at Womencare Shelter to escape domestic violence in their own homes. In contrast to use of the helpline, the number of people served by the shelter decreased for four years after 2006, but then, like the helpline, increased in 2010.

In 2010, Womencare Shelter also assisted domestic violence victims who were homeless or unsafe at home to obtain transitional and permanent housing, providing these services to victims who did not stay in the Womencare Shelter. Womencare began to provide this service in October 2009.
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 domestic partner. Domestic violence offenses include crimes in the following categories: criminal homicide, forcible rape, robbery, assault, burglary, larceny theft, motor vehicle theft, arson and violation of Protection/No Contact Orders. It is not unusual for multiple offenses to occur during the same incident. However, based on recording standards established by the FBI, only the “highest-ranking offense” is recorded into Uniform Crime Reports, which is the nation’s statistical database for crime (utilized by this report). For example, an offender can break into a victim’s home, steal her car keys, force her into her vehicle, drive her to a secluded location, sexually assault her, take her car and her purse, and abandon her. Even though there are multiple offenses in this one event, the highest-ranking offense is the rape. This would be the only offense recorded, counted (and thus accessible to researchers) in Uniform Crime Reports. Therefore, for each domestic violence related incident, there is generally only one domestic violence offense counted. However, it is important to remember that this system of coding identifies and tallies a police identified problem and is not based on the findings of a court, medical examiner, jury or other judicial findings.

**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 Domestics**
Law enforcement officers are frequently called to respond to situations that are categorized as “Domestic Violence – No Assault”, or “Verbal Domestics”. 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.
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:

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*Table 2 Whatcom County and Washington State Population Figures, 1998 - 2010*
Acknowledgments

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