



**The Economic Impact of Domestic Violence
In Milwaukee & Wisconsin 2021**

Commissioned by:



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**JAMIE KIMBLE
FOUNDATION
FOR COURAGE**

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While we can quantify the cost of physical and mental health care, courts, policing, prisons and loss of productivity, the greatest of these is the loss of life, the loss of years, of love and comfort and human potential. Losing a loved one, a parent, a friend, a sister, a brother leaves a deeper imprint that reverberates for years to come.

As this report outlines, we are losing far too much to domestic violence in our community. The numbers are stunning. The economic losses, arising directly from injury and loss of life resulting from intimate partner violence is \$82.3 million and the economic loss is \$113.1 million annually in Milwaukee County alone.

The impact of domestic violence reaches every corner of our community. Our work in Milwaukee remains urgent. We continue to see an alarming number of domestic violence homicides and the rate of this violence is getting worse. Since 2018, domestic violence related crimes in Milwaukee have increased dramatically. Domestic violence homicides increased by 400% from 2018 to 2020; this increase was exacerbated by pandemic related under- or unemployment, stay-at-home orders, and virtual schooling. Even with a slight decrease in domestic violence-related homicides in 2021, the homicide rate is still 62% higher than before the pandemic.

Research shows that connection matters and that survivors who seek help are more likely to survive their abuse. Knowing this compels us to do all we can to build connections for people who are hurting in our community.

This rate is unprecedented.

Domestic violence and domestic violence related homicides can be prevented.

In the Call to Action at the end of this report, we invite you to consider the startling price we pay for the hurt and harm that happens in intimate relationships and families in Milwaukee. We invite you to join us in partnership, to lift this information up in dialogue in every area of our lives and to help us diminish the impact domestic violence has on our city and our region.



A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Carmen Pitre".

Carmen Pitre
President & CEO
Sojourner Family Peace Center



A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Cecelia F. Gore".

Cecelia Gore
Board President
Sojourner Board of Directors

Executive Director
Brewers Community Fdn.



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In 2021, domestic violence cost the State of Wisconsin more than \$657 million in physical and mental health care, court costs, policing and prisons, lost productivity at work and more. Each reported incident of domestic violence cost the state an average of \$6,976. These numbers surely stun you as they do us. But more than that, we hope they stir you to join the movement to prevent domestic violence before it occurs, for there is a heartbreaking story behind each number.

Our family knows this only too well. Our daughter, Jamie, a beautiful young woman inside and out, was murdered by an ex-boyfriend in 2012. She was 31 years old. We started the Jamie Kimble Foundation for Courage to honor her memory and keep others from falling victim to an intimate partner. The Foundation's focus is on prevention, education, awareness and research.

Domestic violence can happen to anyone regardless of gender, age, ethnicity or socioeconomic status. It can happen in any business or organization, from the CEO to the newest employee. Often, a company is ill-prepared to deal with it: 65% percent of businesses lack HR policies to support employees victimized by domestic violence. We hope these findings inspire the state to continue funding programs to address this crisis. More educational and prevention programs are needed in schools, workplaces, houses of worship and other institutions. We must share the warning signs of domestic violence and abuse so all of us know what to look for. And we must put in place plans to help victims when domestic violence strikes. Our thanks go to Dr. Joseph C. Von Nessen and Dr. Erin Schubert for conducting this study, and to you for reading it.

When Jamie was taken from us, we asked ourselves, **"How could this happen to her?"** But it did. Now, together, let us keep this from happening to others.

Ronald R. Kimble Janice K. Kimble

- Ron and Jan Kimble, October 2022
Co-Founders of The Jamie Kimble Foundation for Courage



Ron Kimble



Jan Kimble

A Message From The Authors

Measuring the precise economic impact of domestic violence for Milwaukee County and the State of Wisconsin in 2021 entails estimating total costs in eleven categories: loss of life; lost work productivity; physical health care; mental health care; loss of property; policing costs; criminal court costs; incarceration; civil court costs; domestic violence programs, shelters, and agencies; and volunteer hours. In each category, we estimated the dollar costs using state- and county-level data from Wisconsin, and estimates (for example, loss of workdays per domestic violence incident) from peer-reviewed academic literature. We were honored to prepare this report.

The methodology can be replicated. We encourage other states to conduct similar studies as part of a growing focus on domestic violence. We hope these findings inform elected officials, businesses, schools, activists, the medical and mental health communities – the entire community – about the far-reaching cost of domestic violence. With such vital information in hand, together we can do something about it.




Dr. Joseph Von Nessen




Dr. Erin Schubert

Wisconsin Domestic Violence Highlights:



Executive Summary

Intimate partner violence (IPV) represents a significant and ongoing challenge for both Milwaukee County as well as the state of Wisconsin as a whole. According to the National Coalition Against Domestic Violence, approximately 1 in 3 women as well as 1 in 3 men in Wisconsin will experience rape, physical violence, and/or stalking by an intimate partner at some point during in their lifetime.

The costs of intimate partner violence to Wisconsin and society at large are many. The greatest among these costs are not quantifiable: the loss of human potential, dignity, and liberty. Intimate partner violence and the coercive control rob victims of the ability to live safe, peaceful, and fully actualized lives. In the most severe lethal cases, it robs their ability to live at all. Beyond the moral and ethical imperative to act, there are economic costs of IPV to society that are detailed in this report.

IPV poses significant economic costs – both for the individual victims and their families along with the surrounding communities. To date, however, there has been limited research documenting the full range of these costs at the state and local level. As such, the purpose of this study is to specifically quantify the economic impact of IPV on both Milwaukee County and the state of Wisconsin. This includes documenting both the explicit and the hidden costs of IPV. Hidden costs refer to the harm imposed on well-being of IPV victims that arise from their not being able to return to their normal lives either temporarily or permanently. The hidden costs of IPV are generally those that are documented least often.

The key findings of this study are as follows:

➔ The total annual number of IPV victims in Milwaukee County is estimated to be 9,236. This study, in turn, estimates the **total annual economic losses associated with IPV to be \$113.1 million annually in Milwaukee County**. The costs included in this estimate are loss of life and worker productivity, physical and mental health care, loss of property, police and court costs, incarceration costs, and the costs associated with the dollars spent on various IPV programs, shelters, and centers along with associated volunteer hours. For the state of Wisconsin, these numbers increase to 94,299 victims and **total annual economic losses of over \$657.8 million annually for the state of Wisconsin**.

➔ **The largest measured economic losses for Milwaukee County are those resulting from lost life** (\$73.7 million, 65.1% of total losses), loss of worker productivity (\$8.6 million, 7.6%), and physical health care (\$8.5 million, 7.5%). Economic impacts associated with lost worker productivity and loss of life are measured through a loss of labor income to victims due to a temporary or permanent inability to work. As such, these estimates represent a conservative measure of the hidden costs of IPV because they partially capture the extent to which IPV victims are forced to temporarily or permanently adjust their lifestyles.

➔ In a similar fashion, **the largest measured economic losses for Wisconsin are those resulting from loss life** (\$241.5 million, 36.7% of total losses), loss of worker productivity (\$111.9 million, 17.0%), and physical health care (\$86.3 million, 13.1%).

➔ Although this study generally follows the methodology of existing published work by the Jamie Kimble Foundation for Courage on the economic impacts of IPV in North and South Carolina, it **captures several additional elements not documented in previous research**. These additional estimates include court costs related to IPV in both the criminal and civil arenas. Specifically, we include new criminal court costs accounting for IPV cases reviewed by prosecutors but not ultimately charged as well as new civil court costs related to restraining orders and divorce proceedings.

Section I

Introduction and Background

The incidence of intimate partner violence (IPV) represents a significant and ongoing challenge facing the United States today. Although violence of any kind is tragic, IPV is unique in that it involves abusive behavior against someone with which the abuser has (or has previously had) a close relationship. Because abusive and controlling behavior begins slowly and occurs in the larger context of an intimate relationship, it can be difficult for victims to recognize early warning signs and leave an abusive relationship. Familiarity with, love for, and economic dependence on individuals who abuse can all mask the danger of their behavior and influence victims' decisions to stay or leave a relationship. Ultimately leaving a relationship does not ensure a victim's safety. In fact, the period following a separation is the most dangerous time for a victim stemming from the loss of control the abuser experiences at this time, motivating sometimes lethal levels of violence.

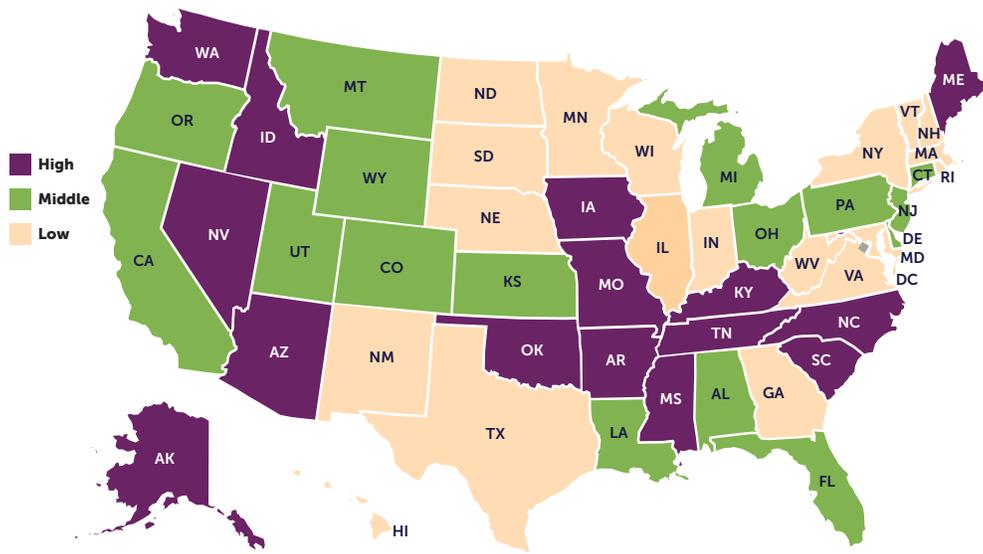
Further, violence can be transmitted intergenerationally. Although not all children who grow up experiencing violence in their homes repeat this cycle, many do. IPV victims and perpetrators alike are far more likely to have experienced an elevated number of adverse childhood experiences (ACEs). Growing up amid dysfunction and violence serves to normalize this relational model and can be repeated and perceived as normal once those children grow up and enter their own intimate relationships.

The frequency of IPV varies significantly across the United States. No matter where it occurs, IPV imposes significant physical, emotional, and financial costs for victims, their families, and their communities. In Wisconsin, it is estimated that there are over **94,000 victims of IPV each year**, with over 9,200 in Milwaukee County alone. The National Coalition Against Domestic Violence estimates that 36.3% of Wisconsin women and 32.1% of Wisconsin men will experience intimate partner physical violence, intimate partner rape, and/or intimate partner stalking in their lifetimes. IPV is a crime that happens in private. For many reasons, victims are reluctant to tell anyone of what is happening. Therefore, frequency estimates are always an underestimate of the actual incidence of IPV.



Figure 1 – Rates of Intimate Partner Violence for Women by State

Source: National Coalition Against Domestic Violence (2020)



In Wisconsin,
36% of Women
and 32% of Men
 will experience intimate partner physical violence at some point during their lifetimes.



States Ranked by Pct. of Females Experiencing Domestic Violence at Least Once During Their Lifetimes

The costs of intimate partner violence to Wisconsin and society at large are many. The greatest among these costs are not quantifiable: the loss of human potential, dignity, and liberty. Intimate partner violence and the coercive control rob victims of the ability to live safe, peaceful, and fully actualized lives. In the most severe lethal cases, it robs their ability to live at all. Beyond the moral and ethical imperative to act, there are economic costs of IPV to society that are detailed in this report.

This report documents the economic impact of IPV on both Milwaukee County and the state of Wisconsin. More specifically, this study focuses on quantifying both the direct and indirect costs that IPV imposes to individual victims and to the broader community. These costs include loss of life and work productivity, physical and mental health care, loss of property, police and court costs, incarceration costs, and costs of programs, shelters, & agencies providing services to victims, along with the opportunity costs for volunteer hours. Except where otherwise noted, this study follows methodology of previously published studies by the Jamie Kimble Foundation for Courage titled North Carolina in 2018: The Economic Impact of Domestic Violence and South Carolina in 2020: The Economic Impact of Domestic Violence.

Selected Domestic Violence Resources

Milwaukee Area Resources



THE
AshaProject

Call: 414.252.0075



Diverse & Resilient

Call: 414.856.5429



Call: 414.383.9526



Call: 414.763.5815



Call: 414.930.9352



Milwaukee Muslim Women's Coalition

Call: 414.727.4900



MILWAUKEE WOMEN'S CENTER

Call: 414.449.4777



SOJOURNER

Call: 414.933.2722
Text: 414.877.8100

UMOS

*Latina Resource
Center*

Call: 414.389.6500

Statewide Wisconsin Resources



Call: 608.255.0539



Call: 608.257.1516



Call: 608.448.3147
Text: 608.520.0203

Section II

Economic Impact Methodology

There are many costs that IPV imposes – both on individual victims and on their surrounding communities. Quantifying these direct costs, however, does not generate estimates that are representative of the totality of the economic impacts and losses associated with IPV. These direct costs, in many cases, also lead to a series of economic ripple effects (or multiplier effects). The economic ripple effects are specifically comprised of indirect effects and induced effects and can perhaps be most easily observed when considering the short- and long-run impacts of losses to worker productivity.

The indirect effect represents additional economic losses arising from inter-industry linkages between firms. For example, to the extent that IPV victims are injured or otherwise require time away from the workplace to deal with the threats and violence, this reduces their total number of productive hours. This loss in worker productivity, in turn, reduces the total level of output that can be generated by employers. When these employers experience a decrease in output, they will subsequently decrease the total volume of purchases made with their vendors. This decrease in vendor demand then leads to a decrease in purchasing activity among the vendors themselves with their own suppliers. This iterative process creates losses that extend to many sectors of the local economy, each of which can be specifically quantified.

The induced effect represents additional economic losses resulting from a reduction in the local spending of household income. For example, if one of the vendors cited above experiences a decrease in demand and reduces worker hours as a result, these workers will have less income to spend in the local economy on, for example, food and housing. Food and housing-related businesses will then see decreases in demand for their goods, and so on.

In order to estimate the total impact (direct, indirect, and induced) from the initial, direct costs associated with IPV, economic input-output models are used. In each region being analyzed, an input-output model is tailored with specific parameters that represent the region, which is based on the estimated dynamic relationships of over 500 industry categories. Since these relationships vary by region, in this study separate input-output models are utilized for Milwaukee County and for the state of Wisconsin as a whole. The input-output modeling software IMPLAN is used to derive and quantify all economic estimates in this report.

Section III

Primary Results

This study estimates that there are approximately 9,236 victims of IPV each year in Milwaukee County, with the **total annual economic cost of IPV of \$113.1 million in Milwaukee County**. It is important to note that this cost figure includes both the explicit as well as the hidden costs of IPV. Explicit costs typically include the many local programs, shelters, and other agencies that work to improve public awareness of IPV along with the warning signs of potential violence that they may face in the future. Explicit costs also include mental and physical health care and other services that help victims and their families following specific IPV incidents as well as policing and associated court costs. Hidden costs include direct and ripple effects of loss of life and loss of work productivity. See **Table 1** for detailed cost categories in Milwaukee County.

Table 1 – The Economic Impact of IPV in Milwaukee County

Category	Annual Impact	Pct. of Total
Loss of Life	\$73,703,112	65.1%
Lost Work Productivity	\$8,564,931	7.6%
Physical Health Care	\$8,450,940	7.5%
Mental Health Care	\$3,906,828	3.5%
Loss of Property	\$484,613	0.4%
Policing Costs	\$746,200	0.7%
Prosecutorial Costs	\$4,670,526	4.1%
Incarceration	\$2,054,919	1.8%
Civil Court Costs	\$6,560,861	5.8%
Programs, Shelters, & Agencies	\$3,026,427	2.7%
Volunteer Opportunity Costs	\$961,331	0.8%
Total Impact	\$113,130,688	100%

*This study estimates that there are approximately 9,236 victims of IPV each year in Milwaukee County, with the **total annual economic cost of IPV of \$113.1 million in Milwaukee County.***

The results shown in **Table 1** can also be computed for the state of Wisconsin as a whole. There is an estimated **total annual economic cost of IPV of \$657.8 million for the state of Wisconsin**. Detailed statewide estimates of the economic impact of IPV are shown in **Table 2**.

Table 2 – The Economic Impact of IPV in Wisconsin

Category	Annual Impact	Pct. of Total
Loss of Life	\$241,463,962	36.7%
Lost Work Productivity	\$111,868,572	17.0%
Physical Health Care	\$86,283,585	13.1%
Mental Health Care	\$39,888,477	6.1%
Loss of Property	\$4,947,869	0.8%
Policing Costs	\$2,948,935	0.4%
Prosecutorial Costs	47,048,233	7.2%
Incarceration	\$20,989,976	3.2%
Civil Court Costs	\$61,674,596	9.4%
Programs, Shelters, & Agencies	\$30,913,449	4.7%
Volunteer Opportunity Costs	\$9,815,643	1.5%
Total Impact	\$657,843,296	100%

Note the analysis of IPV costs in Wisconsin deviates from the aforementioned previous research on the economic impact of IPV in other states by adding additional costs including new criminal court costs considering IPV cases reviewed by prosecutors but not ultimately charged as well as new civil court costs related to restraining orders and divorces stemming from IPV. These additions give a more complete picture of the economic cost of IPV and are described in more detail below.

Hidden Costs: Loss of Life & Lost Work Productivity

Data Sources: End Abuse Wisconsin's Domestic Violence Homicide Report & National Center for Injury Prevention and Control

In addition to explicit costs are the hidden costs of IPV. Hidden costs refer to the harm imposed on the general well-being of IPV victims that arises from not being able to return to their normal lives either temporarily or permanently. This can include everything from the inability to return to their previous day-to-day activities to the loss of life itself. And while it is impossible to capture all of these hidden costs, this study specifically examines the losses to worker productivity associated with IPV incidents as a means to quantify the extent to which IPV victims are forced to temporarily or permanently adjust their working lifestyles. This estimate can therefore serve as a conservative measure of the hidden costs of IPV.

The estimated hidden costs – or the **economic losses that arise directly from injury and loss of life resulting from IPV – total \$82.3 million annually in Milwaukee County.** This is reported in **Table 1** in the first two listed categories. The remaining categories reflect the various explicit costs associated with IPV in Milwaukee County.

As shown in **Table 1, the total economic impacts of IPV in Milwaukee County resulting from loss of life and loss of worker productivity are \$73.7 million and \$8.6 million, respectively.** The former represents the estimated loss in lifetime earnings due to a loss in life while the latter represents the loss in wages due to a victim's temporary absence from the workplace for the purposes of attaining safety, healing, and rehabilitation. Estimates for both the loss of life and loss of worker productivity also include the economic multiplier effects as outlined in Section II. As such, these two sets of economic losses are shown to be relatively larger when compared to previous research on domestic violence as published by the Jamie Kimble Foundation for Courage. **The single largest economic loss estimated in this report is the loss due to loss of life, which represents approximately 65.1 percent of the total economic losses resulting from IPV in Milwaukee County.**



Physical & Mental Healthcare

Data Sources: End Abuse Wisconsin's Domestic Violence Homicide Report & National Center for Injury Prevention and Control

IPV leaves deep wounds on victims' physical bodies and their psyches. Physically, victims may suffer bruising, sprains, fractures, concussion, strangulation related injuries, burns, broken bones, stab wounds, or gunshot wounds. **The estimated annual cost for physical healthcare following IPV incidents in which the victim sought medical care is \$8.5 million in Milwaukee County and \$86.3 million in the state of Wisconsin.** Many abusive partners restrict victims' access to healthcare, not allowing victims to seek medical care for injuries following an assault as a means of continued control or to avoid being found out. Further, the physical impacts of IPV often go far beyond the initial incident, with long-lasting symptoms and impairments that incur additional costs in the physical health care arena beyond the estimate provided here. For these reasons, the cost estimates here are an underestimate of the true physical health impact of IPV.

Beyond physical injury, IPV inflicts emotional wounds on victims. In their attempt to maintain control in a relationship, abusers use degradation, manipulation, gaslighting, and insults that whittle away a victim's sense of self-worth and well-being. In fact, many victims, even those who have suffered brutal and life-threatening physical abuse, report that the psychological and emotional abuse was the most difficult and most painful wound inflicted by their abuser. Renewing one's sense of self-worth and healing from the emotional trauma for most victims requires support by trained mental health care providers in individual psychotherapy or group therapy settings. **The estimated cost to provide this mental health care for IPV victims is \$3.9 million annually in Milwaukee County and \$39.9 million annually for the State of Wisconsin.** Again, these costs are an underestimate as access to mental health care services and capacity to serve all those who could use the help is woefully limited.

Loss of Property

Data Source: Jrank.org

In IPV incidents, abusers may inadvertently or purposefully damage or destroy property. A television or computer smashed during a physical assault, a victim's car destroyed to limit her ability for self-sufficiency and escape, jewelry or clothing that held sentimental significance to victims stolen. **The estimated cost of property loss associated with IPV in Milwaukee County is \$484,613 annually while the costs for the state of Wisconsin are estimated at \$4.9 million annually.**

Policing Costs

Data Sources: Milwaukee Police Department & U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics: Occupational and Employment Statistics

In some incidences of IPV, police are called. A victim fearing for their own life may call 911. In other cases a bystander like a neighbor hearing a physical assault taking place or a child witnessing the violence in their home may call 911. Police officers responding have the dangerous, important, and costly job of securing the scene, ensuring the safety of the victim and all others on the scene, conducting initial investigatory steps to determine what has happened, and implementing an appropriate response. Police response to a single incident takes multiple hours and most often involves multiple officers.

Policing costs in response to IPV incidents are estimated at \$746,200 annually in Milwaukee and \$2.9 million annually in the state of Wisconsin.

One limitation of this estimate is related to how 911 calls are categorized. We used those calls that were clearly labeled with an IPV related concern. There are other calls, however, that are later discovered to have arisen from an IPV matter that are initially classified as something else (e.g., disorderly conduct, trouble with suspect, disturbing the peace, etc.). The estimates included here, therefore, underestimate the true cost of police responding to IPV incidents.

Further, police are not called for all incidences of IPV. In fact, law enforcement is likely only called in the few more severe incidences. There are many reasons why police may not be called including victims' fear that law enforcement involvement will only further enrage the abuser putting them in more danger, fear of the economic impact to the household of either party being arrested and incarcerated, distrust of systems, and fear of unwanted systems involvement (e.g., child protective services, undesired subsequent criminal prosecution, mistaken arrest of the victim due to self-defensive violence, etc.). For all these reasons, the policing costs detailed here only represent law enforcement response to a very small portion of actual incidences of IPV in across Milwaukee County and the state of Wisconsin.



Prosecutorial Costs

Data Sources: Milwaukee County District Attorney's Office, OEWS 2021, Milwaukee MSA, Wisconsin Attorney General's Dashboard, & Cohen et al., 1994

Following a law enforcement response or a report of an incident, prosecutors may pursue criminal charges if there is sufficient evidence that a crime has been committed. Following an IPV incident that law enforcement is aware of, cases are referred to the District Attorney's office. Some of those cases are not ultimately prosecuted, though public costs are incurred in the many hours of work processing and conducting initial review. In other cases, criminal charges are issued. Once charges are issued, there are more costs to preparing evidence to support those charges, working with and supporting victims and other witnesses in the cases, public defenders provided to the accused, the many court motions and plea deals that may proceed following charges, trial preparation, and the costs of a criminal trial. **The estimated annual criminal court cost in responding to IPV is \$4.7 million in Milwaukee County and \$47.0 million annually in the state of Wisconsin.**

The estimates provided in this section likely underestimate the total costs of the criminal court system in responding to IPV because of limitations in data system coding. For instance, some incidents that arose from an IPV matter are charged and tagged in data systems as something else (e.g., disorderly conduct, disturbing the peace, violation of probation, etc).

Incarceration

Data Source: Wisconsin Attorney General's Dashboard

Incarceration in jail or prison is the final piece of the continuum of criminal justice system intervention. It is costly to run jails and prisons. Costs include food, clothing, and basic needs for inmates, programs and services offered to inmates, and paying employees to run facilities. **Costs related to incarceration of individuals who have perpetrated IPV are estimated to be \$2.1 million annually in Milwaukee County and \$21.0 million annually in the state of Wisconsin.**

The costs estimated here only include those public costs in supporting the jails and prisons and individuals who work in these facilities. It does not include the significant and oftentimes life altering economic impact for incarcerated individuals and their families they have left behind. These additional losses from lost hours at work, loss of employment, falling behind on rent, utilities and other bills, increased childcare costs with the temporary loss of one parent and are not included in the estimates provided in this section.

Civil Court Costs

Data Sources: Milwaukee County Family Court Commissioner's Office & Cohen et al., 1994

The proceeding sections on police response, prosecutorial and criminal court related costs, and incarceration provide estimates of the cost of IPV for the criminal justice system. But the criminal arena is not the only court system to incur IPV related costs; many civil matters arise directly from IPV and incur their own additional significant costs.

Restraining orders are a key tool that many victims use in their attempts to attain safety from abuse. Applying for and receiving a restraining order is a civil matter, only entering the criminal arena if there are significant violations of that order. There are costs associated with the initial filing of temporary restraining orders, court commissioners' review of these initial applications, sheriffs' offices serving respondents in those orders (i.e., locating and notifying the person a victim is filing against that this has occurred and informing them of the hearing date), and preparation and conduct of hearings to determine whether there are grounds to grant a long-term order.

Additionally, many IPV victims chose to leave a relationship to attain safety. In cases in which that victim was married to their abuser, many pursue a divorce. Divorce cases stemming from IPV are much more likely to be contentiously litigated, incurring far more costs than divorces that are settled out of court by the parties agreeing or cases settled in lower cost mediation.

Civil court costs from restraining orders and divorces related to IPV are estimated to be \$6.6 million annually in Milwaukee County and \$61.7 million annually for the state of Wisconsin.

There are other civil court costs stemming from IPV that are not included in the above estimates. For instance, there may be other family court actions in addition to divorce that are related to IPV such as non-married parents who were in an abusive relationship litigating custody and placement of their children. There are also significant costs to children's court cases related to IPV including cases of child protection involvement and foster care for children from IPV-impacted homes.

Programs, Shelters, & Agencies

Data Sources: Domesticshelter.org, U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics-QCEW, & Sojourner

Beyond the public, state response to IPV, there are myriad programs, shelters, and other agencies serving those impacted - from hotlines ready to take calls from victims 24/7, to shelters providing emergency refuge for victims and their children fleeing abuse, to support groups of victims who have gone through similar trials, to individual advocacy and support provided to victims of a crime that uniquely isolates them. **These vital, lifesaving services are funded through a blend of federal, state, local, and private dollars at an estimated annual cost of \$3.0 million in Milwaukee County and \$30.9 million in the state of Wisconsin.**

Many of these programs would not be able to operate without the unpaid work of a great many dedicated and passionate volunteers. **The estimated value of the many hours contributed by volunteers to IPV related work is \$961,331 in Milwaukee County and \$9.8 million in the state of Wisconsin.**

Section IV

Conclusion

A single incident of IPV is never just that. It creates phenomenal, wide-reaching ripples that reverberate throughout a single victim's life, the lives of their family, and society at large. The economic costs detailed in this report provide numbers that help lay bare the true impact and cost of this issue. It is our hope that this study may inspire us to act, preventing intimate partner violence before it occurs and effectively responding where it does occur to prevent continued violence and harm.



Call To Action

Prevent Intimate Partner Violence at Its Root Causes. The costs detailed in this report are primarily related to the system's reaction to violence that has already occurred. The best way to reduce these costs is to prevent violence outright by addressing social determinants of health. Investing in affordable housing, family supporting jobs, and healing work particularly with young people will allow more people to avoid violence completely. Investing dollars in comprehensive violence prevention strategies will be money well spent.

Engage Leaders in Robust Public Conversation Around Solutions. Work to reduce IPV in our community cannot be done by one agency in isolation. This complex problem demands that leaders and agencies in the community work in close partnership across sectors and invest the necessary capital to move the needle. As IPV contributes both directly and indirectly to other violence in the community, leaders' commitment and investment in solutions is vital. We encourage leaders in all sectors of our community (e.g., business, government, non-profits, etc.) to address this issue as IPV ripples throughout industries.

Support & Enhance Domestic Violence Prevention & Intervention Services. Many dedicated and passionate individuals and agencies respond to survivors of IPV. From culturally specific organizations providing services that fit survivors' needs, to hotline workers, to support group leaders, to children's advocates. Given the rapidly increasing rate of violence in our city, all IPV programs deserve to be fully funded in order to carry out their vital work supporting survivors. This work is effective and worthy of continued support and expansion to ensure survivors and their children are supported and cared for.

The Many Costs of Domestic Violence

Wisconsin



Milwaukee County





www.familypeacecenter.org



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