

SECTION C

DOMESTIC ABUSE

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

HISTORICAL PERSPECTIVE

The Iowa Department of Public Safety is charged under Chapter 236 of the *Code of Iowa* with the responsibility for collecting information on incidents of domestic abuse in Iowa from local law enforcement agencies. The national Uniform Crime Report guidelines do not require the reporting of domestic abuse separately. The Department began collecting domestic abuse data on July 1, 1985, assuming a function previously performed by the Iowa Department of Human Services. The domestic abuse reporting system was the only incident-based crime data collected by the Department from 1986 through 1990. The incidents of domestic abuse rose rapidly each year between the years of 1986 to 1990 increasing from a reported 3,501 incidents in 1986 to 6,199 reported incidents in 1990. Beginning with the 1991 data the Department incorporated the domestic abuse data and hate/bias crime data with the new Iowa Incident-Based Uniform Crime Reporting System, housing all crime data in one computerized system.

Domestic Abuse is defined by Section 708.2A(1) and in Section 236.2 of the Code of Iowa under any of the following circumstances:

- a. The assault is between family or household members who reside together at the time of the assault.
- b. The assault is between separated spouses or persons divorced from each other and not residing together at the time of the assault.
- c. The assault is between persons who are parents of the same minor child, regardless of whether they have been married or have lived together at any time.
- d. The assault is between persons who have been family or household members residing together within the past year and are not residing together at the time of the assault.
- e. The assault is between persons who are in an intimate relationship or have been in an intimate relationship and have had contact within the past year of the assault.

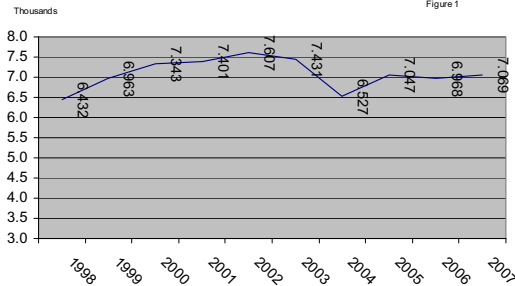
Some factors of an intimate relationship can be: duration, frequency of interaction, termination, either party's sexual or romantic expectations and the relationship does not have to be exclusive.

Although the definition of Domestic Abuse has changed since 1985, the meaning of "family or household members" has stayed much the same. The major changes have been in 1987, 1989, 1991, 1993, 2002 and 2003.

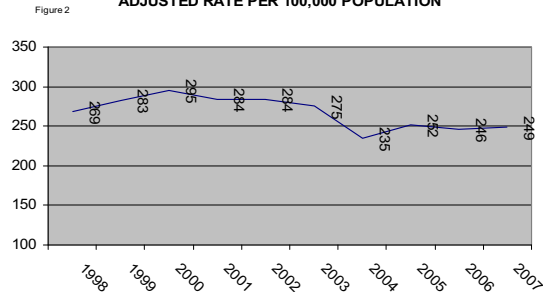
HOW MANY...

Counted by Victims

**DOMESTIC ASSAULT: 1998 - 2007
NUMBER OF VICTIMS**



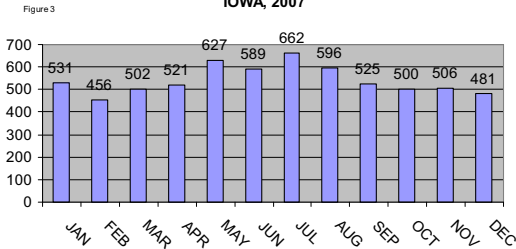
**DOMESTIC ASSAULT: 1998 - 2007
ADJUSTED RATE PER 100,000 POPULATION**



In 2007, the number of reported domestic abuse victims and adjusted rate increased 1.2% from 2006. The decade high adjusted rate was reported in 2000 (292 per 100,000 population), but the highest number of reported victims was reported in 2002 (7,607).

WHEN

**DOMESTIC ASSAULT BY MONTH
IOWA, 2007**



July was the most reported month for incidents of domestic violence in 2004, 2006, and 2007. However, May was the most reported month in 2003, and in 2005 it was June. February was the lowest recorded month in 2003, 2006, and 2007; while it was November in 2004 and 2005.

**DOMESTIC ASSAULT BY MONTH
COMPARISON 2003 - 2005**

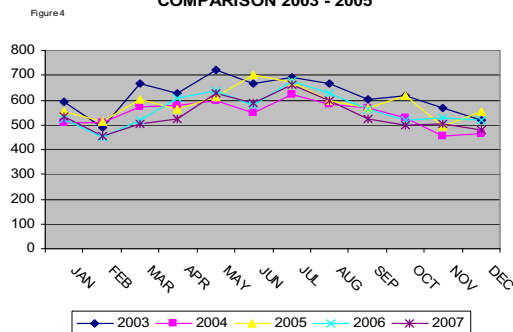
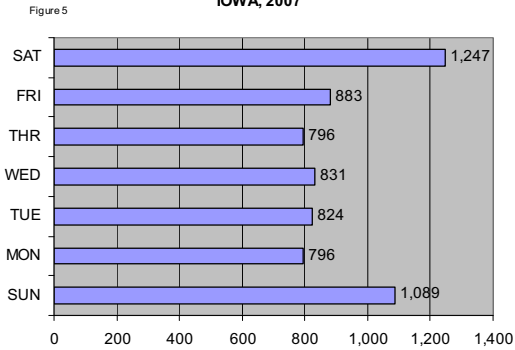


Table 1 INCIDENTS BY MONTH: 2003 - 2007					
	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007
January	592	508	554	525	531
February	487	508	516	451	456
March	669	571	604	517	502
1st Quarter	1,748	1,587	1,674	1,493	1,489
April	626	576	562	606	521
May	719	597	611	638	627
June	669	550	699	580	589
2nd Quarter	2,014	1,723	1,872	1,824	1,737
July	692	623	670	679	662
August	666	584	597	629	596
September	604	566	567	565	525
3rd Quarter	1,962	1,773	1,834	1,873	1,783
October	619	527	618	520	500
November	569	452	495	527	506
December	519	465	554	517	481
4th Quarter	1,707	1,444	1,667	1,564	1,487
Total	7,431	6,527	7,047	6,754	6,496

**DOMESTIC ASSAULT BY DAY
IOWA, 2007**

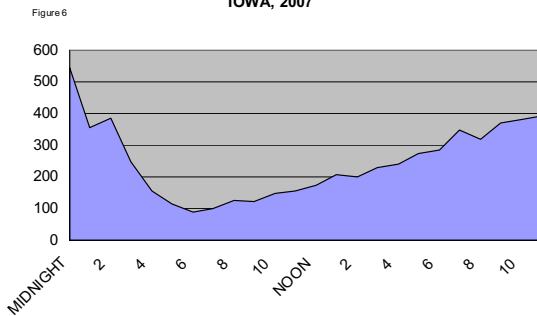


Incidents of domestic abuse were reported more frequently on the weekends than on weekdays. Over the five year period, in all years, Saturday and Sunday accounted for approximately 35% of all reported incidents each year. In every year, Monday reported the least number or tied for the lowest number of victims of any other day.

Table 2 Day of Week of the Incident: 2003 - 2007

Day of Week	2003		2004		2005		2006		2007	
	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%
Monday	830	12	632	10	765	11	752	11	796	12
Tuesday	970	14	794	13	831	12	915	14	824	13
Wednesday	1,015	14	828	13	970	14	853	13	831	13
Thursday	844	12	865	14	838	12	863	13	796	12
Friday	984	14	968	16	934	14	950	14	883	14
Saturday	1,262	18	1,080	17	1,283	19	1,260	19	1,247	19
Sunday	1,141	16	1,058	16	1,155	17	1,142	17	1,089	17
Total	7,046		6,225		6,776		6,735		6,466	

**DOMESTIC ABUSE BY HOUR
IOWA, 2007**



The majority of the domestic abuse incidents were reported during the evening and nighttime hours. In 2007, 35% of the reports occurred between Midnight and 6:00 am. The most frequent single hour reported was midnight (9% or 546 victims), which matches the trend set by the previous five years. The least reported hour was 6:00 am. (88 victims, which was also the least reported ever year over the five year

Table 3 TIMES FOR ABUSE: 2003 - 2007

Time of Abuse	2003		2004		2005		2006		2007	
	Incid.	%	Incid.	%	Incid.	%	Incid.	%	Incid.	%
6 A.M. to Noon	884	13	748	13	822	13	825	13	739	12
Noon to 6 P.M.	1,578	24	1,378	24	1,435	23	1,351	22	1,327	22
6 P.M. to Midnight	2,514	38	2,037	36	2,232	36	2,202	36	2,099	35
Midnight to 6 A.M.	1,710	26	1,468	26	1,689	27	1,799	29	1,806	30
Total	6,686		5,631		6,178		6,177		5,971	

VICTIMS

DOMESTIC ASSAULT VICTIMS BY GENDER
IOWA, 2007

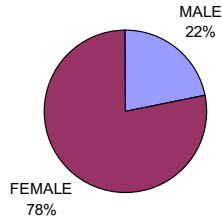


Figure 7

2007 DOMESTIC ASSAULT	
Number of Victims	7,069
Rate per 100,000	249
Percent Increase	1.2%

Since 1998, reports of female victims have decreased while male victims have increased proportionately. In 2007, females accounted for 78% of the total reported victims, which is a 3% decrease from 2006. The number of male victims reached a decade high in 2007 (1,553), accounting for 22% of the total.

	MEN	%	WOMEN	%	TOTAL
1998	1,100	17.1	5,332	82.9	6,432
1999	1,190	17.1	5,773	82.9	6,963
2000	1,343	18.3	6,000	81.7	7,343
2001	1,409	19.0	5,992	81.0	7,401
2002	1,395	18.3	6,211	81.7	7,606
2003	1,383	18.6	6,048	81.4	7,431
2004	1,243	19.0	5,283	81.0	6,526
2005	1,364	19.4	5,683	80.6	7,047
2006	1,325	18.9	5,682	81.1	7,007
2007	1,553	22.0	5,516	78.0	7,069

DOMESTIC ASSAULT VICTIMS BY RACE
IOWA, 2007

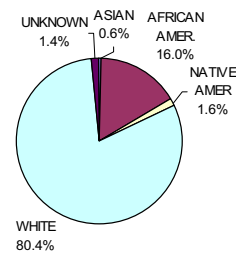


Figure 8

The percentage of Asian and Native American victims have remained fairly constant, not exceeding 2% in any given year, over the last decade. The percentage of African American victims has increased almost 5% since 1998. Conversely, White victims have decreased nearly 5% since 1998. Figure 8 shows percentages of victims by race, accounting for victims with an unknown race. When factoring in unknown race, White persons accounted for 80.4% of the total victims. The figures in Table 5 do not list the history for victims with unknown race. In 2007, there were 347 reported Hispanic victims, which is the highest reported number in the last decade. The previous high recorded in 2006 reported 326 Hispanic victims.

	White	%	Afr. Am.	%	Asian	%	Nat. Am.	%	TOTAL
1998	5,524	86.2	728	11.4	54	0.8	103	1.6	6,409
1999	5,883	85.1	871	12.6	64	0.9	95	1.4	6,913
2000	6,144	84.4	961	13.2	71	1.0	106	1.5	7,282
2001	6,145	84.1	975	13.3	93	1.3	98	1.3	7,311
2002	6,330	84.3	997	13.3	76	1.0	109	1.5	7,512
2003	6,150	83.5	1,016	13.8	72	1.0	131	1.8	7,369
2004	5,447	84.6	850	13.2	35	0.5	107	1.7	6,439
2005	5,828	83.6	992	14.2	58	0.8	90	1.3	6,968
2006	5,896	81.8	1,120	15.5	67	0.9	121	1.7	7,204
2007	5,688	81.6	1,135	16.3	43	0.6	107	1.5	6,973

OFFENDERS

DOMESTIC ABUSE OFFENDERS BY GENDER
IOWA, 2007

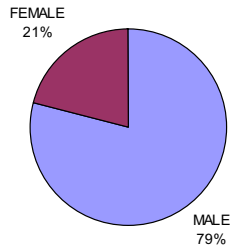


Figure 9

	MEN	%	WOMEN	%	TOTAL
1998	5,432	82.7	1,138	17.3	6,570
1999	5,870	82.9	1,208	17.1	7,078
2000	6,067	81.3	1,396	18.7	7,463
2001	6,092	80.7	1,453	19.3	7,545
2002	6,327	81.2	1,468	18.8	7,795
2003	6,163	81.2	1,426	18.8	7,589
2004	5,325	80.2	1,312	19.8	6,637
2005	5,800	80.6	1,400	19.4	7,200
2006	5,810	81.1	1,355	18.9	7,165
2007	5,436	79.0	1,444	21.0	6,880

Offender gender trends mirrors those seen in victim gender. In 2007, the highest percentage of female offenders was reported with females accounting for 21%. White offenders have decreased 7% since 1998, while African American offenders have increased 7%. Asian and Native American offenders have remained relatively constant. In 2007, Asian and Native American offenders were more often than not at the scene when the report was made, but White and African American offenders were more often not present. There were 293 reported Hispanic offenders, which is on the low end but consistent with the numbers recorded over the last decade.

DOMESTIC ABUSE OFFENDERS
IOWA, 2007

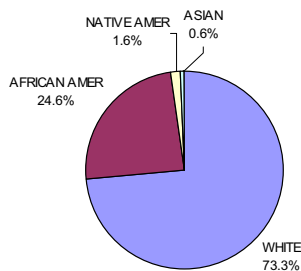


Figure 10

OFFENDER PRESENCE AT THE SCENE BY RACE
IOWA, 2007

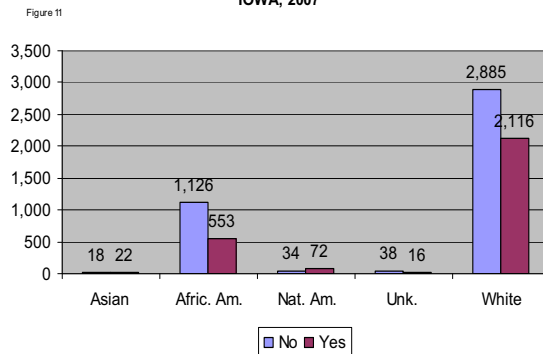
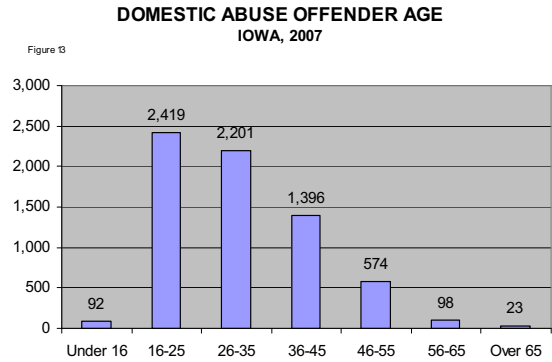
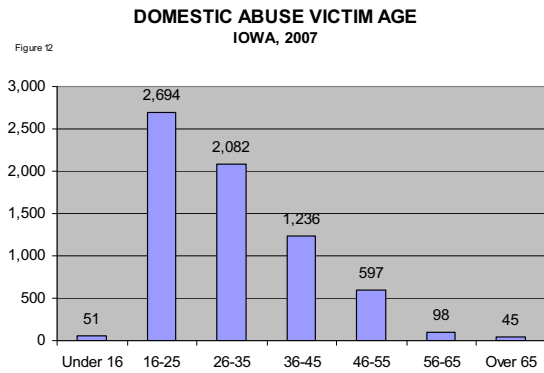


Figure 11

	White	%	Afr. Am.	%	Asian	%	Nat. Am.	%	TOTAL
1998	5,270	80.3	1,137	17.3	54	0.8	104	1.6	6,565
1999	5,566	79.0	1,347	19.1	60	0.9	76	1.1	7,049
2000	5,784	77.7	1,487	20.0	71	1.0	99	1.3	7,441
2001	5,862	78.2	1,444	19.3	98	1.3	95	1.3	7,499
2002	6,028	77.7	1,557	20.1	82	1.1	93	1.2	7,760
2003	5,845	77.4	1,532	20.3	67	0.9	112	1.5	7,556
2004	5,099	77.2	1,357	20.6	42	0.6	103	1.6	6,601
2005	5,419	75.8	1,584	22.1	62	0.9	88	1.2	7,153
2006	5,266	74.1	1,644	23.1	66	0.9	131	1.8	7,107
2007	5,001	73.3	1,679	24.6	40	0.6	106	1.6	6,826

VICTIM/OFFENDER AGE



The largest percent of persons involved in a domestic abuse situation were between the ages of 16 and 25. Forty percent of victims of domestic abuse were between the ages of 16 and 25, while 36% of offenders were in this age category.

Table 8 CROSTABULATION OF VICTIM AGE BY OFFENDER AGE

Offenders Age	Victims Age							
	< 16	16-25	26-35	36-45	46-55	56-65	>66	
Under 16	3	14	20	32	21	0	2	92
16-25	37	1,787	403	109	70	9	4	2,419
26-35	8	711	1,158	232	73	16	3	2,201
36-45	3	137	420	623	183	23	7	1,396
46-55	0	39	66	223	210	25	11	574
56-65	0	4	14	15	39	20	6	98
Over 65	0	2	1	2	1	5	12	23
	51	2,694	2,082	1,236	597	98	45	6,803

RELATIONSHIPS

DOMESTIC ABUSE RELATIONSHIPS IOWA, 2007

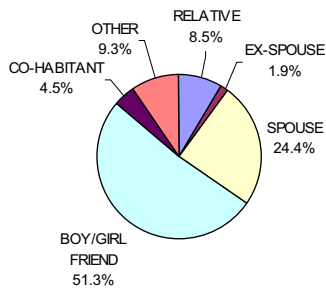


Figure 14

Table 9 2007 RELATIONSHIP OF VICTIM TO OFFENDER

Spouse	1,720	Other Family	51
Common Law Spouse	318	Child of Boy/Girl Friend	22
Parent	238	Boy/Girl Friend	3,619
Sibling/Step Sibling	117	Homosexual Relationship	50
Child	108	Ex-Spouse	132
Grandparent	8	Otherwise Known	228
Grandchild	1	Victim was also Off.	210
In-Law	14	Acquaintance	52
Stepparent	41	Other	35
Stepchild	23	Unknown	83

WHAT

The investigating officer reports a number of characteristics of each domestic abuse incident. Included are observed signs of abuse (injuries) to the victim, the weapon used to inflict the abuse and who reported the abuse to law enforcement. The law enforcement officer also notes any referrals made, the presence or absence of children during the abuse, whether an arrest was made, and if the offender was present at the time of the report.

Signs of Abuse	Asians		African Am.		Native Am.		Unknown		White		TOTAL	
	Victims		Victims		Victims		Victims		Victims		Victims	
	Freq.	%	Freq.	%	Freq.	%	Freq.	%	Freq.	%	Freq.	%
None	18	42	328	29	28	26	38	39	1,523	27	1,935	27
Minor Injury	22	51	732	65	65	60	55	57	3,900	69	4,774	68
Scalds/Burns					1	1			7	0	8	0
Severe Laceration			43	4	5	5	2	2	60	1	110	2
Internal Injury			5	0	5	5			22	0	32	0
Loss of Teeth			2	0					10	0	12	0
Fractures			10	1	1	1			58	10	69	1
Unconscious			2	0					28	1	30	0
Other Major Injury	3	7	13	1	2	2	2	2	80	2	100	2
Total	43		1,135		107		97		5,688		7,070	

DOMESTIC ASSAULT SIGNS OF ABUSE IOWA, 2007

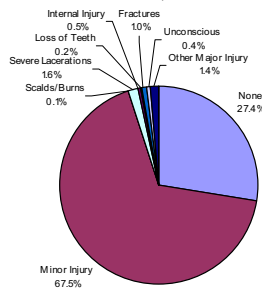


Figure 15

In 2007, some type of injury was noted in 72.6% of the domestic abuse incidents. Minor injuries were the most reported injury occurring in 67.5% of the incidents, which is comparable to the other years over the five year period. Looking at race and injuries, 42% of Asians had no physical injuries, compared with African Americans who reported 29%, Whites reported 27% and Native Americans reported 26%. White persons reported the highest percent of injuries for apparent minor injuries and fractures.

Signs of Abuse	2003		2004		2005		2006		2007	
	Victims		Victims		Victims		Victims		Victims	
	Freq.	%	Freq.	%	Freq.	%	Freq.	%	Freq.	%
None	2,189	30	1,903	29	1,904	27	1,962	28	1,935	27
Minor Injury	4,934	66	4,354	67	4,834	69	4,686	67	4,774	68
Scalds/Burns	3	0	3	0	4	0	4	0	8	0
Severe Lacerations	136	2	117	2	142	2	96	1	110	2
Internal Injury	34	1	25	0	28	0	21	0	32	0
Loss of Teeth	2	0	4	0	6	0	6	0	12	0
Fractures	59	1	50	1	45	1	59	1	69	1
Unconscious	18	0	16	0	16	0	15	0	30	0
Other Major Injury	42	0	50	1	58	1	97	1	100	2
Total	7,417		6,522		7,047		6,946		7,070	

REPORT

CHILDREN

DOMESTIC ABUSE REPORTING IOWA, 2007

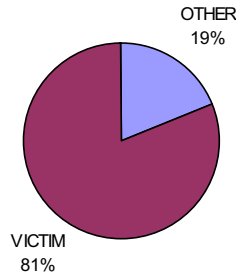


Figure 16

CHILDREN INVOLVMENT		
PRESENT	#	%
Harmed	172	3
Not Harmed	2,112	31
NONE PRESENT	4,503	66

The percentage of victims reporting domestic abuse has generally risen since 1990 when victims reported in 72% of the incidents. The highest percentage of victims reporting the incident was in 2002 with 87%. Reports of children being absent have also generally increased since 1989 when on 45% were recorded as not being present. The highest percentage was recorded in 1999 when children were absent in 71% of the cases.

WEAPONS

WEAPONS USED IN DOMESTIC ASSAULT IOWA, 2007

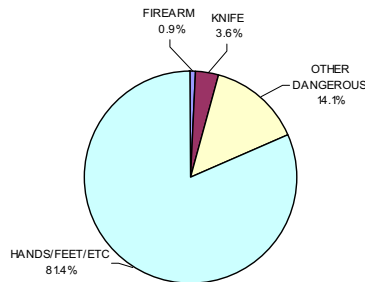


Figure 17

A weapon was indicated in 89% of the cases in 2007. Among those weapons, 81.4% were recorded as personal weapons such as hands and feet. The percentage of cases where no weapon was involved has increased over the five year period. The use of firearms, knives and other dangerous weapons has shown little change during the five years.

Table 12	WEAPONS USED: 2003 - 2007									
	2003		2004		2005		2006		2007	
Weapons Used	Weap.	%	Weap.	%	Weap.	%	Weap.	%	Weap.	%
None	645	8	668	8	726	9	827	11	856	11
Firearm	59	1	42	1	58	1	69	1	62	1
Knife	223	3	203	3	186	2	191	2	243	3
Other Dangerous	961	12	961	12	1,036	13	963	12	946	12
Fists, Feet, Teeth	6,253	77	6,253	77	5,847	74	5,755	74	5,479	72

REFERRALS

**DOMESTIC ABUSE REFERRALS
IOWA, 2007**

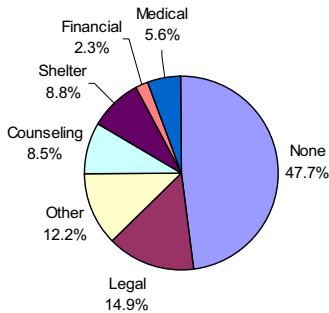


Figure 18

Under Iowa law, investigating officers may be asked for referrals, but are not mandated to make any referrals. Programming options vary widely across the state. No referral was made in 47.7% of the cases in 2007, which is a decrease from the 51% recorded in 2006. Legal referrals increased 2% from 2006 while both medical and shelter referrals increased 1%. Officers may make multiple referrals for one incident.

Referrals Made	2003		2004		2005		2006		2007	
	Incidents		Incidents		Incidents		Incidents		Incidents	
	Freq.	%	Freq.	%	Freq.	%	Freq.	%	Freq.	%
None	4,372	50	3,533	44	3,964	48	4,667	51	3,803	48
Legal	1,103	13	1,138	14	1,117	14	1,227	13	1,189	15
Other	1,101	13	950	10	973	12	1,264	14	973	12
Counseling	622	7	805	10	732	9	694	8	676	8
Shelter	720	8	808	10	726	9	694	8	699	9
Financial	177	2	208	3	198	2	206	2	185	2
Medical	655	7	616	8	541	7	479	5	446	6
Total Referrals	8,750		8,058		8,251		9,231		7,971	

ALCOHOL AND DRUG USE

**DOMESTIC ABUSE ALCOHOL/DRUG USE
IOWA 2007**

In 2007, the use of alcohol or drugs during a domestic abuse incident accounted for 19.4% of the cases.

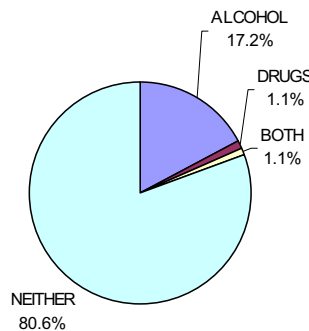


Figure 19