



Know Your Numbers

Sexual Violence (SV)

- **40%** of Pennsylvania women have experienced contact sexual violence in their lifetime (NISVS, 2023/2024). Contact sexual violence is a combined measure that includes rape, being made to sexually penetrate someone else, sexual coercion, and/or unwanted sexual contact.¹
- Philadelphia police responded to **1,244** sexual assault offenses* between January 2025 and January 2026. Over **87%** of victims were female (FBI Crime Data Explorer, 2025/2026).²
- Among Philadelphia high school students:
 - » **15%** of females and **8%** of males experienced any kind of sexual violence by anyone in the past year (YRBS, 2023).³

Sexual Violence (SV) Trends

While SV trends by specific characteristics are not available for the city of Philadelphia, national data and ongoing research consistently document **higher rates of sexual assault** among **Black and Native American women** relative to white women,⁴ and **among LGBTQ+ populations** relative to cisgender and heterosexual populations.⁵

Intimate Partner Violence (IPV)

- **41%** of Pennsylvania women have experienced contact sexual violence, physical violence, or stalking by an intimate partner in their lifetime (NISVS, 2023/2024).⁶
- Philadelphia police responded to **8,411** offenses** committed by a current or former intimate partner between January 2025 and January 2026. This includes **13** IPV homicides (FBI Crime Data Explorer, 2025/2026).²
- Among Philadelphia high school students:
 - » **11%** of females and **10%** of males experienced *physical* dating violence in the past year (YRBS, 2023).³
 - » **10%** of females and **3%** of males experienced *sexual* dating violence in the past year (YRBS, 2023).³

* Sexual offenses include rape, statutory rape, and criminal sexual contact.

**IPV offenses include simple assault, aggravated assault, rape, statutory rape, criminal sexual contact, homicide, and murder/nonnegligent manslaughter.



Know Your Numbers: Strengths and Limitations

Some of the data in this Brief come from the FBI's ongoing **UCR/NIBRS system**,² one of a few sources that has made crime data available at the city level over many years, allowing for monitoring of trends over time. However, the UCR/NIBRS has many limitations, including:

- variability in completeness of data across reporting agencies and localities;
- victim/offender relationship is missing in a large proportion of cases;
- there is known underreporting of crimes involving gender-based violence (GBV) and/or where the offender is a family member or partner; and
- there is known underreporting within communities that have experienced harm from involvement with the criminal justice system.

The data in this brief thus represent only a fraction of the lived experiences of women and men in Philadelphia.

Stalking

- Over **1 in 4** Pennsylvania women have experienced stalking in their lifetime (NISVS, 2023/2024).⁷



- Stalking Arrests in Philadelphia⁸

Jan-Dec 2024: **524**

Jan-Oct 2025: **345**

Human Trafficking

Human trafficking remains one of the most challenging forms of GBV to track using UCR/NIBRS data. Between January 2025 and January 2026, there were **11** survivors of human trafficking identified by police reports in Philadelphia.²

Between 2024 and 2025, the Philadelphia Anti-Trafficking Coalition (PATC)* identified **497** survivors of human trafficking, **77** of whom were under 18 years old.⁹

- Among identified survivors: **33%** were trafficked for labor, **59%** were trafficked for sex, and **7%** were trafficked for both.

Community Impacts

Even among those who haven't directly experienced GBV, the effects reach across the Philadelphia community. In the Philadelphia Voices Resident Survey (2026):

- **34%** of Philadelphians have been affected by or known someone who has been affected by sexual assault.
- **31%** of Philadelphians have been affected by or known someone who has been affected by domestic violence.¹⁰

*The PATC is co-lead by The Salvation Army's New Day program and Covenant House.

Today's Key Priorities in GBV Prevention and Response

The first US National Plan to End Gender-Based Violence¹¹ was released in 2023, informed by a comprehensive, national process that engaged survivors, advocates, and other stakeholders. The remainder of this Philadelphia GBV Brief is organized around selected National Plan priority areas, describing programming or policies responsive to GBV prevention or survivor support.

Prevention Training and Victim Service and Response Agencies Serving Philadelphia

Pennsylvania Coalition Against Domestic Violence (PCADV)¹²

Member organizations:

- Congreso de Latinos Unidos
- Lutheran Settlement House
- Women Against Abuse
- Women in Transition

Office of Domestic Violence Strategies (ODVS)¹³

Housed in the City of Philadelphia Department of Public Health, ODVS is dedicated to improving the response to domestic violence, sexual violence, and trafficking.

Pennsylvania Coalition to Advance Respect (PCAR)¹⁴

Member organizations:

- WOAR—Philadelphia Center Against Sexual Violence

Philadelphia Anti-Trafficking Coalition (PATC)⁹

PATC is made up of several anti-trafficking organizations, under the leadership of The Salvation Army and Covenant House.



Priority Area 1: Prevention

Multiple agencies provide educational, prevention and response trainings, throughout Philadelphia.

In FY2025, ODVS, along with the Behavioral Health Training and Education Network, held **45** trainings and reached **1,278** professionals.¹⁵ Other DV agency trainings of youth, adults, and professionals in FY2025 include:

- Lutheran Settlement House: **311** education & prevention activities and **63** trainings reaching a total of **7,749** individuals¹⁶
- Women in Transition: **17** trainings reaching **214** individuals¹⁷
- Women Against Abuse: multiple trainings reaching **3,749** individuals¹⁸
- Congreso: **66** trainings reaching **901** individuals, **9** community-wide events¹⁹
- WOAR (FY 2024-2025): **194** trainings reaching more than **7,764** individuals²⁰



Priority Area 2: Survivor Supports and Wellbeing

There are 4 domestic violence (DV) agencies in Philadelphia. These agencies provide the following services: Hotline, shelter (including emergency shelter and hoteling), legal services, and counseling for survivors & children exposed to DV. The following services were provided in FY2025:

- Lutheran Settlement House:
 - » **2,930** children, teens, and adults received counseling
 - » **168** systems advocacy efforts at 7 healthcare sites across the city
 - » **879** healthcare providers trained to screen for domestic violence¹⁶
- Women in Transition
 - » **186** unduplicated clients with **1,363** hours of individual counseling & advocacy services²¹
- Congresso
 - » **1,280** survivors received counseling and advocacy services¹⁹
- Women Against Abuse (see Legal support reported below)

Screening

In FY2024, screening for IPV was being implemented by the following agencies:²²⁻²⁴

	% screened	% reported IPV
Office of Homeless Services	79%	9%
PDPH Ambulatory Health Services	93%	<1%
Department of Human Services	61%	13%

SANE Exams

Philadelphia has a program to ensure that Sexual Assault Nurse Examiners (SANEs) are available to provide trauma informed, survivor-centered forensic examinations.

- **338** Sexual Assault Nurse Examinations (SANE) were conducted in FY2025.²⁵

Hotline Support

- The Philadelphia Domestic Violence Hotline, operated by the 4 DV agencies, responded to **9,022** calls in FY2025.¹⁸
- The WOAR-Philadelphia Center Against Sexual Violence Hotline responded to **1,804** calls in FY2025.²⁰
- The Salvation Army's New Day To Stop Trafficking Program Hotline responded to **90** calls in FY2025.²⁶



Legal Support

In FY2025, Women Against Abuse Legal Center provided:¹⁸

- **1,401** individuals with attorney representation and assistance
- **589** victims served who had prior engagement with 911



Priority Area 3: Housing Stability and Economic Security

In FY2025, **10,543** Philadelphians sought general housing services. Of these, **643** had a history of domestic violence (DV), and **291** were actively fleeing DV. Among those who received housing interventions:

- **445** accessed emergency shelter (**219** actively fleeing DV)
- **30** accessed transitional housing (**9** actively fleeing DV)
- **13** accessed safe haven beds (**4** actively fleeing DV)
- **69** received rapid rehousing (**35** actively fleeing DV)
- **86** received permanent supportive housing (**24** actively fleeing DV)²⁸

Of **9,022** calls to the DV hotline in FY2025, **632** callers seeking shelter were placed in DV emergency housing (shelters or hoteling), yet **580** could not be placed.

City-wide DV-specific Housing Services

Philadelphia has a total of **13** programs that provide DV-specific housing interventions for survivors. In FY2025, these programs served **955** households and **1,938** individuals. See table below.²⁸

Program Type (# of programs)	Households served	Persons served
Emergency shelter/hoteling (3 programs)	798	1,597
Permanent supportive housing (1 program)	9	23
Rapid rehousing (5 programs)	59	149
Transitional housing (4 programs)	89	169



Priority Area 4: Online Safety & Security

As of 2024, the criminal definition of stalking in Pennsylvania is inclusive of stalking via electronic communication. Additional state online safety laws prohibit invasions of privacy (including unauthorized electronic surveillance) and sexual extortion.²⁹

Pennsylvania state law criminalizes AI-generated Child Sexual Abuse Images (CSAM) as part of the criminal definition of CSAM.³⁰





Priority Area 5: Legal and Justice Systems

- Pennsylvania does not have an extreme risk/red flag gun policy allowing courts to temporarily limit an individuals' gun access (2026).³¹
- Pennsylvania state law prohibits gun ownership among individuals convicted of domestic violence-related crimes. This law is currently not inclusive of dating partners; i.e., does not close the "boyfriend loophole" (2026).³¹
- Under Pennsylvania's Act 79 a judge can decide to include firearm relinquishment for the respondent in any temporary or final Protection From Abuse (PFA) order. Respondents must turn in their firearm(s) and license to carry to law enforcement within 24 hours of being served, both of which will be kept for the duration of the PFA order.³²

Protection from Abuse petitions (PFA) and weapons relinquishment in Philadelphia (2025)³³

- **7,864** total PFA petitions were filed in Philadelphia County.²⁷
- **4,838** temporary PFA orders included a weapon relinquishment* order.
- Only **23%** of these cases were resolved with either weapons recovery or an affidavit of no possession of weapons.
- When firearms were relinquished, the average number of firearms relinquished per cases was **1.85**.
- A total of **670** firearms were relinquished.

GBV Connections: Philadelphia Data on Housing, Employment, Poverty

- **22%** of Philadelphia County residents face severe housing problems** (2017-2021).³⁴
- **21%** of Philadelphia County residents have a severe housing cost burden (i.e. more than **50%** of income on housing) (2020-2024).³⁴
- **5%** of the population aged 16 or older is unemployed (2024).³⁴
- **26%** of children (under age 18) live in poverty (2023).³⁴
- **18%** of residents face food insecurity (2023).³⁴
- Median Household Income is **\$60,200** (2023).³⁴

Economic and housing insecurity are linked with GBV through mutually reinforcing pathways.

Disparities by race/ethnicity are prevalent across these outcomes. Black, Hispanic, and American Indian/Alaska Native households face increased poverty, food insecurity, and unemployment in Philadelphia county.³⁰

* Weapons include firearms and other weapons

** Problems include overcrowding, high housing costs, lack of kitchen facilities or lack of plumbing facilities.

Sources

1. CDC. (2025). National Intimate Partner and Sexual Violence Survey: 2023/2024 Sexual violence data brief [PDF]. <https://www.cdc.gov/nisvs/media/pdfs/sexualviolence-brief.pdf>. Retrieved January 12th, 2026.
2. FBI National Incident-Based Reporting System (NIBRS), Crime Data Explorer, 2026. <https://cde.ucr.cjis.gov/LATEST/webapp/#/pages/home>. Retrieved Sept 17, 2026.
3. CDC. (2023). Youth Risk Behavior Survey data explorer. <https://yrbs-hexplorer.services.cdc.gov/#/>. Retrieved Feb 17th, 2026.
4. Basile, K. C., Smith, S. G., Kresnow, M., Khatiwada, S., & Leemis, R. W. (2022, June 1). The National Intimate Partner and Sexual Violence Survey: 2016/2017 report on sexual violence (National Intimate Partner and Sexual Violence Survey). National Center for Injury Prevention and Control, Division of Violence Prevention. <https://stacks.cdc.gov/view/cdc/124625>
5. Chen, J., Khatiwada, S., Chen, M. S., Smith, S. G., Leemis, R. W., Friar, N. W., Basile, K. C., & Kresnow, M. (2023, October 1). The National Intimate Partner and Sexual Violence Survey: 2016/2017 report on victimization by sexual identity (National Intimate Partner and Sexual Violence Survey). National Center for Injury Prevention and Control, Division of Violence Prevention. <https://stacks.cdc.gov/view/cdc/98137>
6. CDC. (2026). National Intimate Partner and Sexual Violence Survey:2023/2024 Intimate partner violence data brief [PDF]. <https://www.cdc.gov/nisvs/media/pdfs/intimatepartnerviolence-brief.pdf>. Retrieved Mar 2, 2026.
7. CDC. (2025). National Intimate Partner and Sexual Violence Survey: 2023/2024 Stalking data brief [PDF]. <https://www.cdc.gov/nisvs/media/pdfs/stalking-brief.pdf>. Retrieved Jan 12, 2026.
8. Philadelphia Police Department. Crime Incident and Arrest Data Extract from the Office of Integrated Data for Evidence and Action (IDEA). Philadelphia, 2025
9. Philadelphia Anti-Trafficking Coalition. (2025). Human Trafficking in Philadelphia, 2024-2025.
10. City of Philadelphia & Clarity Campaign Labs (2026), Philadelphia Voices Resident Survey – June 2026.
11. The White House. U.S. National Plan to End Gender-Based Violence: Strategies for Action. May 2023
12. Pennsylvania Coalition Against Domestic Violence. (n.d.). About PCADV. <https://www.pcadv.org/about-pcadv/>
13. City of Philadelphia, Office of Domestic Violence Strategies. (n.d.). Office of Domestic Violence Strategies. <https://www.phila.gov/departments/office-of-domestic-violence-strategies/>
14. Pennsylvania Coalition to Advance Respect. (n.d.). Pennsylvania Coalition to Advance Respect. <https://pcar.org/>
15. ODVS. (2026). Internal Trainings Report. May 2026
16. Lutheran Settlement House. (2025). 2025 Annual report. <https://lutheransettlement.org/annualreports/2025-annual-report/>
17. Ugarte, A., ODVS. Interagency Communication, May 7, 2026.
18. Women Against Abuse. (2025). 2025 Annual report. <https://www.womenagainstabuse.org/2025-annual-report>
19. Congreso de Latinos Unidos. (2026). 2025 Annual report. <https://congreso.net/wp-content/uploads/2026/01/2025-Annual-Report-FINAL-DIGITAL-1.23.26.pdf>
20. WOAR - Philadelphia Center Against Sexual Assault. (2026). WOAR Hotline Data: FY21-FY25 (Internal Report).
21. Ugarte, A., ODVS. Interagency Communication, May 15, 2026.
22. Ambulatory Health Systems. (2025). Domestic Violence Screenings (Internal Report).
23. Office of Homeless Services. (2025). FY24 DV Data Report (Internal Report).; Department of Human Services. (2025).
24. Philadelphia DHS Domestic Violence Indicators: FY 2024 (Internal Report)
25. Philadelphia Sexual Assault Response Center. 2025. Internal report received on 03/2026.
26. Salvation Army. (2026). New Day To Stop Trafficking Hotline Data (Interagency Communication). June 3, 2026.
27. Administrative Office of Pennsylvania Courts, Department of Research and Statistics, Caseload Highlights of the Unified Judicial System. Last updated June 17, 2026, accessed March, 2026. <https://public.tableau.com/app/profile/aopc/viz/CaseloadHighlights-CommonPleasCourtFamily/FilingsDB>
28. Office of Homeless Services. FY24 Housing Services Data for Survivors of Domestic Violence. Philadelphia, 2024.
29. Women's Law. (Maryland page last updated Aug 2025). State Map. <https://www.womenslaw.org/laws?reset-state=1>. Retrieved Mar 3, 2026. Pennsylvania law: (§2709.1(f)); (7507.1, 3133).
30. Enough Abuse. (2025). State laws criminalizing AI-generated or computer-edited child sexual abuse material (CSAM). <https://enoughabuse.org/get-vocal/laws-by-state/state-laws-criminalizing-ai-generated-or-computer-edited-child-sexual-abuse-material-csam/>. Retrieved Mar 6, 2026. Pennsylvania law: (Pa. Cons. Stat. §6312)
31. Everytown Research & Policy. (2026). 2026 Everytown Gun Law Rankings. Everytown Research & Policy. Retrieved Feb 9, 2026. Pennsylvania Law: (18 Pa. Cons. Stat. § 6105(c)(9))
32. PCADV: Domestic Violence & Firearms: PA Act 79 (n.d.) <https://www.pcadv.org/policy-center/pennsylvania-laws/domestic-violence-firearms-pa-act-79/#:~:text=Act%2079%20went%20into%20effect,help%20prevent%20domestic%20violence%20homicides.>
33. ODVS. (2025). Act 79 Working Group Data Reports (Internal Reports, interagency communication). Received 12/15/2025.
34. County Health Rankings & Roadmaps. (2025). Philadelphia County, Pennsylvania health data. County Health Rankings & Roadmaps. Retrieved April 24, 2026, from <https://www.countyhealthrankings.org/health-data/pennsylvania/philadelphia?year=2025>

Suggested citation: Philadelphia GBV Brief 2026. Johns Hopkins Center for Global Women's Health and Gender Equity and Bloomberg American Health Initiative. Baltimore MD. Prepared by Azucena Ugarte, Lourdes Delgado Reyes, Patricia Mahoney, Madison Bates, & Michele R Decker.

