Family Violence in Highland County

These data describe common types of violence perpetrated by family members or caregivers in our county 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 county...

- 150 – 220 children are abused or neglected
- 366 reports of abuse or neglect are filed with children’s services
- 134 children are placed in custody
- 320 – 420 adults are physically abused by a current or former intimate partner
- 130 people are arrested for intimate partner violence
- 104 people file petitions for civil protection orders
- 11 adults seek shelter in domestic violence shelters in the county
- 350 – 440 seniors in the community are abused, neglected or financially exploited
- 20 – 40 seniors in LTC facilities are abused, neglected or financially exploited
- 24 reports of abuse, neglect or exploitation are filed for seniors in the community
- 11 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)
In Highland County, how does family violence compare to other threats among...?

**teenage girls** (age 15-19, est. #/year)
- cigarette use
  - 260-450
- dating violence
  - 120-190
- pregnancies
  - 105
- motor vehicle crash injuries
  - 40

**adult women** (age 18+, est. #/year)
- physical partner violence
  - 210-280
- motor vehicle crash injuries
  - 160
- mothers without 1st trimester prenatal care
  - 133
- new cancer cases
  - 102

**seniors** (age 60+, est. #/year)
- injuries from falls
  - 250-490
- elder abuse/neglect
  - 350-440
- new cancer cases
  - 133
- motor vehicle crash injuries
  - 36

• For example: each year in our county between 210 and 280 adult women experience physical intimate partner violence; in comparison, 160 adult women are injured in motor vehicle crashes.

**How do we compare to other counties?**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Civil protection order petitions (per 10,000 adults)</th>
<th>Highland County</th>
<th>Mean of 29 Appalachian counties</th>
<th>State mean</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Reports of abuse, neglect or exploitation in LTC facilities (per 100 resident beds)</td>
<td>33.0</td>
<td>28.9</td>
<td>21.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.8</td>
<td>2.2</td>
<td>2.3</td>
<td></td>
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</tbody>
</table>

• Highland County has **about the same rate** of petitions for civil protection orders (CPO’s) compared to similar counties in Ohio.
• Highland County has **about the same rate** of reports of abuse, neglect or exploitation in LTC facilities compared to similar counties in Ohio.
• 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 county, changes over time are largely due to changes in victims’ ability to access services. This graph, for example, suggests no significant change in petitions for CPO’s in our county. This trend could reflect no changes in the awareness or ability of victims to request CPO’s. For a discussion of when differences are noteworthy, please see the introduction.

Mean annual rate of petitions for civil protection orders, per 10,000 adults, Highland County, 2000-2008

- 42.0
- 51.1
- 33.0

- 2000-02
- 2003-05
- 2006-08

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