

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:

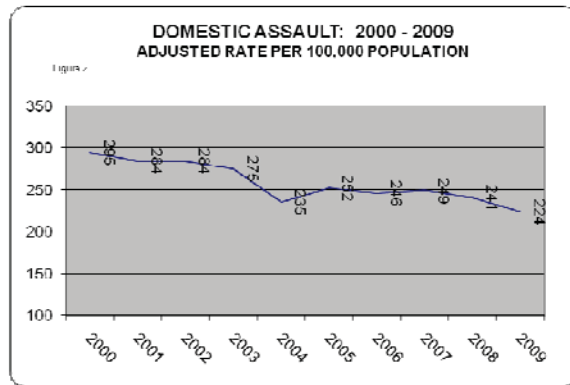
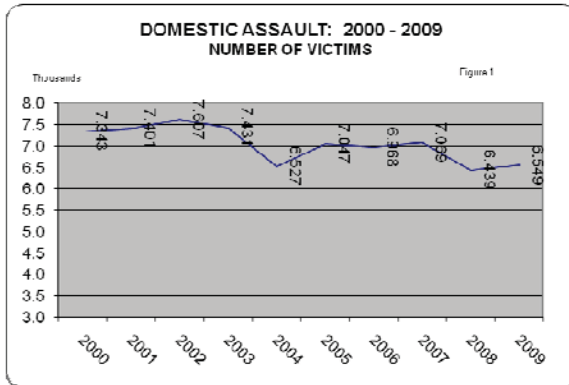
- a. The assault is between family or household members who reside together at the time of the assault.
- b. The assault is between separated spouses or persons divorced from each other and not residing together at the time of the assault.
- c. The assault is between persons who are parents of the same 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.

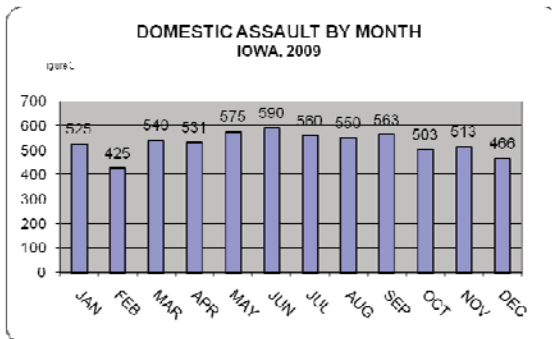
HOW MANY...

Counted by Victims

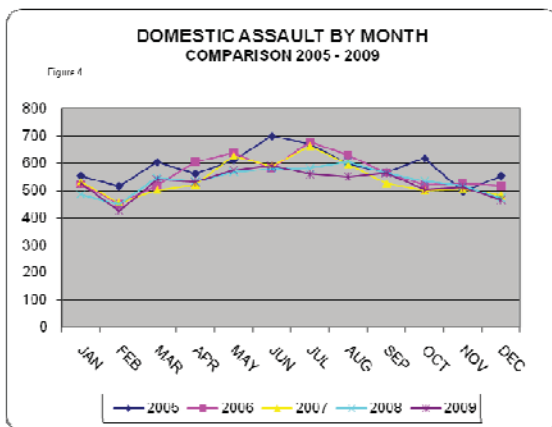


In 2009, the domestic abuse adjusted rate decreased 7.1% from 2008, despite the number of victims increasing 1.7%. The decade high adjusted rate was reported in 2000 (292 per 100,000 population), but the highest number of reported victims was in 2002 (7,607).

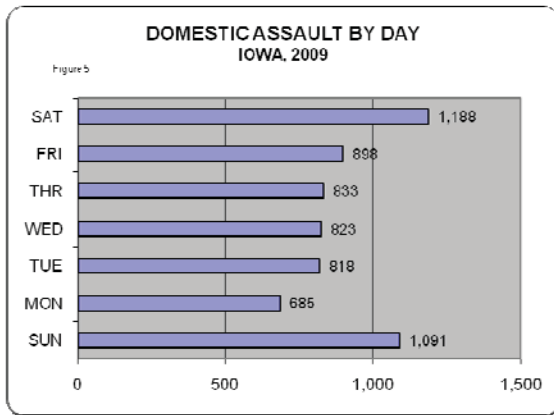
WHEN



In 2009, June was the most reported month for incidents of domestic violence. June, July and August have consistently been the most reported months. February has been the lowest reported month since 2006.

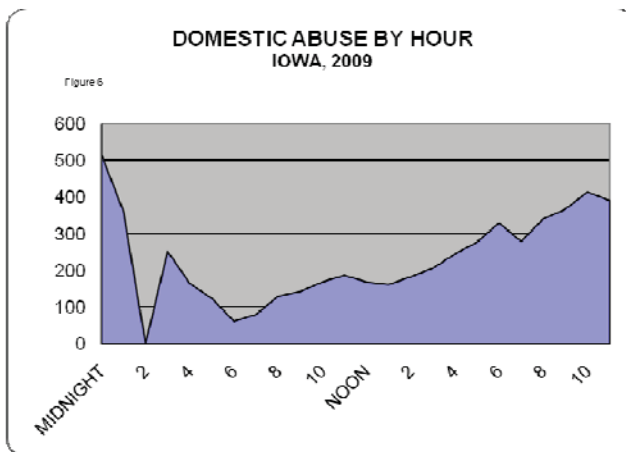


	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009
January	554	525	531	486	525
February	516	451	456	449	425
March	604	517	502	547	540
1st Quarter	1,674	1,493	1,489	1,482	1,490
April	562	606	521	534	531
May	611	638	627	568	575
June	699	580	589	579	590
2nd Quarter	1,872	1,824	1,737	1,681	1,696
July	670	679	662	582	560
August	597	629	596	606	550
September	567	565	525	565	563
3rd Quarter	1,834	1,873	1,783	1,753	1,673
October	618	520	500	534	503
November	495	527	506	517	513
December	554	517	481	472	466
4th Quarter	1,667	1,564	1,487	1,523	1,482
Total	7,047	6,754	6,496	6,439	6,341



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.

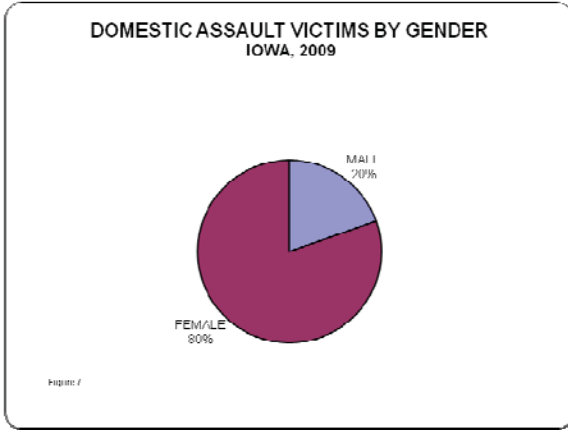
Day of Week	2005		2006		2007		2008		2009	
	Incidents		Incidents		Incidents		Incidents		Incidents	
	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%
Monday	765	11	752	11	796	12	666	11	685	11
Tuesday	831	12	915	14	824	13	795	13	818	13
Wednesday	970	14	853	13	831	13	802	13	823	13
Thursday	838	12	863	13	796	12	804	13	833	13
Friday	934	14	950	14	883	14	886	14	898	14
Saturday	1,283	19	1,260	19	1,247	19	1,143	18	1,188	19
Sunday	1,155	17	1,142	17	1,089	17	1,156	18	1,091	17
Total	6,776		6,735		6,466		6,252		6,336	



The majority of the domestic abuse incidents were reported during the evening and nighttime hours. In 2009, 36% of the reports occurred between 6:00 pm and Midnight. The most frequent single hour reported was midnight (12.5% or 516 victims), which matches the trend set by the previous five years. The least reported hour was 6:00 am (62 victims) followed by 7:00 am (80 victims).

Time of Abuse	2005		2006		2007		2008		2009	
	Incid.	%	Incid.	%	Incid.	%	Incid.	%	Incid.	%
6 A.M. to Noon	822	13	825	13	739	12	695	12	771	13
Noon to 6 P.M.	1,435	23	1,351	22	1,327	22	1,211	21	1,242	21
6 P.M. to Midnight	2,232	36	2,202	36	2,099	35	2,074	36	2,122	36
Midnight to 6 A.M.	1,689	27	1,799	29	1,806	30	1,796	31	1,765	30
	6,178		6,177		5,971		5,776		5,900	

VICTIMS

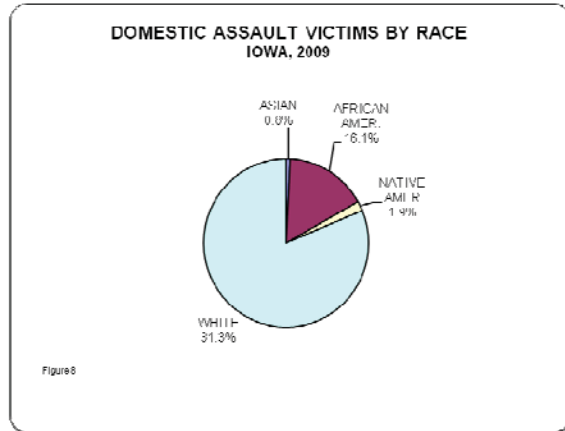


2009 DOMESTIC ASSAULT	
Number of Victims	6,549
Rate per 100,000	224
Percent Decrease	7.1%

In 2009, females accounted for 80% of the total reported victims, which is comparable to the distribution in 2008. The number of male victims increased 0.4%. During the last decade, the highest number of male victims was recorded in 2007.

Table 4 VICTIM GENDER: 2000 - 2009

	MEN	%	WOMEN	%	TOTAL
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
2009	1,284	19.6	5,265	80.4	6,549



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 nearly 3% since 2000. Conversely, White victims have decreased 3% since 2000. In 2009, White persons accounted for 81.3% of the total victims. There were 360 reported Hispanic victims, which is the highest number recorded for the decade.

Table 5 VICTIM RACE: 2000 - 2009

	White	%	Afr. Am.	%	Asian	%	Nat. Am.	%	TOTAL
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
2009	5,259	81.3	1,041	16.1	49	0.8	120	1.9	6,469

OFFENDERS

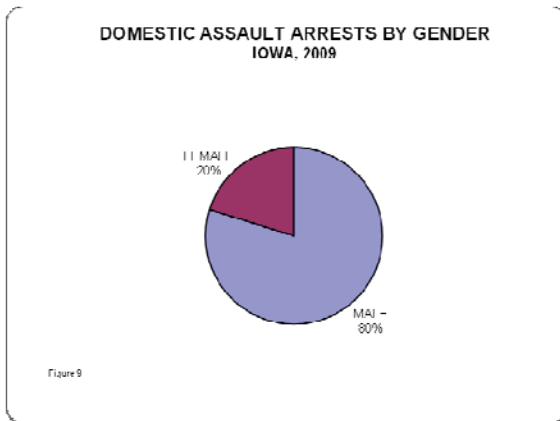


Table 6 OFFENDER GENDER: 2000 - 2009

	MEN	%	WOMEN	%	TOTAL
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
2009	5,354	79.8	1,355	20.2	6,709

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 2009, the percentage of female offenders was at the second highest point for the decade. The number of White offenders has decreased 4.1% since 2000, while African American offenders have increased 4%. Asian and Native American offenders have shown little change. In 2009, 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.

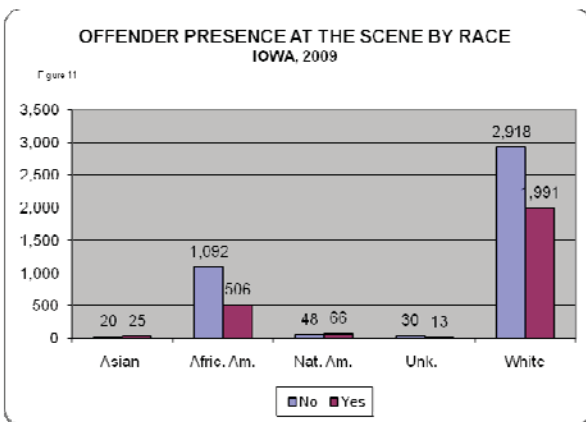
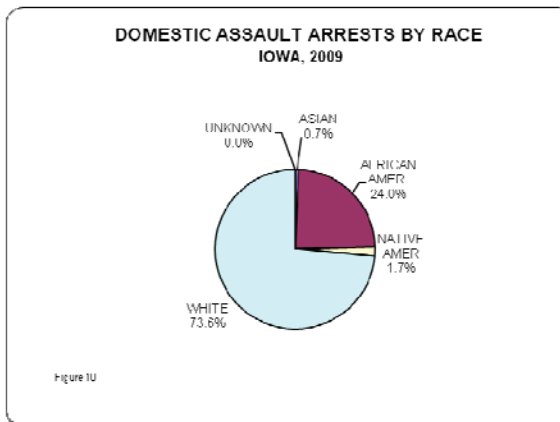
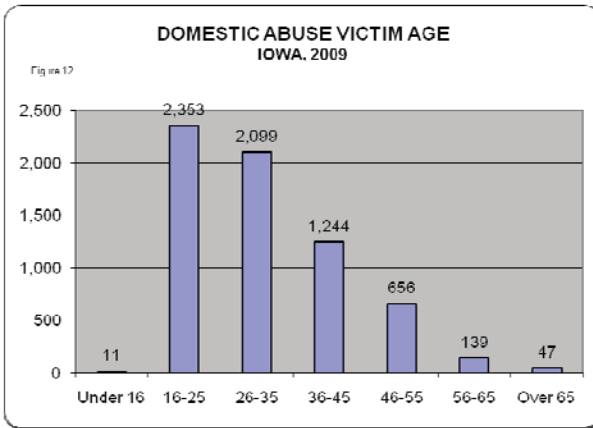


Table 7 OFFENDER RACE: 2000 - 2009

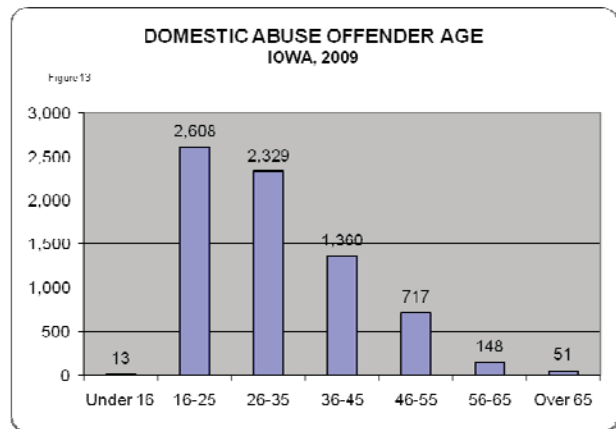
	White	%	Afr. Am.	%	Asian	%	Nat. Am.	%	TOTAL
2000	5,784	77.7	1,487	20.0	71	1.0	99	1.3	7,441
2001	5,862	78.2	1,444	19.3	98	1.3	95	1.3	7,499
2002	6,028	77.7	1,557	20.1	82	1.1	93	1.2	7,760
2003	5,845	77.4	1,532	20.3	67	0.9	112	1.5	7,556
2004	5,099	77.2	1,357	20.6	42	0.6	103	1.6	6,601
2005	5,419	75.8	1,584	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
2009	4,909	73.6	1,598	24.0	45	0.7	114	1.7	6,666

VICTIM/OFFENDER AGE



In 2009, the largest percent of persons involved in a domestic abuse situation were between the ages of 16 and 25 (2,353) accounting for 35.9% of the victims. The second highest age category was 26 through 35 (2,099), which accounted for 32.1%.

Among known offenders, the age category 16 through 25 also accounted for the largest percentage recording 2,608 offenders or 36.1% of the total. The second highest age category was 26 through 35 (2,329), which accounted for 32.2%. The number of victims and offenders under age 16 and over age 65 mirrored each other.



RELATIONSHIPS

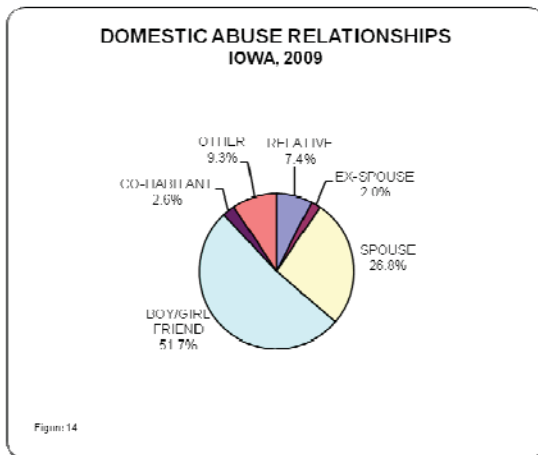


Table 8 2009 RELATIONSHIP OF VICTIM TO OFFENDER

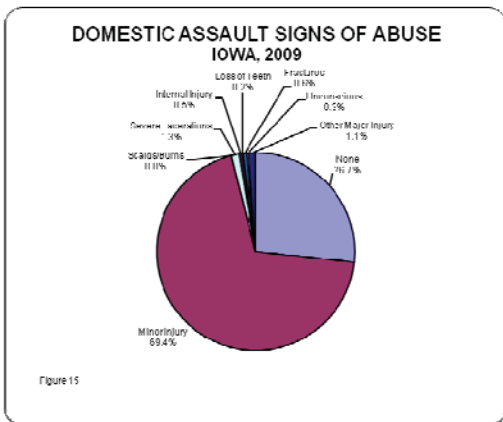
Child	87	Other Family	53
Common Law Spouse	318	Acquaintance	42
Grandchild	3	Boy/Girl Friend	3,664
Grandparent	10	Child of Boy/Girl Friend	14
In-Law	19	Ex-Spouse	140
Parent	222	Homosexual Relationship	73
Sibling/Step Sibling	112	Otherwise Known	213
Spouse	1,528	Victim was also Offender	227
Stepchild	26	Other	37
Stepparent	26	Unknown	19

In 2009, boyfriend or girlfriend relationships recorded the highest number of domestic abuse relationships accounting for 51.7% followed by spouses with 26.8%. These percentages are consistent with those recorded in 2008.

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	35	315	29	34	28	25	28	1,469	27	1,861	27
Minor Injury	31	61	718	66	81	66	59	66	3,792	69	4,681	68
Scalds/Burns		0		0		0		0	1	0	1	0
Severe Lacerations		0	17	2	5	4		0	67	1	89	1
Internal Injury		0	4	0	1	1		0	25	0	30	0
Loss of Teeth		0	2	0		0		0	8	0	10	0
Fractures		0	2	0	1	1	1	1	35	1	39	1
Unconscious	1	2	5	0		0	1	1	19	0	26	0
Other Major Injury	1	2	15	1		0		0	59	1	75	1
Unknown		0	12	1		0	3	3	55	1		0
Total	51		1,090		122		89		5,530		6,882	

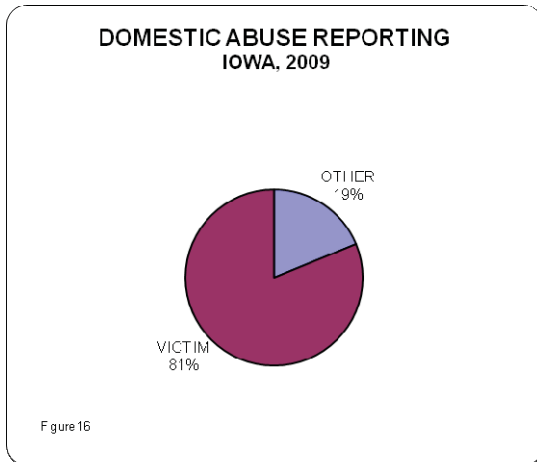


In 2009, some type of injury was noted in 73% of the domestic abuse incidents. Minor injuries were the most reported injury occurring in 69% of the incidents, which is comparable to the other years over the five year period. When comparing race with injuries, 35% of Asians had no physical injuries, compared with Whites who reported 27%, African Americans reported 29% and Native Americans reported 28%. White persons reported the highest percent of injuries for apparent minor injuries.

Signs of Abuse	2005		2006		2007		2008		2009	
	Victims		Victims		Victims		Victims		Victims	
	Freq.	%	Freq.	%	Freq.	%	Freq.	%	Freq.	%
None	1,904	27	1,962	28	1,935	27	1,763	28	1,744	27
Minor Injury	4,834	69	4,686	67	4,774	68	4,404	69	4,531	69
Scalds/Burns	4	0	4	0	8	0	4	0	1	0
Severe Lacerations	142	2	96	1	110	2	91	1	83	1
Internal Injury	28	0	21	0	32	0	22	0	30	0
Loss of Teeth	6	0	6	0	12	0	6	0	10	0
Fractures	45	1	59	1	69	1	58	1	38	1
Unconscious	16	0	15	0	30	0	23	0	22	0
Other Major Injury	58	1	97	1	100	2	48	1	74	1
Total	7,047		6,946		7,070		6,419		6,533	

REPORT

CHILDREN



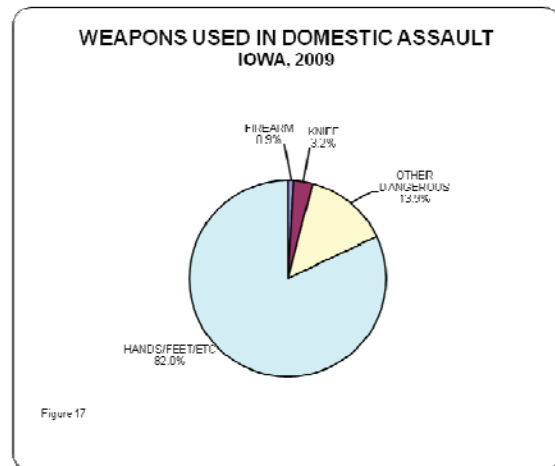
CHILDREN INVOLVMENT		
PRESENT	#	%
Harmed	111	2
Not Harmed	2,258	31
NONE PRESENT	4,844	67

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 2009, the percentage of incidents reported by victims was 81%, which is a slight increase from 2008.

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 2009, the percentage of those absent increased to 67%, which compares with 2008. Incidents in which children were present and harmed accounted for 2% of the total.

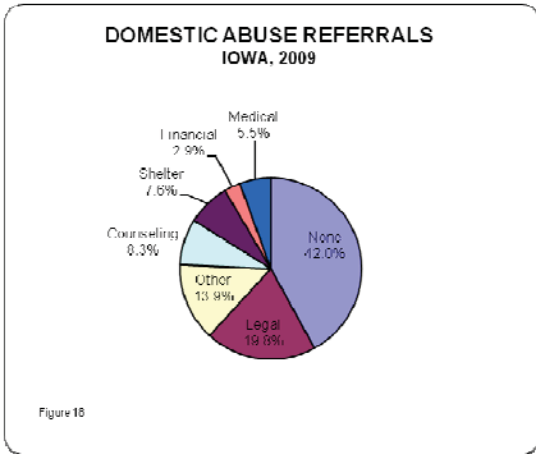
WEAPONS

A weapon was indicated in 90% of the cases in 2009. Among those weapons, 82% were recorded as personal weapons such as hands and feet. The percentage of cases where no weapon was involved decreased 1% from 2008 to 2009. The use of firearms, knives and other dangerous weapons has shown little change over the five year period.



	2005		2006		2007		2008		2009	
Weapons Used	Weap.	%	Weap.	%	Weap.	%	Weap.	%	Weap.	%
None	726	9	827	11	856	11	812	11	77	10
Firearm	58	1	69	1	62	1	51	1	61	1
Knife	186	2	191	2	243	3	221	3	211	3
Other Dangerous	1,036	13	963	12	946	12	871	12	921	12
Fists, Feet, Teeth	5,847	74	5,755	74	5,479	72	5,291	73	5,447	73
TOTAL	7,853		7,805		7,586		7,246		6,717	

REFERRALS



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 42.0% of the cases in 2009, which is a decrease from the 48.5% recorded in 2008. Legal referrals increased 5%, “other” (+2%) and financial (+1%) referrals also increased. Officers may make multiple referrals for one incident.

Table 12 REFERRALS MADE IN 2005 THROUGH 2009

Referrals Made	2005		2006		2007		2008		2009	
	Incidents		Incidents		Incidents		Incidents		Incidents	
	Freq.	%	Freq.	%	Freq.	%	Freq.	%	Freq.	%
None	3,964	48	4,667	51	3,803	48	3,797	48	3,642	42
Legal	1,117	14	1,227	13	1,189	15	1,200	15	1,712	20
Other	973	12	1,264	14	973	12	907	12	1,201	14
Counseling	732	9	694	8	676	8	646	8	716	8
Shelter	726	9	694	8	699	9	639	8	662	8
Financial	198	2	206	2	185	2	195	2	251	3
Medical	541	7	479	5	446	6	451	6	480	6
Total Referrals	8,251		9,231		7,971		7,835		8,664	

ALCOHOL AND DRUG USE

In 2009, the use of alcohol or drugs during a domestic abuse incident accounted for 18.9% of the cases, which is a decrease from the 21.1% reported in 2008.

