



## **Victim Support**

### **Objective:**

Keep people safe in their homes and communities

### **Strategy:**

Provide programs and support for individuals exposed to violence

### **Why is this strategy important?**

Domestic violence and sexual assault are widespread problems across the nation and in King County. These crimes affect persons from all walks of life, particularly women and girls. For instance, nationwide it is estimated that one in every four women will experience domestic violence in her lifetime. For sexual assault, this rate is one in six for women (17 percent) and one in 33 for men (3 percent).

Individuals exposed to violence need support and services to overcome the trauma they have experienced. For those currently in an abusive relationship, they may also need a confidential shelter where they can relocate to escape their abusive partner.

### **How is our performance?**

King County provides funding for many of the community-based organizations that serve survivors of domestic violence and their families. The King County Department of Community and Human Services, Community Services Division contracts with community-based providers to provide domestic violence and sexual assault-related services. These programs served 7,170 persons in 2011. This is roughly the same number of persons served by these programs over the last four years with the exception of 2009 when 8,459 persons were served.

The need for domestic violence services is much greater than the current availability. In looking at just the five King County domestic violence provider agencies for which data was available for 2011, about 50 percent of callers to these agencies who were eligible for services were turned away because no shelter space was available. No data is available for previous years due to differences in the ways individual agencies collected this information.

The King County Department of Community and Human Services, Community Services Division provides funding to the King County Sexual Assault Resource Center, and Harborview Medical Center's Center for Sexual Assault and Traumatic Stress and the Children's Resource Center so that victims of sexual assault, whether adults or children, can receive the assistance they need. This assistance includes crisis intervention, counseling, medical assistance and other support to victims of sexual assault. Of the 1,678 clients served by these programs in 2011, 90 percent increased their ability to understand and cope with the trauma they had experienced.

## **What can you do?**

If you see a situation that appears to be domestic violence or sexual assault, call 9-1-1 as quickly as possible while still protecting your own safety.

For immediate, 24-hour crisis assistance call The Domestic Violence Hotline: 1-800-562-6025 (TTY is the same number.)

If you wonder whether you are abusive, ask yourself -- do I:

- want to know where my partner is all the time?
- put my partner down all the time by calling names and criticizing?
- physically hurt or scare my partner?
- have to apologize all the time for abusive things I have done?

If some of the above sounds true, you can find out where to get help here .

## **Moving forward**

The County continues to support domestic violence and sexual assault programs that increase safety and provide practical and mental health support for survivors of intimate partner violence and sexual assault, and their family members.

## **Related Links**

[Harborview's Center for Sexual Assault and Traumatic Stress](#)

[King County Sexual Assault Resource Center](#)

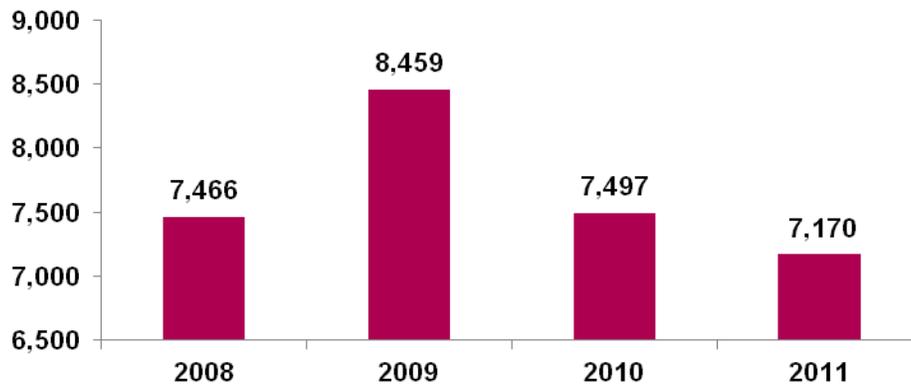
[The King County Coalition Against Domestic Violence](#)

## **Technical Notes**

Domestic Violence Programs included in the 2011 turn-away rate include: YWCA- Downtown Emergency Shelter, YWCA- Anita Vista, DAWN shelter, Lifewire shelter. These agencies receive funding from King County's Community Services Division..

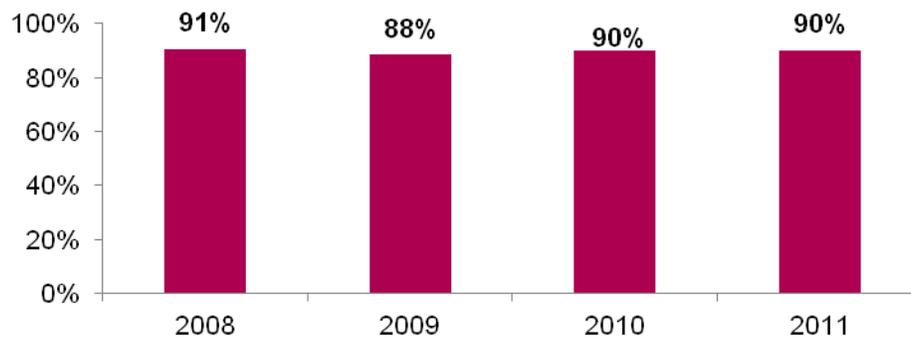
## Charts and Maps

### Number Served by Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault Survivor Programs



Data from King County Department of Community and Human Services

### Proportion of Sexual Assault Survivors who Increase Ability to Understand and Cope with Trauma



Data from King County Department of Community and Human Services