

## DESCRIPTION

Domestic violence (also called intimate partner violence, domestic abuse or relationship abuse) is a pattern of behaviors used by one partner to maintain power and control over another partner in an intimate relationship.<sup>1</sup> Domestic violence includes behaviors that physically harm, arouse fear, prevent a partner from doing what they wish or force them to behave in ways they do not want. It includes the use of physical and sexual violence, threats and intimidation, emotional abuse and economic deprivation. Many of these different forms of domestic violence/abuse can be occurring at any one time within the same intimate relationship. Domestic violence does not look the same in every relationship because every relationship is different. But one thing most abusive relationships have in common is that the abusive partner does many different things to have more power and control over their partner. In Minnesota in 2017, there were 19 women killed by a former or current intimate partner, with five additional lives taken due to being either a bystander or family member that was killed alongside the victim.<sup>2</sup> Convicting someone of domestic violence can be the difference between them getting treatment or not and whether or not they can get a gun.

## HOW WE ARE DOING

Annually, over 5,700 battered women and their children receive direct services from Saint Paul and Ramsey County Intervention, a community organization founded in 1985 to assist victims of domestic violence. Additionally, 9,000 more call for support, information and referrals on the 24-hour crisis line.<sup>3</sup> In 2017, there were 740 cases for orders for protection for domestic abuse in the Ramsey County court system and an additional 408 for harassment. In 2016, 64 percent of domestic abuse cases presented by law enforcement were charged in court<sup>4</sup>, and of those 87 percent of the offenders were found guilty.<sup>5</sup> In 2016, a rate of 60.8 visits per 100,000 Ramsey County residents were treated at an emergency department or hospital for battering and child maltreatment.<sup>6</sup> Among Ramsey County 8th, 9th and 11th grade students, 7.4 percent reported violent behavior between parents or other adults within their home.<sup>7</sup>

## DISPARITIES

Ramsey County American Indian students and students of multiple races reported the highest percentage of violence between parents or adults at home in 2016.<sup>5</sup>

## RISK FACTORS

Domestic violence does not discriminate. Anyone of any race, age, sexual orientation, religion or gender can be a victim – or perpetrator – of domestic violence. It can happen to people who are married, living together or who are dating. It affects people of all socioeconomic backgrounds and education levels.<sup>1</sup>

The most common indicators of potential perpetrators are low socio-economic status, underemployment, prior criminal history, abused or witness of abuse as a child, substance abuse, mental disorders and/or an attitude that violence is acceptable.<sup>7</sup> Warning signs of (continued on back)

## Information to note

- In 2017, there were 740 cases for orders for protection for domestic abuse brought to court in Ramsey County and an additional 408 for harassment.
- There were 14 women killed by a former or current intimate partner in the metro area in 2017.

<sup>1</sup> What is Domestic Violence? The National Domestic Violence Hotline. <http://www.thehotline.org/is-this-abuse/abuse-defined/>. Accessed August 2018.

<sup>2</sup> 2017 Femicide Report. Minnesota Coalition for Battered Women. [http://docs.wixstatic.com/ugd/f4bdb8\\_c42fbb6692914f35a647c28344278da1.pdf](http://docs.wixstatic.com/ugd/f4bdb8_c42fbb6692914f35a647c28344278da1.pdf). Accessed August 2018.

<sup>3</sup> The St. Paul & Ramsey County Domestic Abuse Intervention Project. <http://stpaulintervention.org/mission.html#q>. Accessed August 2018.

<sup>4</sup> Domestic Abuse Charging Rate- Performance Measurement. Ramsey County Attorney's Office. <https://openperformance.ramseycounty.us/stories/s/mcvv-b78z>. Accessed August 2018.

<sup>5</sup> Domestic Abuse Conviction Rate. Ramsey County Attorney's Office. <https://openperformance.ramseycounty.us/stat/goals/yd5x-b3bg/p2gb-equf/4j88-d4hg>. Accessed August 2018.

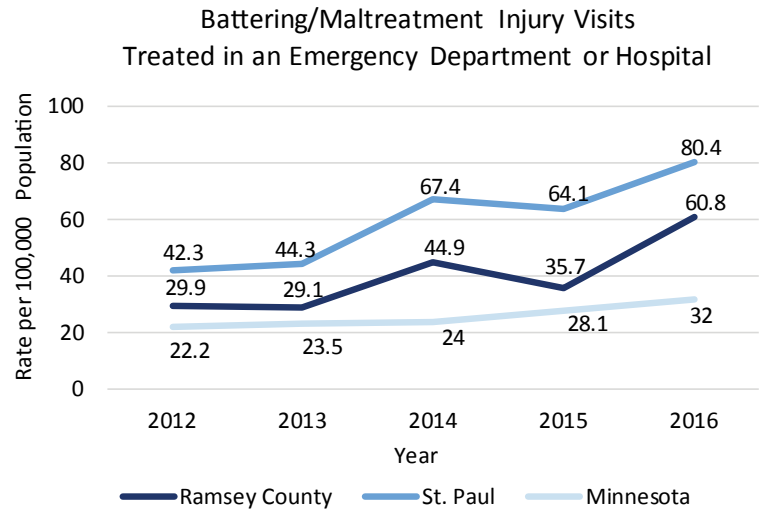
<sup>6</sup> Hospital Treated Injury. Minnesota Department of Health. MIDAS. <http://www.health.state.mn.us/injury/midas/injury/index.cfm>. Accessed August 2018.

<sup>7</sup> Minnesota Student Survey. Minnesota Department of Education. <http://w20.education.state.mn.us/MDEAnalytics/DataTopic.jsp?TOPICID=242>. Accessed August 2018.

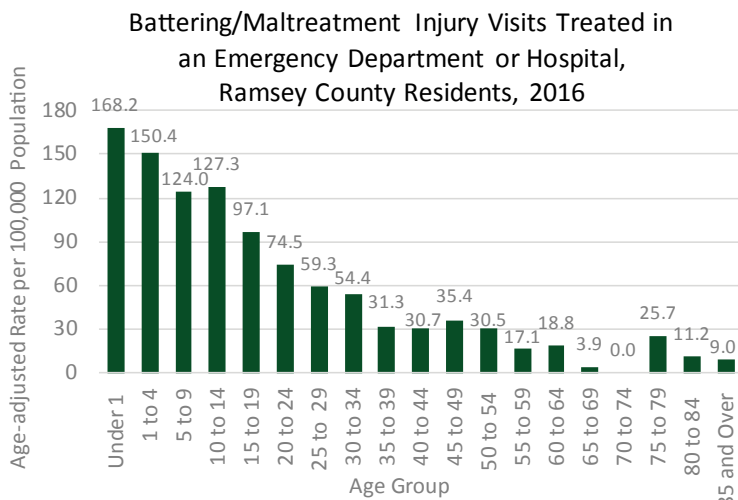
abuse becoming lethal may include; the victim trying to leave the abuser, presence of threats to kill the victim, abuser has access to firearms, and the abuser has a history of violence.<sup>8</sup>

## WHAT RAMSEY COUNTY GOVERNMENT IS DOING

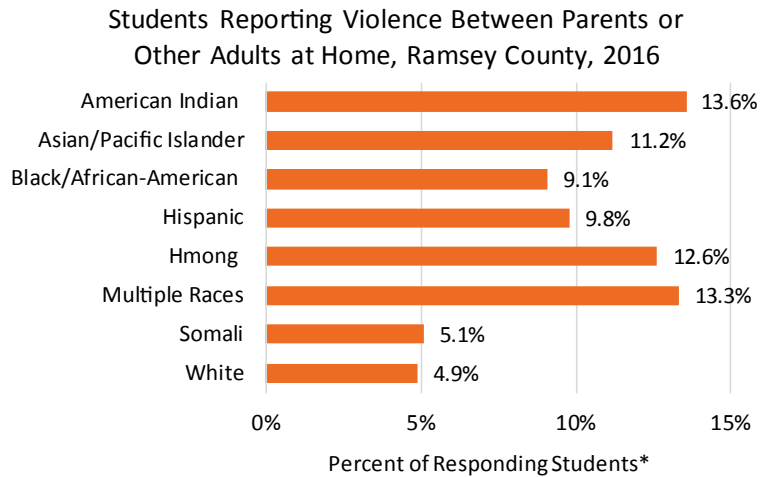
Ramsey County takes domestic violence seriously and aggressively prosecutes domestic assaults to hold the offender accountable and protect victims from future violence, and to send a message to our community that domestic abuse is a crime and will not be tolerated. Minnesota law allows for qualified domestic violence-related offense charges to be enhanced if the offender has past conviction(s) within 10 years of the new offense. The Ramsey County Attorney's Office measures the outcomes of domestic abuse related cases to see if there are more convictions and fewer dismissals or lesser charges to see if offenders are being held accountable for their actions. Ramsey County is proud to be a member of the Partnership for Domestic Abuse Service (PDAS), a collaborative of 18 county government and nonprofit partners whose mission is to "identify, create, and sustain innovative responses that assure a future free of domestic violence." PDAS operates Bridges to Safety, the domestic abuse service center that serves victims at the Ramsey County Courthouse/Saint Paul City Hall in downtown Saint Paul.



Source: Minnesota Department of Health. MIDAS.<sup>9</sup>



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\* Students could identify as more than one race/ethnicity  
Source: Minnesota Department of Education. Minnesota Student Survey.<sup>10</sup>

<sup>8</sup> Predictive Indicators of Domestic Violence. Domestic Shelters. <https://www.domesticshelters.org/domestic-violence-articles-information/predictive-indicators-of-domestic-violence#WuoYRpch02w>. Published April 14, 2015. Accessed August 2018.

<sup>9</sup> Source: Minnesota Department of Health. MIDAS. <http://www.health.state.mn.us/injury/midas/injury/index.cfm>. Accessed August 2018.

<sup>10</sup> Source: Minnesota Student Survey. Minnesota Department of Education. <http://w20.education.state.mn.us/MDEAnalytics/DataTopic.jsp?TOPICID=242>. Accessed August 2018.