

**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.

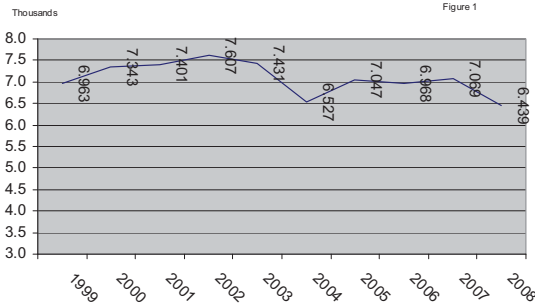
Some factors of an intimate relationship can be: duration, frequency of interaction, termination, either party's sexual or romantic expectations and the relationship does not have to be exclusive.

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.

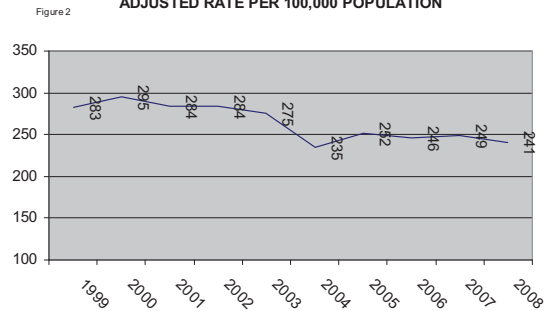
# HOW MANY...

Counted by Victims

**DOMESTIC ASSAULT: 1999 - 2008**  
NUMBER OF VICTIMS



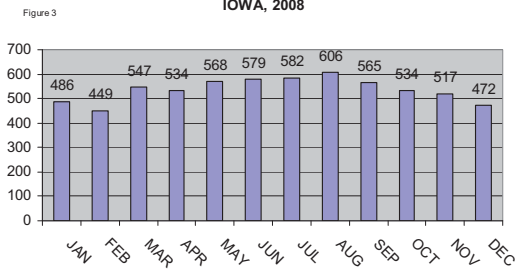
**DOMESTIC ASSAULT: 1999 - 2008**  
ADJUSTED RATE PER 100,000 POPULATION



In 2008, the domestic abuse adjusted rate decreased 3.2% from 2007. 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, 2008



July was the most reported month for incidents of domestic violence in 2004, 2006, and 2007. However, June was the most reported month in 2003, and in 2008 it was August. February was the lowest recorded month for the years 2006 through 2008; while it was November in 2004 and 2005.

**DOMESTIC ASSAULT BY MONTH**  
COMPARISON 2004 - 2008

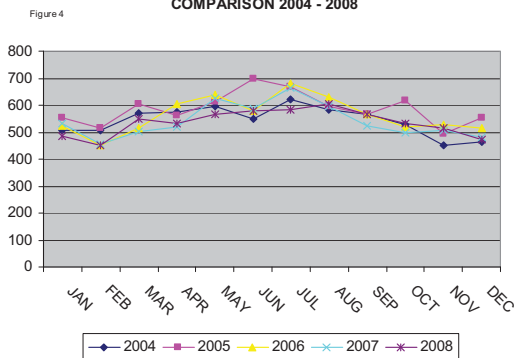
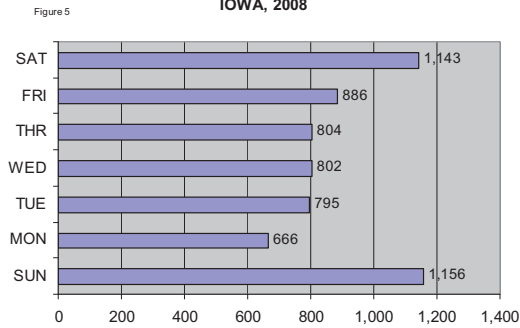


Table 1 INCIDENTS BY MONTH					
	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008
January	508	554	525	531	486
February	508	516	451	456	449
March	571	604	517	502	547
1st Quarter	1,587	1,674	1,493	1,489	1,482
April	576	562	606	521	534
May	597	611	638	627	568
June	550	699	580	589	579
2nd Quarter	1,723	1,872	1,824	1,737	1,681
July	623	670	679	662	582
August	584	597	629	596	606
September	566	567	565	525	565
3rd Quarter	1,773	1,834	1,873	1,783	1,753
October	527	618	520	500	534
November	452	495	527	506	517
December	465	554	517	481	472
4th Quarter	1,444	1,667	1,564	1,487	1,523
Total	6,527	7,047	6,754	6,496	6,439

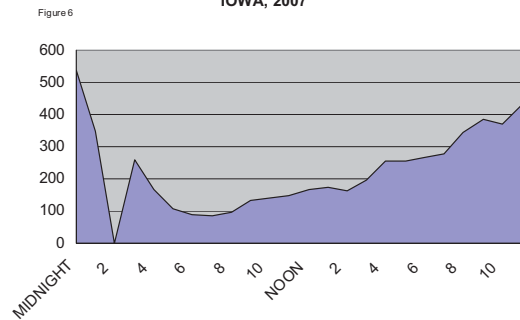
**DOMESTIC ASSAULT BY DAY**  
IOWA, 2008



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 36% 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.

Day of Week	2004		2005		2006		2007		2008	
	Incidents	%	Incidents	%	Incidents	%	Incidents	%	Incidents	%
Monday	632	10	765	11	752	11	796	12	666	11
Tuesday	794	13	831	12	915	14	824	13	795	13
Wednesday	828	13	970	14	853	13	831	13	802	13
Thursday	865	14	838	12	863	13	796	12	804	13
Friday	968	16	934	14	950	14	883	14	886	14
Saturday	1,080	17	1,283	19	1,260	19	1,247	19	1,143	18
Sunday	1,058	16	1,155	17	1,142	17	1,089	17	1,156	18
Total	6,225		6,776		6,735		6,466		6,252	

**DOMESTIC ABUSE BY HOUR**  
IOWA, 2007



The majority of the domestic abuse incidents were reported during the evening and nighttime hours. In 2008, 36% of the reports occurred between 6:00 pm and Midnight. The most frequent single hour reported was midnight (10% or 536 victims), which matches the trend set by the previous five years. The least reported hour was 7:00 am (87 victims) followed by 6:00 am (88 victims). The hour of 6:00 am was the least reported time every other year over the five year period.

Time of Abuse	2004		2005		2006		2007		2008	
	Incid.	%	Incid.	%	Incid.	%	Incid.	%	Incid.	%
6 A.M. to Noon	748	13	822	13	825	13	739	12	695	12
Noon to 6 P.M.	1,378	24	1,435	23	1,351	22	1,327	22	1,211	21
6 P.M. to Midnight	2,037	36	2,232	36	2,202	36	2,099	35	2,074	36
Midnight to 6 A.M.	1,468	26	1,689	27	1,799	29	1,806	30	1,796	31
Total	5,631		6,178		6,177		5,971		5,776	

# VICTIMS

## DOMESTIC ASSAULT VICTIMS BY GENDER IOWA, 2008

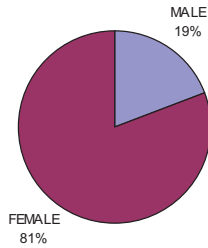


Figure 7

2008 DOMESTIC ASSAULT	
Number of Victims	6,439
Rate per 100,000	241
Percent Decrease	-3.2%

In 2008, females accounted for 81% of the total reported victims, which is a nearly 3% increase from 2007, but comparable to the years 2000 through 2006. The number of male victims reported a decade high in 2007 (1,553), accounting for 22% of the total.

	MEN	%	WOMEN	%	TOTAL
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
2008	1,238	19.2	5,201	80.8	6,439

## DOMESTIC ASSAULT VICTIMS BY RACE IOWA, 2008

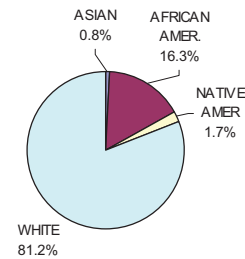


Figure 8

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 4% since 1999. Conversely, White victims have decreased nearly 4% since 1999. In 2008, White persons accounted for 81.2% of the total victims. There were 311 reported Hispanic victims, a slight decrease from 2007 (347) which reported the highest number for the last decade. The previous high had been recorded in 2006 with a reported 326 Hispanic victims.

	White	%	Afr. Am.	%	Asian	%	Nat. Am.	%	TOTAL
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
2008	5,180	81.2	1,038	16.3	51	0.8	110	1.7	6,379

# OFFENDERS

**DOMESTIC ABUSE OFFENDERS BY GENDER**  
IOWA, 2008

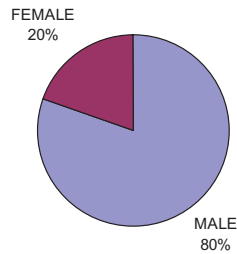


Figure 9

	MEN	%	WOMEN	%	TOTAL
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
2008	5,276	80.1	1,307	19.9	6,583

Offender gender trends mirror those seen in victim gender. In 2007, the highest percentage of female offenders was reported with females accounting for 21%. In 2008, the percentage of female offenders was slightly lower than the previous year, but still the second highest recorded for the decade. The number of White offenders has decreased more than 6% since 1999, while African American offenders have increased nearly 6%. Asian and Native American offenders have shown little change. In 2008, 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.

**DOMESTIC ABUSE OFFENDERS**  
IOWA, 2008

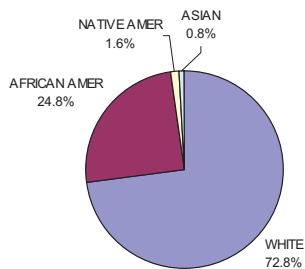
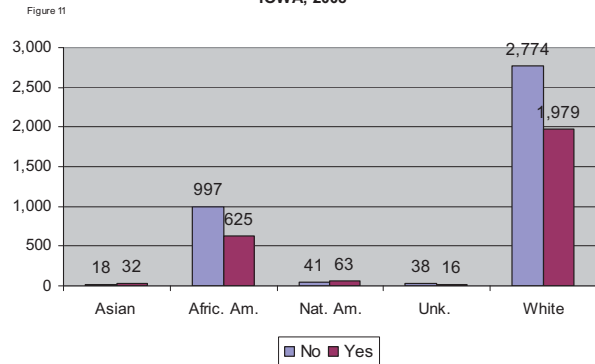


Figure 10

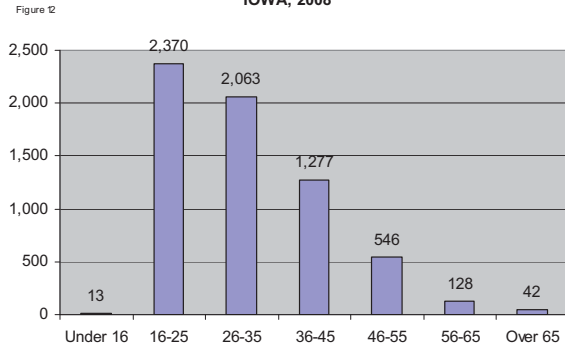
**OFFENDER PRESENCE AT THE SCENE BY RACE**  
IOWA, 2008



	White	%	Afr. Am.	%	Asian	%	Nat. Am.	%	TOTAL
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
2008	4,753	72.8	1,622	24.8	50	0.8	104	1.6	6,529

# VICTIM/OFFENDER AGE

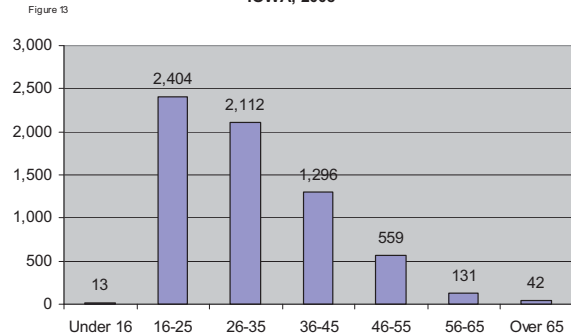
**DOMESTIC ABUSE VICTIM AGE  
IOWA, 2008**



The largest percent of persons involved in a domestic abuse situation were between the ages of 16 and 25. In 2008, 37% of victims of domestic abuse were between the ages of 16 and 25. The second highest age category was 26 through 35, which accounted for 32%.

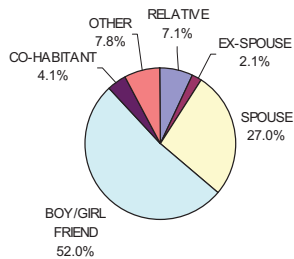
Among known offenders the age category 16 through 25 also accounted for the largest percentage recording 2,404 offenders or 37% of the total. The second highest age category was 26 through 35, which accounted for 32%. The number of victims and offenders under age 16 and over age 65 mirrored each other.

**DOMESTIC ABUSE OFFENDER AGE  
IOWA, 2008**



# RELATIONSHIPS

**DOMESTIC ABUSE RELATIONSHIPS  
IOWA, 2008**



Child	94	Other Family	43
Common Law Spouse	291	Acquaintance	34
Grandchild	1	Boy/Girl Friend	3,652
Grandparent	10	Child of Boy/Girl Friend	16
In-Law	12	Ex-Spouse	144
Parent	197	Homosexual Relationship	48
Sibling/Step Sibling	106	Otherwise Known	174
Spouse	1,562	Victim was also Off.	186
Stepchild	19	Other	34
Stepparent	42	Unknown	169

Figure 14

In 2008, boyfriend or girlfriend relationships recorded the highest number of domestic abuse relationships accounting for 52% followed by spouses with 27%. Both of these categories increased from 2007.

# 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	23	44	354	32	41	37	28	41	1,469	27	1,915	28
Minor Injury	29	56	696	63	66	59	38	55	3,725	69	4,554	68
Scalds/Burns			2	0					2	0	4	0
Severe Lacerations			21	2	2	2	3	4	67	1	93	1
Internal Injury			4	0.5					18	0.5	22	0.5
Loss of Teeth									6	0	6	0
Fractures			5	1	1	1			52	1	58	1
Unconscious			4	0.5	1	1			18	0.5	23	0.5
Other Major Injury			12	1					37	1	49	1
Total	52		1,098		111		69		5,394		6,724	

**DOMESTIC ASSAULT SIGNS OF ABUSE IOWA, 2008**

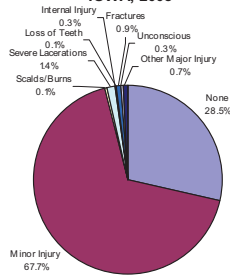


Figure 15

In 2008, some type of injury was noted in 71.5% of the domestic abuse incidents. Minor injuries were the most reported injury occurring in 67.7% of the incidents, which is comparable to the other years over the five year period. When comparing race with injuries, 44% of Asians had no physical injuries, compared with Whites who reported 27%, African Americans reported 32% and Native Americans reported 37%. White persons reported the highest percent of injuries for apparent minor injuries.

Signs of Abuse	2004		2005		2006		2007		2008	
	Victims		Victims		Victims		Victims		Victims	
	Freq.	%	Freq.	%	Freq.	%	Freq.	%	Freq.	%
None	1,903	29	1,904	27	1,962	28	1,935	27	1,763	28
Minor Injury	4,354	67	4,834	69	4,686	67	4,774	68	4,404	69
Scalds/Burns	3	0	4	0	4	0	8	0	4	0
Severe Lacerations	117	2	142	2	96	1	110	2	91	1
Internal Injury	25	0	28	0	21	0	32	0	22	0
Loss of Teeth	4	0	6	0	6	0	12	0	6	0
Fractures	50	1	45	1	59	1	69	1	58	1
Unconscious	16	0	16	0	15	0	30	0	23	0
Other Major Injury	50	1	58	1	97	1	100	2	48	1
Total	6,522		7,047		6,946		7,070		6,419	

# REPORT

# CHILDREN

**DOMESTIC ABUSE REPORTING  
IOWA, 2008**

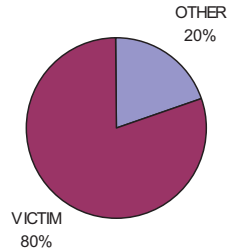


Figure 16

The percentage of victims reporting domestic abuse has generally risen since 1990 when victims reported in 72% of the incidents. The highest percentage of victim reporting of the incident was in 2002 with 87%. In 2008, the percentage of incidents reported by victims was reported as 80%, which is a slight decrease from 2007 (81%).

Reports of children being absent from the scene 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. In 2008, the percentage of those absent increased to 67% and those present and harmed decreased to 2%.

CHILDREN INVOLVMENT		
PRESENT	#	%
Harmed	101	2
Not Harmed	2,071	32
NONE PRESENT	4,373	67

# WEAPONS

**WEAPONS USED IN DOMESTIC ASSAULT  
IOWA, 2008**

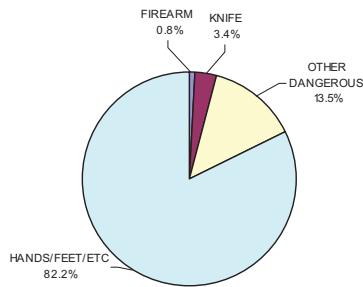


Figure 17

A weapon was indicated in 88.8% of the cases in 2008. Among those weapons, 82.2% were recorded as personal weapons such as hands and feet. The percentage of cases where no weapon was involved increased from 2004 to 2006, but has remained constant since. The use of firearms, knives and other dangerous weapons has shown little change over the five year period.

Table 11	WEAPONS USED: 2004 - 2008									
	2004		2005		2006		2007		2008	
Weapons Used	Weap.	%	Weap.	%	Weap.	%	Weap.	%	Weap.	%
None	668	8	726	9	827	11	856	11	812	11
Firearm	42	1	58	1	69	1	62	1	51	1
Knife	203	3	186	2	191	2	243	3	221	3
Other Dangerous	961	12	1,036	13	963	12	946	12	871	12
Fists, Feet, Teeth	6,253	77	5,847	74	5,755	74	5,479	72	5,291	73

# REFERRALS

**DOMESTIC ABUSE REFERRALS  
IOWA, 2008**

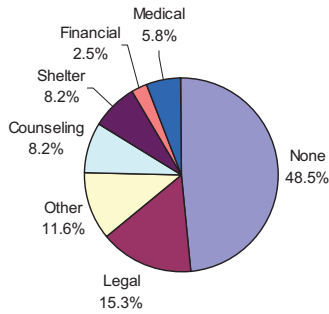


Figure 18

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 48.5% of the cases in 2008, which is an increase from the 47.7% recorded in 2007. Shelter referrals decreased 1% while all other referral categories maintained the same percentages. Officers may make multiple referrals for one incident.

Referrals Made	2004		2005		2006		2007		2008	
	Incidents		Incidents		Incidents		Incidents		Incidents	
	Freq.	%	Freq.	%	Freq.	%	Freq.	%	Freq.	%
None	3,533	44	3,964	48	4,667	51	3,803	48	3,797	48
Legal	1,138	14	1,117	14	1,227	13	1,189	15	1,200	15
Other	950	10	973	12	1,264	14	973	12	907	12
Counseling	805	10	732	9	694	8	676	8	646	8
Shelter	808	10	726	9	694	8	699	9	639	8
Financial	208	3	198	2	206	2	185	2	195	2
Medical	616	8	541	7	479	5	446	6	451	6
<b>Total Referrals</b>	<b>8,058</b>		<b>8,251</b>		<b>9,231</b>		<b>7,971</b>		<b>7,835</b>	

# ALCOHOL AND DRUG USE

In 2008, the use of alcohol or drugs during a domestic abuse incident accounted for 20.1% of the cases, which is an increase from the 19.4% reported in 2007.

**DOMESTIC ABUSE ALCOHOL/DRUG USE  
IOWA 2008**

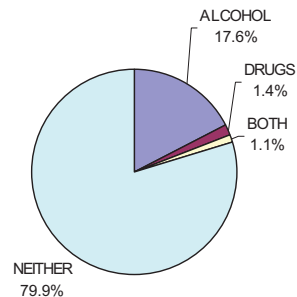


Figure 19