

August 2011



Domestic Violence

Top Line Summary: 2010
Minnesota Crime Victim Survey



DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY
OFFICE OF JUSTICE PROGRAMS



United
Way

Greater Twin Cities
United Way



Introduction

In 2010, Greater Twin Cities United Way and the Minnesota Department of Public Safety Office of Justice Programs collaborated to complete a statewide survey of adults' experiences with crime. Crime victim surveys are important tools in understanding the experiences and characteristics of crime victims, providing information on crime not reported to police, providing information not contained in official police records, and assessing crime trends.

Triennial statewide crime surveys have been completed in Minnesota five times in the past. The survey was extensively revised in 2007 with the goal of streamlining the questions, while retaining core questions from past surveys for year-to-year trend analysis. Gathering additional information on the experiences of domestic violence victims and ensuring that data could be analyzed by race and geography were additional priorities. In response to concerns raised in 2007, the 2010 survey was again revised, although not as extensively.

In 2010, additional survey questions were added to examine:

- Respondents' feelings about the frequency of police patrols in their neighborhood and whether they believe police to be readily available when and if they need assistance.
- Whether respondents were victims of identity theft, financial crimes, scams and frauds, and to determine the consequences of these types of crimes.
- Respondents' experiences with a spouse or partner attempting to control them by destroying property, threatening to destroy property, throwing objects, or punching walls.
- Respondents' sexual orientation.
- Whether a crime victim experienced physical injury or received mental or emotional health treatment as a result of their victimization.
- Crime victims' health insurance coverage.

Some questions remained the same but additional response options were added. For example, respondents could now identify as male, female, or transgender. For the first time, crime victims were also given the option to indicate if they believe they were victimized because of their gender expression. Those who indicated they had experienced domestic violence saw additional response options for why they didn't report incidents to the police and what actions they took in response to the violence.

Some questions were removed. For example, a sexual violence follow-up question about the use of force was deleted from the survey. Another follow-up question asking whether respondents reported domestic violence or sexual assault the first time it occurred was also removed, as were questions about why respondents keep guns in their home.

This summary contains key preliminary findings from the 2010 Minnesota Crime Victim Survey. The full report, including comparisons to 2007 data where available, will be published in October, 2011.



Methodology & Response Rate

United Way's Work on Domestic Violence

Greater Twin Cities United Way has funded violence-prevention and intervention programs for many years. United Way's board of directors approved the Basic Needs Impact Plan that was developed in partnership with the community and includes specific outcomes and indicators that are measurable and common to all programs. The domestic violence goal was updated in 2010 to: "Annually ensure the safety of 60,000 individuals through 2013." All funded programs are required to address the entire family's needs in collaboration with other providers.

In this, as in all pressing human service issues, United Way recognizes the need to work with others in the domestic violence field. For that reason, it has developed strategic partnerships with the Minnesota Department of Public Safety Office of Justice Programs, the Minnesota Department of Health, the University of Minnesota, Anoka County Public Health, and many more. In the past year, United Way has convened a group of more than 90 agencies involving over 180 individuals statewide to form the Minnesota Alliance Against Violence (MAAV). MAAV, United Way, and others have been working collaboratively to create a long-term plan to end violence in the state of Minnesota.

United Way is committed to focusing its domestic violence efforts to increase public awareness, improve systems, and enhance effective programming through the convening of all the stakeholders. In addition, United Way will continue to support the development of a statewide plan to end violence in Minnesota, innovative prevention strategies, best practice models, agency collaborations, and cross-discipline funding.

Greater Twin Cities United Way contracted with Anderson, Niebuhr & Associates, Inc. (ANA) to conduct the crime victim survey. To complete this data collection, ANA purchased a sample of Minnesota residents. The "main sample" of 9,000 records was a random sample of all residents within the state of Minnesota who had a mailing address. The "ethnic sample" of 1,200 records was a random sample of residents within the state of Minnesota who had a mailing address, telephone number, and belonged to one of the following ethnic categories: African American, Hispanic, Far Eastern, Native American, Polynesian, and Southeast Asian. The "younger sample" of 1,200 records was a random sample of residents within the state of Minnesota who had a mailing address, telephone number, and were between the ages of 18 and 25. All lists were sorted by zip code and every nth record (e.g., every 10th record) was selected to create the desired sample size for the main, ethnic, and younger samples.

Once the survey was approved, a pre-notification letter outlining the purpose of the study was mailed to the respondents from each sample (11,400 records). The pre-notification letter also included a business reply postcard that potential respondents could fill out and mail back to ANA to receive the survey in Spanish, Hmong, or Somali (the postcard had directions in the three corresponding languages). Names on returned letters were deleted from the database; subsequent mailings were not sent. Approximately one week later, the survey packet, which included a cover letter, crime survey, and a postage-paid return envelope, was mailed to the current mailing addresses. Two and a half weeks later, a postcard with a reminder notice to return the survey was sent to those who had not responded. Another survey package was sent to nonrespondents approximately three weeks after the second reminder postcard.

Approximately two weeks after the second survey package mailing, telephone follow-up was conducted with all nonrespondents to ensure there were sufficient sample sizes within the ethnic and younger populations to enable statistical analyses between groups. Data collection ended about six and a half weeks after the second survey package was mailed.



Methodology & Response Rate

A total of 6,203 surveys were completed and included in the analyses for this report, resulting in an overall response rate of 60%. Given Minnesota's adult population of approximately 4,036,287, we can be 95% confident within +/- 5% that these results reflect the adult population of Minnesota's experiences with crime.

Limitations of the Data

It is important to understand that this survey is based on the experiences of a random sample of adults in Minnesota rather than a comprehensive examination of those who were pre-identified as having experienced domestic violence. The eight-page survey is a crime survey. It is designed to gather a variety of information on myriad crimes, including motor vehicle theft, vandalism, identity theft, scams, robbery, assault, stalking, and sexual and domestic violence. For this reason, the survey and the results presented in this summary are designed to provide information and fill in gaps about crime that occurs in our state that is never captured in official statistics.

We know that much crime goes unreported. We also know that not all victims of crime receive services from governmental or nongovernmental organizations. The experiences of those victims could not be captured in any way other than a randomized crime survey.

Given the design and purpose of the survey, this data and summary do not purport to reflect the experiences of every domestic violence victim in Minnesota. The survey can, however:

- Provide insight into the prevalence of domestic violence in our state and the rate at which it is reported to police.
- Capture information from domestic violence victims who may never come into contact with law enforcement or service providers.
- Identify points of intervention with victims of domestic violence who may be seeking support and services from agencies and organizations outside of the domestic violence field.

Domestic Violence in 2010

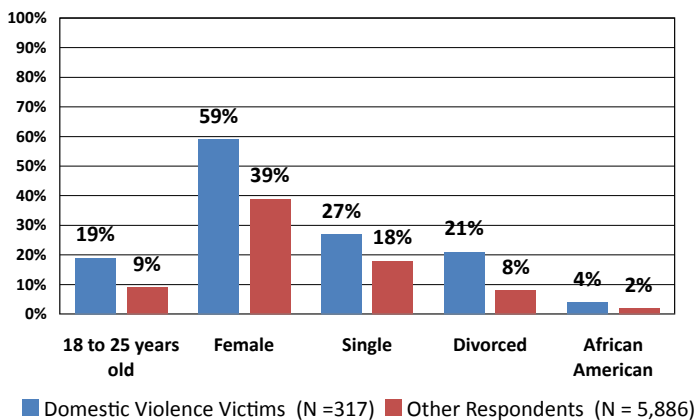
Victim Demographics

The 2010 Minnesota Crime Victim Survey asks respondents to report if they experienced a variety of property and person crimes during the year. For many of the crimes, the survey asks the respondent to identify who committed the most recent offense. Respondents were determined to be domestic violence victims if they indicated that any of the identity theft or person crimes were committed against them by a current or former spouse, significant other, partner, boyfriend, or girlfriend; or if they specifically indicated that a current or former intimate partner harmed them with an object or weapon, pushed, shook, slapped, kicked, punched, hit, strangled, or choked them; or if a current or former intimate partner tried to control them by stealing, smashing, or destroying their things, or by throwing objects or punching walls.

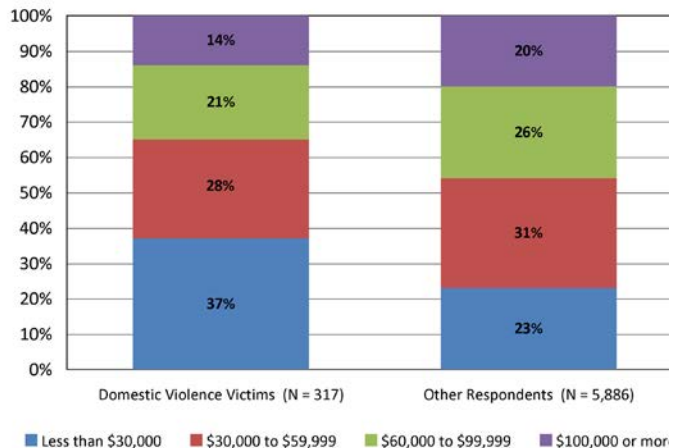
When analyzing this data, the 2010 Minnesota Crime Victim Survey found that 317 of the 6,203 respondents (5%) experienced domestic violence during the year.¹ Compared to other respondents, those who experienced domestic violence are more likely to be younger, female, single, or divorced. And while the overall percentages are low, domestic violence victims also are more likely to be African American. There were no significant differences in the percentage of domestic violence victims who indicated they are Hispanic/Latino (4% - domestic violence victims vs. 4% - other respondents).

Concerning employment, Minnesota's domestic violence victims are employed at rates similar to other respondents, with slightly more than half indicating full-time employment (56% - 2010 domestic violence victims vs. 55% - other respondents). Despite similar employment patterns, those who experienced domestic violence in 2010 report earning less than other respondents. More than one-third (37%) of those who experienced domestic violence in 2010 report earning less than \$30,000 a year, compared to just under one-quarter (23%) of other respondents. There is also a difference between those who have experienced domestic violence and others in their current living situations: While almost eight in ten (79%) other respondents own their home, this is true for only 58 percent of those who experienced domestic violence in 2010.

Demographic Differences Between Domestic Violence Victims and Other Respondents



Annual Income



Domestic Violence in 2010

Experiences with Crime in 2010

While five percent of respondents overall ($N = 317$) were classified as a domestic violence victim because a current or former spouse or intimate partner harmed them or their property in 2010, one percent of respondents ($N = 82$) specifically said “yes” when asked if, in 2010, a current or former spouse, significant other, partner, boyfriend, or girlfriend harmed them with an object or weapon or pushed, shook, slapped, kicked, hit, strangled, or choked them. These respondents indicated that this violence occurred an average of 3.2 times during the year, yet on average, they reported less than one of these incidents to the police ($\bar{x} = .46$). When asked why they did not report incidents to law enforcement, about one-third of respondents stated that it was a private matter (33%) or that they didn’t want their partner to be arrested (32%). Slightly more than one-quarter of domestic violence victims reported that they did not believe the abuse was bad enough to call police (26%).

Why Domestic Violence Victims Did Not Report an Incident to the Police

($N = 82^*$)

- 33% - Private matter
- 32% - Didn’t want partner arrested
- 26% - Abuse not that bad
- 15% - I thought abuse was my fault
- 11% - Abuse would get worse
- 10% - Police wouldn’t do anything
- 9% - Bad response from police in past
- 6% - Worried about losing housing
- 6% - Don’t trust police
- 5% - Offender wouldn’t allow report
- 4% - Worried about financial support
- 10% - Other reasons

* Respondents could offer more than one response.

Those who experience domestic violence engage in many strategies to keep themselves safe. While neither the 2010 Minnesota Crime Victim Survey, nor any one survey for that matter, is able to capture the myriad responses and strengths shown by victims, this survey is designed to capture a variety of information on the types of supports or systems victims turn to for assistance. As you can see from the table below, one-third or more of

respondents indicated that they sought help from their family, friends, or neighbors (33%); ended the violent relationship (35%); or took no action (35%) in response to the domestic violence they experienced. Seventeen percent of those who experienced domestic violence in 2010 stated that they developed a safety or escape plan, while another 17 percent got private or group counseling from a therapist. About one in ten victims talked with an advocate (10%), filed an Order for Protection (11%), or got counseling from clergy, spiritual or another religious figure (11%).

What Domestic Violence Victims Did in Response to the Violent Incidents

($N = 82^*$)

- 35% - No action was taken
- 35% - Ended relationship
- 33% - Help from family/friends
- 17% - Developed safety/escape plan
- 17% - Private/group counseling
- 11% - Filed an OFP
- 11% - Religious counseling
- 10% - Talked to advocate
- 7% - Went to ER
- 6% - Other medical attention
- 5% - Sought other social services
- 5% - Domestic abuse shelter
- 1% - Homeless shelter

* Respondents could offer more than one response.

Because the crime victim survey is sent to a random selection of adults and asks about a variety of property and person crimes, analyses can be completed that look at the experiences domestic violence victims have with other crimes. For example, the survey can tell us how many domestic violence victims also reported experiencing sexual assault and for those who did, whether the most recent assault was perpetrated by a current or former intimate partner. The table below presents information on the other types of victimization experienced by those who reported experiencing domestic violence. It also presents the same information for those who did not experience domestic violence in 2010.



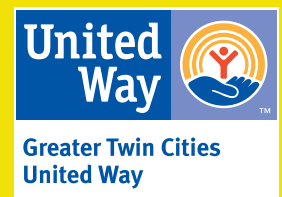
	2010 Domestic Violence Victims (N = 317)		No Domestic Violence in 2010 (N = 5,886)
	% identifying DV perpetrator	% identifying non-DV perpetrator	
Use/attempted use of credit cards, bank accounts or checks without permission or knowledge	2%	14%	8%
Use/attempted use of personal information without permission or knowledge	3%	5%	2%
Stick-up or mugging or robbery by threat of force	.6% (N = 2)	1% (N = 4)	.2% (N = 10)
Injured or threatened with a gun, knife or weapon other than hands, fists or feet	.3% (N = 1)	.6% (N = 2)	.2% (N = 9)
Hit, attacked or beat up using hands, fists or feet	8%	3%	1%
Threatened with or without a weapon to hit, attack or beat up	7%	9%	2%
Unwanted sexual contact, not including sexual intercourse	3%	3%	.2% (N = 12)
Forced, coerced or attempted unwanted sexual intercourse	2%	2%	.1% (N = 6)

The table above shows that overall, those who experienced domestic violence in 2010 experienced more crime in general than those who did not experience domestic violence. For example, 16% of domestic violence victims overall experienced someone trying to use their accounts or checks without permission (2% of these crimes were perpetrated by a current or former intimate partner) as compared to eight percent of those who did not experience domestic violence.

Lifetime Experience with Domestic Violence

The 2010 Minnesota Crime Victim Survey also asked respondents two questions about lifetime experiences with rape and domestic violence. Combining all of those respondents who experienced domestic violence in 2010 and those who indicated they had experienced domestic violence in the past, a total of 16 percent of all respondents (N = 975) have experienced domestic violence at some point in their lifetime. That percentage results in approximately 646,000 adults in the state who have been harmed by a current or former intimate partner.

1. Respondents who said that a current or former spouse or intimate partner was responsible for committing a person offense or some specific property offense against them, OR they directly indicated that a current or former intimate partner harmed them with an object or weapon, pushed, shook, kicked, punched, hit, strangled, or choked them. Also included in the definition of 2010 domestic violence victims are respondents who said that a current or former intimate partner tried to control them by stealing, smashing, or destroying their things or by throwing objects or punching walls.



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