

The Economic Impact of Domestic & Sexual Violence in Vermont

An April 2021 report of



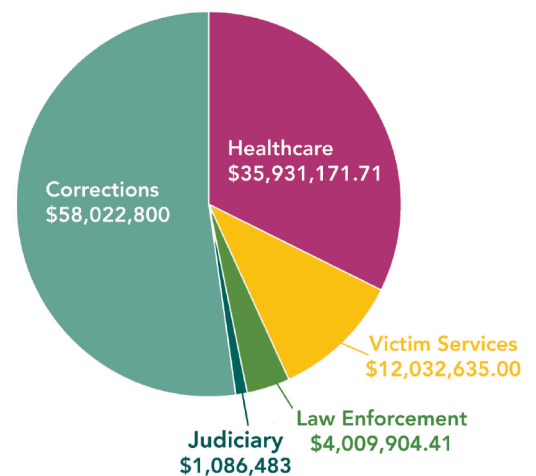
Domestic and sexual violence impacts all Vermonters. Vermont has a violence problem and it costs each and every Vermonter. This cost is not only emotional, mental, and physical, but financial as well.

The public cost of sexual and domestic violence in Vermont totals over \$111 million per year. The **per capita cost** of domestic and sexual violence to each Vermonter is **\$177.67 annually** and approximately **\$2,655 per victim** in Vermont.

There are **41,829 individuals who experience this violence each year in our state—10,855 of whom are children.** We don't have to accept that this violence is inevitable. Understanding how we pay for it can inform our strategy to eradicate it. We can and must do better at preventing violence in Vermont.



Estimated Public Costs of Domestic & Sexual Violence in Vermont



Total Annual Costs:
\$111,082,994.17

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR FURTHER INQUIRY

This report highlighted the significant gaps in data collection and research on the costs of domestic and sexual violence at the state level. Recommendations for further research include:

- The impact of domestic and sexual violence on children warrants further examination and consideration.
- Future YRBS assessments conducted by the Department of Health should include questions pertaining to witnessing domestic violence in the home. This could provide a more complete picture of what children in Vermont are experiencing.
- Annual data collection regarding the costs of protecting children impacted by domestic violence through the child protective services system, as well as the additional physical and mental health care needed by child victims is essential.
- Much more research and data collection is needed on the disproportionate domestic and sexual violence that BIPOC and LGBTQ+ Vermonters experience.
- To better understand the full economic impact of violence to our state so that the legislature and state government may make accurate budget proposals, a Vermont-specific health care cost analysis should be completed.
- The publicly available Department of Corrections data is cumbersome and often out of date. More research is required to better understand how domestic and sexual violence impacts our populations in facilities and on community supervision and the effectiveness of various interventions.

This report demonstrates that domestic and sexual violence impacts all Vermonters, not only in their families and communities, but economically as well. The data paints a stark picture of pervasive and costly violence within Vermont.

We can create a different future for Vermont—a future where Vermonters can thrive, free from violence.

The Uplift VT Campaign

Uplift VT is a grassroots campaign to change the conversation about violence and envision a brighter future for Vermont in which all people can thrive.

The campaign looks forward to engaging with policymakers and communities in the coming years to address the economic impact of domestic and sexual violence to the state of Vermont.

JOIN THE CAMPAIGN at vtnetwork.org/uplift

CONTACT:

Jessica Barquist, Policy & Organizing Director
Vermont Network Against Domestic and Sexual Violence
(802) 223-1302 | jessica@vtnetwork.org
www.vtnetwork.org

