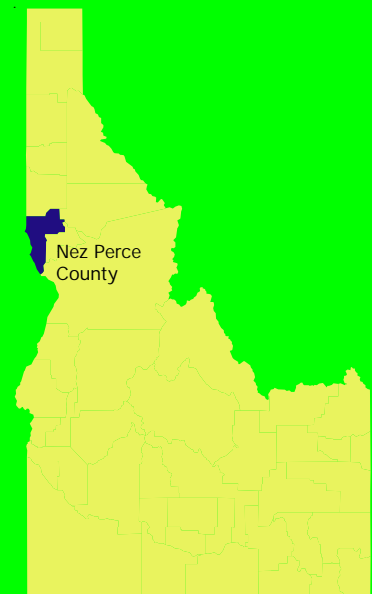


Impact Evaluation of the Nez Perce Domestic Violence Unit



Impact Evaluation of the Nez Perce Domestic Violence Unit

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Introduction

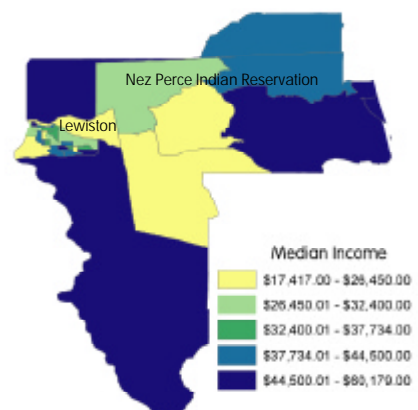
Since 1999, the Nez Perce County Domestic Violence Unit (NPCDVU) has received STOP (Services, Training, Officers, Prosecutors) grant funding for a program designed to hold batterers accountable for domestic violence in addition to providing services to victims. The unit consists of one prosecutor, one victim's advocate and one probation officer. Policies adopted by the NPCDVU include, "zero tolerance" arrests and "no drop" prosecutions with "full faith and credit" given to all protection orders. Because of these policies, if there is any evidence of domestic violence, the police will make an arrest, sometimes of both parties involved. The prosecutor will then prosecute all cases involving domestic violence, the victim advocate will direct the victim to sources for help while assisting in the prosecution of the case, and the probation officer will monitor all batterers sentenced to serve probation.

The Violence Against Women Act's full faith and credit provision requires that every jurisdiction in the United States recognize and enforce valid protection orders (1).

Working with other agencies within their jurisdiction, such as the Nez Perce County Sheriff's Office, Lewiston Police Department, Felony Probation Department, court personnel and the Young Women's Christian Association (YWCA), the NPCDVU meets monthly to corroborate on cases and determine the best course of action for each. Grant reports indicate at "each meeting, individual cases are addressed along with victim safety, case strategy and offender accountability" (2). The NPCDVU uses victimless prosecution, whereby the decision of whether or not to prosecute the batterer is made based on the evidence rather than what the victim requests.

NPCDVU's quarterly grant reports made to the Idaho State Police Department of Planning, Grants, and Research have been consistent in providing valuable information about their goals, objectives, and any obstacles or achievements reached by the program. Because the evaluation efforts made by the program have been so thorough, this report will only highlight what the NPCDVU has found out about itself through constant monitoring efforts, and will provide additional analysis of domestic violence offenses that have taken place within Nez Perce County. Information used in this report is taken from NPCDVU quarterly program reports, the case management records of the NPCDVU, as well as from NIBRS police reports.

Chart 1. Nez Perce County: Median Income of Census Blockgroups



Goal of the Nez Perce County Domestic Violence Unit

The goal of NPCDVU has been "To participate in a coordinated community response to address violence against women and to aggressively investigate and prosecute cases, to effectively provide services to victims of domestic violence and to effectively supervise and monitor offenders to ensure victim safety" (2). Although the wording of this overarching goal has changed slightly from year to year, the central purpose of the NPCDVU has remained the same. The focus of the group is on 1) maximizing victim safety 2) holding batterers accountable and 3) getting batterers into treatment while coordinating with the judicial system.

Focus of the NPCDVU:

- 1) Maximizing victim safety
 - 2) Holding batterers accountable
 - 3) Getting batterers into treatment while coordinating with the judicial system.
-

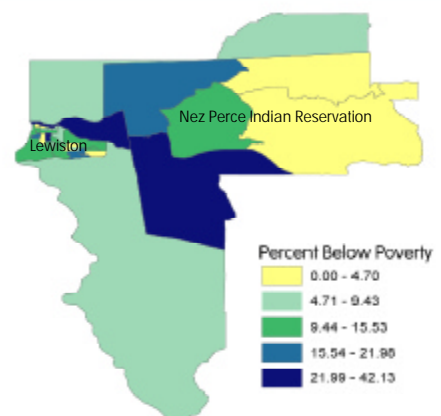
Literature Review

The overall premise for the NPCDVU is that "domestic violence is capable of being deterred, prevented, or reduced by legal intervention" (2). This has been corroborated in recent research indicating: "Police visits to the home, combined with an eventual arrest of the perpetrator which was also followed by court-mandated treatment, were significantly more likely than other combinations of criminal justice actions to end repeat incidents of violence" (4).

Court mandated treatment, however, is subject to the number of sessions attended by the batterer, and the successful completion of all treatment sessions (4). In a 2002 study, 80% of batterers enrolled in batterer programs after 2 1/2 years had not been involved in subsequent violent episodes. In addition, during a 4 year follow-up study only 20% had repeated incidents of domestic violence against their partners (6). Therefore, domestic violence intervention seems to have a measurable effect upon participating batterers.

However, a study by Lynette Feder using an experimental design determined that there was no significant difference between those using batterer treatment versus remaining on probation. Significant differences between clients came rather from differences in employment, marital status and age of batterers. Therefore, women who were "involved with, but not married to younger jobless men were more likely to report incidents of severe physical violence" (5, pg. 10). It is important, therefore, to keep in mind the demographics of batterers (such as age, marital status, and employment) when understanding the likelihood of a significant change in their behavior.

Chart 2. Nez Perce County: Percent Below the Poverty Line by Census Blockgroup



Working Definitions

Domestic Violence from Idaho Statute 39-6303 is defined as: “the physical injury, sexual abuse or forced imprisonment or threat thereof of a family or household member, or of a minor child by a person with whom the minor child has had or is having a dating relationship, or of an adult by a person with whom the adult has had or is having a dating relationship.” “Dating relationship” is defined as “a social relationship of a romantic nature.”

Methodology

The intention of this report is to understand domestic violence in Nez Perce County to help determine if an impact has been made by the NPCDVU. To determine this, information has been taken from NPCDVU case management files, as well as NIBRS police reports from Nez Perce County.

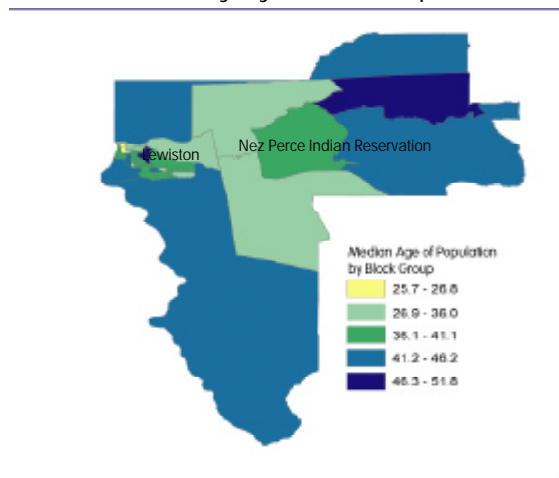
Idaho Incident Based Reporting System (IIBRS) is used here interchangeably with NIBRS, which is the National Incident Based Reporting System. IIBRS is a collection of all police reports of criminal incidents occurring in Idaho. Because the data is standardized and can be compared across state lines and with national totals, NIBRS is a very useful tool for determining criminal behavior within an area.

However, the number of incidents reported to police is not a mirror reflection of the caseload level of the NPCDVU for several reasons. First, there are some cases that may carry over from year to year. Thus, a case where the actual incident happened in 1999, may not have come to its full conclusion until 2000 or later. Also, the definitions used to arrive at what is considered “domestic violence” are slightly different between Idaho code and NIBRS. Cases involving “domestic battery” under state law would become “aggravated assault” or “simple assault” under NIBRS.

To measure domestic violence using police reports, any incident where the victim and offender now have or have had a relationship is counted. The term “intimate partner” includes a spouse, ex-spouse, boy/girlfriend, common-law spouse, or homosexual partner of the victim. Therefore, “intimate partner violence” may include crimes of burglary or trespassing where the victim has a relationship with the offender, instead of just domestic assault incidents.

Incidents of Intimate Partner Violence taken from IIBRS include abuse between a victim and his or her spouse, ex-spouse, boy/girlfriend, common-law spouse, or homosexual partner.

Chart 3. Median Age of Population in Nez Perce County by Block Group



It should also be remembered that the police force of the Nez Perce Indian Reservation currently does not report to NIBRS. Therefore, NIBRS does not reflect all crimes occurring within all of Nez Perce County. Occasionally, however, some domestic violence cases originating on the reservation may be handled by other surrounding police agencies and these cases would be included in the data. Therefore, some but not all cases of domestic violence in the Nez Perce Indian Reservation are recorded by NIBRS.

In addition, the arresting offense may or may not reflect what happened in the actual incident. Only the most serious charge related to the case gets reported to NIBRS at the arrest. Therefore, in a few cases, the offender was arrested for a DUI, or drug related offense when "simple assault" was listed as an offense in the original incident. Therefore, there is no way of knowing which batterers were charged with domestic related battery charges in addition to other charges when arrested. But, as these incidents originally involved intimate partner violence, they were included in arrest totals.

Nez Perce County

Nestled along the north western Idaho border, Nez Perce County has over 37,000 people living within its boundaries. The age distribution for Nez Perce County is slightly older than the rest of Idaho; 77% are over 18 in comparison to 72% in Idaho. The percent of Native Americans living in Nez Perce is also slightly higher in comparison to Idaho as a whole (5.3% to 1.4%). The Nez Perce Indian Reservation which is partially within the Nez Perce County area has a poverty rate of 15.7% in comparison to 11.8% for all of Idaho, and 12.2% for the rest of Nez Perce County.

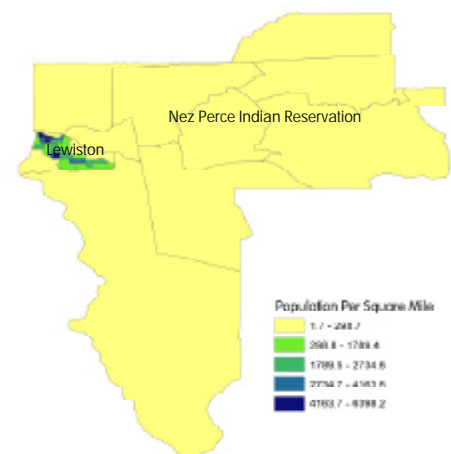
Nez Perce ranks eighth among 43 counties in Idaho in crime rate per 100,000 population.

However, because much of the population in Nez Perce County live around the Lewiston area (Chart 4), it is assumed that the majority of the cases handled by the NPCDVU are in the surrounding area of Lewiston.

As far as crime is concerned, Nez Perce County ranks eighth among 43 reporting counties in Idaho for crime rate per 100,000 population (Lemhi County does not report) (7). It should be remembered again however, that offenses calculated for this area do not include those handled by the Nez Perce Indian Reservation police force.

Three homicides have been reported since 2001 (2 in 2001 and 1 in 2002) and none were domestic violence related. The total number of crimes reported to police in Nez Perce County between 1998 and 2002 went down by 18.6% (7).

Chart 4. Nez Perce County: Population Per Square Mile



Total arrests also decreased during the same period by 32.9%. The most common offenses reported in 2003 were larceny, followed by simple assault and vandalism.

The NPCDVU reported that out of 256 domestic violence incidents in 1997, only 87 arrests were made, or 34.0% (2). Because the county lacked enough manpower to appropriately prosecute and handle all domestic violence cases, many incidents were not being handled appropriately. As a result, victims of domestic violence were not receiving protection from further violence. Since then, the NPCDVU has taken responsibility for all domestic violence occurring within their jurisdiction.

The Nez Perce County Domestic Violence Unit

As evidence of the proficiency the NPCDVU has achieved, Table 1 lists the number of cases that have been filed since 1999. Cases filed have increased by 12.8% and cases dismissed have decreased by 60% since 1999. The NPCDVU has also provided a total of 8,295 services to victims between 1999 -2003, an average of 138 per month. Types of services provided to victims are indicated in Table 2. Each instance of service is counted separately. Therefore, the same victim may receive several of the listed services, but each instance would be counted individually and compiled by the NPCDVU.

In addition to the amount of services provided to victims involved in the cases, the NPCDVU's probation officer has an increased caseload from 27 cases per month in 1999 to 92 cases per month in 2003. Also, various policies and procedures regarding the best ways to handle domestic violence cases have been implemented through the collaborative efforts of all involved with the unit.

Chart 5 indicates the change in domestic violence cases filed by NPCDVU, the number of incidents

Table 1. Cases prosecuted by NPCDVU

Year	Cases		Defendants
	Filed	Dismissed	Sentenced
1999	188	105	78
2000	162	83	78
2001	192	76	104
2002	207	95	105
2003	212	42	78

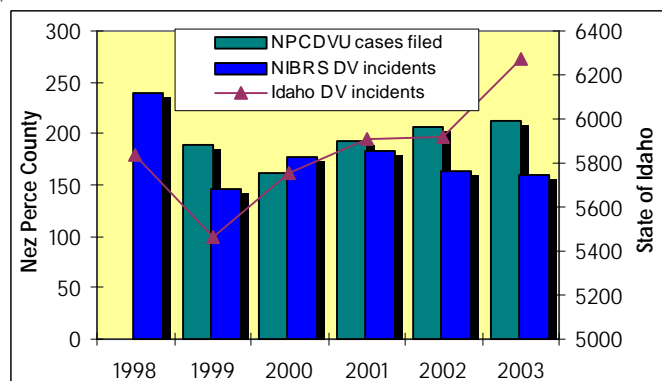
Source: NPCDVU 2003 year-end report

Table 2. Services Provided by NPCDVU to victims of domestic violence

Services Provided to Victims:
1. Victims' rights letter
2. Assistance with Crime Victims Fund compensation
3. Domestic violence information
4. Taking follow-up photographs
5. Assistance obtaining civil protection orders
6. Advocacy during interviews with prosecutor
7. Advocacy during all court proceedings
8. Assistance with reimbursement of witness fees
9. Subpoenas
10. Safety planning
11. Hearing notification
12. Case status information
13. Counseling referrals
14. Transportation assistance
15. Victim impact statements
16. Assistance with no contact orders and no contact order violations

Source: NPCDVU 2003 year-end report

Chart 5. Number of cases filed, NIBRS incidents in Nez Perce County and in Idaho



*NPCDVU began in 1999

reported in the county through police reports, and the number reported in Idaho. As evidenced by the graph, the number of domestic violence incidents in Nez Perce County, as well as in Idaho, reached a peak in 1998 followed by years with lower amounts of incidents. Overall, however, domestic violence again reached a high in 2003 in the state of Idaho, while incidents in Nez Perce County dwindled. Domestic violence incidents in Nez Perce are down by 33.3% since 1998, although up by 7.0% in Idaho. It is hoped that the efforts made by the NPCDVU to combat domestic violence are part of the reason for the decline. To help understand what effect the NPCDVU has had upon domestic violence within the county, this report focuses on domestic violence trends within the county.

Cases Handled by the NPCDVU

There have been 1,009 total cases filed by the NPCDVU since 1999. Table 3 shows the number of cases the NPCDVU has had with the same batterer and the number of cases with the same victim. From this information it is apparent that the majority of victims (70.4%) and majority of batterers (71.6%) were only involved in one case of domestic violence. Some batterers, however, had up to 12 different cases against them between 1998 and 2003. Victims were involved in up to 10 different cases. About 13.8% of the multi-case victims were victims of domestic violence by more than one batterer. Therefore, this portion of the victims may have jumped from one abusive relationship to another. In 8% of the multi-case batterers, the batterer had additional cases with a different victim. However, none of the victims or offenders have been tracked to see if they have been involved in subsequent cases outside of Nez Perce County.

Table 3. NPCDVU Number of cases with the same batterer and the number with the same victim

<i>Number of cases</i>	<i>Number of batterers</i>	<i>%</i>	<i>Number of victims</i>	<i>%</i>
1	465	71.6	431	70.4
2	103	15.9	103	16.8
3	43	6.6	35	5.7
4	19	2.9	18	2.9
5	12	1.8	16	2.6
6	3	0.5	3	0.5
7	0	0.0	2	0.3
8	2	0.3	2	0.3
9	0	0.0	1	0.2
10	0	0.0	1	0.2
11	0	0.0	0	0.0
12	2	0.3	0	0.0
Total	649	100.0	612	100.0

Source: NPCDVU Case management files

About 85.5% of the victims were involved in all of their cases within the same year and have not been involved in any further cases since. Only 14.5% of the victims had cases stretching out over a 2 to 6 year time span. This means that only 14.5% of the victims were in subsequent court cases for abuse after their initial case(s) were dealt with. About 1 batterer in 10, or 14.0% of the batterers had cases stretching over two years or more. Therefore, only 14.0% of the batterers had subsequent cases recorded by NPCDVU after their first cases were handled. This is consistent with research findings regarding the effectiveness of batterer programs. As previously noted, Gondolf (2002) found that “the majority of men (80%) enrolled in batterer programs after 2 1/2 years had not continued to assault their female partners.” From this information, it appears the NPCDVU has been effective in their treatment of

batterers, and are having the same or similar results as other batterer programs.

Chart 6 shows the percent of victims and offenders year to year who have not been involved in any subsequent cases. The year 2000 had the highest percentage of victims and offenders who were not a victim or offender in any future case (90.3% of victims and 97.2% of offenders).

Police Reports of Domestic Violence in Nez Perce

1,073 incidents of intimate partner violence were recorded in police reports from 1998 to 2003 in Nez Perce County. For this analysis, information about the incidents themselves will be discussed, followed by information on the victims, suspects, and arrestees.

As stated previously, the amount of domestic violence incidents in Nez Perce went down by 33.3% from 1998 to 2003. Chart 7 lists the times of day of all domestic violence incidents occurring in Nez Perce County between 1998 to 2003. The time of day varies slightly depending on if it was a weekday or weekend, however, the majority of incidents still occurred between 9:00 pm to 12:00 am at night.

Chart 8 lists the seasons of occurrences of all domestic violence incidents between 1998 to 2003. Winter and Spring had fairly equal numbers of incidents (272 to 268), followed by a peak in the Summer and a large decline in Fall by 11.7%.

Chart 9 lists the occurrences of domestic violence by day of the week. Slightly over half, or 53.4% of all incidents of domestic violence happened on the weekend (Friday through Sunday). The lowest number of incidents occurred on Wednesdays throughout the six-year time span.

Chart 6. NPCDVU Percent of victims and offenders per year who have had no subsequent cases

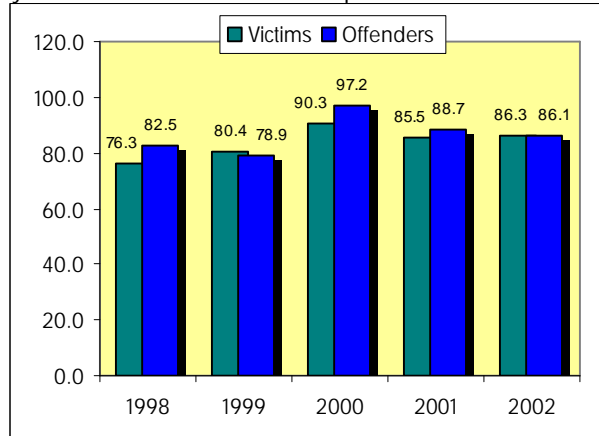


Chart 7. NIBRS Times of day of most domestic violence incidents: 1998-2003

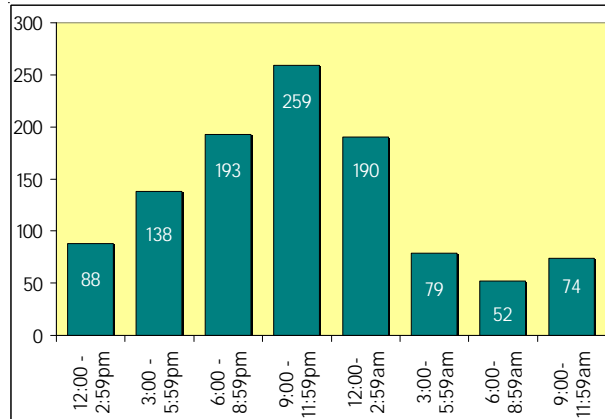


Chart 8. NIBRS Domestic Violence incidents by season: 1998-2003

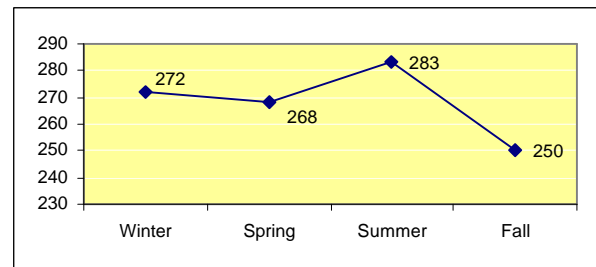


Chart 9. NIBRS Domestic Violence Incidents by Day of the Week: 1998-2003

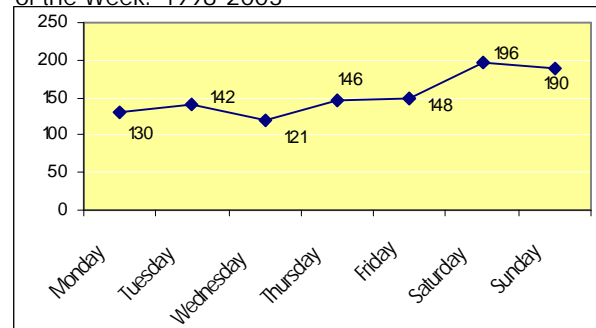


Table 4 shows the relationship to the victim the batterer had. Consistently about 62.0% of the cases year to year involved boy/girlfriend relationships. An additional 31.4% of the incidents were among married spouses. Very few intimate partner violence episodes were among ex-spouses, common-law spouses, or homosexual partners. Because there could be more than one individual suspect involved in an incident, neighbors, in-laws, and others were also occasionally involved in the altercation. In addition, in roughly 18.0% of the incidents the victim was also considered an offender of domestic violence.

Table 4. Offender's Relationship to Victim

<i>Relationship to victim</i>	<i>1998</i>	<i>1999</i>	<i>2000</i>	<i>2001</i>	<i>2002</i>	<i>2003</i>	<i>Total</i>
Boy/girlfriend	59.4	64.8	61.7	57.6	66.9	63.5	62.0
Spouse	35.4	27.9	30.3	35.2	25.8	30.3	31.4
Ex-Spouse	2.2	1.8	5.0	5.7	3.9	4.5	3.8
Acquaintance/Friend							
/Neighbor	1.8	2.4	3.0	0.5	2.8	0.6	1.7
Common-law spouse	0.7	1.8	0.0	1.0	0.0	0.6	0.7
Parent/Step-parent							
/In-law	0.0	1.2	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.6	0.2
Homosexual relationship	0.4	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.6	0.0	0.2
Total Number	271	165	201	210	178	178	1202
% Victim was also an offender	19.9	15.2	16.9	23.8	11.2	18.5	18.0

Chart 10 lists the gender of all domestic violence participants, including victims, suspects, and arrestees. The gender ratio of victim, suspect and arrestee stayed fairly consistent for all six years. Males composed 23.0% of all victims, 76.0% of all suspects, and 75.0% of all arrestees.

Chart 10. Gender of domestic violence participants NIBRS

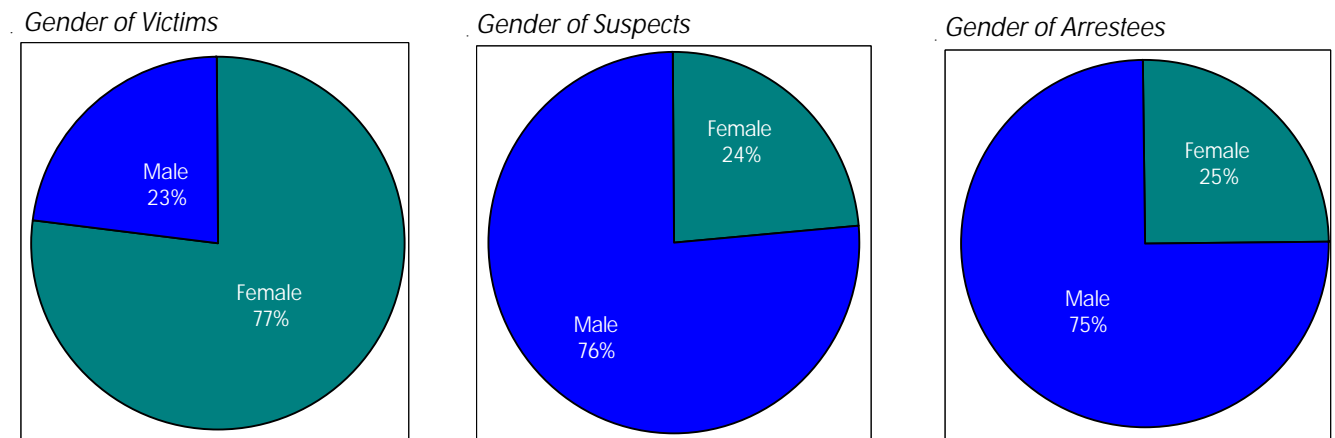


Table 5 lists the race and ethnicity of all victims, suspects and arrestees of domestic violence from 1998 to 2003 (except arrestee ethnicity which is not collected by NIBRS). The large majority of all individuals involved in incidents of domestic violence during this time period were white. This is fairly consistent with the overall make-up of the county as presented by 2000 census data. However, the proportion of Native Americans involved in intimate partner violence in Nez Perce County is slightly larger than the proportion that lives in the county. Therefore, Native Americans are at slightly higher odds of being involved in reported domestic disputes than individuals of other races.

Chart 11 shows the ages of all victims, suspects, and arrestees involved in intimate partner violence in Nez Perce County from 1998 to 2003. As is apparent, a larger proportion of victims, suspects, and arrestees are ages 18-24 than of other age groups. Roughly 45.8% of all victims, 44.8% of all suspects and 44.0% of all arrestees were between the ages of 18-30. In addition, around 30% of all victims, suspects, and arrestees were between the ages of 30 and 40.

Chart 12 shows the average age of the victim versus the average age of the suspect for that age category. Therefore, the average victim between ages 12 to 17 had a batterer who was about 21.5 years old. The gap in age decreases as the victim gets older until age 37 where both the victim and suspect are the same age. From age 37 on, the victim is older than the suspect by 10 to 20 years. Victims who were older than 70, however, had suspects that again were the same age. Overall the average victim was 31.4 and the average suspect was 32.7.

Table 5. Race and Ethnicity of Victims, Suspects and Arrestees: 1998-2003

	Victim	Suspect	Arrestee	Nez Perce County**
Race				
White	90.6	89.1	89.2	91.6
Native American	7.6	8.3	8.4	5.3
African American	0.6	2.1	1.9	0.3
Asian American	0.4	0.3	0.3	0.7
Unknown/other	0.8	0.3	0.3	2.1
Total Number	1,178	1,212	1,074	37,410
Ethnicity				
Hispanic	1.4	2.4	*	1.9
Non-Hispanic	97.7	97.3	*	98.1
Unknown	0.8	0.3	*	
Total Number	1,178	1,074	*	37,410

*This information is not collected by NIBRS

**Demographics are from 2000 U.S. Census

Chart 11. Ages of all Victims, Suspects, and Arrestees of Domestic Violence: 1998-2003

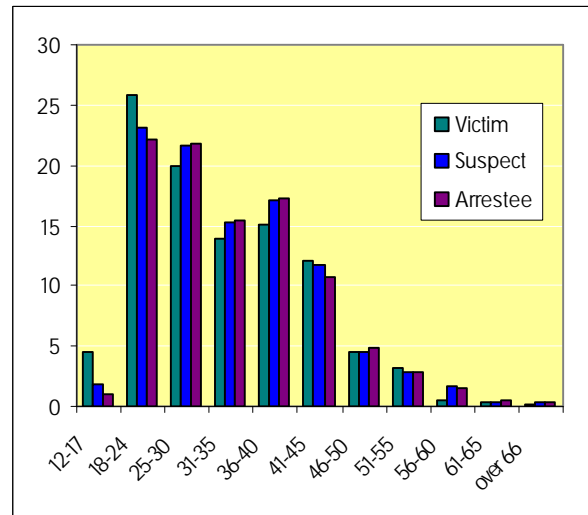


Chart 12. Average age of suspect by age of victim: 1999-2003

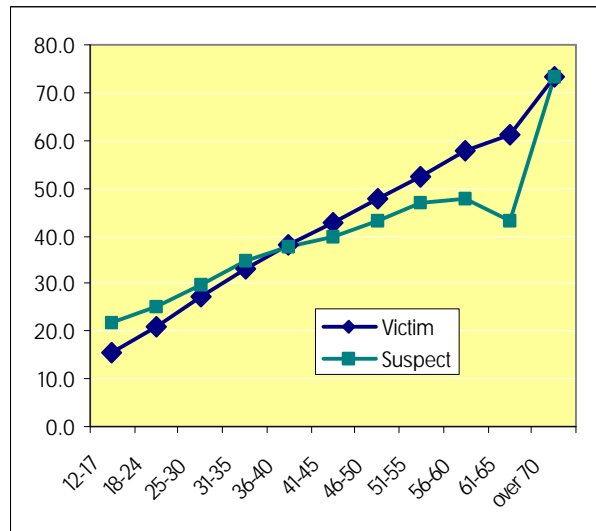


Table 6 lists any injuries present from the abusive encounter. As is apparent, the majority (87.3%) of victims experienced minor injuries. An additional 10.7% had no injuries as a result of the incident. Very few victims experienced apparent broken bones, unconsciousness, severe lacerations, or other major injuries during the domestic violence episode.

Table 6. Percent of Injuries present in Domestic Violence Incidents: 1998-2003

<i>Year</i>	<i>1998</i>	<i>1999</i>	<i>2000</i>	<i>2001</i>	<i>2002</i>	<i>2003</i>	<i>Total</i>
	<i>%</i>	<i>%</i>	<i>%</i>	<i>%</i>	<i>%</i>	<i>%</i>	<i>%</i>
Minor injury	88.7	87.4	90.2	85.6	87.2	83.9	87.3
Severe Laceration	0.4	2.0	1.0	0.5	1.2	1.1	1.0
Other major injury	*	*	0.5	*	0.6	1.1	0.6
Apparent broken bones	0.4	*	*	0.5	1.2	*	0.3
Possible internal injury	0.4	0.7	*	*	*	*	0.2
Unconscious	*	*	*	*	0.6	*	0.1
None	9.4	9.9	8.3	13.5	9.3	13.8	10.7

Table 7 lists the assault offense versus the arresting charge. As is apparent, year to year the majority of cases (88.5%) involved simple assault. Aggravated assault accounted for the second highest total number of charges over the six year span, although only 3.7% of offenses and 2.4% of arrests were made regarding this charge.

Table 7. Offense charge versus arrest charge: 1998 - 2003

<i>Charge</i>	<i>1998</i>	<i>1999</i>	<i>2000</i>	<i>2001</i>	<i>2002</i>	<i>2003</i>	<i>Total</i>
	<i>%</i>	<i>%</i>	<i>%</i>	<i>%</i>	<i>%</i>	<i>%</i>	<i>%</i>
Offenses							
Simple Assault	90.1	83.1	90.9	91.1	89.3	84.7	88.5
Aggravated Assault	2.6	4.8	2.5	4.2	5.1	3.7	3.7
Destruction/Damage/Vandalism of Property	2.9	3.6	1.5	1.9	2.3	5.8	3.0
Forcible Fondling	1.1	1.8	3.6	1.4	2.3	2.6	2.1
Intimidation	3.3	4.2	*	*	*	1.1	1.5
Forcible Rape	*	1.8	1.0	0.5	0.6	0.5	0.7
Burglary/Breaking and Entering/Theft from Building	*	*	*	0.5	0.6	1.6	0.4
Kidnaping/Abduction	*	0.6	0.5	0.5	*	*	0.2
Total Number of Offenses	273	166	197	214	177	190	1217
Arrests							
Simple Assault	90.8	83.6	89.0	90.5	90.8	90.3	89.4
Aggravated Assault	1.3	4.8	2.8	1.0	3.3	2.6	2.4
Drug/Alcohol Related	2.1	1.4	0.6	3.5	2.0	1.3	1.9
Intimidation	3.8	2.1	*	*	*	1.3	1.3
Destruction/Vandalism/Trespass of Property	0.4	2.7	1.1	0.5	2.0	1.3	1.2
Family Offenses, Nonviolent	*	0.7	*	1.0	0.7	2.6	0.7
Disorderly Conduct	0.8	1.4	0.6	*	0.7	*	0.6
Forcible Rape	*	1.4	0.6	*	*	*	0.3
Forcible Fondling	*	0.7	0.6	*	0.7	*	0.3
Burglary/ Shoplifting/ Theft	*	*	*	1.5	*	0.6	0.4
Kidnaping/ Abduction	0.4	*	*	*	*	*	0.1
All Other Offense Related Arrests	0.4	1.4	5.0	2.0	*	*	1.5
Total Number of Arrests	240	146	181	199	153	155	1074

Note: 91.1% of the time the arresting charge was the same as the original offense.

In Table 8 the number of incidents of domestic violence in Nez Perce County is compared against the number of arrests. As shown, the number of incidents has fluctuated, however, they are down by 33.3% since 1998. For all years listed, the number of cases involving no arrests has stayed around 10.7%. This indicates that just because there were 240 incidents involving intimate violence in 1998, not all 240 were arrested as some cases had no arrests, while other cases involved multiple arrests. However, cases where more than one person was arrested comprise a small percentage of total cases. Although one of the aims of the NPCDVU was to increase the number of arrests made regarding domestic violence incidents, the majority of incidents prior to and during the development of NPCDVU have consistently concluded in an arrest. Therefore it is hard to establish any effect their work has contributed to arresting more batterers of domestic violence.

Table 8. Number of Incidents by Number of Arrests: 1998-2003

Year	Number of incidents	Number of Arrests	% of cases with no arrests	% of incidents with more than one person arrested
1998	240	240	10.5	0.8
1999	147	146	11.3	1.9
2000	178	181	9.7	2.6
2001	184	199	6.2	1.4
2002	164	153	14.5	2.3
2003	160	155	13.1	1.1
Total	1073	1074	10.7	1.6

NPCDVU case files and treatment of batterers

The remaining information is taken from case management files from NPCDVU. Table 9 lists the most common offenses defendants pled guilty to after going through the court system. According to NPCDVU records, the most common charge defendants pled guilty to was disturbing the peace (31.8%), followed by domestic battery (29.0%) and battery (21.4%). The majority of those with charges of disturbing the peace, battery, assault, domestic assault, and trespass received reduced sentences. Seven individuals spent time in prison for their offense (Aggravated assault or Felony Domestic Battery).

For a few of the cases, the victims in the case were also involved in other cases as offenders, and the offenders were involved in other cases as victims. The highest number of such cases were those where the case involved stalking or disturbing the peace.

The average number of months of probation sentenced per charge is also listed on Table 9. The total av-

Table 9. Guilty Pleas By the Defendant

Pled Guilty to:(misdemeanor offenses)	N	%	% Victim was also an offender	% Offender was also a victim	Average length of probation in months	% Successful probation
Disturbing the peace	114	31.8	18.4	20.4	10.2	67.7
Domestic Battery	104	29.0	0.0	6.1	16.1	35.8
Battery	77	21.4	10.4	12.9	13.2	58.8
NCO/CPOR Violation*	34	9.5	11.8	13.3	10.4	40.0
Assault	11	3.1	9.1	10.0	12.9	80.0
Stalking	5	1.4	20.0	25.0	14.6	66.7
Domestic Assault	4	1.1	9.6	25.0	17.0	60.0
Resisting arrest	4	1.1	0.0	0.0	12.2	100.0
Possession of Paraphernalia	2	0.6	0.0	0.0	12.2	*
Exhibiting a deadly weapon	1	0.3	0.0	0.0	24.3	0.0
Injury to a child	1	0.3	0.0	0.0	22.3	0.0
Injury to Property	1	0.3	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Trespassing	1	0.3	0.0	0.0	12.2	100.0
Total	359	100.0	13.4	11.6	13.3	53.7

*No Contact Order/ Court Protection Order Violation

average length of probation for all charges was 13.3 months. The majority of offenders charged with resisting arrest, trespassing, assault, disturbing the peace, stalking, domestic assault, and battery completed their probation. However, only a little over one-third (35.8%) of those charged with domestic battery successfully completed probation. Over all, slightly more than half (53.7%) completed their probation successfully.

Table 10 shows how the percentage of those completing probation has fluctuated over the years. The highest proportion of individuals completing probation was in 2002. However, the numbers on probation in 2003 are slightly skewed as those who have not finished with their probation are not included in this number.

Table 10. Percentage Completing Probation

	% Successful	
	Probation	Total
2000	50.0	44
2001	52.8	53
2002	70.6	51
2003	37.8	37

As noted in Table 10, less than half (46.8%) of the batterers ordered to participate in domestic violence treatment successfully completed their probation. Those who received anger management treatment (78.6%) and mental health treatment (including counseling and many on medication) were more likely to complete probation than those taking a combination of different therapies. However, it is more likely that those taking a combination of treatment have many varying problems to be managed and may be harder than others to rehabilitate. The differences, therefore, are most likely due to a difference in the severity of the case, rather than of the treatment provided.

Table 11. Type of Counseling by Successful Probation

Type of Counseling	n	% with successful probation
Domestic Violence	62	46.8
Addiction treatment	33	57.6
Anger management	28	78.6
Combination: (Anger management + domestic violence group, etc.)	24	33.3
Mental health treatment: (Most in addition to medication)	14	71.4
Thinking for a change	2	100.0
Life skills	1	100.0
Parenting	1	100.0
Developmental disability services	1	100.0
Total	166	54.5

Table 12 shows the numbers completing all types of treatment by year. A slightly higher percentage of offenders completed treatment who served probation in 2000 than other years (65.4%), reverting to only 47.2% completing in 2003. This is most likely the largest reason for the lower numbers completing probation in 2003 as individuals not completing treatment may not successfully complete probation. However, not all individuals serving sentences for 2003 are done with their treatment, which could bring the numbers back in line with 2002. For instance, if all 14 individuals who are currently serving probation from 2003 complete their treatment successfully, the num-

Table 12. Numbers completing treatment by year

Year of Case	% Completing treatment	Number Completing	Number Not Completing	Completed Some	Total	Currently In Treatment
2000	65.4	17	5	4	26	1
2001	63.2	36	12	9	57	0
2002	60.0	33	14	8	55	3
2003	47.2	17	17	2	36	14
Total	59.2	103	48	23	174	18

ber completing for 2003 would jump from 17 to 31, or 88% of those taking treatment. Therefore, this trend is not complete enough yet to make any conclusions.

Table 13 lists the different types of charges defendants plead guilty to, by the type of treatment (if any) they were ordered, and the percentage who have successfully completed the treatment. As indicated, the types of offenses with highest numbers completing treatment were assault, stalking, exhibiting a deadly weapon, and resisting arrest. The majority of individuals who were offenders of disturbing the peace and battery (and were ordered treatment) have also successfully completed their treatment. However, just as there are less than half of the individuals who were sentenced with domestic battery who completed probation, only 45.3% successfully completed treatment. It is also apparent from this chart the most popular form of treatment to be recommended for all offenders is domestic violence treatment (about 34.1%). The next most popular forms of treatment are substance abuse and anger management (16.5% and 15.2%).

Table 13. Type of Offense by Type of Treatment

Pled Guilty to:	Total Needing Treatment*	% Successful Treatment	Domestic Violence Treatment	Substance Abuse Treatment	Anger Management	Combination	Mental Health Treatment	Other	Eval Not Ordered or		Never Had Evaluation
									Recommended	Total	
Domestic Battery	83	45.3	38	17	10	12	4	2	1	84	6
Disturbing the peace	49	71.4	14	14	16	1	8	2	15	70	7
Battery	44	63.6	23	6	7	9	--	3	5	53	3
NCO/CPOR Violation**	3	75.0	1	--	--	1	2	--	5	9	3
Assault	4	100.0	2	1	3	--	--	--	2	8	--
Domestic Assault	5	40.0	2	1	--	1	1	--	--	5	--
Stalking	1	100.0	1	--	--	--	--	--	2	3	1
Injury to a child	1	0.0	--	--	--	2	--	--	--	2	1
Exhibiting a deadly weapon	1	100.0	--	--	--	--	1	--	--	1	--
Resisting arrest	1	100.0	--	--	--	1	--	--	--	1	--
Trespassing	0	N/A	--	--	--	--	--	--	1	1	--
Total	192	59.1	81	39	36	27	16	7	31	237	21

*Excludes those currently taking treatment, as well as those who were not ordered to take an evaluation, not recommended by the evaluator to take treatment, or never had the prescribed evaluation.

**No Contact Order/Court Protection Order Violation

Conclusion

The Nez Perce Domestic Violence Unit has proven its efficiency and resourcefulness through its quarterly grant reports to the Idaho State Police. The purpose of this report was to show the impact, if any their strides have meant towards eradicating domestic violence within the Nez Perce community. The intention was not to evaluate the process of the program, (as they have already done this), so much as to evaluate the outcome of their goals.

The overall focus of the NPCDVU has been to maximize victim safety, hold batterers accountable, and get batterers into treatment while coordinating with the judicial system. The unit has been successful at striving for these goals. Roundtable discussions are held monthly to help coordinate the activities of those involved with domestic violence cases in the community. The victim advocate does what is possible to help the victim by giving information about how to find shelter, and providing legal help. The prosecutor goes after the batterer using "victimless prosecution" whereby the process moves forward regardless of the wants of the victim. The probation officer ensures that the batterer serves his or her sentence and stays in compliance with court mandated treatment. Together, the NPCDVU does what it can to ensure that batterers are held accountable for their actions.

Since the Domestic Violence Unit first began in 1999 cases filed have increased by 12.8% and cases dismissed have decreased by 60%. In addition, an average of 138 services are provided to victims on a monthly basis and the probation officer handles a caseload of approximately 92 clients.

Although it is difficult to make a clear relationship between the NPCDVU and its effect on domestic violence, it is positive to note that domestic violence incidents have gone down by 33.3% in the county since 1998. In addition, case management data from NPCDVU show that only 14.0% of batterers, and only 14.5% of victims have been involved in further cases of domestic violence since their original case(s) were handled.

Information taken from NIBRS regarding domestic violence incidents in Nez Perce County reveal that since 1998 the majority of intimate partner violence incidents occurred at night between 9:00 and 12:00 at night, most often on the weekend during the summer. Although this information says nothing about what the NPCDVU has done within the county regarding domestic violence, it does establish trends occurring within the community.

The trend in domestic violence is also for the altercation to involve intimates who are dating as boyfriend/girlfriend versus involved as married couples, ex-spouses, living together, or in a homosexual relationship. In addition, in 18.0% of the incidents, the victim was also in-

volved as an offender. The majority of victims are female (77.0%), while most suspects and arrestees of domestic violence are male (76% and 75%). The large majority of individuals involved in domestic violence were white, however, Native Americans were slightly over-represented among victims, suspects and arrestees. Therefore, there is a slight tendency for individuals who are Native American to be involved in incidents of domestic violence versus individuals of other races.

Nearly half of all suspects, victims and arrestees were between the ages of 18 and 30. There is also a tendency for the offender to be several years older than the victim until age 37, where the victim and offender are the same age. After age 37, as the victim ages, it is more likely for the batterer to be younger than the victim. Most incidents of domestic violence from 1998 to 2003 involved simple assault (88.5%) as opposed to other offenses and involved minor injuries (87.3%). Since 1998 the number of incidents where no arrests were made has stayed around 10.7%. None of the previous information has fluctuated considerably since the inception of the NPCDVU. The overall dynamics of domestic violence incidents within Nez Perce County remain the same, irregardless of the work the unit is doing.

Information taken from the case management records of the probation officer offer insight into the success of the treatment of the batterer. Thus, although it has been established that the group has been successful at prosecuting cases, what types of treatment are batterers given, and what types of treatment are most successful?

It was shown that the majority of cases the NPCDVU probation officer manages are batterers sentenced to disturbing the peace, domestic battery, or battery. The length of probation for all sentences typically involves 13.3 months. Since 2000, 53.7% of the sentenced batterers the NPCDVU probation officer has had as clients have completed probation. Of those sentenced to be evaluated and attend some form of treatment, 59.2% completed the treatment. Offenders who were ordered to attend anger management or undergo mental health treatment had the highest number also successfully completing probation. However, this is most likely due to the severity of issues surrounding the client versus the type of treatment they attended. For instance, it is possible that the more violent the batterer, the more likely it is they may not complete treatment. It is not possible to surmise this relationship, however, based on the information tracked by the probation officer. However, it is worthy of note that those who were sentenced to disturbing the peace or battery were more likely to complete their treatment than those with a sentence of domestic battery. Also, the most common form of treatment recommended to be taken by those with a sentence of domestic battery or battery was domestic violence treatment.

To sum up, the NPCDVU has been successful in their goals and have provided a valuable service to the Nez Perce County community. Because of their efforts, more batterers are being sentenced and are going through some form of treatment to help change their behavior. It is difficult to determine the direct influence the unit's efforts have had upon domestic violence, however, the fact that less incidents are being reported within the community is promising.

Because the overall trends in the behavior and demographic characteristics of batterers has remained fairly steady over the last several years, it is hoped that this report will provide some insight into other areas the NPCDVU can focus on if it wishes to continue making inroads into the number of domestic violence incidents. For instance, since it is known that Native Americans have a slightly higher risk of being involved in domestic violence, prevention campaigns could be specifically targeted at this community.

Other things presented here can be looked into as well, such as why are more batterers completing the anger management, mental health, and addiction treatment versus those completing domestic violence therapy? Among many other reasons, it could be the difference in the length of time of the classes, difference in structure of the classes, or a difference in the severity of violent behavior manifested in the batterers themselves.

To understand the nature of the domestic violence problem in Nez Perce County it is recommended that the NPCDVU undertake a data collection project to document the full extent of incident information. Therefore, information regarding what happened in the police report would be linked with the final sentencing by the judge, and finally with a follow-up on probation and treatment in the end. This would help determine what types of batterers are most responsive to what types of therapy. This would also help determine if those batterers who are truly violent are changing their behavior after involvement with the criminal justice system, or if only those with lighter sentences are making changes.

If the NPCDVU were to gather information about the full process of domestic violence incidents within their community, it would help them to establish a better link with whether or not their efforts are having an effect on the overall occurrence of domestic violence. This would help establish if they are able to actually change the behavior of batterers through interaction with the criminal justice system. The intent would be at determining if truly violent batterers are changing their behavior, or just the mainstream batterers who are responsible for the overwhelming number of simple assault with minor injuries. This information would help determine why so few individuals charged with domestic battery finish their probation successfully (only 35.8%) versus those sentenced with battery (58.8%) or disturbing the peace

(67.7%). Also, why so few convicted of domestic battery finish their treatment (45.3%) versus disturbing the peace (71.4%) or battery (63.6%). By all appearances, it seems that the most violent offenders are currently not changing their behavior. More research will help establish this link, and help determine what the program should do about it.

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