

# STATE OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

for Central Indiana in 2018 & 2019



The report covers the Central Indiana area (Marion and the surrounding counties). Data was collected from direct service providers and other community partners. Looking at the data gathered, we know that domestic violence is an overwhelming issue in our area, but that our amazing service providers are delivering services that our community needs daily. We also know that some of the issues discussed in the report have been consistent issues for decades, and that we need to push our community toward positive change.

Based on the data collected and research done on what other areas around the country are doing to battle the issues related to domestic violence, DVN came up with three recommendations:

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 where applicable.
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.

In the full report, each recommendation is analyzed in the various ways it could be implemented, citing existing examples as a potential starting point for a blueprint in Central Indiana.

## THESE THREE AREAS INFORMED OUR RECOMMENDATIONS

### ➔ Crisis Calls



We saw 28,815 crisis calls received to 4 direct service providers in 2018 & 2019. These agencies, together, provide about 244 beds to survivors fleeing

domestic violence situations. One organization reported having to turn away 2,189 individuals over the two year period. On top of the calls, there were 7,527 arrests made throughout Central Indiana in the same timeframe. It is easy to see the disparities in the crisis calls versus the arrests made, and though there could be many reasons for this, some of that could be lack of police reporting. Reporting is a longstanding issue with domestic violence.

### ➔ Fatalities



There were 75 fatalities in Central Indiana in 2018 and 2019. Firearms were used in 65% of all domestic violence related fatalities. When a

number of cases were intensely reviewed, two of the top factors that lead to fatalities in cases across the board were access to a firearm and obtaining a firearm illegally. According to the National Coalition Against Domestic Violence, the presence of a gun in a domestic violence situation increases the risk of homicide by 500%. This is a public safety issue that needs to change.

### ➔ Prevention Programming



Though some of the statistics may seem despairing, there are a number of organizations already working in Central Indiana to change this narrative.

Prevention program are in place at most of the direct service providers in the area. These programs cover a variety of audiences and topics that relate to prevention. Youth programs, programs geared toward men, programs for places of worship. Topics cover a breadth of issues from what domestic violence looks like, to consent, to mental health and healthy boundaries. These programs are seeing success, and we would like to see that success continue to grow in the area.

See the full report: [dvnconnect.org](http://dvnconnect.org)