

2017 Report On The Status of Women in Northeast Wisconsin Violence Against Women

KEY FINDINGS

Regionally, both the number of reported domestic abuse incidents and certain sexual assault crimes reported to law enforcement have decreased.

There were no domestic violence-related homicides in Northeast WI in 2015; however, almost half of domestic violence homicides in the region since 2000 occurred in Brown County.

In 2012,* there were about 3,000 domestic abuse incidents reported to law enforcement in the region. Since 2008, there are fewer reported incidents regionally and in three counties.

Statewide, nearly half of all victims are between 18-29 years of age. Seventy-seven percent of victims are female. An arrest was made in about 70% of cases. Regionally, arrest rates varied widely by county, from 62% in Fond du Lac to 99% in Outagamie.

There were 58 domestic violence-related homicides in Wisconsin in 2015; none took place in Northeast WI. From 2000-2015, there have been 50 homicides in Northeast WI (out of 770 statewide) including, by county, Brown (23), Fond du Lac (8), Outagamie (9), Winnebago (10).

Why do you think
arrest rates for domestic violence
incidents vary so much by
county?

Reported Domestic Abuse Incidents

	2012		2008	
	Incidents	Arrest Rate	Incidents	Arrest Rate
Northeast Region	2,987		3,239	
Brown	1,074	66.3%	1,230	75.5%
Fond du Lac	388	61.6%	337	89.6%
Outagamie	788	98.7%	814	98.8%
Winnebago	737	85.7%	858	99.7%

*The annual "Domestic Abuse Incident Report" published by the Wisconsin Department of Justice was last released in 2012. More recent data are not currently available.

Sexual Assault

The annual “Sexual Assault in Wisconsin” report published by the Wisconsin Office of Justice Assistance was discontinued after 2010. Limited data are provided using two categories of crimes—Forcible Rape and Sex Offense—available from the state’s Uniform Crime Reporting (UCR) data website.

Regionally incidents of both Rape* and Sex Offense** were reduced from 2013 to 2015. In particular, Sex Offense incidents fell by about one-third, over the period.

A 2013 definition change for Rape in the reporting data does not allow for comparison with data from earlier years.



Violence against women
from domestic violence and sexual assault
both show improvement, with fewer
incidents reported to police. What
factors might be responsible
for the change?

Reported Sexual Assault Incidents

	2015		2013	
	Forcible Rape	Sex Offense	Forcible Rape	Sex Offense
Northeast Region	57	243	67	390
Brown	20	72	22	151
Fond du Lac	22	58	20	80
Outagamie	10	45	19	55
Winnebago	5	68	6	103

UCR Definitions:

*Rape (rev. 2013): Penetration, no matter how slight, of the vagina or anus with any body part or object, or oral penetration by a sex organ of another person, without the consent of the victim.

**Sex Offense (except forcible rape, prostitution, and commercialized vice): Offenses against chastity, common decency, morality.

Sources: See Appendix

This research is a collaboration of the Women’s Funds of Northeast Wisconsin.