

The State of Domestic Violence Report

Information on Domestic Violence for Central Indiana
2018 & 2019 Edition

Prepared by Domestic Violence Network
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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This report looks at Central Indiana domestic violence statistics in 2018 and 2019. For the purpose of this report, Central Indiana includes Marion, Hamilton, Hendricks, Hancock, Boone, Johnson, Madison, Morgan and Shelby counties. Data was collected from various direct service providers in the area, as well as the Indiana Coalition Against Domestic Violence (ICADV). This report covers the topics of service agency calls and arrests, domestic violence related fatalities (with an emphasis on fatalities where a firearm was used), and prevention programming; each of these topics occur within Marion and the surrounding counties.

There were more than 13,000 calls in 2018 and more than 15,000 calls in 2019 made to four agencies in the region. Of the four agencies, three have shelter available to survivors, with approximately 244 beds at any given time and half of those being emergency shelter. One agency had to deny shelter services to 2,189 individuals over the two year period. The number of calls severely outweighs the number of available shelter units, and although not every caller was seeking shelter (some seek other services or general information), these statistics still show that Central Indiana service providers are at a high demand and often at capacity. There were 7,527 arrests in 2018 and 2019 combined, and those are only the documented cases. We know that domestic violence goes unreported in many cases.

Of the 75 fatalities in the two year period, there were 49 (65%) where the manner of death was a firearm. 52% of fatalities were victims of domestic violence, the rest make up the perpetrators (murder/suicide), family and bystanders that were also killed. The Domestic Violence Fatality Review Team (DVFRT) identified that access to a firearm was among the top lethality factor in domestic violence cases.

The work of five organizations is discussed, four of them being direct service providers. Prevention programming for domestic violence is critical to help alleviate Central Indiana service providers. If domestic violence can be prevented, then this decreases the overall demand for services in the area. These programs are vital in the movement against domestic violence. The data suggests meaningful changes must be made to change the culture that leads to violence in our communities. Our recommendations are as follows:

1. Increase funding for Central Indiana domestic violence direct service providers.
2. Increase enforcement and accountability of current laws in place. Review and reassess firearm laws as they relate to domestic violence and advocate for policies that help prevent intimate partner homicide.
3. Continue improving and expanding prevention, and providing funding toward these efforts. Advocate for mandated healthy relationship and teen dating violence curriculum in schools across the area as well as policy and system changes that would decrease teen dating violence.

The 'how' and 'why' behind each of these recommendations is further supported by the research and data provided. The overall goal of this report is to showcase high-level data in the region to help decision makers in government, nonprofit and for-profit sectors to advocate for and implement positive change in the movement against domestic violence.

INTRODUCTION

Use of this Report:

Domestic Violence Network (DVN) intends for this report to be used by government, nonprofit and private organizations, especially those who are in decision-making positions. The hope is that this report will be used to inform decision making and policy making to improve our processes across sectors to better serve our community and the survivors of domestic violence, ultimately changing the culture that leads to domestic violence through advocacy, education and collaboration in the community at large.

Background:

Historically, domestic violence has been seen as an issue that only women experience and have to work through. That is largely a false narrative though as domestic violence impacts every single community, albeit disproportionately in some more than others, and is an issue all of us must see as urgent. It is a public health crisis. Domestic violence occurs in all communities and affects individuals from all demographic categories, with at least one in three women and one in seven men experiencing domestic violence in their lifetime. In Indiana, 40.4% of women and 26.8% of men experience intimate partner physical violence, intimate partner sexual violence, and/or intimate partner stalking in their lifetime.¹ National studies, such as the National Crime Victimization Survey, the National Intimate Partner and Sexual Violence Survey², and the Tween and Teen Dating Violence and Abuse Study³ support this notion, as well, while also pointing out the stark reality that some groups are disproportionately affected by domestic violence. Understanding who is most at risk is key to developing – and measuring the impact of – powerful strategies to prevent and end domestic violence. Even with domestic violence being incredibly common, with one in five people reporting experiencing domestic violence in their lifetime, it is very difficult to find reliable, accurate data about domestic violence prevalence and incidence in the community.

To be clear: No one should be victimized by domestic violence. The purpose of assessing patterns and trends of domestic violence victimization is to generate information that can be used by community stakeholders and policy makers to make informed decisions about programs, services, policies and initiatives to end domestic violence in Central Indiana. The State of Domestic Violence in Central Indiana report was created to collect, disseminate and increase accessibility of key data about domestic violence in our community. This report presents an update on the state of domestic violence in Central Indiana based on similar reports compiled in 2016, 2015, 2014, 2013, 2011 and 2008. It includes updated information on the available community data and community-wide efforts to end domestic violence in Central Indiana. Because the purpose of this report is to expand collective knowledge about the issue of domestic violence in the community, the report uses valuable high level data. It is not intended to indicate that any particular community is of greater importance. Since this report is the first in four years, some data sources have changed, therefore this report cannot use comparison charts showing trends from the previous reports.

This report will focus on three main areas of data and discussion:

1. Service agency calls and arrests in Marion and the surrounding counties.
2. Domestic violence related fatalities in Marion and the surrounding counties.
3. Prevention programming in Marion and the surrounding counties.

¹National Coalition Against Domestic Violence. Domestic Violence in Indiana (2019). Retrieved from: <https://ncadv.org/statistics>

²Black, M.C., Basile, K.C., Breiding, M.J., Smith, S.G., Walters, M.L., Merrick, M.T., Chen, J. & Stevens, M. (2011) The national intimate partner and sexual violence survey: 2010 summary report. Retrieved from: [cdc.gov/violenceprevention/pdf/nisvs_report2010-a.pdf](https://www.cdc.gov/violenceprevention/pdf/nisvs_report2010-a.pdf)

³Glauber, Anne. Love is Respect. Tween and Teen Dating Violence and Abuse Study: 2008 Retrieved from: <https://www.haven-oakland.org/assets/media/pdf/tru-tween-teen-study-feb-081.pdf>

METHOD

For the purposes of this report, Central Indiana is defined as Indianapolis (Marion County) and the eight surrounding counties: Boone, Hamilton, Hancock, Hendricks, Johnson, Madison, Morgan and Shelby. Ideally, all data would be provided by the counties as well as in aggregate for Central Indiana as a whole. Where this is not possible data are presented at the state-level. There are also some data points provided for Indianapolis or Marion County alone. DVN continues to work with partners to increase the availability of domestic violence-related data throughout Central Indiana.

The quantitative data contained in this report was provided from a variety of sources noted throughout. It is important to remember that the data is limited to reported information – reports to service providers, crisis lines, law enforcement agencies – and does not capture the thousands of incidents of domestic violence that are unreported nor the thousands of secondary victims of domestic violence, which include child witnesses, family members and friends. According to the Police Response to Domestic Violence, 2006-2015 report, by the Bureau of Justice Statistics, an average of about 716,000 instances of nonfatal domestic violence were reported to police each year, and about 582,000 instances went unreported,⁴ meaning that approximately 45% of cases go unreported. These cases are often not reported due to a fear of retaliation, lack of services or support, or simply the ability to safely navigate community resources even if they are present. Additionally, when considering trend information, it is important to consider that increases or decreases in the trends do not necessarily indicate increases or decreases in the prevalence of domestic violence, but rather, they could indicate changes in reporting patterns among victims. While data alone cannot provide answers to all of the questions that could be asked, it is a useful tool in learning more about, communicating, and understanding domestic violence in Central Indiana.

Data was collected and clarified when necessary from the various sources for the calendar years 2018 and 2019. Quantitative data was given to DVN from each organization and qualitative data is largely taken from agency websites and annual reports. DVN's Research Analyst then took this data, disseminated it and put it into this report via various visualizations and write-ups.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Service Agency Calls for Domestic Violence and Arrests for Domestic Battery Sources

Data for this section comes from service providers in Marion and surrounding counties, as well as ICADV for statewide data. There is also data collected from the Management Performance Hub on arrests.

Data and Discussion

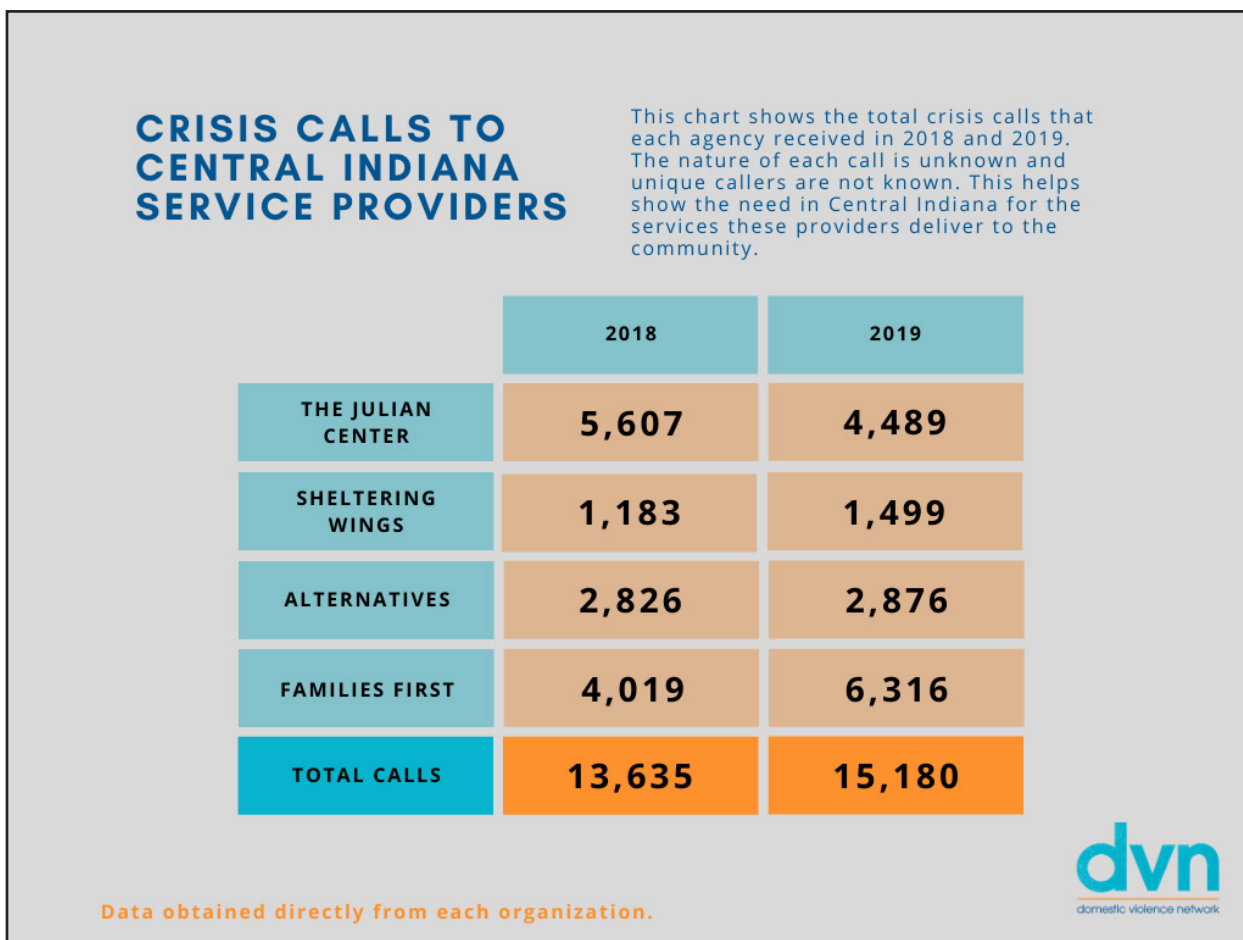
On a given day in Indiana, there are at least 182 call requests for domestic violence services that go unmet due to a lack of resources in the state.⁵ Also, on a given day in Indiana there are at least 1,807 victims/survivors served by direct service providers.⁶ These statistics show that domestic violence is far reaching, and services are in high demand across the state of Indiana. In 2018 Indiana saw 42,553 crisis calls to service providers for domestic violence, and in 2019 that number was 44,460. Looking more directly at Central Indiana, there were more than 13,000 crisis calls in 2018 and more than 15,000 crisis calls in 2019. The chart below

⁴Reaves, Brian A. Police Response To Domestic Violence, 2006-2015. Bureau of Justice Statistics (2017). Retrieved from: https://www.bjs.gov/index.cfm?ty=pbdetail&iid=5907&utm_source=juststats&utm_medium=email&utm_content=prdv0615_report_detail_page&utm_campaign=prdv0615&ed2f26df2d9c416fbddddd2330a778c6=lohfkfgkz-lktztdoo

⁵National Coalition Against Domestic Violence. Domestic Violence in Indiana (2019). Retrieved from: <https://ncadv.org/statistics>

⁶National Coalition Against Domestic Violence. Domestic Violence in Indiana (2019). Retrieved from: <https://ncadv.org/statistics>

provides a breakdown for each service provider that provided data.



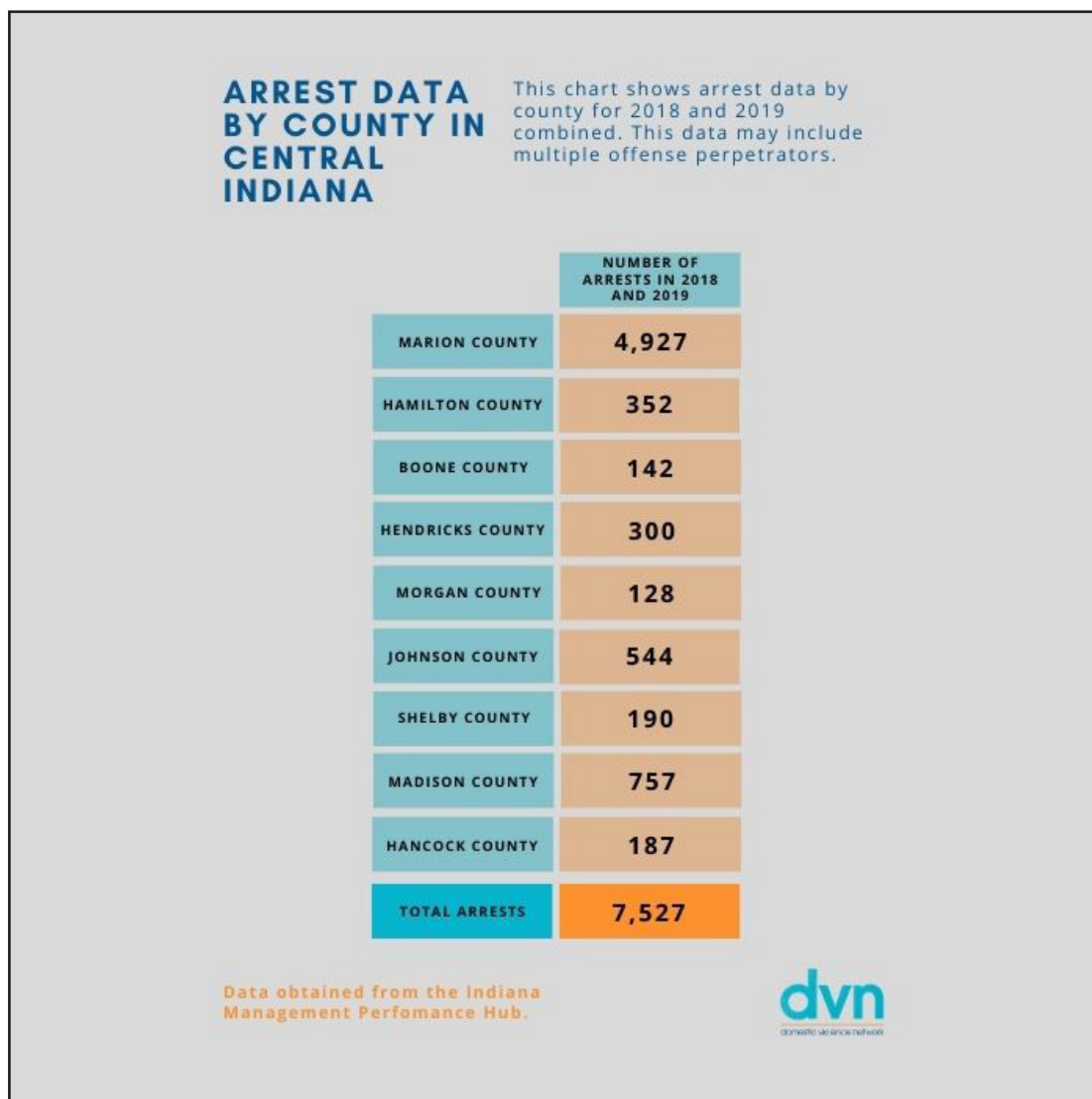
Taking these call numbers into consideration, the available bed count for these service providers at any time is 244 beds at three locations (Families First does not provide shelter), and about half are for emergency shelter with the other half for transitional housing. The purpose of every call is unknown, and the number of unique callers is unknown, but the number of calls is overwhelmingly disproportionate to the number of available beds. One agency reported that they had to deny shelter services to 2,189 individuals over the two year period. The three service providers are often, if not always, at capacity and due to this have often had to turn individuals away who are in need of shelter. All provide some housing for males fleeing domestic violence, with Sheltering Wings coming on board with male housing in 2020.

“One agency reported that they had to deny shelter services to 2,189 individuals over the two year period.”

There is a capacity issue in Central Indiana regarding domestic violence service providers. Though this will undoubtedly be detailed in the next edition of the report, COVID-19 has exacerbated these issues. Though the research is still being analyzed, data gathered by ICADV shows an increase of 85% for deaths

due to domestic violence from March-October of 2020 in comparison to previous years.⁷ DVN, who is not a direct service provider, established an emergency hotel fund to help with the demand. The hotel fund helped survivors fleeing domestic violence by paying for hotel rooms since service providers saw their capacity reduced as demand skyrocketed due to the pandemic and its resulting consequences. Central Indiana holds a large part of Indiana's population, and the area needs to be readily equipped to meet the high demand while creating sustainable change. As discussed in the recommendations, a combination of increased funding and prevention work will help Central Indiana meet the demands of those fleeing domestic violence.

The arrest data shows that there is a demand for services as well. According to data from the Management Performance Hub (Indiana's publicly available data center), in 2018 and 2019 there were a combined 22,134 arrests made for domestic battery and domestic violence in the state of Indiana with 7,527 of those arrests in Marion and the surrounding counties.⁸ The chart below details information from each county in Central Indiana.



⁷Indiana Coalition Against Domestic Violence. Domestic Violence Death Statistics (2020). Retrieved from: Indiana Coalition Against Domestic Violence.

⁸Indiana Arrest Information. Management Performance Hub (2020) Retrieved from: <https://www.in.gov/mp/h/1229.htm>

Approximately 15% of all violent crimes are domestic violence related, and 19% of those involve a weapon.⁹ It is widely known that domestic violence is often underreported, so it is difficult to know the full extent of who is affected. These were the cases that did not end in intimate partner homicide; however, it should be noted that domestic violence typically escalates over time and is not isolated to one extreme event. A report from the Indiana Criminal Justice Institute in 2017 stated that, of the 3,036 uniquely convicted offenders of domestic battery throughout the state, 60% of those offenders recidivate within roughly two years.¹⁰ This statistic confirms that abuse is cyclical and difficult to break. The next section of the report looks deeper into domestic violence related fatalities as an increasing issue in Central Indiana.

Fatalities from Domestic Violence

Sources

Data on domestic violence related fatalities is collected from ICADV. There is also data in this report collected from the Marion County Domestic Violence Fatality Review Team (DVFRT). The DVFRT is comprised of representatives from the Marion County Coroner's Office, the Marion County Prosecutor's Office, Indianapolis Metropolitan Police Department (IMPD), Indiana Department of Child Services, the Marion County Probation Office, The Indianapolis-Marion County Forensic Services Agency, two domestic violence service agencies, a survivor, a forensic nurse, a civil court judge and an educator. The goal of the DVFRT is to try to identify gaps, barriers, and areas for improvement within the full system of domestic violence.¹¹

Data and Discussion

According to data from 2014, in Indiana, more than half of domestic violence homicides were committed using a firearm.¹² Looking at the Central Indiana data, this trend continues. During 2018 and 2019 there were a total of 75 fatalities related to domestic violence with some incidents having multiple casualties. The previous State of Domestic Violence Report showed a downward trend in domestic violence related fatalities. Although there is a gap in fatality data collected by DVN, there is an upward trend in fatalities over these two years. The data indicates that use of firearms in domestic homicides is increasing with 2018 showing 19 of 30 fatalities using a firearm as the manner of death, and in 2019 it was the manner of death in 30 of 49 fatalities.

Of these 75 fatalities, there were 49 (65%) where the manner of death was a firearm. This data point aligns with what Vigdor, E. R., & Mercy, J. A. (2006) stated 15 years ago that 60% of domestic violence homicides between 1982 and 2002 were committed using a firearm nationwide.¹³ This finding from Vigdor and Mercy means that the current Central Indiana numbers are in line with nationwide numbers from 1982 to 2002. In fact, the current numbers are slightly higher than the numbers in that study.

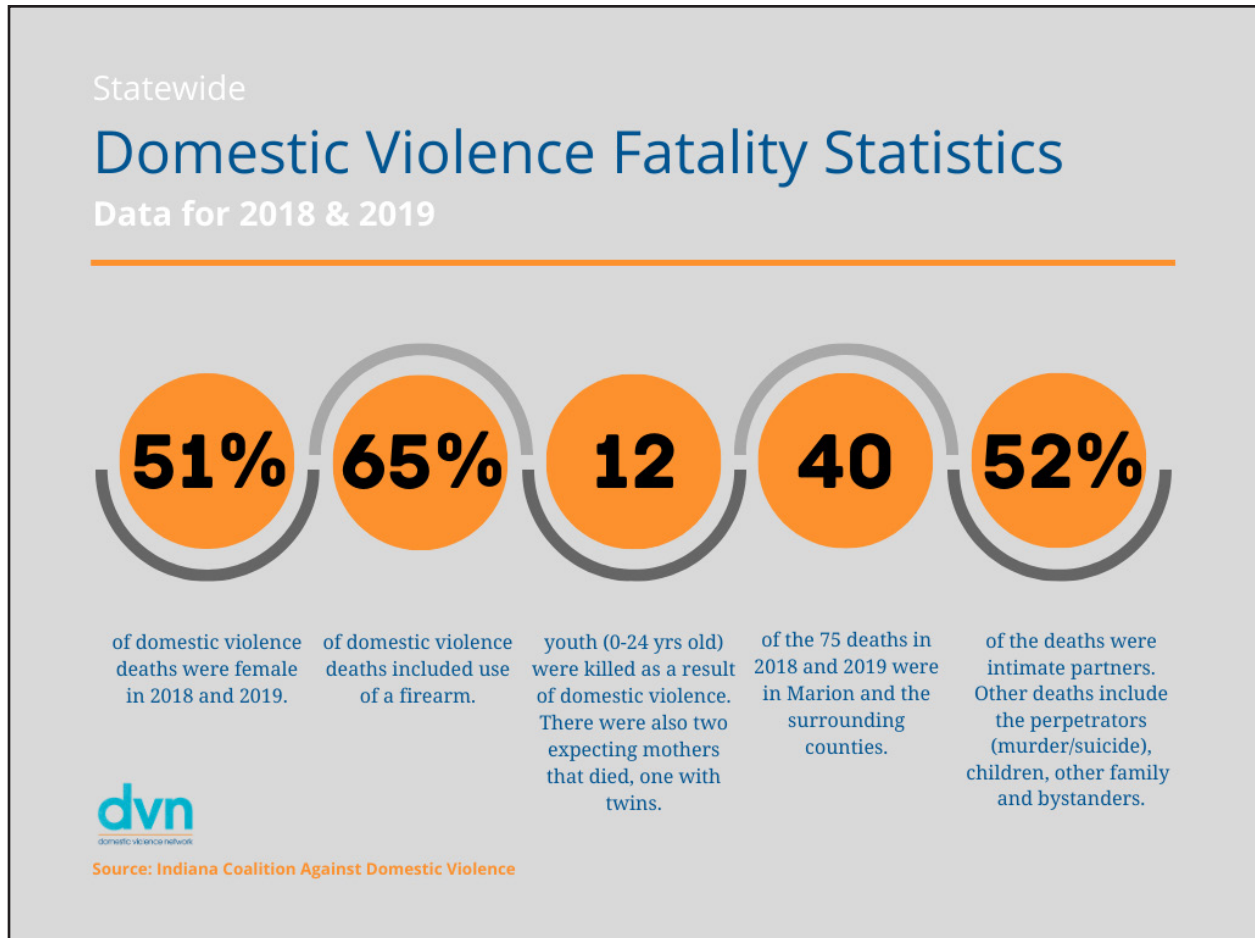
⁹National Coalition Against Domestic Violence. National Statistics (2019). Retrieved from: <https://ncadv.org/statistics>

¹⁰Indiana Criminal Justice Institute. Domestic Violence in Indiana 2017 Offender Overview (2019).

¹¹McBride, K.; Fisher, C. on behalf of the Marion County Domestic Violence Fatality Review Team (2019) Report to the Public Safety City County Councilors.

¹²National Coalition Against Domestic Violence. Domestic Violence in Indiana (2019). Retrieved from: <https://ncadv.org/statistics>

¹³Vigdor, E. R., & Mercy, J. A. (2006). Do laws restricting access to firearms by domestic violence offenders prevent intimate partner homicide?. *Evaluation review*, 30(3), 313-346.



To add to the fatality data and the conversation on firearms, the DVFRT intensely reviewed eight cases from Marion County. Part of the goal of going through these cases in depth was to identify common lethality factors. Six of the eight cases reviewed were instances where the manner of death was a firearm. Of the lethality factors they identify (1) access to a firearm and (2) carrying a firearm without a permit were among the top lethality factors. As identified by the National Coalition Against Domestic Violence (NCADV), the presence of a gun in a domestic violence situation increases the risk of homicide by 500%.¹⁴ It has been found that about 4.5 million women in the US today report having been threatened with a gun by an intimate partner.¹⁵ When the firearm is used as a control tactic, over time, that can escalate to these intimate partner violence cases. Indiana Code does offer some laws in regards to domestic violence and firearms, and these can be found in Appendix A.

“The presence of a gun in a domestic violence situation increases the risk of homicide by 500%.”

¹⁴National Coalition Against Domestic Violence. National Statistics (2019). Retrieved from: <https://ncadv.org/statistics>

¹⁵Sorenson SB, Schut RA. Nonfatal gun use in intimate partner violence: a systematic review of the literature. Trauma, Violence, & Abuse. 2018;19(4):431-442.

Prevention Programming

Sources

Data comes largely from DVN, DVFRT and other service providers who implement some type of prevention-based program. It is important to note that data for this section was taken qualitatively from information available in annual reports and on websites for direct service providers. DVN data was pulled from their internal logs.

Data and Discussion

Data indicates that dating violence starts as early as 12 years old in Indiana.¹⁶ According to the Youth Risk Behavior Survey administered by the CDC in 2015, Indiana ranks 3rd highest of 30 participating states for high school students who experience sexual dating violence.¹⁷ It is known that some of the risk factors for becoming both a survivor and an abuser of domestic violence come from learned behavior and previous trauma. Both of these factors can be linked to teen relationship violence, and from witnessing this behavior from the adult relationships in their lives. This is why a healthy relationship curriculum is critical to preventing teen dating violence and, subsequently, domestic violence. DVN developed a curriculum called The Change Project and recently finished the first year of teaching the curriculum in 2019. With two dedicated curriculum teachers, this curriculum was taught in 12 schools in the Central Indiana region to more than 2,000 unique students.

DVN also offers a variety of trainings to nonprofits, for profits and government agencies. These trainings include defining the basics of domestic violence and how to identify warning signs, what domestic violence looks like in various marginalized communities, why healthy boundaries are important for healthy relationships, as well as domestic violence training for medical providers, Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs) Study and trauma informed care, and domestic violence in the workplace. In 2019, 77 unique trainings were offered in the Central Indiana area to 2,071 individuals.

DVN's mission is rooted in prevention, which is why so much of this section is dedicated to data around DVN's prevention programs. There are other prevention programs throughout the Central Indiana area, and while serving current survivors and victims of domestic violence, these direct service providers also offer prevention programs. With domestic violence affecting such a large portion of the population, the prevention efforts take the efforts of a large network. Some of the programs offered by the Central Indiana direct service providers include:

- Alternatives has CARE2Get Connected, a primary prevention program administered in Madison and Hancock Counties to middle and high school students on healthy relationships and teen dating violence. They also have a bystander intervention program called Raise the Bar Indiana that is geared toward alcohol serving establishments with the goal to give the employees the skills to recognize warning signs of perpetration, victimization, and assault and the tools to be able to intervene safely.¹⁸
- Beacon of Hope Crisis Center has a prevention program focused on empowering survivors so they do not fall into a repetitive pattern. They also provide community training on domestic violence with the goal of prevention.¹⁹
- Prevail has Primary Prevention focusing on the risk factors to prevent future violence. The prevention program focuses on youth, men and bystanders.²⁰
- Sheltering Wings has a detailed section of their website regarding prevention tactics for different

¹⁶The Julian Center 2020

¹⁷Kann L, McManus T, Harris WA, et al. Youth Risk Behavior Surveillance — United States, 2015. MMWR Surveill Summ 2016;65(No. SS-6):1–174. DOI: <http://dx.doi.org/10.15585/mmwr.ss6506a>

¹⁸Alternatives. Prevention. 2020 Retrieved from: <https://www.alternativesdv.org/prevention>

¹⁹Beacon of Hope Crisis Center. Prevention Empowerment. 2020 Retrieved from: <https://www.beaconofhopeindy.org/prevention-empowerment-program.html>

²⁰Prevail of Central Indiana. Primary Prevention. 2020 Retrieved from: <https://www.prevailinc.com/index.php/our-services/primary-prevention/what-is-primary-prevention>

audiences. They also offer training and educational materials specifically for faith leaders and places of worship with the goal of educating congregations on what domestic violence is, what it looks like, and, specifically for faith leaders, how to respond when someone discloses domestic violence. Sheltering Wings also offers other trainings for asset building, workplace and domestic violence, and trainings for the general community on what domestic violence is.²¹

These organizations are all taking on part of a region-wide effort to help curb domestic violence before it happens. The data on calls, arrest and fatalities tells a clear story: prevention efforts and education are necessary to help prevent domestic violence. The capacity of available services does not yet meet the overwhelming need in Central Indiana; as such, if organizations can build upon existing collaboration on this issue and expand prevention measures, there is potential to see a decrease in demand. Prevention work is critically important in the movement against domestic violence; while Central Indiana has made great strides in this area, it is critical not to become complacent in the status quo and instead push forward with renewed momentum.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Recommendation 1: Increase funding for Central Indiana domestic violence service providers.

As stated in the section on calls, there is a capacity issue with servicing those in domestic violence situations. Knowing how frequent domestic violence is, and how large our population is in this region of the state, there should be more funding allocated to serve our survivors. Since the Violence Against Women Act (VAWA) was passed in 1994, there have been significant national statistics to consider when discussing funding domestic violence agencies. These include:

- VAWA saved nearly \$14.8 billion in net averted social costs in its first six years alone.
- More victims report domestic violence to the police; there has been up to a 51% increase in reporting by women and a 37% increase in reporting by men.
- The rate of non-fatal intimate partner violence against women has decreased by 53%.
- The number of individuals killed by an intimate partner has decreased by 34% for women and 57% for men.
- States have passed more than 600 laws to combat domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault and stalking (including Indiana). All states have passed laws making stalking a crime and strengthened laws that make date rape or spousal rape on par with stranger rape.²²

There is also an opportunity to fund more work when addressing domestic violence with the Black, Indigenous and People of Color (BIPOC) communities in Central Indiana. It is known that these communities face issues at a disproportionate rate than their cisgender, heterosexual, white female counterparts. Often,

“the complexities of addressing violence against women within Communities of Color are vast. The lives of Women of Color intersect with many other issues including health care, immigration, disability and economics. Women of Color often do not seek services for fear of becoming isolated from their communities; in effect, forcing victims to choose their communities over their safety. We must provide services that embrace a woman’s race, culture, and needs for safety.”²³

²¹Sheltering Wings. Prevent Abuse. Retrieved from: <https://shelteringwings.org/prevent-abuse/>

²²McLaughlin, Monica. Campaign for Funding to End Domestic and Sexual Violence (2011). Retrieved from: http://www.ncdsv.org/images/NNEDV_CampaignFundingEndDSV_FY12Briefing_Book_April-29-2011.pdf

²³McLaughlin, Monica. Campaign for Funding to End Domestic and Sexual Violence (2011). Retrieved from: http://www.ncdsv.org/images/NNEDV_CampaignFundingEndDSV_FY12Briefing_Book_

It is vital that Central Indiana secure more funding into serving our Black and African American communities and the unique intersectional issues that these individuals face. Due to systemic racism, racist policies and racist societal structures, Black men and women experience domestic violence at a higher rate than their white counterparts.²⁴ According to the 2010-2012 National Intimate Partner and Sexual Violence Survey, nationally, 45% of Black women experienced contact sexual violence, physical violence, and/or stalking by an intimate partner in their lifetime. The same survey found that 40% of Black men experienced contact sexual violence, physical violence, and/or stalking by an intimate partner in their lifetime.²⁵

“As with domestic violence, racist institutions, policies, and practices are rooted in power and control.”

The systems in place to help victims and survivors of domestic violence often create numerous barriers for Black survivors. Law enforcement officials often arrest Black survivors. Further, police, medical professionals, jurors, and judges are less likely to believe Black survivors than white survivors.²⁶ Although this report was unable to capture data specific to the BIPOC community, it is recommended that Central Indiana service providers take action by reviewing NCADV's data on domestic violence in the Black community²⁷, whether this is the first look or a repeated look, and talk through opportunities to make an anti-racist reality for the BIPOC community when experiencing domestic violence. Finding opportunities to shift internal policies or values, finding training opportunities, and collecting data specific to these communities are ways to start or continue gauging how an agency is doing in anti-racism in the context of domestic violence. It is also recommended that service providers connect with Ujima, the National Center on Violence Against Women in the Black Community. They serve as a national, culturally-specific services issue resource center to provide support to and be a voice for the Black Community in response to domestic, sexual and community violence.²⁸

It is recommended that funding be dedicated to education on BIPOC communities in Central Indiana and the intersectional issues they face, especially in the context of domestic violence as well as toward improving services for survivors of color. Trauma informed care training and implementation should be expanded throughout Central Indiana to ensure proper treatment of survivors of color. Finally, domestic violence related organizations in Central Indiana must ensure they look to leaders in BIPOC communities in these topic areas to help ensure services to BIPOC survivors are trauma-informed and culturally responsive and make sure that these leaders are shown proper financial compensation. It is vital to take leadership from BIPOC leaders on the needs of the BIPOC community, but to do so without financial compensation is another failure of the system. Knowing that a majority of the organizations providing survivor support in the area are led by white individuals, it is important for the work of dismantling racist systems to include these white leaders. The failure of the system is on white people, and much of the work to fix it is on white people, but this has to include white people in positions of power and authority. As with domestic violence, racist institutions, policies and practices are rooted in power and control.

This report only discusses calls made to direct service providers and bed capacity, but the reality is

April-29-2011.pdf

²⁴National Coalition Against Domestic Violence. Domestic Violence and the Black Community (2020). Retrieved from: <https://ncadv.org/statistics>

²⁵Smith, S.G., Chen, J., Basile, K.C., Gilbert, L.K., Merrick, M.T., Patel, N., Walling, M., & Jain, A. (2017). The National Intimate Partner and Sexual Violence Survey (NISVS): 2010-2012 State Report. Atlanta, GA: National Center for Injury Prevention and Control, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

²⁶National Coalition Against Domestic Violence. Domestic Violence and the Black Community (2020). Retrieved from: <https://ncadv.org/statistics>

²⁷National Coalition Against Domestic Violence. Domestic Violence and the Black Community (2020). Retrieved from: https://ncadv.org/statisticshttps://assets.speakcdn.com/assets/2497/dv_in_the_black_community.pdf

²⁸Ujima, The National Center on Violence Against Women in the Black Community. <https://ujimacommunity.org/>

that many survivors require other services including medical, mental health, legal, financial, and safety. The recommendation is for lawmakers to reevaluate their respective budgets and ensure that services to survivors are adequately accounted for, especially knowing the impact that VAWA has had on a national level. Many of the Central Indiana service providers serve multiple county areas, and resources are scarce to have the proper employment numbers, the continued training for those employees, and the other operational funds needed to run a successful agency. With the positive impact VAWA has made in the movement against domestic violence, it is critical to continue the momentum through financial support. COVID-19 has impacted the way services are delivered through times of crisis, as well as increased the demand for services. With a forced decrease in capacity coupled with an exponential increase in demand, service providers in Central Indiana have been strained for resources. DVN stepped in with a hotel fund to mitigate some of the demand by funding hotel costs for fleeing survivors. Central Indiana needs to ensure it is always ready to serve those in need, especially during times of crisis, making this recommendation crucial to supporting survivors of domestic violence.

Recommendation 2: Increase enforcement and accountability of current laws in place. Review and reassess firearm laws as they relate to domestic violence where applicable.

49 individuals lost their lives in domestic violence related fatalities due to firearm use in 2018 and 2019, and 32 of those 49 (65%) were not the perpetrator. The recommendation for reassessment and increased enforcement was also proposed by the DVFRT in their latest report.²⁹ Multiple states have more firearms laws as it relates to domestic violence in place than Indiana. This leaves Indiana with significant potential for growth when discussing gun safety and domestic violence-related homicide. The laws currently in place should offer more protection than they currently do, which is why part of the recommendation is to increase enforcement and accountability of laws currently in place.

“Despite the enactment of federal and state laws designed to prevent domestic violence perpetrators from purchasing or possessing firearms, there are major holes that undermine the system. They come in the form of loopholes in legislation; lack of complementary and enforcing legislation at the state level; little or no implementation of available laws by police, prosecutors and judges; and confusion and complexity in putting existing tools to work.”³⁰

There are currently two key laws around prevention of intimate partner homicide. The first is federal law 18 U.S.C. section 921, which has two specific provisions, one that prohibits a person from owning or possessing a firearm if they are either subject to a protection order and/or have a prior misdemeanor conviction for domestic violence.³¹ The other federal provision, the Brady provision, prevents someone from owning or possessing a firearm if: (a) they had proper notice and a hearing, (b) were subject to a protection order, and (c) were a spouse/former spouse, had a child in common, resided together while in an intimate relationship. The second law is the state law: The Indiana Civil Protection Order Act does not have a specific firearms prohibition clause, but does allow a court the ability to order any remedy necessary for the cessation of violence. It has been used when 18 U.S.C. section 921 does not apply, but the desired outcome in that situation is both prohibition and the surrender of firearms. The Indiana Civil Protection Act also recognizes that even when a relationship ends, violence can still happen between intimate partners.

²⁹McBride, K.; Fisher, C. on behalf of the Marion County Domestic Violence Fatality Review Team (2019) Report to the Public Safety City County Councilors.

³⁰ Conder, Kennedy. Removing Firearms from Domestic Violence Perpetrators. National Center on Domestic and Sexual Violence. 2003.

³¹ 18 U.S.C. section 921 Retrieved from: <https://www.govinfo.gov/content/pkg/USCODE-2009-title18/html/USCODE-2009-title18-partI-chap44.htm>

It is fairly consistent that law enforcement and courts in Indiana have not been enforcing these laws as it pertains to firearm surrendering in most cases, but this can and should change. To be clear: this is not a recommendation to take away 2nd Amendment rights, but to ensure public safety from individuals who have been judicially determined to be a domestic violence threat. These are individuals who have gone through the justice process and have been found to be a domestic violence threat. When statistics show that the presence of firearms increases the risk of intimate partner homicide by 500%, and that domestic violence occurs cyclically, often escalating over time, there is a clear reason as to why this is an issue that needs to be addressed. Laws to help reduce these statistics are in place, but they render ineffective if they are not being enforced. As stated by the National Center on Domestic and Sexual Violence, success requires state legislatures, courts and law enforcement authorities to work in tandem with federal authorities to enforce laws that identify domestic perpetrators and prevent them from having firearms.³²

There are many counties around the country that have set up firearm surrender programs that Central Indiana could use as a blueprint to ensure the success of such a program. Important factors to consider in developing something like this include:

- Identifying key stakeholders and obtaining buy-in from all parties.³³ This is something that Multnomah County, Oregon, put in place when creating their program with a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU). This MOU accomplishes a few things: identifies key stakeholders, outlines specific goals and objectives, operationalizes all steps within the program, identifies specific roles and responsibilities and who holds those.³⁴
- Within the operationalizing of the program, identifying program specifics such as: the procedure and paperwork for telling the respondent to surrender their firearms with an included deadline, which facilities within the county are able to secure the firearms from the respondent, and some type of accountability measure to follow up when respondents fail to meet the deadline to surrender. These are all elements to many programs throughout the country.³⁵
- Any type of plan that is developed needs to collect data and keep it in a centralized location. This data would help build on domestic violence research being done in the Central Indiana area which would continue to help inform decision making and inform best practices. Data connected to how many court ordered surrenders, the number of people surrendering, unique and repeat respondents, and weapons returned would all help further the efforts being done in this space. In Marion County, the Polis Center in partnership with DVN, and a number of other community partners created a data dashboard that details domestic violence data in the area.³⁶ Data connected to firearms surrendered would be another piece of information to add to that, giving a deeper understanding of data that correlates more directly with fatalities.

It is also recommended that service providers and coalitions continue supporting and delivering education in favor of universal background checks at the federal level as it pertains to domestic homicide prevention. “Background checks stop abusers from getting guns. One in nine background check denials are connected to domestic abuse, and more than 300,000 domestic abusers have been blocked from buying guns by the federal background check system since its inception.”³⁷ Continuing to close the gaps and loopholes within the background check systems currently in place would make it more difficult for individuals to obtain firearms who have committed acts of violence. Again, as a public safety issue and protecting victims/survivors of and

³¹Conder, Kennedy. Removing Firearms from Domestic Violence Perpetrators. National Center on Domestic and Sexual Violence. 2003.

³²Memorandum of Understanding for Gun Disposition. Multnomah County. 2015 Retrieved from: <http://mcda.us/wp-content/uploads/2018/05/Domestic-Violence-Gun-Dispossession-MOU.pdf>

³⁴Hunter, Elmo. Taking Aim at Family Violence: Report on the Dallas County Gun Surrender Program. Legal Center of Crimes Against Women. 2017 Retrieved from: <https://www.smu.edu/-/media/Site/Law/clinics/elmo-b-hunter/2599-GunSurrender-LowRes.pdf?la=en>

³⁵Hunter, Elmo. Taking Aim at Family Violence: Report on the Dallas County Gun Surrender Program. Legal Center of Crimes Against Women. 2017 Retrieved from: <https://www.smu.edu/-/media/Site/Law/clinics/elmo-b-hunter/2599-GunSurrender-LowRes.pdf?la=en>

³⁶Domestic Violence Dashboard. DVN: In partnership with the Polis Center and SAVI. 2017 Retrieved from: <https://indydvdata.org/>

³⁷ Domestic Violence and Firearms. Gifford Law Center. 2018 Retrieved from: <https://lawcenter.giffords.org/gun-laws/policy-areas/who-can-have-a-gun/domestic-violence-firearms/>

witnesses to domestic violence, ensuring universal background checks is essential to decrease the alarming statistics outlined in this report.

Recommendation 3: Continue improving and expanding prevention, and providing funding toward these efforts. Advocate for healthy relationship and teen dating violence curriculum in schools across the area.

Working with youth is one of the key ways to help prevent domestic violence. To that end, it is critical that Central Indiana schools complete the next edition of the High School Youth Risk Behavior Survey from the CDC. The data collected from this survey is helpful for those organizations with youth serving prevention based programs for teen dating violence.

With more information available on the state of teen dating violence in Central Indiana, service providers will be able to more easily alter existing programming or create new programming depending on the need of the community. Paired with this is the continuing need for youth based prevention programs to continue refining and improving on their curricula. Not only that, but building on the work that began about a decade ago with Heather's Law.

“During the 2010 legislative session, the General Assembly passed SEA 316 [Heather's Law], and the Governor signed IC 20-19-3-10 into law. The legislation requires the Indiana Department of Education (IDOE), in collaboration with organizations that have expertise in dating violence, domestic violence, and sexual abuse to identify or develop and make available to schools; (a) Model dating violence educational materials, and (b) A model for dating violence response policies and reporting by July 1, 2011.”

Building on and expanding this law is one way to advance the goal of domestic violence prevention. If, at the state level, IDOE can work to mandate having a dating violence response policy this would help schools be readily equipped to handle situations more quickly and more effectively. However, this work can start locally. Indianapolis Public Schools (IPS) has already started making changes in an effort to curb teen dating violence. IPS amended its Title IX policy to include teen dating violence guidelines and resources in October 2018 after a group of students from one of the district high schools brought the issue to the district's attention. The updated policy includes initiatives to address teen dating abuse in both high schools and middle schools, including ways to report anonymously on school websites. The policy created an appointed Teen Dating Abuse Advocate for all middle and high schools who serves as the primary resource for students experiencing teen dating abuse. Additionally, literature and resources are shared within middle and high schools from DVN. Programming also includes prevention efforts through The Change Project, a healthy relationship curriculum available to middle schools by request.³⁸ It would be beneficial to Central Indiana youth for more school districts to adopt similar measures to IPS. Another way to build on this work is for districts to mandate healthy relationships and teen dating violence curriculum, as noted in the section on prevention there are many free resources in the area that provide a curriculum for a variety of ages. Advocating for these changes at the state level is also appropriate, especially if Central Indiana becomes the leader of this movement.

Central Indiana providers need to continue their prevention programming and work to improve that programming through consistent program evaluation; this is another funding opportunity for lawmakers and other funders. These prevention programs should also continue building their networks so they reach a broader, more diverse audience. Pairing this specific recommendation with the previously mentioned area on BIPOC

³⁸Updated Title IX Policy Expands Initiatives in IPS Middle and High Schools. MyIPS. (2018). Retrieved from: <https://myips.org/blog/district/updated-title-ix-policy-expands-initiatives-in-ips-middle-and-high-schools/>

individuals would help create prevention programming geared toward those communities in Central Indiana. Overall, a continuing push in the momentum toward prevention based programming, laws and systemic changes is recommended to help diminish domestic violence.

CONCLUSION

This report shows a high level view of what the domestic violence landscape is in Central Indiana. The data points brought forward serve as a foundation to build the knowledge base and understanding on and also point out specific ways in which specific, critical cultural shifts to Central Indiana's response to domestic violence can be directed. Seeing these various data points come together, it becomes clear how the separate parts of the systems working within domestic violence interact, and how improving those systems can lead to better outcomes for victims/survivors, and work towards the ultimate goal of eliminating domestic violence altogether. It takes an overarching, expansive network to make meaningful, lasting change in communities; it is now on decision-makers in government, nonprofit and for-profit sectors, along with caring and compassionate individuals at all levels, to use this information and decide the subsequent actions they will take to contribute to improving the lives of Central Indiana Hoosiers.

LIMITATIONS

DVN acknowledges the limitations to this report. Not every organization in the area was able to provide data for a more complete dataset. DVN also understands that it is likely not every crisis call is a unique caller, as some individuals call multiple organizations until they exhaust all options. DVN currently has no way to account for this, but the data that we have on crisis calls is still relevant as it shows that there are capacity issues. Some of the data simply cannot be broken down by county. Many of the service organizations serve multiple counties within the Marion and surrounding county area that makes up Central Indiana. While the service organization may be located in Marion or Hamilton county, they are often serving the surrounding counties as well. Some data that has been included in previous reports was not included in this report, as DVN reworks how to compile this report, it will not be possible to show side-by-side comparisons on a lot of the data presented for this reason.

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APPENDIX

Appendix A

Current Indiana

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DOMESTIC VIOLENCE
RELATED FIREARMS LAWS

The following codes are current laws, asterisks indicate where there are exclusions in the laws.

INDIANA CODE 35-47-4-6

Indiana statute prohibits domestic violence misdemeanants from possessing firearms.

***This excludes dating partners.



INDIANA CODE 34-26-5-9 (C), 34-6-2-44.8 (A), & 34-26-5-9(F)



Indiana courts are authorized to prohibit respondents to permanent protective orders, including dating partners, from possessing firearms. Courts may require prohibited respondents to surrender any firearm in their possession.

***These are not requirements in Indiana courts.

INDIANA CODE 34-26-5-3(C)

Permanent protective orders must include a notice in bold all caps that if the respondent is a current or former spouse, current or former cohabitant or biological co-parent, (s)he is prohibited from possessing firearms under federal law.



INDIANA CODE 34-26-5-9 (B)(6)



Indiana courts do not have explicit authority to prohibit respondents to temporary protective orders from possessing firearms. Courts are authorized to order whatever relief they deem necessary to protect victims/survivors, which can include prohibiting firearm possession and requiring surrender.

INDIANA CODE 35-33-1-1.5 (B)

When responding to domestic violence incidents, law enforcement may confiscate firearms and ammunition.

***This is not a requirement.



DATA TAKEN FROM IGA.IN.GOV AND NATIONAL COALITION AGAINST DOMESTIC VIOLENCE.

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