ANNUAL DATA REPORT
Sexual & Domestic Violence in Whatcom County

Published: October 2022
Data Period: 2021*

*This is the most recent year for which cross-discipline data is available
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Introduction

The Bellingham-Whatcom County Commission on Sexual & Domestic Violence inspires and coordinates our community’s efforts to address domestic and sexual violence.

To fulfill this vital mission, we:

- **Foster** safety, justice, and well-being for survivors and communities.
- **Connect** institutions, stakeholders, and communities to collectively increase understanding and effectiveness of community responses for sexual and domestic violence.
- **Transform** systems to ensure best practice prevention and interventions for sexual and domestic violence.

Definitions

**Domestic violence (DV)** “(also referred to as intimate partner violence [IPV], dating abuse, or relationship abuse) is a pattern of behaviors used by one partner to maintain power and control over another partner in an intimate relationship.”

**Sexual assault (SA)** “occurs when a person is forced, coerced, and/or manipulated into any unwanted sexual activity. [It] is an umbrella term that includes a wide range of victimizations which may or may not involve force or be illegal.” Sexual assault or sexual abuse often appears in domestic violence relationships. In fact, it has been estimated that **two-thirds of survivors** experiencing intimate partner violence (IPV) **have been sexually assaulted by their abusive partner**.

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1 https://www.thehotline.org/identify-abuse/understand-relationship-abuse/
2 https://www.wcsap.org/help/about-sexual-assault/what-sexual-assault
Background & Purpose of the Data Report

When the Bellingham-Whatcom County Commission Against Domestic Violence was created in 1998, one of the functions was to develop community benchmarks for monitoring domestic violence and to prepare an annual report to share throughout the community. Although this data cannot illustrate a full picture of the prevalence or impacts of domestic and sexual violence in our community, we share this data to provide key indicators on the scope of these issues locally. In 2018, as part of our efforts to acknowledge the intersection of sexual and domestic violence, the Bellingham-Whatcom County Commission on Sexual & Domestic Violence (S/DV Commission) changed our name and expanded our mission to include addressing sexual violence.

The data in the Snapshot Report is just that—a snapshot of what domestic and sexual violence look like in our community. It cannot represent a comprehensive view but is an important piece of the puzzle. **What can you learn from this data? How can you apply this information within your own agency or system?**

**Sexual and domestic violence are common in our community.** In Washington State, 41% of women and 31% of men experience physical violence, sexual violence, or stalking by an intimate partner in their lifetime.³ Domestic violence includes other controlling behaviors, so likely even more people are impacted. In the United States, one in five women experience rape or attempted rape in their lifetime, and almost 25% of men experience sexual violence.⁴ Less than a quarter of sexual assaults were reported to police in 2018.⁵ You can play a role in ensuring that survivors receive the support they need when they reach out. Healthcare providers, schools, churches, employers, family members, and friends can all offer resources, listening, and care.

**All systems and individuals in our community can be part of fostering safety, justice, and well-being for survivors.**

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³ [https://assets.speakcdn.com/assets/2497/washington_fc_revised.pdf](https://assets.speakcdn.com/assets/2497/washington_fc_revised.pdf)
⁴ [https://www.nsvrc.org/statistics](https://www.nsvrc.org/statistics)
⁵ [https://www.nsvrc.org/statistics](https://www.nsvrc.org/statistics)
Local and National Events Impacting Survivors, Responses, and Prevention

In 2021, the COVID-19 pandemic continued to impact our entire community. See the 2020 Data Report, including the Spotlight on COVID-19’s Impact on Survivors, for more information on how isolation, financial challenges, and substance use decreased survivor safety and well-being; how remote and limited services created challenges for survivors and practitioners; and how the lack of appropriate support is impacting local BIPOC survivors. Into 2021, COVID-19 protocols and advocates’ safety concerns continued to impact advocate responses to forensic exams at St. Joseph Medical Center. Community- or Tribal-based advocates are called to respond to survivors who are having a forensic exam at the hospital. Advocates were providing phone support at times, and in 2021 changes were made to protocols to ensure that advocates would be welcome in-person again at the hospital.

November 2021 brought devasting floods to Whatcom County, displacing over 500 households. Experiencing homelessness, whatever the cause, can increase vulnerability to domestic and sexual violence. Survivors impacted by flooding experienced additional traumas, had fewer resources to access safety and support, and experienced increased burden on the resources they did have.

Threats to reproductive justice, nationally and in communities around the country, are threats to bodily autonomy that particularly impact survivors of sexual and domestic violence—for whom bodily autonomy has already been attacked by the people who caused them harm. Survivors deserve “the human right to maintain personal bodily autonomy, have children, not have children, and parent the children we have in safe and sustainable communities.” Survivors may become pregnant because of rape, including sexual assault within a domestic violence relationship. Abusive partners sometimes coerce their partner to become pregnant, sabotage birth control to control the survivor, coerce a survivor to either continue a pregnancy or get an abortion, or physically harm a survivor to cause a miscarriage. Experiencing domestic violence during pregnancy negatively impacts maternal and newborn health. Not all survivors are impacted equally by efforts to ban abortion access. People who already have limited access to pregnancy prevention methods, abortion, prenatal care, postpartum care, and supports for raising children (including Black, Indigenous, and other people of color, people with disabilities, low-

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7 Reproductive Justice, as defined by Sister Song https://www.sistersong.net/reproductive-justice
8 https://www.acog.org/clinical/clinical-guidance/committee-opinion/articles/2012/02/intimate-partner-violence
9 https://apps.who.int/iris/bitstream/handle/10665/70764/WHO_RHR_11.35_eng.pdf
income people, people experiencing homelessness, LGBTQ people, and people living in rural areas) are disproportionally impacted. **Healthcare providers can make a difference by asking patients about experiences of violence and connecting survivors to resources.**

In the Washington State Legislature, HB 1320, signed into law in 2021, and HB 1901, signed into law in 2022, created **massive changes to protection orders in Washington State.** In HB 1320, legislators emphasized the importance of survivors’ ability to access these civil protections outside the criminal legal system and outlined their intent to “clarify and simplify these civil protection order statutes to make them more understandable and accessible to victims seeking relief and to respondents who are subject to the court process.” All six protection order statutes in Washington State are now included in RCW 7.105. Updates are extensive, but include:

- Combining and reconciling differences between six protection order statutes
- Expanding the use of technology for applications, service, and hearings
- Revising jurisdiction
- Adding **coercive control** to the definition of domestic violence in RCW 7.105.010
- Encouraging training for judicial officers

Most portions of these statutes are effective as of July 2022.

Washington State has made **progress in testing the backlog of sexual assault kits, and establishing protocols to ensure kits are tested promptly.** Legislation passed in Washington State in 2019 ensured that beginning in May 2022, law enforcement must submit a request for testing within 30 days of receiving the kit, and then Washington State Patrol will test sexual assault kits and share results within 45 days. **Survivors can now track the status of their kit** once it is submitted to Washington State Patrol.

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10 See pre-recorded training, slides and resources: [https://www.courts.wa.gov/?fa=home.sub&org=gjc&page=Education&layout=2&parent=work](https://www.courts.wa.gov/?fa=home.sub&org=gjc&page=Education&layout=2&parent=work)
14 [https://www.wsp.wa.gov/sak-tracking/](https://www.wsp.wa.gov/sak-tracking/)
Law Enforcement Calls for Service:
Sexual Assault

The Validity of Sexual Assault Reports

The 2019 Sexual Assault National Demonstration Audit, which described strengths and gaps in how our community’s criminal legal system meets the justice needs of sexual assault survivors, described how “Survivors not only fear that they won’t be believed—in many cases they are not believed.”

The International Association for Chiefs of Police (IACP) recommends that police “do not rush to decide if a report is an information or crime report.” However, the decrease in sexual assault reports corresponds with Bellingham Police Department’s implementation of the Sex Crime Investigation category in May 2018.

Sexual Assault as Reported by WASPC

According to the Washington Association of Sheriffs & Police Chiefs’ (WASPC) Crime in Washington 2021 Annual Report, in 2021 there were 122 reports of sexual assault offenses to Whatcom County’s law enforcement agencies. This is part of a general decrease since 2017, even though Lummi Tribal Police data was included in the 2021 WASPC Report, but in 2019 and 2020 it was not included. See graph on next page for the trend from 2017-2021.

“I felt like the questions they’re expected to ask don’t have a survivor’s mental state in mind. I know they’re just trying to get succinct information or evidence, but it’s really intimidating, and it feels like an interrogation.” – Local Survivor

15 https://www.dvcommission.org/sanda (p. 7)
16 https://www.theiacp.org/sites/default/files/all/s/SexualAssaultGuidelines.pdf
17 The data WASPC uses come from the FBI National Incident Based Reporting System (NIBRS). You can visit this resource to learn more about how Washington State RCWs relate to the categories set forth by the FBI: https://www.waspc.org/assets/CJIS/trainingmanualsandreference/nibrssexoffensegrid0817.pdf
How local law enforcement agencies categorize reported crimes may not always match how those numbers are reported by WASPC because “All offenses are classified on the basis of law enforcement investigation in accordance with national UCR [Uniform Crime Reporting] offense definitions and are not necessarily identical to the Revised Code of Washington (RCW) or local ordinance definitions.”\(^{18}\) Please see Table 1 on the next page for data reported by individual law enforcement agencies.

### Sexual Assault as Reported by Individual Agencies

Depending on the agency’s capacity and record management system, some Whatcom County law enforcement agencies provided more detailed information about reports of sexual violence in 2021. These numbers may not match the WASPC Crime in Washington 2021 Annual Report, due to differing classifications between legal definitions in Washington and how the FBI classifies offenses (see Footnote 17 on page 6).

#### Sexual Assault Reports, as Reported by Local Agencies

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Bellingham</th>
<th>Blaine</th>
<th>Everson</th>
<th>Ferndale</th>
<th>Lynden</th>
<th>Sumas</th>
<th>WWU</th>
<th>Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Rape (1st, 2nd, &amp; 3rd Degree)</td>
<td>32</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>44</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sex Crime (No Rape)</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>21</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>31</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rape of a Child (1st, 2nd, &amp; 3rd Degree)</td>
<td>28</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>31</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Child Molestation</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Indecent Liberties</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

\(^{18}\) [https://www.waspc.org/assets/CJIS/2021%20CIW.pdf](https://www.waspc.org/assets/CJIS/2021%20CIW.pdf) (p. 3)
Bellingham Police Department (BPD) also uses an additional category: “sex crime investigations.” In 2021, **130 cases were classified as sex crime investigations, up from 93 in 2020**. BPD categorizes a report as a sex crime investigation when the patrol officer believes that further investigation is needed to determine what if any crime occurred. This category can also include reports that came to BPD through a third party such as the Department of Children, Youth, and Families, but was later determined that the event did not occur in BPD’s jurisdiction, or there was no disclosure from the child. The anonymous Sexual Assault Kits (evidence collected at sexual assault exams) are also included in this category.

We know that **most (65-74%) sexual assaults are not reported to law enforcement**\(^\text{19}\) so a lower rate of reports does not indicate lower rate of offenses. We can wonder: What impacts reports of rape in our community? Trust in law enforcement? Support of family and friends? Belief that “something” will be done in response?

\[^{19}\text{https://bjs.ojp.gov/content/pub/pdf/rsarp00.pdf}\]
In 2021 there were **3,185 domestic violence calls for service** to Whatcom County’s law enforcement agencies. Of these calls for service, there were **1,789 incidents that did NOT result in an arrest** (56%) and **1,396 domestic violence offenses where at least one party was arrested** (44%). Incidents that do not result in an arrest are sometimes referred to as “DV verbals” or “domestic disputes.” In those calls for service, police determine that the legal definition of domestic violence has not been met.

Until July 2022, Washington State’s RCW 26.50.010 defined domestic violence as “Physical harm, bodily injury, assault, or the infliction of fear of imminent physical harm, bodily injury or assault, sexual assault, or stalking...” of an intimate partner, or family or household member.21

This means that **even in those calls where no arrest was made, an abusive person could have still caused harm to a survivor because the tactics used to establish power and control are harmful, even when they are not illegal.** Overall, the 2021 totals for all of Whatcom County, and the percentages of arrest vs. non-arrest calls, are similar to 2019 and 2020. See Figure 2 on next page.

Individual law enforcement agencies saw changes in offenses and non-arrest calls (See Figure 2 on next page). Notably, Lynden, Blaine, and Ferndale Police Departments have had an increase in non-arrest calls, while Everson PD has had a decrease. Lummi Tribal Police and Ferndale PD have had an increase in DV arrests, while WCSO has seen a decrease.

“It felt like he lied to the police so he doesn't get in trouble. The police believed him over me, which made me feel alone and unheard, and validated that no matter what I did at the time I was not going to be heard by who needs to hear me.” –Local Survivor

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20 Data collected from WASPC Crime in Washington 2020 Annual Report and individual law enforcement agencies.  
2019-2021 DV Non-Arrest Calls & Offenses

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Non-Arrest Calls 2019</th>
<th>Non-Arrest Calls 2020</th>
<th>Non-Arrest Calls 2021</th>
<th>Offenses (crime occurred) 2019</th>
<th>Offenses (crime occurred) 2020</th>
<th>Offenses (crime occurred) 2021</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>WWU</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>0</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sumas</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>34</td>
<td>22</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Everson</td>
<td>54</td>
<td>24</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>6</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nooksack Tribe</td>
<td>21</td>
<td>26</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lynden</td>
<td>66</td>
<td>73</td>
<td>97</td>
<td>49</td>
<td>49</td>
<td>56</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Blaine</td>
<td>38</td>
<td>69</td>
<td>78</td>
<td>49</td>
<td>66</td>
<td>56</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lummi Tribe</td>
<td>142</td>
<td>116</td>
<td>101</td>
<td>64</td>
<td>153</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ferndale</td>
<td>115</td>
<td>159</td>
<td>180</td>
<td>85</td>
<td>88</td>
<td>120</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WCSO</td>
<td>400</td>
<td>463</td>
<td>435</td>
<td>450</td>
<td>424</td>
<td>330</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bellingham</td>
<td>940</td>
<td>832</td>
<td>835</td>
<td>664</td>
<td>678</td>
<td>666</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Please Note: Blank portions of the chart indicate that data was unavailable to the SA/DV Commission. Non-Arrest Call data is provided by agencies. Offense data are provided by the WASPC Crime in Washington Annual Reports.
Protection Orders

In 2021 there were a total of 206 requests for temporary orders of protection against domestic violence and sexual assault in Whatcom County District and Superior Courts, and Nooksack Tribal Court. Of those requests, approximately:

- 58% (120) were granted (became temporary orders)
- 32% (66) became permanent (one-year) orders

Temporary protection orders prohibit the respondent (typically the offender) from contacting or approaching the petitioner (typically the survivor) in the period preceding the court hearing for a permanent order. Permanent orders typically last one year, although Judicial Officers have the authority to grant protections for shorter or longer periods of time. Violations of temporary or permanent orders can result in criminal charges. Reporting violations is the responsibility of the petitioner.

The percent approved for a permanent order was very similar to 2020, when 33% were approved, but a decrease from 2019 when 40% were approved. Of the 66 permanent protection orders granted in Whatcom County District and Superior Courts in 2021, approximately:

- 95% (63) were Domestic Violence Protection Orders (DVPOs)
- 5% (3) were Sexual Assault Protection Orders (SAPOs)

Denial of a temporary order does not always end a petition for a protection order. Data from Whatcom County District Court shows that of the 35 requests for a temporary Domestic Violence Protection Order, 15 were denied a temporary order, but granted a hearing in front of a judicial officer. Of those 15, 5 were granted a permanent order. This means that for those 5 petitioners, even though their petition was ultimately approved, they did not have the protection a temporary order provides before a hearing. One Sexual Assault Protection Order case followed this pattern as well: a temporary order was denied, a hearing was granted, and then a permanent order was granted. We do not have data on how common this is in Superior Court.

“I was floored in court, hearing him talk about me and tell lies.” – Local Survivor

22 Lummi Tribal Court was not able to provide this data on their protection order applications
In 2021 PeaceHealth St. Joseph Medical Center performed **124 forensic medical exams** (including sexual assault exams, domestic violence exams, and consults), an increase from 116 in 2020. The 2021 total includes **86 sexual assault forensic exams**, of which 22 were child sexual assault examinations for children 12 and younger. The remaining 64 sexual assault exams were for adults and adolescents ages 13 and above. 20 exams were categorized as consults, meaning the patient did not want a forensic collection kit or did not want a full forensic workup—sometimes survivors request prophylactic medications, sometimes they want to document the event in the medical record, sometimes it is outside the window for evidence collection. Of the 124 exams, **18 were domestic violence forensic exams**.

Of those sexual assault incidents where the survivor sought a forensic exam:

- **18 survivors chose to have an anonymous kit** collected. Anonymous kits are sent to the Washington State Patrol lab but **will not be tested until “the incident has been reported to law enforcement.”**
- **80 occurred in Whatcom County**
  - Bellingham 46
  - Unincorporated Whatcom County 17
  - Ferndale 8
  - Lynden 5
  - Lummi Reservation 4
- **11 occurred in Skagit County, 11 occurred somewhere else, and 5 were unknown location** (either it was unclear from the patient’s chart or the patient was unsure of the location).

> “I didn't go directly after to get [a sexual assault exam] because I was in denial and pretending everything was normal.” – Local Survivor

> “I think there are only a few people in Bellingham who can help with a rape exam. The nurse was really, really good at her job.” – Local Survivor

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23 https://www.wsp.wa.gov/sak
In Whatcom County in 2021, there were no homicides related to intimate partner violence (IPV).

**Figure 3**
Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault Services served a total of **1,247 unduplicated clients in 2021**. 1,074 of those clients were survivors of domestic violence and 247 were survivors of sexual assault or commercial sexual exploitation (SE). Those totals add to more than 1,247 because some of those clients received services for both domestic violence and sexual assault. In the same year, **67 clients utilized DVSAS’ safe shelter services**. 886 students in Whatcom County received education on consent and healthy relationships.

Services include:

**IMMEDIATE HELP**
- 24-hour helpline
- 24-hour forensic exam support

**SAFE HOUSING**
- Confidential shelter
- Homelessness prevention services
- Housing case management

**ONGOING SUPPORT**
- Advocacy counseling
- Legal advocacy
- Support groups

**EDUCATION PROGRAM**
- Teens Against Abuse peer advocacy
- The Empowerment Project: 3-session prevention program for middle & high school students

The number of clients DVSAS served dropped significantly from pre-COVID (2019), but **the number of contacts per client has been rising** (see Figure 4 below, and Figures 5 & 6 on page 15).
Figure 5

DVSAS Total Individual Contacts

Figure 6

DVSAS Average Number of Contacts per Client
Survivor Advocacy Services at Western Washington University

(WWU) served 92 students in 2021. Almost all students served in 2021 were survivors who experienced intimate partner violence and/or sexual violence, but the students also include a small number of survivors who experienced stalking, sexual harassment, family violence, roommate concerns, and secondary survivors.

- 86 students received individual advocacy support
- 17 students attended virtual support groups (some students received both individual support and attended support group)

Survivor Advocacy Services is a confidential resource for WWU students who are experiencing or have experienced relationship (domestic, dating, intimate partner) violence or abuse, sexual violence, stalking, and/or sexual harassment. Services include:

**ADVOCACY & SUPPORT**
- Support groups
- Reporting options
- Academic support
- Confidential 1-on-1 support
- Sessions with advocate

**REFERRAL & INFORMATION**
- Protection orders
- Medical assistance
- Legal assistance
- Financial aid solutions
- Housing solutions
- Emergency leave
- Counseling referrals

24 https://cwc.wwu.edu/survivorservices
Lummi Victims of Crime (LVOC) helps “any adult or adolescent who has been affected by domestic violence, sexual assault, elder abuse, assault & battery, survivor of homicide, child abuse, and sexual assault.”

Services include:

**CRISIS COUNSELING**
- In-person or via telephone
- 24-hour hotline
- Safety planning and information
- On-scene advocacy for DV and SA crimes

**LEGAL ADVOCACY**
- Court hearings
- Protection and restraining orders

**TRANSPORTATION & REFERRALS**
- Therapy referrals – sweats, smudges
- Traditional healing
- Transportation to medical, legal, and therapy appointments

**DOMESTIC VIOLENCE SHELTER**
- Ne-Alis Tokw (My Sister’s Place)

**EMERGENCY ASSISTANCE**
- Replacement of house door locks and car windshields, broken due to DV incidents
- Boarding up house windows broken due to DV incidents

**EDUCATION**
- Teen Girls groups
- Free annual conferences
- Annual Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women Awareness Walk

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Tl’ils Ta’á’altha Victims of Crime, a program of the Nooksack Indian Tribe, started in 2020. The mission of Tl’il... physical, emotional, or financial abuse as a result of domestic violence, sexual assault, and/or elder abuse; or who have otherwise been victimized.” Services include:

**CRISIS COUNSELING**
- In-person or via telephone
- 24-hour hotline
- Safety planning and danger assessment
- Active listening and support
- Information and referral

**LEGAL ADVOCACY**
- Attorney assistance with: protection orders, divorce or legal separation, spousal and child support, child custody, and visitation in state or tribal court
- Cooperation with law enforcement to assist participants and dependents

**EMERGENCY HOUSING & ASSISTANCE**
- Hotel/motel vouchers for participants and their dependents
- 24-hour emergency transportation

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26 [https://nooksacktribe.org/departments/youth-family-services/tlils-taaaltha-victims-of-crime-program/]
Domestic Violence & Homelessness

In January 2021, Whatcom County conducted the annual Point-in-Time Census of Homeless Residents. To reduce disease transmission during the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, the U.S. Department of Housing & Urban Development called to limit the number of questions asked to reduce face-to-face interaction. The question about reasons for homelessness was not included.

However, looking at past data, we see that domestic violence is a common reason that Whatcom County residents experience homelessness, especially impacting families with children. The graph below shows the percentage of Point-in-Time census respondents who said that DV was a reason they experienced homelessness, for years that data was reported in the Whatcom County Annual Report on Homelessness.

![Graph showing percentage of Point-in-Time census respondents who said DV was a reason they experienced homelessness.](image)

In 2021, **55% of young adults (18-24)** who utilized the young adult housing programs with Northwest Youth Services shared that they **had experienced domestic violence** at some point, slightly more than the 50% who said the same last year. **11% reported that they were fleeing domestic violence**, down from the 16% who said they were fleeing domestic violence in 2020.

“No place felt like home, no place felt safe.”
–Local Survivor

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SEXUAL & DOMESTIC VIOLENCE IN WHATCOM COUNTY 2021
From July through October 2022 an S/DV Commission workgroup has conducted interviews with more than 40 survivors of sexual and domestic violence to learn what justice and healing mean to them, and to guide a pilot project on restorative and transformative justice responses to domestic and sexual violence. Themes from those interviews will be published in early 2023.
Community Appointments:

Beth Boyd,  
*PeaceHealth Medical Center*

Christina Byrne,  
*Western Washington University*

Christina Kobdish,  
*Unity Care Northwest*

Ken Levinson,  
*Nooksack Tribe*

Jason McGill,  
*Northwest Youth Services*

Jessyca Murphy,  
*Make.Shift Art Space*

Moonwater,  
*Whatcom Dispute Resolution Center*

Emily O’Connor  
*Lydia Place*

Katie Olvera,  
*KPO Counselling*

Chris Roselli,  
*Western Washington University*

Garret Shelsta,  
*Stuff You Can Use*

Krista Touros,  
*PeaceHealth*

Raquel Vernola,  
*Whatcom Community College*

Pamela Wheeler,  
*Opportunity Council*

Designated Government Representatives:

Greg Baker,  
*Bellingham Public Schools*

William Elfo,  
*Whatcom County Sheriff’s Office*

Starck Follis,  
*Whatcom County Public Defender*

Greg Hansen,  
*City of Ferndale*

Erika Lautenbach,  
*Whatcom County Health Department*

Rebecca Mertzig,  
*Bellingham Police Department*

Alan Marriner,  
*Bellingham City Attorney*

Diane Miltenberger,  
*Department of Social & Health Services*

Darlene Peterson,  
*Bellingham Municipal Court*

Dave Reynolds,  
*Whatcom County Superior Court*

Eric Richey,  
*Whatcom County Prosecutor*

Adrienne Renz,  
*Domestic Violence & Sexual Assault Services*

Donnell Tanksley,  
*Blaine Police Department*

Annie Taylor,  
*Department of Children, Youth, and Families*

Bruce Van Glubt,  
*Whatcom County District Court*

dvcommission.org