Family Violence in Ohio

These data describe common types of violence perpetrated by family members or caregivers in our state each year. We present the best available, most recent estimates. Nonetheless, our figures are conservative and represent only part of the burden family violence places on our families and communities. All figures are estimates or annual averages.

Each year in our state...

- **38,000 – 56,000** children are abused or neglected
- **88,000 – 115,000** adults are physically abused by a current or former intimate partner
- **90,000 – 115,000** seniors in the community are abused, neglected or financially exploited
- **105,245** reports of abuse or neglect are filed with children’s services
- **21,800** people are arrested for intimate partner violence
- **6,900 – 13,700** seniors in LTC facilities are abused, neglected or financially exploited
- **26,853** children are placed in custody
- **18,822** people file petitions for civil protection orders
- **7,530** reports of abuse, neglect or exploitation are filed for seniors in the community
- **3,998** adults seek shelter in domestic violence shelters in the county
- **3,163** reports of abuse, neglect or exploitation are filed for seniors in LTC facilities

- It is difficult to measure the true prevalence of family violence; many victims never come to the attention of authorities.
- Reports to local children’s service agencies typically exceed the estimated number of abused or neglected children. This is likely due to multiple reports filed for a single child. Also, many children are placed in custody for reasons other than abuse or neglect (e.g., delinquency).
- Elder abuse/neglect figures exclude self-neglect and victims <60 years old. (LTC = long term care)

This profile is part of an 88-county series provided by the Ohio Family Violence Prevention Project – a collaborative project of the Health Policy Institute of Ohio and the Ohio State University College of Public Health with support from the HealthPath Foundation of Ohio. For additional copies and a detailed description of how we calculated these figures, please visit: www.healthpolicyohio.org/OFVPP_CountyProfiles.html

In Ohio, how does family violence compare to other threats among ...?

**teenage girls** (age 15-19, est. #/year)

- cigarette use: 67,000 - 118,000
- dating violence: 32,000 - 49,000
- pregnancies: 26,228
- motor vehicle crash injuries: 8,697

**adult women** (age 18+, est. #/year)

- physical intimate partner violence: 56,000 – 78,000
- motor vehicle crash injuries: 51,007
- mothers without 1st trimester prenatal care: 42,900
- new cancer cases: 30,550

**seniors** (age 60+, est. #/year)

- injuries from falls: 66,000 – 128,000
- elder abuse/neglect: 90,000 – 115,000
- new cancer cases: 40,289
- motor vehicle crash injuries: 13,505

• For example: each year in Ohio between 56,000 and 78,000 adult women experience physical intimate partner violence; in comparison, 51,007 adult women are injured in motor vehicle crashes.

**How do different types of counties compare?**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>County type (# of counties)</th>
<th>Petitions for civil protection orders (per 10,000 adults)</th>
<th>Reports of abuse, neglect or exploitation in LTC facilities (per 100 resident beds)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Major metropolitan (6)</td>
<td>25.9</td>
<td>2.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Suburban (18)</td>
<td>22.7</td>
<td>1.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Smaller metropolitan (7)</td>
<td>24.5</td>
<td>2.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Appalachian (29)</td>
<td>28.9</td>
<td>2.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Non-Appalachian rural (28)</td>
<td>18.4</td>
<td>1.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>State mean (88)</strong></td>
<td>21.6</td>
<td>2.3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

• Appalachian counties have a higher rate of petitions for civil protection orders (CPO’s).
• Major metropolitan counties have a higher rate of reports of abuse, neglect or exploitation in LTC facilities.
• Differences in data collection limit our ability to compare other indicators of family violence across counties.

**Is family violence increasing?**

It is hard to say. Some data sources suggest family violence is increasing; others suggest it is stable or decreasing. Within a location, changes over time are largely due to changes in victims’ ability to access services. This graph, for example, suggests a significant increase in petitions for CPO’s. This trend could reflect a growing awareness or ability of victims to request CPO’s. For a discussion of when differences are noteworthy, please see the introduction.

To talk with someone about family violence, contact:
Child Abuse Hotline: 1-800-4-A-CHILD
Ohio Domestic Violence Network 1-800-934-9840
Ohio Area Agencies on Aging: 1-866-243-5678