

# Domestic Violence in Idaho: 2007-2012



**Idaho Statistical Analysis Center**  
Planning, Grants, & Research  
Idaho State Police

# DOMESTIC VIOLENCE IN IDAHO: 2007 - 2012

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Images on the cover and throughout the report do not represent actual victims.

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## Executive Summary

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Periodically, the Idaho Statistical Analysis Center (ISAC) publishes a report on domestic violence in Idaho. The purpose of this report is to inform the criminal justice community within all levels of government, as well as other interested parties, about the prevalence and characteristics of intimate partner violence (IPV) and court cases often associated with domestic violence within the State of Idaho. This report covers the years 2007-2012 and is a compilation of police incidents reported to the Idaho Incident Based Reporting System (IIBRS) and court records received from the Idaho Supreme Court Repository.

IPV refers to violent crimes reported to the police where the victim was an offender's spouse, ex-spouse, common-law spouse, or boyfriend/girlfriend, as provided in IIBRS. Data from IIBRS does not necessarily reflect the statutory definition of domestic violence in the state of Idaho. Domestic violence for this report refers to court data and is defined by statute as a battery or assault of another household member (spouse, former spouse, a person who has a child in common, or a person with whom a person is cohabiting). Also included in the analysis of court data are crimes associated with domestic violence: stalking, attempted strangulation, protection order violations, violations of no contact orders, as well as domestic violence-assault or battery.

### Idaho Incident Based Reporting System (IIBRS)

- Between 2007-2012, 412,269 unique incidents were documented in IIBRS. Of those, 93,115 were violent and 32,570 were violent and between intimate partners.
- Almost a third (31.7%) of violent crime was between intimate partners (32,570).
- The majority of offenses that occurred between intimate partners involved simple assault (77.4%), with intimate partners having a higher likelihood of experiencing simple assaults than all victims of violence (67.7%).
- Rates of all violent crime and intimate partner crimes in Idaho have decreased, though intimate partner crime decreased at a less significant rate (16.8%) compared to total victims of violence (22.4%) from 2007 through 2012.
- Intimate partner victims were more likely to be female (75.6%) compared to all victims of violence (56.1%).
- The majority of victims sustained some form of injury, with intimate partners more likely to sustain an injury (58.4%).
- An arrest was more likely to be made and prosecution was more likely to be declined if the victim was the offender's intimate partner.

### Court Records

- Domestic violence charges accounted for 62% of the charges in this study.
  - Total charges associated with domestic violence declined 12.5% between 2007 to 2012 (adults only).
  - Between 2007 to 2012, 21,185 offenders were charged with crimes related to domestic violence and ranged in age from 18 to 89 years old, averaging 34 years of age.
  - Just under half (46.8%) of domestic violence assault or battery charges were amended from their initial filing.
  - Only 10% of charges for violations of protection orders and no contact orders were amended from their initial filing.
  - A domestic violence assault or battery charge filed as a misdemeanor was more likely to be dismissed (37.1%) than if it was initially filed as a felony (30.8%).
  - Over a quarter of stalking charges were filed as a felony. Of these, 18.9% resulted in a felony conviction.
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## Introduction

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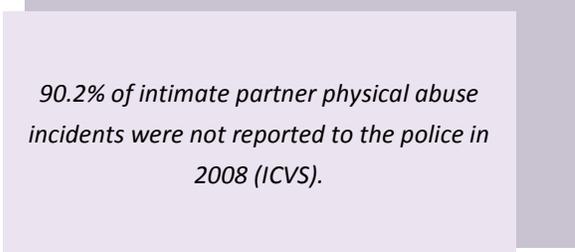
Every year the Idaho Statistical Analysis Center (ISAC) publishes a report on intimate partner violence (IPV) in Idaho to inform Idaho's community on the prevalence and characteristics of IPV in Idaho. The present assessment incorporates police and court records to develop a better understanding of the occurrence and case outcome of IPV. The data for this analysis covers the period from 2007-2012 and comes from two sources: 1) police incidents reported to the Idaho Incident Based Reporting System (IIBRS) and, 2) court records received from the Idaho Supreme Court Repository. The use of both police and court data provides a more informative approach to analyzing domestic violence in Idaho than either data source alone. Data from IIBRS covers police reported incident, victim, offender, and arrest information, whereas data from the Idaho Supreme Court Repository describes court cases involving charges commonly associated with domestic violence.

Background information is also provided giving a broad synopsis of what is known about intimate partner violence both nationally and in Idaho.

The 2010 National Crime Victimization Survey (NCVS) indicated that since 1994, the national intimate partner violence rate in the United States has declined by 64% for persons aged 12 or older (Catalano, 2012). Data from the NCVS found that victims were more likely to be female (4 out of 5 victims) with females between the ages 18-34 experiencing the highest rates of intimate partner violence. Another national survey conducted by the Centers for Disease Control found that about 1 in 4 women and 1 in 7 men have been victims of severe physical violence at the hands of an intimate partner (Black, 2011). While national surveys can give a general picture of intimate partner violence, the Idaho Crime Victimization Survey (ICVS) provides information directly related to Idaho citizens.

According to the 2008 ICVS, 99.8 per 1,000 individuals in Idaho have experienced physical abuse within an intimate relationship, with women experiencing signifi-

cantly more intimate partner violence than men. Of those surveyed, approximately 25% of women and 8% of men said they had experienced partner violence. The majority of intimate partner victims were women (66.0%) and 71.2% of offenders were male. The average age of intimate partner violence victims in 2008 was 32.8, while offenders of physical abuse were on average 31.7 years (Idaho Statistical Analysis Center, 2011).



*90.2% of intimate partner physical abuse incidents were not reported to the police in 2008 (ICVS).*

As in prior victimization surveys, the 2008 ICVS indicates that intimate partner violence affected more individuals than was reported to law enforcement (42.6 per 1,000 adults according to the ICVS compared to 4.0 per 1,000 adults as reported in IIBRS). In fact, 90.2% of intimate partner physical abuse incidents were not reported in 2008. The most common reasons given for not reporting the abuse included the abuse was not that bad (25.0%), it was a private matter (15.0%), or it was dealt with in another way (10.0%). If the most recent physically violent incident was reported to police, the most common outcome was the temporary removal of the abuser (39.1%), followed by the arrest of the victim (26.3%), or the arrest of the abuser (24.5%). Survey results also indicated that victims on average have experienced 7.9 instances of physical abuse (median 2.0) and 11.3% said they were currently living with the person who abused them.

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## Methodology

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Two sources of data were used for this report:

- 1) Crime data from IIBRS, and
- 2) Court filings listed in the Idaho Supreme Court Repository.

IPV crime from IIBRS represents violent crimes reported to the police where the victim was an offender's spouse, common-law spouse, boy/girlfriend, or ex-spouse. Data from IIBRS does not necessarily reflect the statutory definition of domestic violence in the state of Idaho.

Domestic violence for the purposes of this report is defined by statute as a battery or assault of another household member (spouse, former spouse, a person who has a child in common, or a person with whom a person is cohabiting, whether or not they have married or have held themselves out to be husband or wife). In addition to domestic violence assaults and batteries, the additional offenses of stalking, attempted strangulation, and violations of no contact orders and protection orders are included in the court analysis. Although stalking, attempted strangulation and violations of no contact orders do not necessarily involve intimate partners or domestic violence situations, they are commonly associated with these situations.

### Idaho Incident Based Reporting System (IIBRS)

IIBRS is a collection of all criminal incidents reported to the Idaho State Police Incident Based Reporting System. This data provides information on victim, offender, arrestee, and offense characteristics and is a key measurement for IPV. For the purposes of this study, data was collected and analyzed for all violent incidents from 2007-2012.

The information collected from IIBRS is extensive and includes the following:

- ◆ Incident Information
  - Date/Time
  - Reporting Agency
  - Exceptional Clearance
- ◆ Offense Information (up to 10 per victim)
  - Weapons used per offense (up to 3)
  - Type of criminal activity (up to 3)
  - Offense location
  - Suspected use of alcohol or drugs by offender
- ◆ Victim Information (up to 999)
  - Type of victim (person, business, society, etc.)
  - Age, race, sex, and ethnicity
  - Circumstances of aggravated assault
  - Injuries suffered (up to 3)
  - Victim-offender relationships (up to 10)
- ◆ Offender Information (up to 99)
  - Age, Race, and Sex (no Ethnicity)
- ◆ Arrestee Information (up to 99)
  - Age, race, sex, and ethnicity
  - Arrest date
  - Type of arrest (citation, on-site, etc)
  - Weapons in possession of arrestee (up to 3)
  - Arrest offense (only 1)
  - Disposition of juvenile arrestees

### Idaho Supreme Court Repository

The Idaho Statistical Analysis Center requested and received data from the Idaho Supreme Court Repository for charges, cases and offender information from 2007-2012 regarding domestic violence. Juvenile data was removed from these cases. For ease of analysis, original and adjudicated charges were categorized into five distinct categories:

- Domestic Violence (assault or battery)
- Attempted Strangulation,
- Stalking,
- No Contact Order Violation, and
- Protection Order Violation

### Limitations

It should be noted this study attempts to examine domestic violence solely through the use of official records. For police records in particular, the data represents only incidents that have been reported to the police, and not necessarily all incidents of violence. For court records, the data received represents court filings for domestic violence related cases only and may not represent all case filings for a particular defendant.

# Police Reported Incidents From IIBRS



IIBRS is a collection of reported crime in Idaho provided to the Idaho State Police through the Incident Based Reporting System. This data provides information on victim, offender, arrestee, and offense characteristics and is a key measurement for IPV. For the purposes of this study, data was collected and analyzed for all violent incidents from 2007-2012. Based on the law enforcement jurisdictions participating in IIBRS each year, the data represents 99.1% (2007-2011) to 100% (2012) of Idaho's total population. Overall, 412,269 unique incidents were reported to the IIBRS repository from 2007 through 2012. Of those, 93,115 were violent and of those, 32,570 incidents were between intimate partners. This amounts to 35,181 victims; 35,171 offenders; and 33,443 arrestees of intimate partner violence.

## What is Intimate Partner Violence (IPV)?

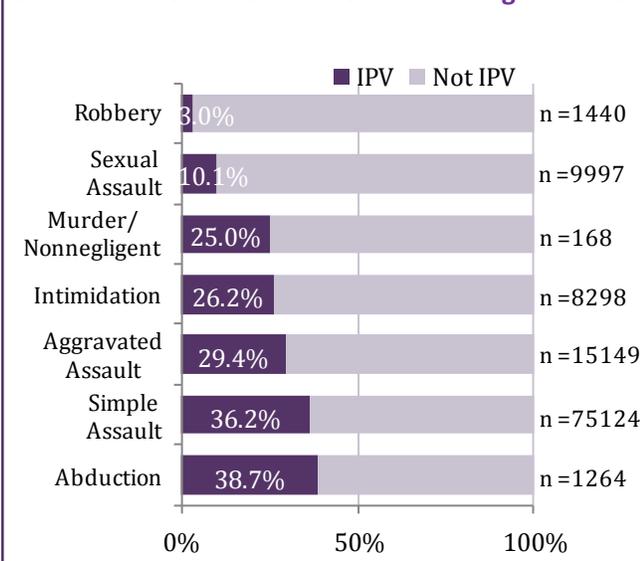
An act of violence, such as murder, assault, sexual assault or robbery committed by a spouse, common-law spouse, ex-spouse, boyfriend or girlfriend.

## Offenses Between Intimates

When examining the types of offenses reported for intimate versus non-intimate relationships, the offense with the highest portion of intimate partners was abductions, with 38.7% of Idaho abductions being committed by an intimate partner (see Chart 1). Assaults also had a higher proportion of intimate partner victims compared to other offenses, with 36.2% of simple assaults and 29.4% of aggravated assaults involving an intimate partner.

As shown in Table 1, the majority of offenses that occurred between intimate partners involved simple assault (77.4%). An additional 12.7% of IPV offenses were aggravated assaults, 6.2% were intimidations, 2.9% were sexual assaults, and 1.4% were abductions. Intimate partners were not likely to be involved in a sexual assault case (rape, forcible fondling, and sexual assault with an object). However, when an intimate partner was a victim of sexual assault, it was most likely rape (56.0%), whereas all victims of sexual assault were more likely to be victims of forcible fondling (60.9%).

**Chart 1: Percent of each offense involving intimate**



**Table 1: Percent of IPV victims and all victims by offense, 2007-2012**

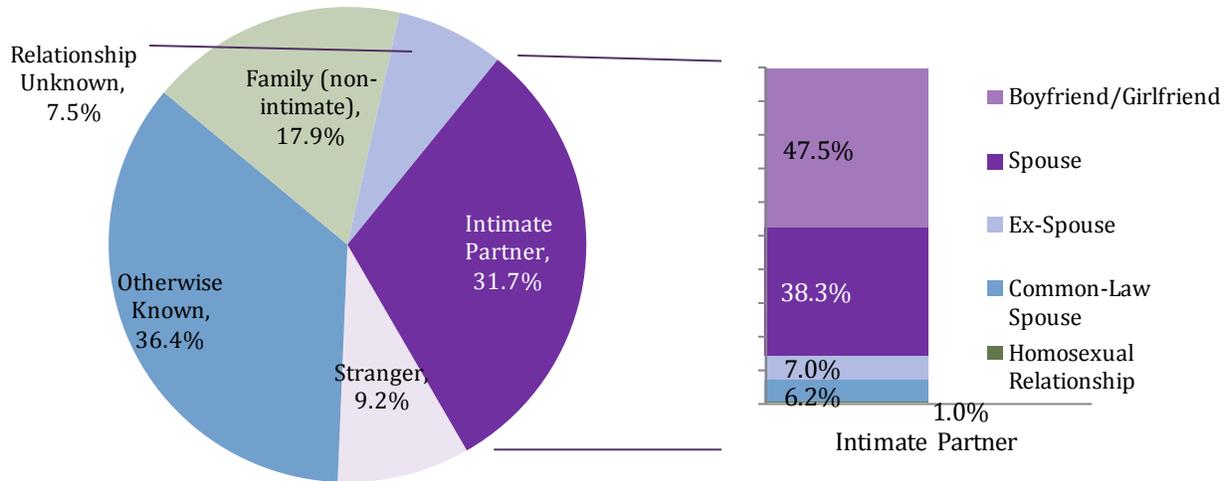
Type of Crime	IPV	All
Simple Assault	77.4	67.7
Aggravated Assault	12.7	13.7
Sexual Assault	2.9	9.0
Intimidation	6.2	7.5
Robbery	0.1	1.3
Abduction	1.4	1.1
Murder/ Non-Negligent	0.1	0.2
All violent Victimization	35,181	110,943

Count is by victim for which up to 10 offenses can be recorded

## Victim/Offender Relationship

The majority of violent crimes are against someone known to the victim (86%). The pie chart below shows that 31.7% of violent crime victims are intimate partners with the offender, 17.9% are non-intimate family members, and 36.4% are known to the offender in some other way. Of intimate partner relationships, victims are most likely to be the offender's boyfriend or girlfriend (47.5%). Spouses are the second most frequently victimized intimate partner (38.3%), followed by ex-spouses (7.0%), common-law spouses (6.2%), and same sex partners (1.0%).

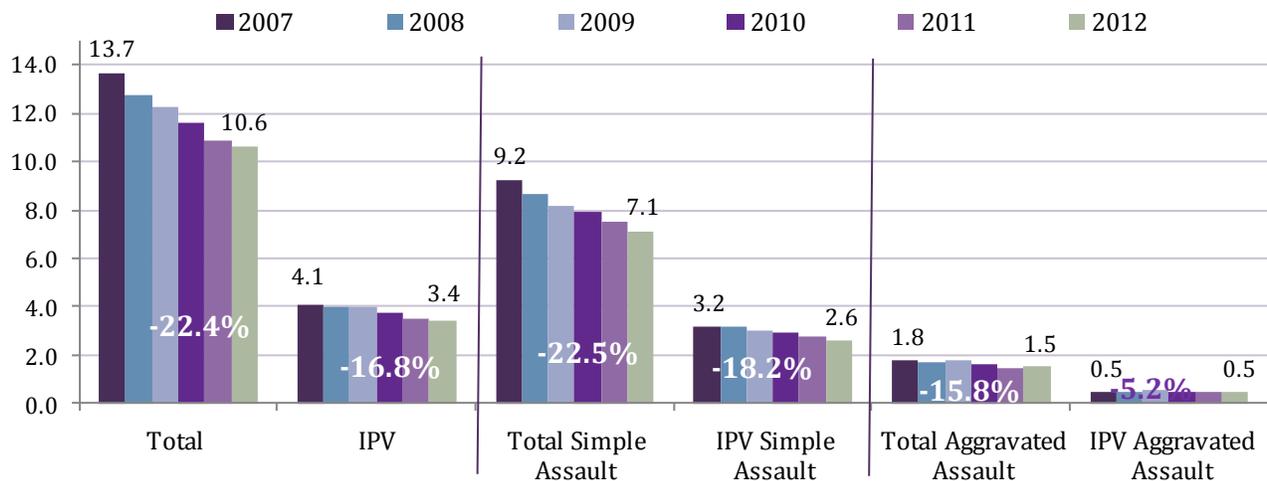
**Chart 2: Percent of violent crimes by victim's relationship to the offender**



Does not equal 100% - up to 10 offender to victim relationships listed per victim

Chart 3 represents the yearly violent crime rate per 1,000 people for IPV and total violent crime victims. The number and rate of all violent crimes, including intimate partner crimes, has consistently decreased every year from 2007 through 2012. However, IPV decreased at a less significant rate (16.8%) compared to total victims of violence (22.4%). In addition, all aggravated assaults decreased 15.8%, compared to a 5.2% decrease in IPV aggravated assaults.

**Chart 3: Yearly rate per 1,000 people and percent change, 2007-2012**



## County

Intimate partner victim rates were calculated per county and per Idaho State Police (ISP) district. The table to the right shows the total number and victimization rates of intimate partners for 2011 and 2012, the average rate from 2007 to 2011, and the percent change in rate from 2007 to 2012.

Looking at the districts, Northeastern Idaho (District 6) had the lowest average rate of intimate partner violence, with 2.01 IPV victims per 1,000 people, as well as the largest percent decrease in IPV from 2007-2012. District 1 (Northern Idaho) had the highest average rate of IPV victims of 3.01 per 1,000 people while southeastern Idaho (District 5) was the only district to have a percent increase in IPV victims from 2007-2012 with an 11.8% rate increase.

County level data can also provide some important insights into intimate partner rates. In Ada County, (the state's most populated county), the average IPV victim rate from 2007-2012 was 3.86, with 3.27 per 1,000 in 2011, and 3.13 per 1,000 in 2012. In Canyon County, Idaho's second largest county, the average rate was 4.53 IPV victims per 1,000 people, which is among the highest average rates among the counties. It is important to take into account the county's population when looking at county level data. Many counties in Idaho are rural and have relatively low populations. As a result, minor changes in IPV can cause dramatic rate fluctuations.

**Table 2: County intimate partner violence victimization rates per 1,000**

County	2011		2012		2007-2011 Average	2007-2012 % change
	N	Rate	N	Rate		
Benewah	34	3.62	28	3.02	3.00	-8.3%
Bonner	142	3.44	112	2.73	3.54	-35.9%
Boundary	25	2.25	12	1.10	1.87	-28.5%
Kootenai	713	5.09	778	5.48	5.17	0.3%
Shoshone	77	5.97	58	4.55	4.18	12.9%
Region 1	991	4.07	988	3.37	3.55	-9.2%
Clearwater	36	4.06	28	3.20	5.62	-8.7%
Idaho	31	1.88	27	1.63	2.08	-38.4%
Latah	73	1.94	68	1.79	2.26	-22.1%
Lewis	10	2.59	12	3.12	3.49	-1.9%
Nez Perce	139	3.50	143	3.59	3.32	19.6%
Region 2	289	2.80	278	2.67	3.35	-8.9%
Ada	1297	3.27	1264	3.13	3.86	-25.2%
Adams	3	0.75	0	0.00	1.92	-100.0%
Boise	24	3.38	21	2.97	2.70	-31.8%
Canyon	797	4.17	804	4.17	4.53	-10.5%
Elmore	108	3.95	82	3.09	3.64	-28.2%
Gem	49	2.90	51	3.04	4.34	-36.0%
Owyhee	25	2.15	37	3.21	2.36	63.7%
Payette	83	3.63	80	3.51	3.96	-18.4%
Valley	24	2.41	16	1.65	3.19	-59.6%
Washington	26	2.52	12	1.16	2.21	-54.1%
Region 3	2436	2.91	2367	2.59	3.27	-30.2%
Blaine	39	1.80	39	1.83	2.35	-29.6%
Camas	1	0.89	0	0.00	3.37	-100.0%
Cassia	73	3.15	55	2.36	3.83	-46.8%
Gooding	34	2.17	41	2.63	2.78	-26.6%
Jerome	75	3.32	66	2.89	2.84	64.3%
Lincoln	3	0.57	7	1.34	1.32	518.5%
Minidoka	49	2.41	49	2.41	2.84	-16.7%
Twin Falls	348	4.46	331	4.21	4.28	1.2%
Region 4	622	2.35	588	2.21	2.95	-20.9%
Bannock	432	5.16	381	4.52	5.80	-23.6%
Bear Lake	12	1.98	23	3.81	2.61	134.4%
Bingham	163	3.53	179	3.87	3.46	-2.6%
Caribou	12	1.70	14	2.03	1.71	-5.5%
Franklin	10	0.77	23	1.78	1.43	19.0%
Oneida	5	1.15	4	0.94	1.73	-20.8%
Power	39	4.93	30	3.84	3.18	70.7%
Region 5	673	2.75	654	2.97	2.84	11.8%
Bonneville	465	4.41	475	4.46	5.15	-23.8%
Butte	7	2.39	3	1.06	3.03	-41.4%
Clark	2	2.01	0	0.00	2.38	-100.0%
Custer	5	1.13	5	1.15	1.19	19.7%
Fremont	9	0.67	18	1.36	0.90	42.0%
Jefferson	35	1.32	23	0.87	1.79	-63.1%
Lemhi	15	1.87	9	1.12	2.08	-68.0%
Madison	15	0.40	23	0.60	0.43	164.7%
Teton	9	0.88	5	0.49	1.17	-50.2%
Region 6	562	1.68	561	1.23	2.01	-44.3%
Statewide	5290	2.76	5163	2.51	3.00	-16.5%

## Victim, Offender, and Arrestee Characteristics

A majority of violent crime victims were female (56.1%), average 28.1 years of age, and were White non-Hispanics. A majority of violent offenders were male (74.3%), average 30.0 years of age, and were White non-Hispanics (74.3%). The following analysis will illustrate that compared to all violent crime victims, intimate partner victims have a higher probability among Hispanic, White, older, and female groups.

### Age

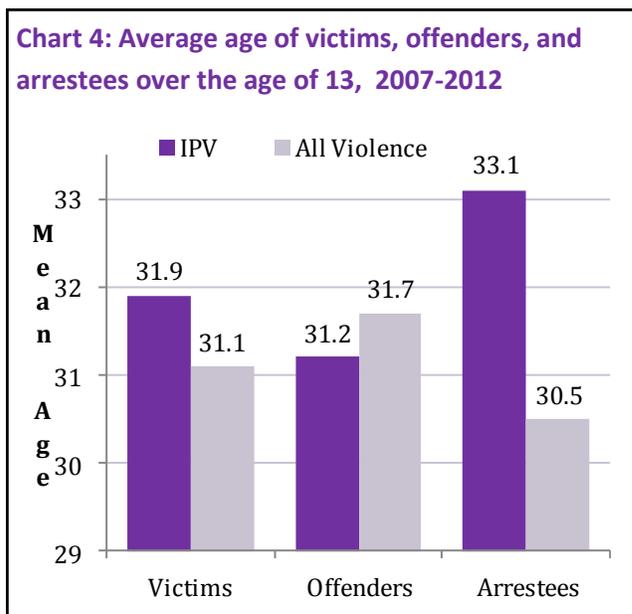
Table 3 shows that the age distribution of IPV offenders was similar to their victims. IPV victims, offenders, and arrestees are most likely to be between the ages of 18-34 (60.9%, 59.1%, and 59.4% respectively). For obvious reasons IPV victims, offenders, and arrestees are older than all violent crime victims. Given that those under age 14 are not likely to be in a serious intimate relationship, it is not surprising that the largest difference in age between intimate partners and all other victims and offenders is for those under age 14. Approximately 13% of all violent crime victims and 6% of offenders were under age 14, whereas less than 1% of intimate partner violence victims and offenders were under age 14. Due to this large disparity, limiting age analysis to victims, offenders, and arrestees over the age of 13 allows for a better comparison.

*Compared to all victims of violence, IPV victims were half as likely to be male and more likely to be older.*

**Table 3: Age distribution of victims, offenders, and arrestees, 2007-2012**

	Intimate Partners			All Violence		
	Victim	Offender	Arrestee	Victim	Offender	Arrestee
0 to 13	0.3	0.1	0.0	13.2	5.7	5.9
14 to 17	3.4	1.6	1.3	11.6	11.4	13.1
18 to 24	26.1	23.5	23.3	21.3	22.5	23.3
25 to 34	34.8	35.5	36.1	23.2	25.3	26.6
35 to 44	21.5	23.4	23.6	16.0	17.6	17.2
45 to 54	10.5	11.9	12.1	9.4	10.0	9.9
55 to 64	2.5	2.7	2.6	3.3	3.2	2.9
65 & older	0.8	1.0	0.9	1.4	1.3	1.1
Unknown	0.1	0.2	0.0	0.6	3.0	0.0
Number	35,181	35,171	20,132	110,943	109,893	52,248

When those under age 14 are removed from analysis, as in Chart 4, the average age of IPV and all violent crime victims and offenders are similar but does not hold true for arrestees. For example, the average age of all violent crime victims aged 14 and over is 31.1 years, which is similar to the average 31.9 years of age of IPV victims. As Chart 4 displays, however, a large age difference remains between IPV arrestees and all violent crime arrestees with IPV arrestees averaging 33.1 years and all violent crime arrestees averaging 30.5 years of age. Given that the average age of IPV and all violent crime offenders is similar, it appears that older offenders are more likely to get arrested if they are involved in IPV.



## Gender

While females were slightly more likely (1.2 times) than males to be victims of violent crimes overall, females were three times more likely than males to be victimized by an intimate partner. Table 4 indicates a majority of all violent crime victims were female (56.1%), but a much larger portion of IPV victims were female (75.6%). Victims of IPV were almost half as likely as all victims of violence to be male (24.3% versus 43.5%). Offender and arrestee gender was essentially identical regardless of the offender or arrestee intimate partner status. A majority of intimate partner offenders (75.4%) and arrestees (78.3%) were male as well as all violent offenders (74.3%) and arrestees (76.2%).

Most intimate partner violence was male against female violence. Of the 26,598 female victims of intimate partner violence, 99.1% were victimized by a male offender. Of the 8,556 male victims of intimate partner violence, 98.5% were victimized by a female offender. In IPV instances, 75% of the victims were female with a male intimate partner offender. On the other hand, crimes that do not involve intimate partners (non-IPV) were more likely to be male against male violence. Chart 5 illustrates that less than half (42.8%) of non-IPV victims were male on male violence and only 29.5% of non-IPV victims were females attacked by males.

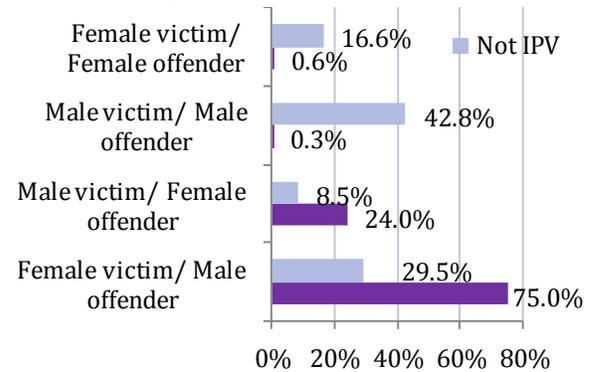
## Race/Ethnicity

The majority of all violent crime victims were White (90.8%) and non-Hispanic (82.8%). As Table 5 shows, intimate partners involved in violence were slightly more likely to be White than those involved in all violent crime. Intimate partner victims were slightly more likely to be Hispanic (10.1%) than all victims of violence (9.2%). In addition, arrestees were more likely to be Hispanic than their representative proportion of victims for both IPV and all violent crime victims.

**Table 4: Gender of victims, offenders, and arrestees**

	Male	Female	Unknown
<b>Intimate Partners</b>			
Victims	24.3	75.6	0.1
Offenders	75.4	24.6	0.0
Arrestees	78.3	21.7	0.0
<b>All Violence</b>			
Victims	43.5	56.1	0.4
Offenders	74.3	24.3	1.5
Arrestees	76.2	23.8	0.0

**Chart 5: Distribution of victims by gender of perpetrator and gender of victim**



**Table 5: Race of victims, offenders, and arrestees**

	White	Non-White	Unknown
<b>Intimate Partners</b>			
Victims	92.5	3.2	4.2
Offenders	92.9	4.7	2.4
Arrestees	92.9	5.2	2.0
<b>All Violence</b>			
Victims	90.8	3.1	6.1
Offenders	89.0	4.6	6.4
Arrestees	92.0	5.2	2.8

**Table 6: Ethnicity of victims and arrestees**

	Hispanic	Non-Hispanic
<b>Intimate Partners</b>		
Victims	10.1	83.9
Offenders	-	-
Arrestees	14.0	82.3
<b>All Violence</b>		
Victims	9.2	82.8
Offenders	-	-
Arrestees	13.6	81.8

Note: Ethnicity is not tracked for offenders

## Event Characteristics

### Location

IPV, as well as all violent crimes, was more likely to occur in a home than any other location. A home or residence accounted for 65.2% of all violent crime locations and 84.8% of violent crime locations involving an intimate partner. The second most common location of intimate partner violent crimes were in public buildings or areas like a parking lot or garage, highway/road/alley, fields/woods, lake/waterway, or an air/bus/train terminal (9.1%).

### Weapon

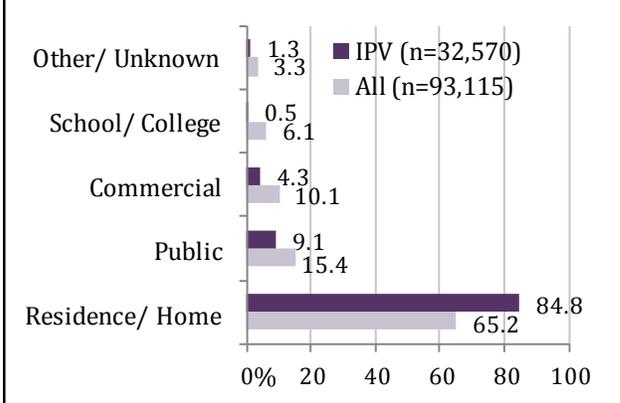
An intimate partner was more likely be assaulted by an offender’s hands, fists or feet (83.0%) compared to all victims of violence (76.2%). All violent crime victims were more likely to be attacked or threatened with a serious weapon like a knife or firearm (22.4%) than IPV victims (13.0%). Further analysis revealed differences in the type of weapon used in incidents based on relationship type.

When a weapon was used, IPV incidents were less likely to involve a firearm (10.9%) than all violent incidents (13.4%). On the other hand, a vehicle was more likely to be used as a weapon in IPV incidents (42.0%) than all violent crimes (33.0%).

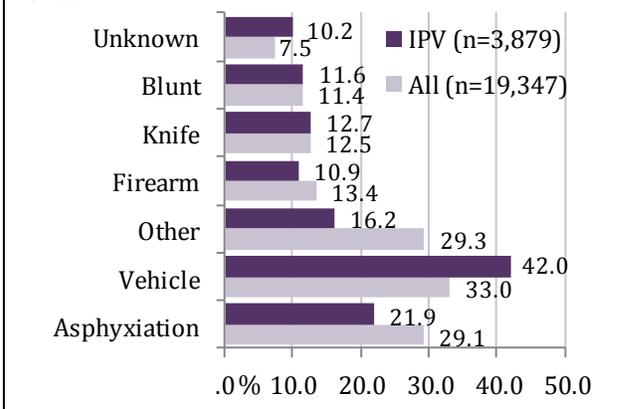
### Alcohol/Drug Use

The suspected alcohol or drug use by an offender during, or just prior to, the crime increased by 1.3 times if an intimate partner was involved. In 19.3% of all violent crimes, an offender was believed to have been using alcohol or drugs at the time of the crime, but this increased to 26.0% if a victim was an intimate partner. The percentage of intimate partner violent crimes thought to be alcohol related was greater (24.5%) than all violent crime (18.0%). An additional 2.3% of intimate partner violent incidents involved an offender thought to be under the influence of drugs.

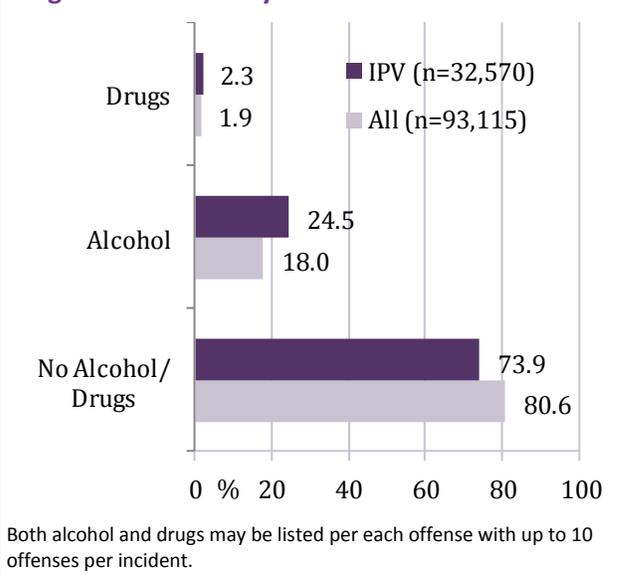
**Chart 6: Percent of incidents by location**



**Chart 7: Percent of incidents involving a weapon by type**



**Chart 8: Percent of incidents involving perceived drug or alcohol use by an offender**

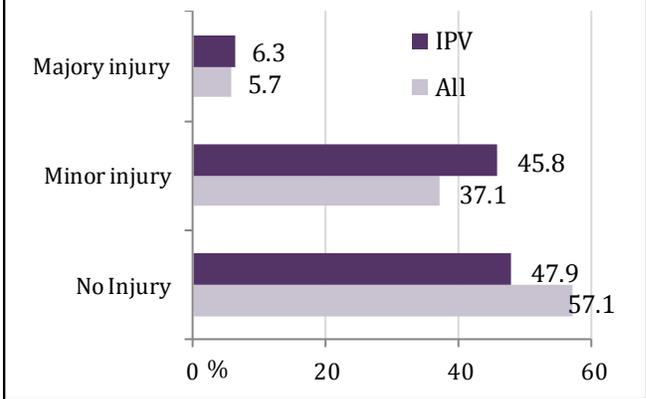


## Victim Injury

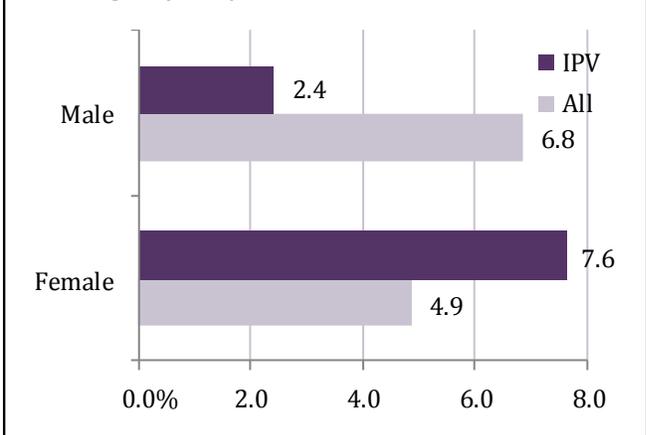
Nearly 3 out of 7 victims of violence sustained some form of injury as a result of a violent crime (42.9%) but intimate victims were more likely to sustain an injury (52.1%). A sustained injury appears partly dependant on gender as well as the victim's relationship to the offender. In all violent crimes, males (49.9%) and females (51.3%) were almost equally likely to suffer an injury. However, in IPV, females were more likely to suffer an injury (59.9%) than males (53.7%). The severity of injuries also differs significantly between all victims and intimate partner victims dependent on victim gender.

The portion of intimate and all victims whose most severe injury was a major injury (broken bones, lacerations, etc.) was very similar (6.3% and 5.7% respectively). However, major injuries were most likely to be sustained by intimate female victims. Of all female violent crime victims, 4.9% received a major injury whereas, 7.6% of female IPV victims received a major injury. Male victims on the other hand were less likely to sustain a major injury in IPV (2.4%) than in all violent crimes (6.7%).

**Chart 9: Percent of victims and most severe injury type**



**Chart 10: Percent of male and female victims receiving major injuries**



## Case Outcome

*In IIBRS a case is cleared by an arrest or an exceptional clearance, such as the victim refused to cooperate or prosecution was declined<sup>1</sup>.*

Almost half (49.8%) of all violent crimes resulted in an arrest but the odds of an offender being arrested increased when the victim was an intimate partner (57.3%) or stranger (54.8%). An arrest was less likely when the victim was a non-intimate family member (48.4%). Another case outcome is lack of prosecution due to the victim refusing to cooperate. The victim's refusal to cooperate was less likely to be a reason for not

*IPV is more likely to result in an arrest but is also more likely to have the case declined for prosecution compared to victims with other types of relationships with the offender.*

<sup>1</sup> The prosecutor declines prosecution for a reason other than a lack of probable cause. For an exceptional clearance, the investigation must clearly establish: 1) the identity of at least one offender; 2) sufficient probable cause to support the arrest, charging, and prosecution of the offender; and, 3) the exact location of the offender is known so that an arrest could be made.

**Table 7: Percent of victims by relationship and case outcome**

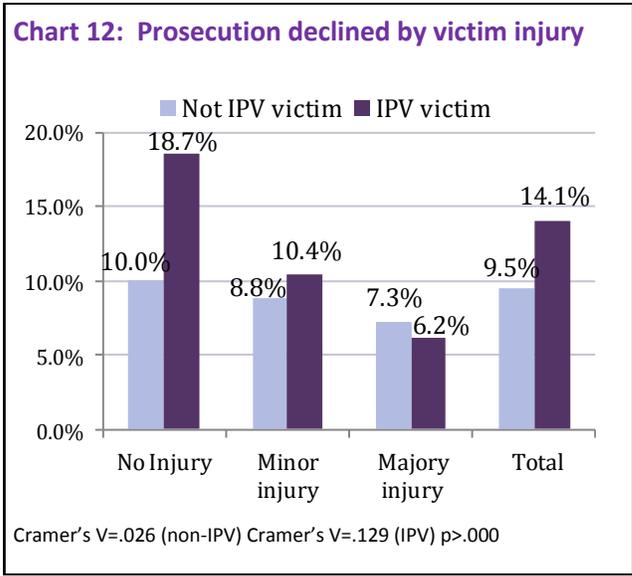
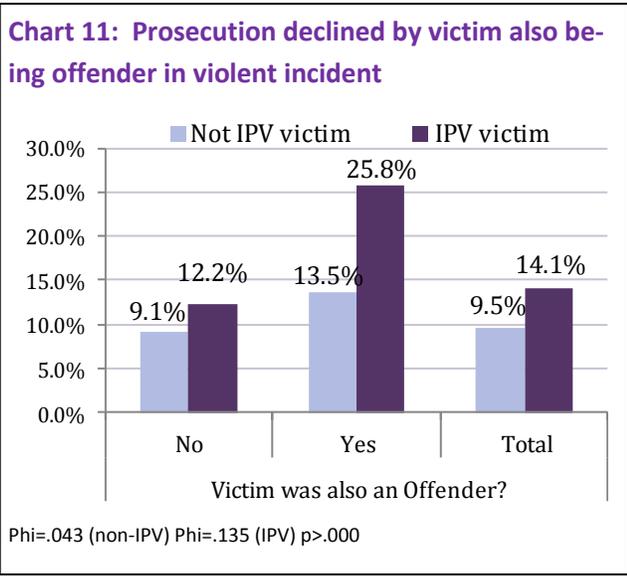
Relationship	Arrest made	Victim Refused to Cooperate	Prosecution Declined	Total
Intimate Partner	57.3	3.9	14.1	35,181
Stranger	54.8	3.3	5.9	9,789
Other Family Member	48.4	5.8	11.3	19,897
Otherwise Known	46.7	6.6	10.5	39,007
Relationship Unknown	28.2	4.8	4.2	7,300
All Victims	49.8	5.2	11.0	110,943

arresting an offender when the victim was an intimate partner (3.9%) compared to victims of violence in general (5.2%).

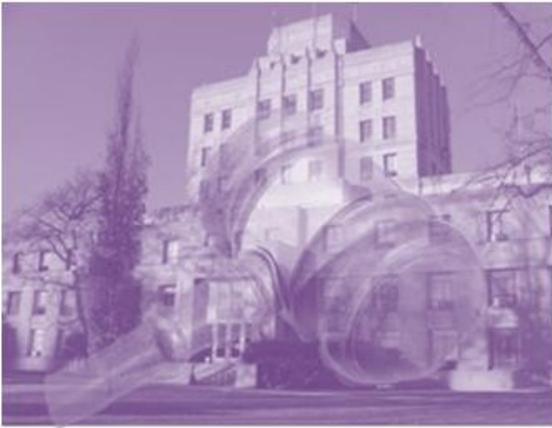
IPV victims were more likely to see a case declined for prosecution (14.1%) than all violent crime victims (11.0%). Prosecution was more likely declined if the victim was also an offender in the incident and if an injury was not severe (see Charts 11 and 12). Since IPV is more likely to involve victims who are also offenders (14.0% vs. 10.5%), and to not be injured, this could explain the increased prosecution declination for IPV cases.

However, when controlling for the victim also being an offender, prosecution is still more likely to be declined in IPV than all violent crimes. Controlling for victim injury also did not account for the higher rates of prosecution being declined in IPV cases.

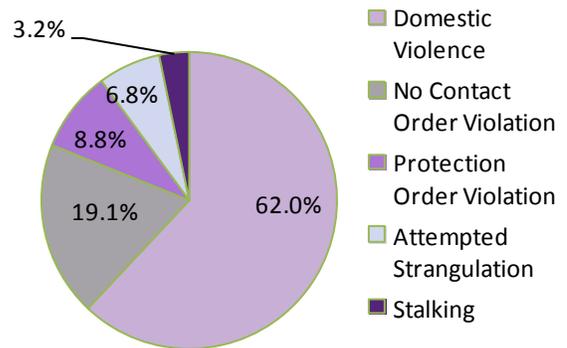
*The higher rates of victims being offenders and the lower rates of being injured did not explain the higher rates of prosecution being declined in IPV.*



# Court Records



**Chart 13: Percent of original charges, 2007-2012**



Court records were obtained for all adult cases of domestic violence (assault or battery), protection order violations, no contact order violations, stalking, and attempted strangulation during 2007-2012. A total of 32,287 charges fit this description with the largest percent of charges for domestic violence (62.0%), followed by no contact order violations (19.1%), protection order violations (8.8%), attempted strangulation (6.8%), and stalking (3.2%).

## Yearly Trends

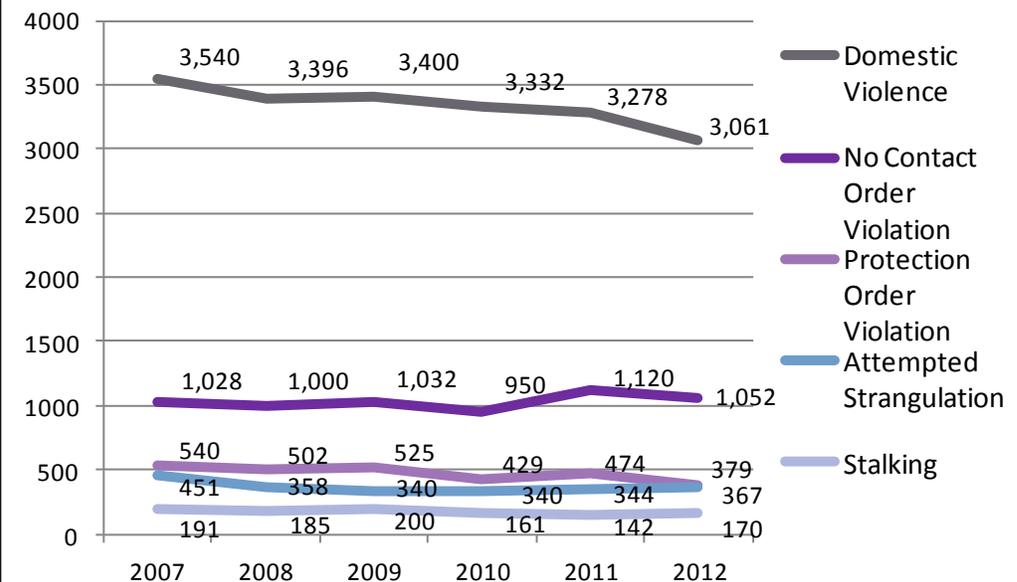
Table 8 shows the total number of domestic violence related charges filed per year between 2007 and 2012. In 2012, 5,029 charges were filed representing a 6.1% decline from the previous year and a 12.5% decline from 2007.

Chart 14 shows the yearly trends of charges by category from 2007-2012. Overall the number of charges decreased in all categories except no contact order violations. The number of domestic violence assault or battery cases dropped from 3,540 in 2007 to 3,061 in 2012, a 13.5% decrease. However, since 2009, stalking and attempted strangulation charges have increased.

**Table 8: Domestic violence related charges per year**

Year	Total Charges
2007	5,750
2008	5,441
2009	5,497
2010	5,212
2011	5,358
2012	5,029
<b>Total</b>	<b>32,287</b>

**Chart 14: Number of charges filed per year, 2007-2012**



## Defendant Age

Of the cases where age was included; a third of defendants were between the ages of 25 and 34 (36.4%). The average age for all cases filed was 34.13 years. Defendants ranged in age from a low of 18 to a high of 89 (juveniles were excluded from the analysis of court records).

Looking at the age distribution by the original case type, some interesting breakdowns occur. For example, cases

that were originally filed as stalking have a much broader age range than total cases. Of the original cases filed as stalking, those over 65 years of age made up 2.4% of total stalking cases versus 0.9% of total cases. Cases with defendants between the ages of 25 to 34 had a higher percentage of charges involving attempted strangulation (40.3%), than the percentage of total cases for this age group (36.4%). Attempted strangulation was also higher for 18 to 24 year olds (23.4%) compared to all defendants aged 18 to 24 years (22.2%).

**Table 9: Original Case by Age, 2007-2012**

	Total	Domestic Violence,	Attempted Strangulation	Stalking	No Contact Order Viola-tion	Protection Order Viola-tion
18 to 24	22.2%	22.3%	23.4%	16.8%	24.0%	19.0%
25 to 34	36.4%	37.0%	40.3%	27.2%	36.2%	34.0%
35 to 44	24.6%	24.5%	23.1%	26.2%	24.2%	25.9%
45 to 54	13.0%	12.5%	10.2%	20.4%	12.3%	16.3%
55 to 64	2.9%	2.7%	2.7%	7.0%	2.5%	4.2%
65 +	0.9%	0.9%	0.4%	2.4%	0.8%	0.7%
Total	29,141	19,020	1,344	934	5,302	2,541
Average	34.13	33.98	33.11	38.07	33.58	35.53

Total number of cases where age is known. Does not equal 100%, more than one charge can be listed per case.

## Offenders, Charges, and Cases

For the purposes of this study the number of offenders is the total number of unique individuals charged with domestic violence, attempted strangulation, stalking, no contact order violations, and protection order violations. An offender can have multiple cases against them with multiple charges in each case. The number of cases is the individual number of cases filed from 2007-2012. Cases may have one or more charges filed against an offender. The number of charges is the individual number of charges filed during the time period. These charges are referenced by statute in Idaho Code and are either filed as a misdemeanor or a felony.

Tables 10 and 11 provide the number of cases per offender and the number of charges per case from 2007-2012. The majority of offenders had only one case (75.1%) but one offender had 16 cases filed against them from 2007 to 2012. Looking at charges per case, most cases (92.5%) had only one charge filed.

**Table 10: Cases per Offender, 2007-2012**

# Cases	N	Percent
1	15,913	75.1%
2	3,300	15.6%
3	1,143	5.4%
4	434	2.0%
5	193	0.9%
6+	202	1.0%
Total	21,185	100.0%

**Table 11: Charges per case, 2007-2012**

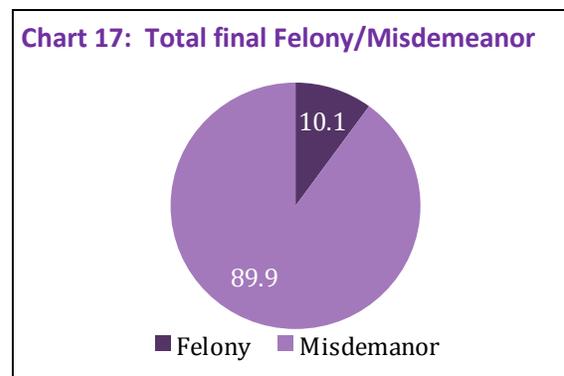
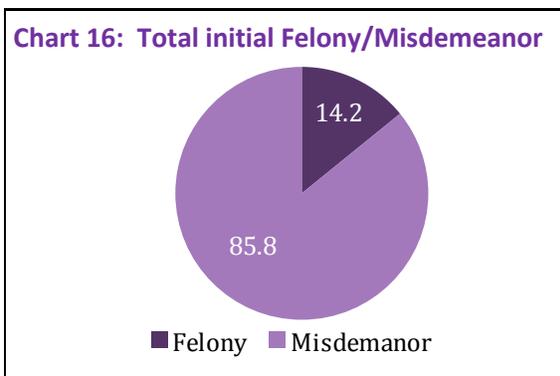
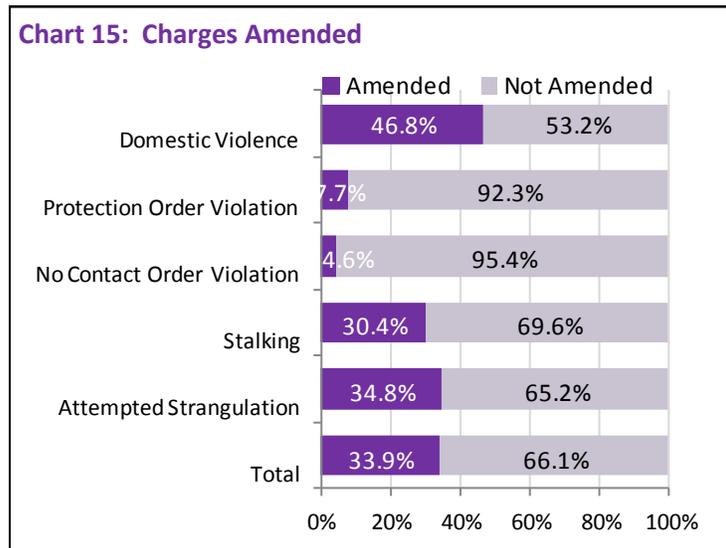
# Charges	N	Percent
1	27,035	92.5%
2	1,875	6.4%
3	183	0.6%
4	78	0.3%
5	25	0.1%
6+	43	0.1%
Total	29,239	100.0%

It is important to note the information presented here is specific to domestic violence, attempted strangulation, stalking, no contact order violations, and protection order violations. Criminal history records were not obtained to determine if other types of criminal charges were brought against offenders. However, the following information provides an indication of whether or not

offenders charged with a domestic violence related charges are commonly involved in further domestic violence incidents. It should also be kept in mind that within the six years studied, offenders could have moved out of state. Offenders who may have been charged with additional crimes that are outside this scope are not taken into account.

## Amended Charges

Throughout the court proceedings, charges can be amended from their initial filing. To determine if a charge was amended, the initial charge filed was compared to the final adjudicated charge. One of the most common reasons for charges to be amended is if a plea agreement was reached; when a defendant pleads guilty to a lesser charge in exchange for other charge(s) being dropped. Chart 15 shows the percent of charges that were amended prior to adjudication. For domestic violence charges, 46.8% were amended from the original charge. This compares to 33.9% of the total charges in this study being amended. Charts 16 and 17 display the percentage of felony and misdemeanor charges by the amended charge. Felony charges accounted for 14.2% of analyzed charges but only 10.1% were adjudicated as felonies. Again, these modifications do not necessarily imply innocence or guilt but show how charges can change as the case moves through the court process.



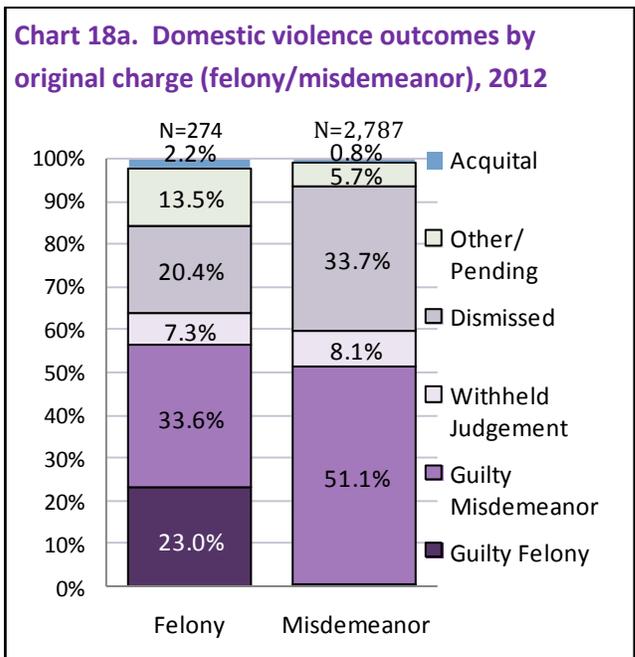
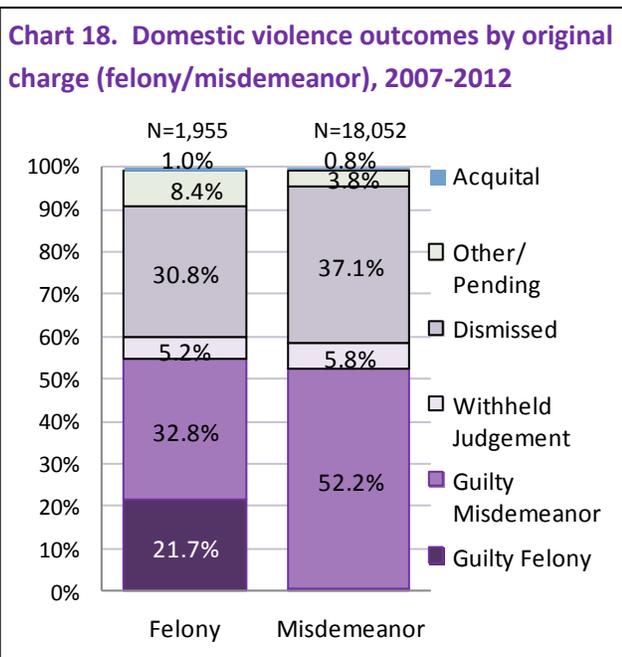
## Domestic Violence

Domestic violence is defined by statute as either domestic battery or domestic assault. Domestic battery occurs when a household member<sup>2</sup> uses force or violence, causes intentional bodily harm, or intentionally and unlawfully touches or strikes a household member against their will. Domestic battery becomes a felony when a traumatic injury occurs.<sup>3</sup> Domestic assault is when a household member attempts to injure, or intentionally threatens to do violence to a household member and the offender can carry out the threat and does some act that creates a well-founded fear in the person that the violence is imminent. Domestic assault is a misdemeanor but becomes a felony if it is the third conviction within 15 years of the first conviction (Idaho Code § 18-918).

Chart 18 shows the outcomes of domestic violence assault or battery cases by original charges and classifications (misdemeanor or felony). The outcomes are categorized as: Pending, Other, Dismissed, Withheld Judgment<sup>4</sup>, Acquittal, Guilty Misdemeanor or Guilty Felony.

Approximately 90.0% of all domestic violence charges were initially filed as misdemeanors while 10% were filed as felonies. Of those original felony charges, over half were adjudicated as guilty, with 32.8% convicted of a misdemeanor and 21.7% convicted of a felony. Misdemeanor domestic violence assault or battery charges were more likely to result in a dismissal than those charges that were filed as a felony.

Compared to the 6 years from 2007 to 2012, domestic violence charges in 2012 were more likely to result in a guilty conviction or a withheld judgment. In 2012, a smaller percentage of felony domestic violence charges (20.4%) resulted in dismissals compared to the 6 year trend (30.8%). Another evident trend is the increased withheld judgments for both felony and misdemeanor domestic violence charges. Less than 6% of felony and misdemeanor domestic violence charges resulted in withheld judgments from 2007-2012 but 7.3% of felonies and 8.1% of misdemeanors in 2012 resulted in withheld judgments.



<sup>2</sup> A household member is a spouse, former spouse, or a person who has a child in common, or a person with whom a person is cohabiting, whether or not they have married or have held themselves out to be husband or wife.

<sup>3</sup> A traumatic injury is a wound or external or internal injury, whether of a minor or serious nature.

<sup>4</sup> A withheld judgment is an agreement that the defendant will complete probation or other conditions outlined by the judge in place of a conviction or judgment. If the conditions are not met, a guilty conviction to the original charge is entered into the defendant's record.

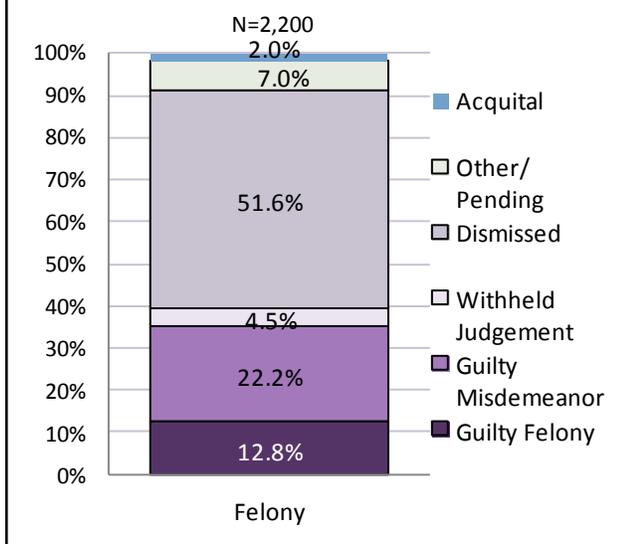
## Attempted Strangulation

By statute, attempted strangulation is a felony and is the willful and unlawful choking, or attempt to strangle, a household member or a person with whom the perpetrator has or had a dating relationship (Idaho Code § 18-923).

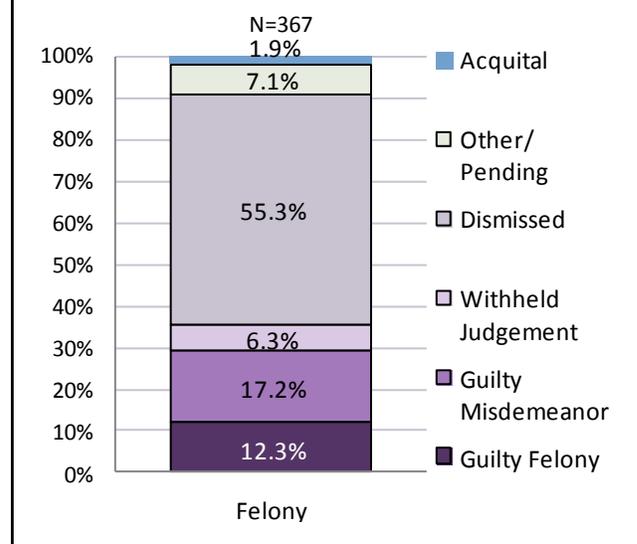
Between 2007 and 2012, over half (51.6%) of the attempted strangulation charges were dismissed, while 12.8% resulted in a felony conviction and 22.2% resulted in a misdemeanor conviction. Attempted strangulation cases have the highest dismissal rate of any domestic violence related charge with 51.6% dismissed.

Compared to charges from 2007-2012, attempted strangulation charges in 2012 were less likely to result in felony or misdemeanor convictions but were more likely to result in withheld judgments (see Chart 19a). In addition, attempted strangulation charges filed in 2012 were more likely to be dismissed (55.3%) compared to the 6 year average (51.5%)

**Chart 19. Attempted Strangulation outcomes by original charge (felony), 2007-2012**



**Chart 19a. Attempted Strangulation outcomes by original charge (felony), 2012**



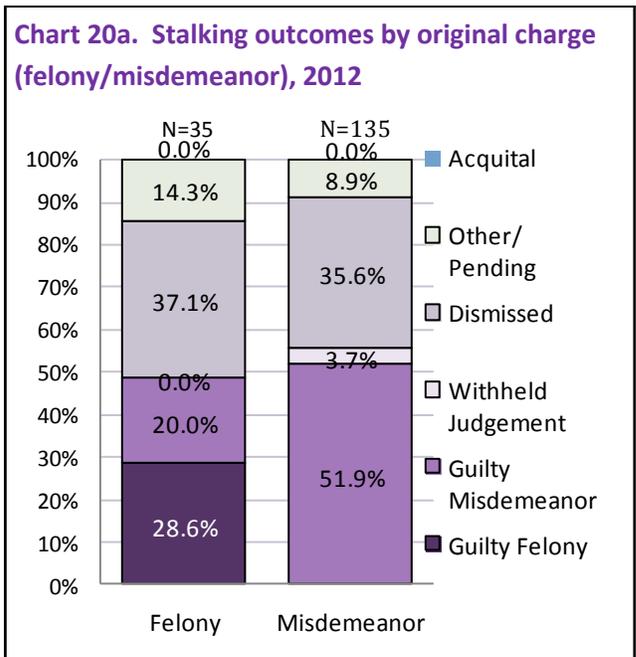
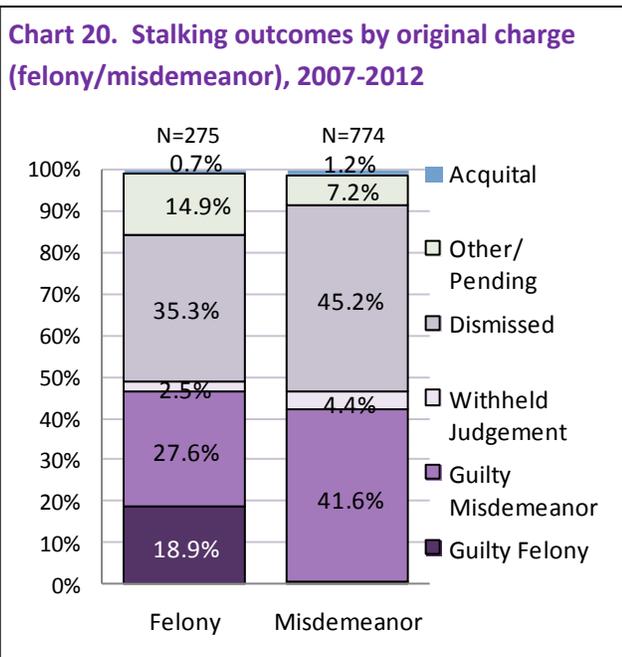
# Stalking

There are two degrees of stalking in Idaho, stalking in the first degree and second degree. Stalking in the second degree is a misdemeanor that occurs when a person engages in repeated nonconsensual contact with the victim or the victim’s family/household member<sup>5</sup> that alarms or harasses the victim and would cause a reasonable person substantial emotional distress or conduct that would cause a reasonable person to be in fear of death or injury (Idaho Code § 18-7906). Stalking in the second degree becomes stalking in the first degree, a felony, if one of several aggravating circumstances exists<sup>6</sup> (Idaho Code § 18-7905).

From 2007-2012, approximately 26% of stalking charges were filed as a felony. Of those cases, 18.9% resulted in felony convictions and 27.6% resulted in misdemeanor

convictions. When comparing stalking charges filed as a felony versus misdemeanor, it is noted that misdemeanor stalking charges were more likely to be dismissed than felony stalking charges. Stalking cases originally filed as felonies were more likely to have withheld judgments (see chart 22).

In 2012, a higher percent of felony stalking resulted in felony convictions compared to cases filed from 2007-2012. Over a quarter (28.6%) of 2012 felony stalking charges resulted in felony convictions compared to the 6 year average (18.9%). Misdemeanor stalking cases also resulted in more misdemeanor convictions in 2012 (51.9%) than cases filed from 2007-2012 (41.6%).



<sup>5</sup> Family or household member means: A spouse; former spouse; a person who has a child in common with the victim; a person with whom the victim is cohabiting; a person related to the victim by blood, adoption or marriage; a person with whom the victim is or has been in a dating relationship; or a person living in the same residence as the victim.

<sup>6</sup> 1<sup>st</sup> degree stalking conditions are: 1) the conduct violates a temporary restraining order, protection order, no contact order, probation or parole; or 2) the victim is under the age of sixteen years; or 3) the defendant possessed a deadly weapon or 4) the defendant had a prior conviction of stalking within seven years; or 5) the defendant has been previously convicted of a crime, or an attempt, solicitation or conspiracy to commit a crime, involving the same victim as the present offense within seven years for several different crimes.

## No Contact Order Violation

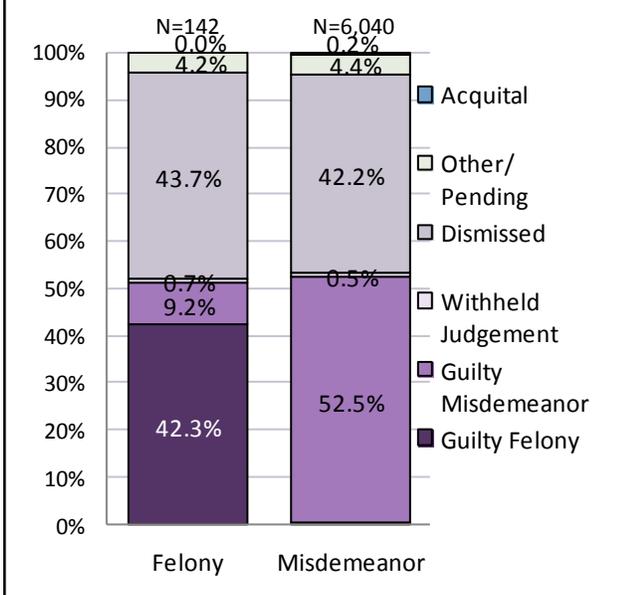
A no contact order forbids contact with a specified person and is issued and imposed by the court or by Idaho criminal rule when a person is charged or convicted of one of several offenses (assault, battery, domestic violence, stalking, violation of a protection order, felonious administering of drugs, etc. as well as other offenses for which a court finds that a no contact order is appropriate). A no contact order violation is a misdemeanor unless the violator is convicted of two no contact order violations within five years of the first conviction (Idaho Code § 18-920).

From 2007-2012, only 2.3% of no contact order violations were filed as felonies. Approximately half of the felony charges resulted in a conviction, with 42.3% re-

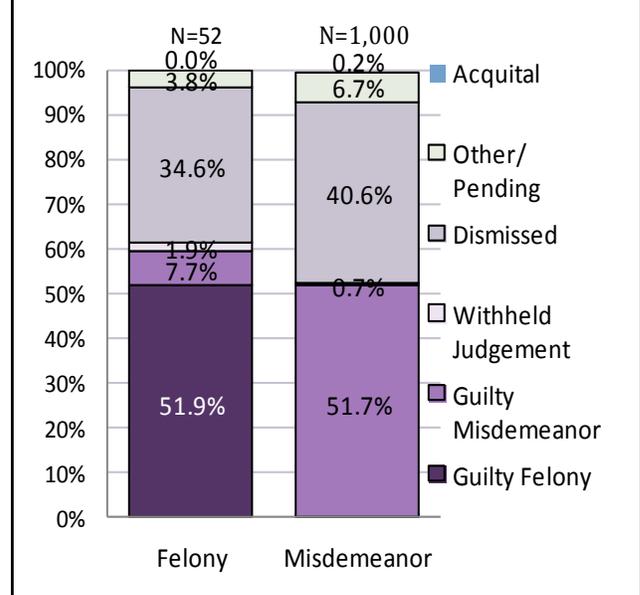
sulting in a felony conviction. A similar percentage of misdemeanor no contact order violations resulted in misdemeanor convictions (52.5%). Withheld judgments and acquittals for both felony and misdemeanor charges were marginal and much smaller when compared to domestic violence, stalking, protection order violations, and attempted strangulation cases.

Compared to previous years, a higher percent of no contact order violations were filed as felonies in 2012 (4.9%). In addition, a higher percentage of felony violations in 2012 resulted in a felony conviction (51.9%) than the six year trend (42.3%). Misdemeanor no contact order violations did not differ significantly in 2012 from the 6 years between 2007 -2012.

**Chart 21. No contact order violation outcomes by original charge (felony/misdemeanor), 2007-2012**



**Chart 21a. No contact order violation outcomes by original charge (felony/misdemeanor), 2012**

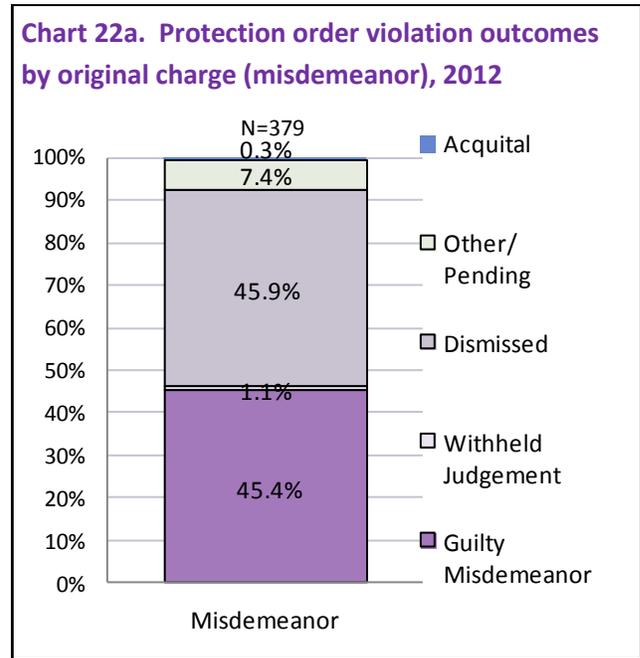
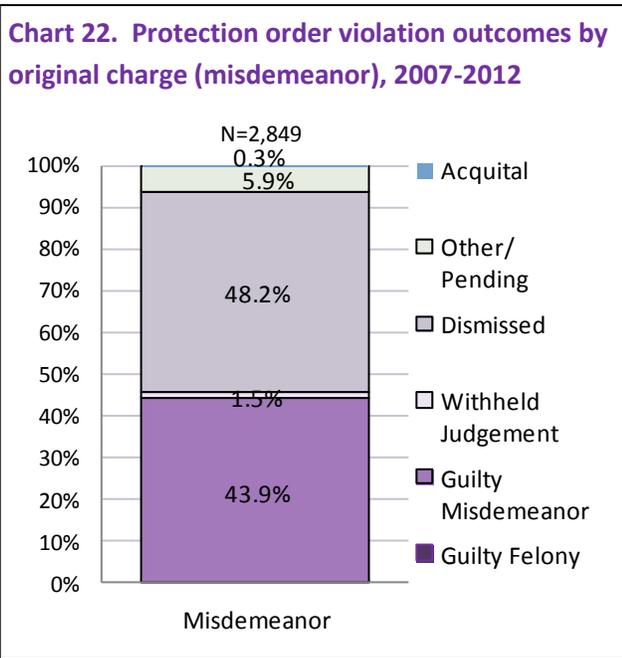


## Protection Order Violation

A protection order is a civil order issued after a person who is in a domestic relationship<sup>7</sup> (or the parent of a minor child who is in a dating relationship) petitions the court on the grounds that there is an immediate and present danger of domestic violence (defined as a physical injury, sexual abuse, or forced imprisonment or threat thereof). By statute, a violation of a protection order is a misdemeanor (Idaho Code § 39-6312).

Chart 20 shows the outcomes for those initially charged with a protection order violation. Just under half (48.2%) of the protection order violations from 2007-2012 were dismissed and 3 out of 7 (resulted in a misdemeanor conviction (43.9%). Less than one percent (0.5%) of protection order violations resulted in an ac-

quittal. In 2012, a higher percent of protection order violations resulted in a conviction (45.4%). When taking the other/pending cases out of the equation, the percent of convictions for 2012 increases to 49% (46.7%, 2007-2012).



<sup>7</sup> A domestic relationship in this case includes married/previously married couples, couples that have children in common, couples that cohabitate or used to cohabitate, individuals related by blood, marriage, or adoption, and adults in a dating relationship.

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## Summary and Conclusion

The use of IIBRS data and court data necessitated the formation of two definitions concerning the concept of domestic violence, one a relationship based definition (IPV) and the other a statutorily defined definition. While court data provides the statutorily defined criminal violations, it does not provide the victim to defendant relationship; whereas, IIBRS provides the victim to offender relationship but does not list the Idaho statute violated. Despite the inability to compare IIBRS data and court data, a broad and detailed picture of domestic violence in Idaho was obtained by analyzing the two sources separately.

The use of both data sets confirmed prior research documenting the decline of IPV and domestic violence. However, IIBRS data did indicate that although IPV is declining, it is at a slower rate than all violent crimes. Court records show that domestic violence, protection and no contact order violations, stalking, and attempted strangulation have declined an average of 3% a year since 2007. The most dramatic decrease was an average 6% decline in protection order violations. However, in 2012 attempted strangulation and stalking increased from their numbers in 2011.

The findings in this report indicate that compared to all victims of violence, victims of IPV tend to be: female, Hispanic, older, victimized in a home, injured, victimized by a male, and victimized by an offender who was suspected of being under the influence of alcohol or drugs at the time of the crime. Court data revealed that defendants in domestic violence related cases were most likely to be between 25 to 34 years old, but those charged with stalking tended to be older and those charged with attempted strangulation tended to be younger. Despite the majority of defendants having only one case and one charge per case against them, between 2007 and 2012 almost a quarter (24.9%) of defendants with domestic violence related charges had other domestic violence related cases against them between 2007-2012.

The analysis of police report data lead to the conclusion that the arrest rate is higher in IPV cases but so is the proportion of cases cleared by "prosecution declined," despite there being enough evidence for an arrest. Court data on the other hand indicates that charges of domestic violence were least likely to be dismissed compared to charges commonly related to domestic violence (stalking, attempted strangulation, no contact order violations, and protection order violations). Court data also indicated that charges of domestic violence were more likely to be amended to another charge or lesser charge compared to other law violations commonly related to domestic violence. The implications for these findings is astounding if one considers that 14.1% of IPV cases are declined for prosecution and 37.5% of domestic violence charges are dismissed, meaning the defendant is not getting those prior convictions that would make a third offense a felony. Further research needs to be done to determine why this occurs, whether it is due to a lack of evidence gathering by the police, overcharging by the prosecutor, or pressure on the prosecutor to plea bargain due to work load.

The analysis in this report demonstrated the limitations and usefulness of using police and court data. The use of both police and court data provides a more informative approach to analyzing domestic violence in Idaho than either data source alone. By combining different data sources into the analysis, one can gain insight that neither could provide alone.

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