

**Wisconsin has  
Mandatory  
Arrest Law  
for  
Domestic Abuse**

<b>2003 Domestic Abuse Data</b>		
Domestic Abuse	Wood County	State of Wisconsin*
Arrests	185	11799
Incidents	244	18468
Percentage of Incidents in which an Arrest occurs	75.8	63.9
Domestic Homicide	0	49

*\*State of Wisconsin data does not include Milwaukee or Racine counties.*

**Key Facts**

- In the year 2003, a spouse, ex-spouse, cohabitant or ex-cohabitant abused most victims.
- Wood County had a 75.8% arrest rate for reported domestic abuse incidents in 2003.
- Of the 11,799 Wisconsin arrests for domestic abuse in 2003, 641 (or 5.4%) were dual arrests. A dual arrest is defined as a situation in which two individuals involved in the same domestic abuse incident are arrested.
- Disorderly conduct was the most common charge issued in reported domestic abuse incidents.

**Why is this Information Important?**

For many years, domestic violence was considered a personal matter and law enforcement looked the other way. As programs and services more effectively meet the needs of victims, the number of incidents decreases, and the quality of life for those who have experienced domestic violence improve.

**Domestic Violence**

Domestic Violence destroys families and homes. It has a negative life-long impact on children. In addition to the physical wounds caused by domestic abuse, power and control are used to intimidate, threaten, isolate, and financially and emotionally trap victims. It knows no boundaries and affects all socioeconomic classes, age levels, and ethnic groups.

Wisconsin law defines domestic abuse as the intentional infliction of physical pain, injury or illness, intentional impairment of a physical condition, a sexual assault, or a physical act that causes another person to reasonably fear that any of these actions will happen. The law applies to acts by adult people against a spouse, former spouse, or against an adult with whom the alleged abuser resides, or formerly resided with, or with whom the alleged abuser has a child in common.

*Source: 2003 Wisconsin Department of Justice Domestic Abuse Incident Report*