

Springfield Domestic Violence Coalition
101 South Fountain Ave.
Springfield, Ohio 45502

The logo for the Springfield Domestic Violence Coalition (SDVC) consists of the letters "SDVC" in a bold, dark blue, sans-serif font.

Review of Clark County, Ohio Domestic Violence Incidents 2016 - 2023
*SDVC analyzed annual reports published on the Ohio Attorney General's (AG) website
and cited in the Clark County Community Health Assessment (2022)*
www.springfielddvc.com

Springfield Domestic Violence Coalition SDVC

Springfield, Ohio

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This report and other reports by Springfield Domestic Violence Coalition
Can be found at:

www.springfielddvc.com

SPRINGFIELD DOMESTIC VIOLENCE COALITION MISSION STATEMENT

The Springfield Domestic Violence Coalition mission is three-fold: **1. Foster** youth understanding, knowledge and awareness about; What Domestic Violence is and is not, how to identify the signs of Domestic Violence and why identifying and reporting perceived Domestic Violence is important. **2. Identify** Domestic Violence Abuser and incident rates as reported by criminal justice agencies and court systems as well as Domestic Violence trends in our community. **3. Promote** collaboration between the criminal justice system (law enforcement, prosecutorial offices, and the judiciary) and community organizations serving all populations, including faith-based groups, LGBTQ+ communities, seniors, and minorities.

We achieve our mission by:

Establishing a presence in our community High Schools and Universities, organized coalition attendance at community events and festivals. Establishing a presence on social media platforms promoting the coalition's mission. Our goal is to implement our mission through educating our youth and young adults about Domestic Violence and its impact on personal health and growth in forming intimate relationships. Informing youth that Domestic Violence can affect all demographics; Income, Race, Educational Level and the LGBTQ+ communities. Educate youth how to identify Domestic Violence "Red Flags", Educate youth to whom and where to report Domestic Violence and educate youth in the knowledge that reporting Domestic Violence abusers to law enforcement is a key way to reduce Domestic Violence incidents by holding abusers accountable for their actions. Reaffirm to youth that their actions can send a message to the community that Domestic Violence won't be tolerated.

Conducting and disseminating research reports, conducting and disseminating community climate surveys, questionnaires and needs assessments. Conducting community forums and chats open to the public. Establish quarterly updates and status reports on the state of Domestic Violence arrest, prosecuted cases and disposition of Domestic Violence court cases. Disseminate results of these efforts through news media organizations, social media platforms and professional journals. The end result will allow SDVC to advocate for policies, procedures and legislation that increase police response and arrest rates to Domestic Violence incidents. Advocate for aggressive prosecutions in all Domestic Violence charges and related charges. Advocate for Judges to impose maximum allowed sentencing in Domestic Violence Abuser cases.

Conducting and establishing quarterly scheduled meetings with Law Enforcement, Prosecutorial Offices, and Judiciary representatives allowing them to elaborate on each agency's progress and transparency in their efforts to reduce Domestic Violence within their elected role and offices. Conduct and hold public platforms for community agencies to ensure citizens that each agency is actively protecting our community from Domestic Violence and providing needed support to victims. Establish quarterly scheduled community meetings with organizations serving all populations, including faith-based groups, LGBTQ+ communities, seniors, and minorities, listen to their interactions with community non-profit groups and community law enforcement. Document social and community climate trends occurring in LGBTQ+ communities as it pertains to Domestic Violence. Disseminate SDVC meetings, organizational notes and status updates held with Law Enforcement, Prosecutorial Offices, and the Judiciary to the public.

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Springfield Domestic Violence Coalition (SDVC)

Review of Clark County, Ohio Domestic Violence Incidents 2016 - 2023

SDVC analyzed annual reports published on the Ohio Attorney General's (AG) website and cited in the Clark County Community Health Assessment (2022). Both reports can be found at:

Clark County Combined Health District:

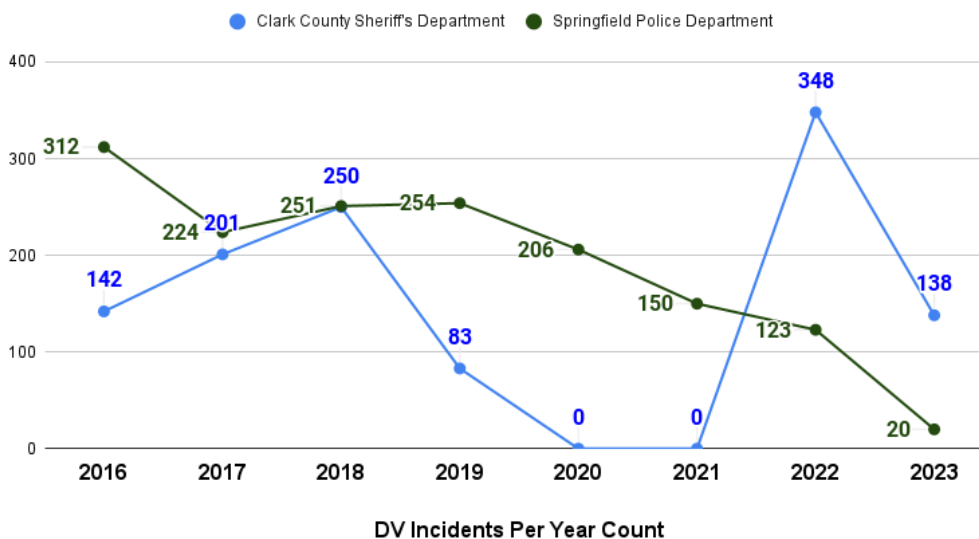
<https://ccchd.com/wp-content/uploads/2023/02/Clark-County-CHA-2022-Final.pdf>

Ohio Bureau of Criminal Identification and Investigation:

<https://www.ohioattorneygeneral.gov/Files/Reports/Domestic-Violence-Reports>

The below chart is the data listed in The Ohio Attorney General's report: Domestic Violence (DV) incident reports by the Ohio Bureau of Criminal Identification and Investigation (OBCII). Data is listed by responding and reporting agency from 2016 - 2023

Clark County Sheriff's Department and Springfield Police Department



Domestic Violence Data reporting requirements:

- ORC 3113.32 outlines the responsibility of local law enforcement agencies in Ohio to report domestic dispute and domestic violence incidents to BCI each month.

<https://codes.ohio.gov/ohio-revised-code/section-3113.32>

Domestic violence and dispute calls definition:

“Domestic violence and dispute calls” are calls where law enforcement has responded to:

- A report of actual, threatened, or attempted physical harm by a person to another member of that person’s family or household; or
- A serious disruption or dispute with a family or household member.

The Ohio Attorney General's report lists Domestic Violence (DV) incident reports by the Ohio Bureau of Criminal Identification and Investigation (OBCII). There are multiple annual DV reports detailing every Ohio's County Domestic Violence incidents by each Law Enforcement agency. The reports includes such metrics as:

- Domestic Dispute Calls
- Domestic Violence Incidents by County and Agency
- Domestic Violence Incidents Reports Legend
- Ethnicity of Offenders
- Ethnicity of Unclear Participants
- Ethnicity of Victims
- Offenders of Domestic Violence by County and Agency
- Offenders Total Percentage
- Race Age Gender Stats
- Unclear Participants of Domestic Violence by County and Agency
- Unclear Participants Total Percentage
- Victims of Domestic Violence by County and Agency

Springfield Domestic Violence Coalition researched DV incident reporting results for Clark County. Our biggest hurdles were;

- 1. Finding Definitions or Criteria on Reporting Domestic Violence Injuries.**
- 2. Finding Complete and Full Incident Reports.**
- 3. Conflicting Data, Between Agencies, Media and Non-Profit Groups**
- 4. Validity of Data / Reporting**

1. Finding Definitions or Criteria on Reporting Domestic Violence Injuries.

Without diving too deep into the "New England Medical Journal": In basic medical terms, an injury is defined as damage to the body tissues caused by an external force. This force can be:

- Mechanical/Human (e.g., blunt force trauma, penetrating trauma)
- Thermal (e.g., burns)
- Electrical (e.g., electrocution)
- Chemical (e.g., exposure to toxins)
- Radiant (e.g., radiation exposure)

And the severity of an injury can range from minor (e.g., a bruise) to life-threatening (e.g., a severe head injury). Injuries can also be classified as:

Acute: These injuries occur suddenly, such as a fracture from a fall.

Chronic: These injuries develop over time, such as repetitive strain injuries.

The reports made no mention of incident definitions for injuries other than list if the victim "died" from the Incident. Since definitions of Domestic Violence incident injuries are not listed in any of the AG reports we refer to the late Supreme Court Justice Potter Stewart's statement, (although it was about his test for obscenity) in which we can apply his reasoning to Domestic Violence when he responded: "I know it when I see it." But do we? The report has to assume the responders to Domestic Violence incidents have the best interest of all the victims in mind and make every reasonable effort to identify any and all injuries. Again,

there may be some ambiguity as per what is and is not an injury. However, anyone with past experience in working with Domestic Violence victims can spot an injury due to abuse almost immediately. The OBCII Report lists victims of Domestic Violence by outcome (injured / no injuries) and relationship of persons involved & outcome by category. The categories are:

- Wife
- Husband
- Parent
- Non-Spousal Relationship w/child
- Child or Children
- Other family Member
- Former Spouse
- Live in Partner
- Other

2. Finding Complete and Full Incident Reports.

The second issue pertains to the “reporting” of DV incidents OR the lack of it. Most recently, from 2020 to 2021 the Clark County Sheriff failed to report required DV incident data to the State of Ohio’s Attorney General’s Office and in 2022 and 2023, the Springfield Police Chief submitted some report data and was noted in the AG’s report for failing to submit “ALL THE DATA”. The missing 2020 to 2021 data and the partial missing data from 2022-203 reports makes for a difficult assessment, but not impossible.

The below chart lists Clark County Law Enforcement Agencies that must report Domestic Violence incidents to the *Ohio Attorney General’s Office*. Red signifies “Agency Failed to Submit”, Yellow indicates the “Agency Submitted Some But NOT ALL”, and Green identifies “Agency Submitted All Reports”.

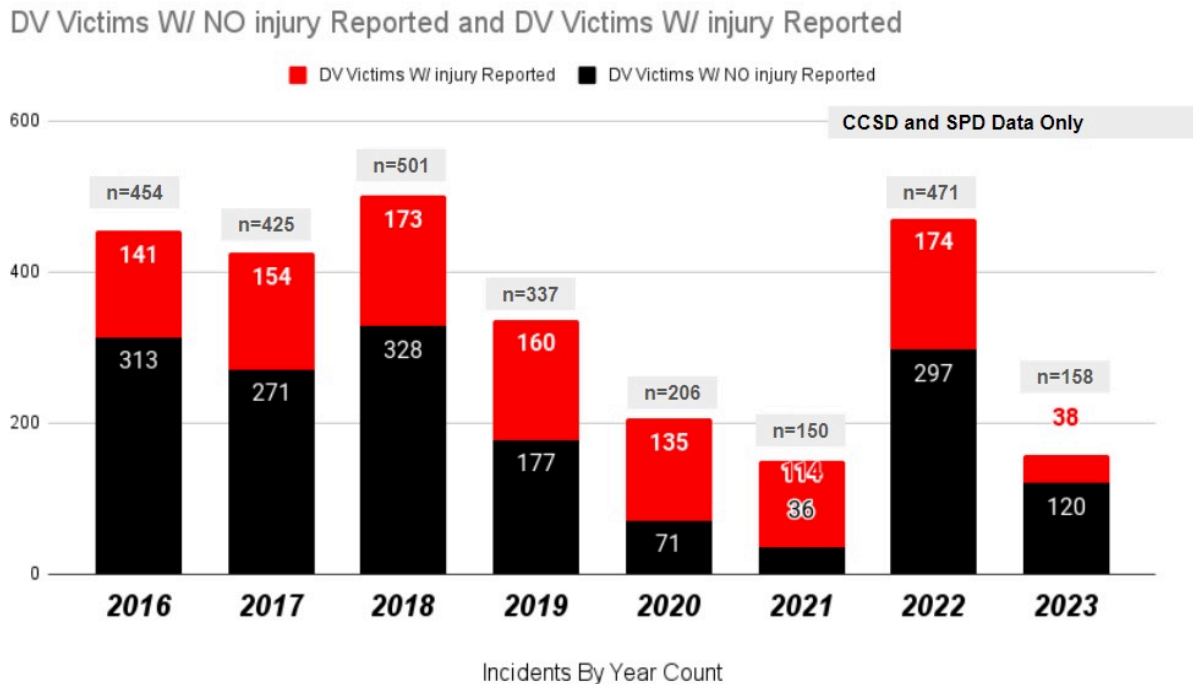
Agency	2016			2017			2018			2019			2020			2021			2022			2023					
	Did Not Submit Data	Submitted BUT NOT ALL Data	Submitted ALL Data	Did Not Submit Data	Submitted BUT NOT ALL Data	Submitted ALL Data	Did Not Submit Data	Submitted BUT NOT ALL Data	Submitted ALL Data	Did Not Submit Data	Submitted BUT NOT ALL Data	Submitted ALL Data	Did Not Submit Data	Submitted BUT NOT ALL Data	Submitted ALL Data	Did Not Submit Data	Submitted BUT NOT ALL Data	Submitted ALL Data	Did Not Submit Data	Submitted BUT NOT ALL Data	Submitted ALL Data	Did Not Submit Data	Submitted BUT NOT ALL Data	Submitted ALL Data			
Clark Co Sheriff	☐	☐	☑	☐	☐	☑	☐	☐	☑	☐	☐	☑	☐	☐	☑	☐	☐	☑	☐	☐	☑	☐	☐	☑	☐	☐	☑
Springfield P.D.	☐	☐	☑	☐	☐	☑	☐	☐	☑	☐	☐	☑	☐	☐	☑	☐	☐	☑	☐	☐	☑	☐	☐	☑	☐	☐	☑
Agency	All reporting agencies in Clark County																										
Catawba P.D.	☐	☐	☑	☐	☐	☑	☐	☐	☑	☐	☐	☑	☐	☐	☑	☐	☐	☑	☐	☐	☑	☐	☐	☑	☐	☐	☑
Danneelsville P.D.	☐	☐	☑	☐	☐	☑	☐	☐	☑	☐	☐	☑	☐	☐	☑	☐	☐	☑	☐	☐	☑	☐	☐	☑	☐	☐	☑
Enon P.D.	OBCII did not list Enon P.D. as a reporting agency in Clark County																										
German Twp P.D.	☐	☐	☑	☐	☐	☑	☐	☐	☑	☐	☐	☑	☐	☐	☑	☐	☐	☑	☐	☐	☑	☐	☐	☑	☐	☐	☑
North Hampton P.D.	☐	☐	☑	☐	☐	☑	☐	☐	☑	☐	☐	☑	☐	☐	☑	☐	☐	☑	☐	☐	☑	☐	☐	☑	☐	☐	☑
So. Charleston P.D.	☐	☐	☑	☐	☐	☑	☐	☐	☑	☐	☐	☑	☐	☐	☑	☐	☐	☑	☐	☐	☑	☐	☐	☑	☐	☐	☑
So. Vienna P.D.	☐	☐	☑	☐	☐	☑	☐	☐	☑	☐	☐	☑	☐	☐	☑	☐	☐	☑	☐	☐	☑	☐	☐	☑	☐	☐	☑
Tremont P.D.	☐	☐	☑	☐	☐	☑	☐	☐	☑	☐	☐	☑	☐	☐	☑	☐	☐	☑	☐	☐	☑	☐	☐	☑	☐	☐	☑
Wittenburg Univ P.D.	☐	☐	☑	☐	☐	☑	☐	☐	☑	☐	☐	☑	☐	☐	☑	☐	☐	☑	☐	☐	☑	☐	☐	☑	☐	☐	☑

Based on the above chart, Springfield Police Department regularly submitted complete DV Incident reports from 2016-2021 and from 2022 -2023 reports were incomplete. Springfield Police Chief Allison Elliot was appointed by City Manager Bryan Heck on December 16, 2022 and her selection was confirmed by the Springfield City Commission on December 20, 2022. Her predecessor was Chief Lee Graf who was appointed Police Chief in December 2017. Prior to Graf was Chief Stephen Moody. Chief Moody served 14-years as Springfield Police Chief.

Whereas, the Clark County Sheriff’s Department regularly submitted complete reports 2016 - 2018 then from 2019 -2021 either failed to submit reports or the agency submitted incomplete reports. Most recently in 2023 the Sheriff failed again and submitted an incomplete report. The Clark County Sheriff Deborah

Burchett took control of the Clark County Sheriff's Department in 2017 after winning the November, 2016 election against 30-year incumbent Sheriff Gene Kelly. Recently, on March 19, 2023 County residents voted for a new Sheriff in the Primary Election. Christopher Clark won the Republican Primary against Incumbent Deborah Burchett, and since he's running uncontested in November, he'll be the next Clark County, Ohio Sheriff as of January 2024..

Based on the reporting data, the incident reports are listed below by DV Incidents **with injury** and DV Incidents **without injury** reported.



At a casual glance one is led to believe Domestic Violence incidents are decreasing and so are incidents with injury. As Mark Twain once was attributed to saying; "There are lies, damn lies and then there are statistics". Caution must always be taken when anything is presented as a statistic. We would be remiss if we failed to use the phrase "In Context". What is the bigger picture of reporting data on Domestic Violence Incidents? SDVC is not making an assumption that Clark County Law Enforcement is not arresting Domestic Violence offenders, to the contrary, SDVC is attempting to explain the context surrounding the data collection and to interpret it more accurately. For example, a statistic about drug crime rates might be misleading if it doesn't consider the changes in reporting methods.

Essentially, the OBDII data doesn't tell a story about DV incident reports, it speaks to issues in the reliability and validity of reporting such data. If our community fails to submit requested data then the consistency and accuracy of measuring DV incidents with and without injuries is not reflective of reporting validity. Incomplete data, or not reporting data leads to validity issues with other research studies that cite and refer to the OBCII reports. In other words, does the research truly reflect and capture the concept of Domestic Violence incidents that the OBDII data is representing. Lastly, SDVC's mission is to encourage transparency within our Clark County Law Enforcement and engage in conversations with clarity on how Domestic Violence incidents are affecting our Springfield community.

3. Conflicting Data, Between Agencies, Media and Non-Profit Groups

There are a couple of realities at play. First, is there an increase in Domestic Violence incidents? The Springfield News-Sun report on March 17, 2021 (By Sydney Dawes)

*Domestic violence incidents are continuing at a high rate in Clark ... According to local law enforcement, ..Nearly **400** domestic violence calls have been reported to the Springfield Division of Police as of the end of September 2021, according to police records, and nearly 600 calls were reported to the Clark County Sheriff's Office so far this year (January 2021 - October 2021)*

The reporter goes on to cite;

*As of the end of September 2021, the Springfield Police Division had received **266** domestic violence calls that **resulted in a charge**, with three resulting in charges other than domestic violence and 125 that resulted in no charges filed. The Clark County Sheriff's office is expecting to see more calls this year than the **751** it received in 2020, Sgt. Denise Jones told the News-Sun. In 2019, however, the Sheriff's office received **878** calls.*

If we add the Springfield Police Divisions 266 charges (as of the end of September 2021) to the official incident reports "allegedly" filed with the Office of Ohio Bureau of Criminal Identification and Investigation reports, even if NO MORE Domestic Violence reports were made from October - December 2021, there should be a total of at least 266 DV incidents?

The following is a media report dated September 27, 2022 from (WDTN 2-News)

[\(https://www.wdtn.com/news/local-news/local-sheriffs-office-honored-for-tackling-domestic-violence/\)](https://www.wdtn.com/news/local-news/local-sheriffs-office-honored-for-tackling-domestic-violence/)

"The Clark County Sheriff's office was honored for its work to prevent domestic violence in the community".

According to a release, Sergeant Denise Jones and the Clark County Sheriff's office were awarded the Purple Ribbon Award for Law Enforcement Partner of the Year by Theresa's Fund, a national 501(c)3 committed to preventing domestic violence. According to the release, Sheriff Deb Burchett developed a domestic violence response protocol that treats victims/survivors with respect, uses interview methods that encourage participation, holds offenders accountable and makes referrals to other appropriate agencies, such as Project Woman. "We wanted to create a more coordinated community response to the crimes of domestic violence, sexual assault, stalking, and trafficking to increase the likelihood of prosecution, conviction and sentencing," explained Sheriff Burchett. The unit was built with funds from the International Association of Chiefs of Police (IACP), the release said. This association also funded Trauma-Informed Response Training for Sheriff Burchett's entire staff. "We don't care if it is your first or 50th time calling for service," Sergeant Jones states, "we are here to treat you with respect and dignity and help to the best of our ability."

SDVC wants to believe that there is no doubt that our community Law Enforcement agencies take Domestic Violence seriously and that this award for ongoing support and assistance to Domestic Violence victims in tough situations describes something that is honest and sincere, but we have doubts about the accuracy of reported Domestic Violence arrests and incident information. Since much of the required report data is either non-existent or missing reported incidents, it makes it difficult to verify the accuracy, validity and reliability of any information reported by the Clark County Sheriff's Department. To illustrate our concerns, NO data on Domestic Violence incidents were reported to OBCII for the years 2020 to 2021 and

yet the Sheriff's Department is commended for their efforts in holding Domestic Violence offenders accountable.

Clark County Sheriff's Department									TOTALS
By Year Count	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	
DV Victims W/ injury Reported	29	33	51	15	0	0	71	23	222
DV Victims W/ NO injury Reported	113	168	199	68	0	0	277	115	940
TOTALS	142	201	250	83	0	0	348	138	1,162

DV Victims W/ injury Reported	20.4%	16.4%	20.4%	18.1%	0.0%	0.0%	20.4%	16.7%	19.1%
DV Victims W/ NO injury Reported	79.6%	83.6%	79.6%	81.9%	0.0%	0.0%	79.6%	83.3%	80.9%

Springfield Police Department									TOTALS
By Year Count	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	
DV Victims W/ injury Reported	112	121	122	145	135	114	103	15	867
DV Victims W/ NO injury Reported	200	103	129	109	71	36	20	5	673
TOTALS	312	224	251	254	206	150	123	20	1,540

DV Victims W/ injury Reported	35.9%	54.0%	48.6%	57.1%	65.5%	76.0%	83.7%	75.0%	56.3%
DV Victims W/ NO injury Reported	64.1%	46.0%	51.4%	42.9%	34.5%	24.0%	16.3%	25.0%	43.7%

Clark County Sheriff and Springfield Police Department									TOTALS
By Year Percentage	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	
Clark County Sheriff DV Victims W/ injury Reported	20.4%	16.4%	20.4%	18.1%	0.0%	0.0%	20.4%	16.7%	20.4%
Springfield P.D DV Victims W/ injury Reported	35.9%	54.0%	48.6%	57.1%	65.5%	76.0%	83.7%	75.0%	79.6%

Our research compared what was reported about Domestic Violence (to the media) to what was actually Officially reported and SDVC was left confused. In a Springfield News-Sun article the Springfield Police Division had received **266** domestic violence calls that resulted in a charge. However the total number of reported incidents for the entire YEAR of 2021 is **150**.

We are left with a decision tree analysis, The analysis involves considering all the relevant options and potential events that could have unfolded and why.

1. The reported news story has unverified information.

If that is the situation, then the reporter did not do her due diligence and failed to do proper investigation or research before making a decision to run the story.

2. Springfield Police cited the correct or incorrect counts of Domestic Violence calls to the reporter.

*If SPD gave the **CORRECT** count, then why is the report to the Office of Ohio Bureau of Criminal Identification (OBCII) and Investigation listing an official count of 150 cases for 2021?*

*Did OBCII, somehow enter the **incorrect** information in the Official State Report?*

*Did SPD somehow deliver an **incorrect** report to OBCII?*

Is our Law Enforcement reporting departments incompetent in reporting DV incidents?

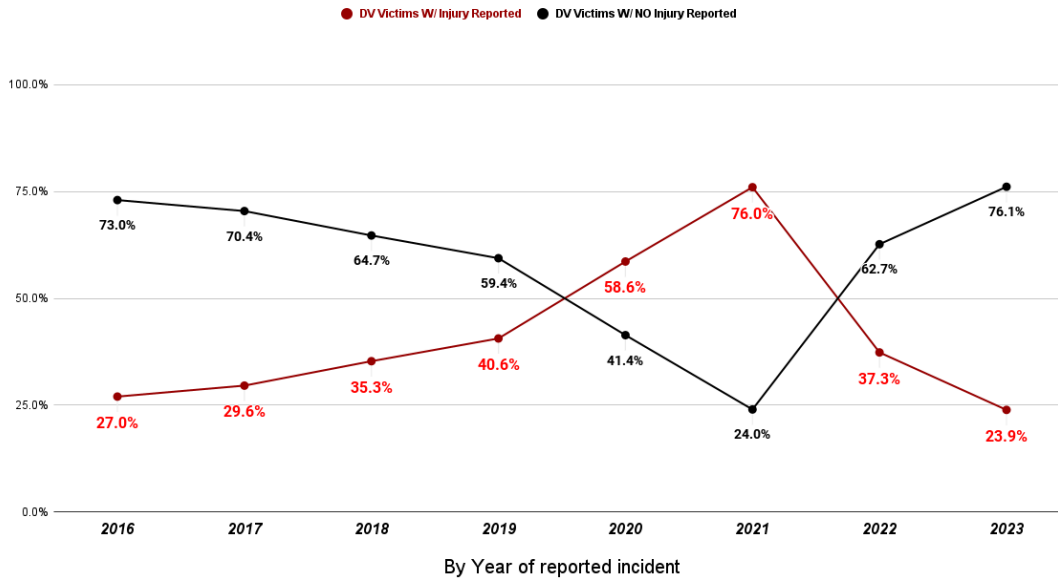
(If by chance it's incompetency, there are solutions for training and education)

We ask the same above question to the Clark County Sheriff's Department AND a more meaningful question from a 1984 Wendy's commercial "Where's the Beef". In 2020 and 2021 the Clark County Sheriff's

Department failed to report Domestic Violence incidents to the Office of Ohio Bureau of Criminal Identification (OBCII) and Investigation. Listed below are our findings from the Official Ohio Bureau of Criminal Identification (OBCII) and Investigation Domestic Violence Incident reports.

Combine Clark County Law Enforcement agencies Reporting Domestic Violence Incidents by year

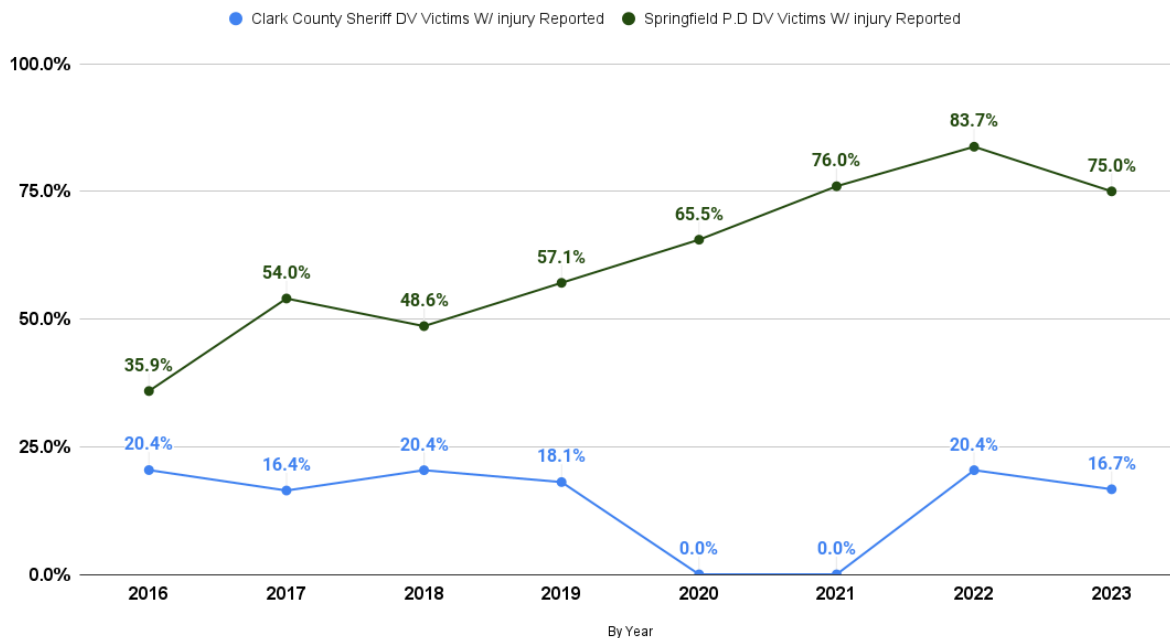
(Percentage) Clark County Recorded Incidents of Domestic Violence, subjects Injured / Non-Injured
Ohio Attorney General Domestic Violence Reports, 2016-2023



The above chart depicts the Official Ohio Bureau of Criminal Identification (OBCII) and Investigation for Domestic Violence incident reporting. For the years 2020 to 2021 the Springfield P.D. represented 99% of all DV reported incidents in Clark County due to Clark County Sheriff's Department non reporting. The lowest percentage of reported incidents by year for victims with a reported injury was in 2023, with (23.9%) of reported incidents. The highest percentage was 2021, with (76%) of reported incidents. As mentioned previously in our report, at a casual glance one is led to believe Domestic Violence incidents were decreasing recently and so are incidents with injury by count. However, much of the data is incomplete due to lack of agency reporting and or failure to submit reports annually. From 2016 to 2019 all reports were submitted to OBCII, with the exception of Clark County Sheriff's Department in 2019 submitting the report but with some missing report information. Furthermore, up to 2019 there is a noticeable change in the percentage of incidents between those with injury and those with no reported injury. Again, since we are working with incomplete data, we found the percentage increase in incidents with injury has skyrocketed. **(Please see chart below)**

Clark County Sheriff's Department and Springfield Police Department Percentage of Domestic Violence Incident reports **WITH INJURY** by year.

Clark County Sheriff and Springfield P.D



What is noticeable over time is the percentage of Domestic Violence incidents with reported injury from Springfield Police Department with a high of 83.7% of the incidents with injury reported in 2022. From 2016 to 2019 both agencies reports were submitted to OBCII, with the exception of Clark County Sheriff's Department in 2019 submitting the report but with some report information missing. The chart shows a consistent rate of yearly reported incidents with injury by the Clark County Sheriff's Department at less than 21%. Springfield Police Department has an almost exponential rise in reported incidents with injury from 2016 to 2024

4. Validity of Data / Reporting

What if America had a failing Food and Drug Administration (FDA)? What if the organization failed to conduct research and submit reports to ensure the safety and effectiveness of drugs, medical devices, food, cosmetics, and other products. What if the organization was mandated to follow standards for manufacturing, testing, and labeling and then fail to report on the status of some standards OR report none at all. What if the organization accomplished no scientific evidence to make regulatory decisions and deferred to political rhetoric to persuade the public about the effectiveness of said products. What if the organization partially or never evaluated products for safety and efficacy before they reach consumers. What if the organization failed to properly educate the public about the potential risks associated with various products or provided inaccurate information as to the reasons products might not be safe. Now apply that same premise of questioning to our local Law Enforcement concerning Domestic Violence.

What if there was NO reporting of public safety or incidents concerning Domestic Violence, gun violence and rape? What if there was NO research on Domestic Violence incidents or the reported evidence was only conjecture in which legislative or community decisions are made. What if there was NO reported data on Domestic Violence incidents to educate the public, NO awareness of the rise in injuries occurring from Domestic Violence. What if all the information disseminated on Domestic Violence was invalid, unreliable, incomplete and inaccurate?

CLOSING NOTE

SDVC hopes this report will lead to better practices in identifying Domestic Violence incidents, abuse incident rates and the increase in Domestic Violence injury trends in our community. SDVC strongly promotes collaboration between the criminal justice systems (law enforcement, prosecutorial offices, and the judiciary), community organizations and all Clark County populations, including faith-based groups, LGBTQ+ communities, seniors, and underserved minorities.