

Final Report Draft

Introduction and Purpose

This report aims to evaluate the economic impact of Domestic Violence in Cass County, North Dakota, and Clay County, Minnesota and the value of interventions provided by YWCA. Using data-driven analysis, the report quantifies costs to the community and demonstrates how YWCA's services mitigate these impacts. Our findings support strategic decision-making and highlight areas for improving resource allocation. Key recommendations include increasing funding for YWCA's intervention programs, leveraging data for ongoing advocacy, and refining data collection practices to enhance impact assessments.

Background

Domestic violence is a pervasive issue affecting individuals and communities. National data indicates that 1 in 3 women and 1 in 4 men experience domestic violence in their lifetime. The economic toll extends beyond the immediate victims, burdening healthcare systems, employers, and law enforcement.

In Cass/Clay Counties, YWCA plays a critical role in addressing domestic violence through emergency shelter, counseling, and advocacy. Despite its significant impact, the organization faces ongoing funding challenges, while quantifiable data demonstrating its economic value to the community remains limited.

Methodology

This section introducing methodology will be created with chatgpt once we have it completed.

Literature Reviewed

To inform the project's implementation and ensure a robust analysis, relevant literature and data sources were reviewed. These sources provide key insights into the economic, operational, and societal impacts of domestic violence, as well as the value of intervention programs.

The Arkansas Domestic Violence Shelters article highlights operational challenges and the importance of diversified funding, offering guidance for YWCA's sustainability efforts in Cass County (Overholser & Kelton-Huff, 2023).

The National Domestic Violence Hotline Survey underscores systemic inefficiencies in law enforcement responses to domestic violence, emphasizing areas for improvement and informing cost analyses related to policing resources (Logan & Valente, 2015).

The National Intimate Partner and Sexual Violence Survey provides national data on the health impacts and prevalence of domestic violence, aligning with the project's goal to assess local healthcare costs (Leemis, Friar, Khatiwada, et al., 2022).

The Providing Refuge article demonstrates the economic benefits of shelters through a social cost-benefit analysis, offering a framework to quantify YWCA's impact in areas such as operational costs and mental health outcomes (Chanley, Chanley & Campbell, 2001).

Finally, Estimating the Local Impact of Intimate Partner Violence quantifies the financial burden on law enforcement and healthcare systems, using predictive models to demonstrate savings from prevention programs—an approach directly relevant to YWCA's resource allocation goals in Cass County (Wick & Parada, 2021).

Data Collection

The next section provides an overview of the data sources used in this analysis. These data sources include criminal statistics, dispatch call data, and organizational reports that highlight the scope and impact of domestic violence, as well as the critical role played by the YWCA. By combining publicly available datasets and internal reports, the analysis presents a comprehensive view of the issue across Cass and Clay counties. Up next, the sources are being included:

Minnesota Bureau of Criminal Apprehension's Crime Against Persons Database

The Minnesota Bureau of Criminal Apprehension's Crime Against Persons Database provides detailed data on crimes involving individuals, including incidents of domestic violence. This resource offers valuable statistics on the prevalence, types, and trends of violence in Minnesota, which support the project's analysis of local crime rates and their associated economic impacts. Down below there is a list of the parameters used to navigate this source.

- Year: 2023
- Location: Clay County
- Offenses: Simple Assault, Aggravated Assault, Intimidation, Fondling, Rape
- Victim-Offender Relationships:
 - Victim was Boyfriend/Girlfriend
 - Victim was Ex-Relationship (Ex-boyfriend/ex-girlfriend)
 - Victim was Ex-Spouse
 - Victim was Spouse

North Dakota Crime Statistics Platform

The North Dakota Crime Statistics Platform provides comprehensive data on crime trends across the state, including incidents of domestic violence. This resource offers key statistics on crime frequency, law enforcement responses, and victim demographics, supporting the project's analysis of local crime patterns and their economic implications. Down below there is a list of the parameters used to navigate this source.

- Victims of Violent Crime – Relationships
- Location: Cass County
- Gender: Female

- Crimes: Homicide/Murder, Aggravated Assault, Rape

Red River Regional Dispatch Center Online Dispatch Logs

The Red River Regional Dispatch Center Online Dispatch Logs provide real-time and historical data on emergency service calls, including incidents related to domestic violence. This resource offers valuable insights into the frequency, nature, and response times of dispatch calls, supporting the project's analysis of law enforcement resource utilization and associated costs in Cass County. Down below there is a list of the parameters used to navigate this source.

- Time frame: 01/01/2023 - 12/31/2023
- Call Type: Domestic
- Location: All towns within Clay and Cass counties

YWCA's 2023 Annual Report and Internal Communications

This source highlights the organization's impactful services aimed at supporting survivors of domestic violence and reducing healthcare costs. Through initiatives like nurse-led care, onsite clinics, and recovery-focused programs, YWCA provided critical alternatives to emergency medical services and hospital stays, improving health outcomes and alleviating strain on local healthcare systems. Down below there is a list of the parameters used to navigate this source.

- Number of female victims served: 567 survivors of domestic violence
- Initiatives Reported:
 - Nurse-led alternatives to emergency room visits
 - Onsite clinics in collaboration with UND-Sanford residency program
 - Respite Care (measured in patient days spent recovering at YWCA Emergency Shelter)
 - Prevention of Inpatient Stays (IP Stays)

Sanford data on averted Ambulance and Emergency Visits

The Sanford Health 2023 Data provides detailed records of healthcare cost savings achieved through YWCA's interventions. These include averted inpatient stays, emergency department visits, ambulance rides, and medical respite care days. The dataset highlights the significant financial impact of these services, with a total of 442 interventions resulting in over \$208,892 in savings, underscoring the effectiveness of YWCA's initiatives in reducing healthcare expenses.

Rand Calculator

The RAND Corporation's Cost of Crime Calculator provides estimates of the economic costs associated with various crimes, including those related to domestic violence. This tool

helps quantify the financial burden on communities by calculating costs such as law enforcement, healthcare, and victim services, supporting the project's analysis of the economic impact of crime in Cass County.

Hidden in Plain Sight: What Cost-of-Crime Research Can Tell Us About Investing in Police

The RAND Corporation's "Hidden in Plain Sight: What Cost-of-Crime Research Can Tell Us About Investing in Police" provides detailed estimates of the economic costs of various crimes. Using methods such as accounting-based approaches, contingent valuation, and hedonic valuation, the report quantifies the tangible and intangible costs of crimes, including those relevant to domestic violence. This resource is essential for assessing the financial burden of crime and informing cost-benefit analyses for interventions like those offered by YWCA.

The Domestic Violence Cost Calculator

The Domestic Violence Cost Calculator (© 2005, Texas Health Resources) is a tool designed to estimate the economic costs of domestic violence, including healthcare expenses, lost productivity, and law enforcement resources. This resource provides a framework for quantifying both direct and indirect costs, supporting the project's goal of assessing the financial burden of domestic violence.

U.S. Census Bureau's Population and Demographic Data

The U.S. Census Bureau's Population and Demographic Data provides comprehensive statistics on the population, including demographic breakdowns such as age, gender, ethnicity, and socioeconomic indicators. In the context of Cass and Clay counties, this database is instrumental in calculating population-based metrics such as the number of adult females, which informs estimates of domestic violence prevalence and resource needs for interventions.

Data Processing

After navigating the data sources, the data retrieved is included in the following tables. The Minnesota Bureau of Criminal Apprehension's Crime Against Persons Database and The North Dakota Crime Statistics Platform are presented in Table 1.

Table 1

Criminal Offenses Reported in Clay and Cass Counties, 2023

Criminal Offense	Counties		Total
	Clay	Cass	
Homicide/Murder	0	1	1
Rape	2	43	45
Fondling	3	0	3
Aggravated Assault	63	168	231
Simple Assault	132	0	132
Intimidation	19	0	19

From The Red River Regional Dispatch Center Online Dispatch Logs, we have put together the following Table 2.

Table 2

Dispatch Calls for Domestic Violence in Clay and Cass Counties, 2023

Dispatch Calls for Domestic Violence	Counties		Total
	Clay	Cass	
	783	3974	4757

From YWCA's 2023 Annual Report and Internal Communications, the retrieved data is put together in Table 3.

Table 3

YWCA Interventions and Services Provided in 2023

YWCA Intervention	Total
ER visits averted	262
Ambulance transport averted	8
Hosted onsite clinics	15
People provided care onsite clinic	101
IP Stay	8
Respite Care	86
Walk In	1,712

From The Sanford Health 2023 Dataset, the retrieved data is put together with YWCA's 2023 Annual Report and Internal Communications. For clarification, in 2023, YWCA provided critical services that significantly impacted the health and well-being of individuals in its care, as highlighted in the YWCA 2023 Annual Report, 567 female victims were survivors of domestic violence. According to conversations with YWCA, the following initiatives were reported inside the organization: YWCA's nurse averted emergency room visits, and ambulance transports by

providing alternatives such as clinic visits or direct trips to the ER, which reduced emergency response costs.

Additionally, YWCA hosted onsite clinics in collaboration with physicians from the UND-Sanford residency program, providing medical care for individuals. A particularly vital service provided by YWCA is Respite Care, measured in the number of days patients discharged from Sanford hospitals stayed at YWCA Emergency Shelter. This service is offered to patients recovering from surgery, intensive treatments, or severe illnesses and involves private accommodations with basic care and regular monitoring by YWCA's nurse.

Lastly, Inpatient Stay reflects situations where YWCA's nurse care and attention prevented a Sanford hospitalization entirely, reducing strain on hospital resources and fostering better outcomes for individuals. A summary of these values will be presented in Table 4 for a comprehensive overview. The resulting Table 4 is presented below.

Table 4

Cost Savings from YWCA Medical Interventions in 2023

YWCA Intervention	Total	Cost per medical intervention	Total
ER visits averted	262	\$408.89	\$107,129.18
Ambulance transport averted	8	\$1,591.13	\$12,729.04
IP Stay	8	\$11,054.00	\$88,432
Respite Care	86	\$448.96	\$38,610.56
Walk In	1,712	\$119.42	\$204,447.04
			\$451,347.82

The financial estimates for the cost of domestic violence crimes were derived using the RAND Cost of Crime Calculator and data from Heaton and Laufer's (2007) study, which provides average costs of various crimes and their economic implications. The original cost values from 2007 were adjusted to 2023 using a dollar adjustment factor of 1.47, reflecting the increase in the value of \$1 in 2007 to \$1.47 in 2023. Specifically, the cost of Homicide/Murder increased from \$8,649,216 to \$13,107,226.76, Rape/Fondling from \$217,866 to \$330,159.30, and Aggravated Assault from \$87,238 to \$132,202.53.

These adjusted costs per crime were applied to the annual number of reported crimes in the RAND calculator (RAND Corporation, n.d) to estimate the total taxpayer burden of domestic violence, which amounts to \$79,450,000. A detailed breakdown of these costs is presented in Table 5, underscoring the substantial economic impact of these crimes on communities.

Table 5

Estimated Cost of Domestic Violence to Taxpayers in 2023

Crime Type	Cost per Crime	Crimes per Year	Crime Cost

Murder & Manslaughter	\$13,107,226.76	1	\$13,110,000
Rape & Fondling	\$330,159.30	48	\$15,850,000
Aggravated Assault, Stalking	\$132,202.53	382	\$50,500,000
Domestic Violence Crime Cost		\$79,450,000	

From The Domestic Violence Cost Calculator (© 2005, Texas Health Resources), the retrieved data is processed. Up next we have added a table (Table 6) with the basic values for the calculations.

Table 6

Average Medical and Mental Health Costs Related to Victimization

Category	Value
Average number of assaults per victim per year	3.4
Percentage of victimizations resulting in injury	38.85%
Average percentage of victims seeking medical care nationally	29.55%
Average number of medical visits per victimization	1.9
Average medical cost per victimization (adjusted to 2017 prices)	\$3,789
Average US percentage paid by insurance (medical)	75%
Average percentage of victimizations resulting in mental health service usage	29.70%
Average number of mental health visits per victimization	12.65
Average cost per mental health visit (adjusted to 2017 dollars)	\$125.82
Average US percentage paid by insurance (mental health)	66%
Percentage of victimizations resulting in lost workdays	19.5%
Average number of lost workdays per year per victimization	8.09

From U.S. Census Bureau's Population and Demographic Data, the retrieved data was processed. Up next we have added a table (Table 7) with the basic values for the calculations.

Table 7

Female Population in Cass-Clay Counties in 2023

Category	Cass County	Clay County	Total
Total Population	196,362	65,318	261,680
Female Population (49%)	96,217	32,006	128,223
Adult Female Population (71%)	68,312	22,727	91,039

To understand the economic impact of domestic violence in Cass and Clay counties, we conducted an analysis based on national rates and regional demographics from the U.S. Census Data, using statistics derived from the Texas Health Domestic Violence Cost Calculator. This approach estimated the prevalence of domestic violence in the community, calculating the number of victims and incidents annually. We further examined the consequences of these incidents, focusing on three key areas: medical costs, mental health expenses, and lost productivity. For medical costs, we assessed the percentage of injured victims seeking medical care, the average number of medical visits per case, and the resulting financial burden, including out-of-pocket expenses.

Similarly, for mental health costs, we evaluated the proportion of victims utilizing mental health services, the frequency of visits, and associated costs. Lastly, we analyzed the economic impact of lost workdays caused by victimizations, considering the average duration of absence and regional wage data. This comprehensive framework, grounded in the data from the Texas Health Domestic Violence Cost Calculator, provides a detailed view of the financial toll of domestic violence on individuals and the community, setting the stage for targeted interventions and resource allocation.

Table 8
 Cass-Clay Domestic Violence Rates (2023)

Metric	Value
National DV Rate (per 1,000)	116
Estimated Victims Annually	10,560
Average Victimization per Victim	3.4/year
Total Victimization	35,904/year
Percentage of Victimization Injured	38.85%
Victimizations with Injuries	13,947/year

Table 9
 Cass-Clay Medical Costs Rates (2023)

Metric	Value
Percentage Seeking Medical Care	29.55%
Cases Seeking Medical Care	4,120/year
Total Medical Visits (1.9 per case)	7,828 visits/year
Medical Cost per Visit (2023)	\$4,524.26
Total Medical Cost	\$18,634,953
Out-of-Pocket Medical Costs (25%)	\$4,658,738

Table 10
 Cass-Clay Mental Health Costs Rates (2023)

Metric	Value
Percentage Using Mental Health Care	29.7%

Cases Using Mental Health Care	4,141/year
Total Visits (12.65 per case)	52,376 visits/year
Cost per Visit (2023)	\$150.24
Total Mental Health Cost	\$7,865,610
Out-of-Pocket Mental Health Costs	\$2,674,307

Table 11

Cass-Clay Lost of Productivity Rates (2023)

Metric	Value
Percentage with Lost Workdays	19.5%
Cases with Lost Workdays	2,720/year
Average Workdays Lost (8.09 per case)	22,005 days/year
Average Hourly Wage	\$28.58/hour
Total Lost Productivity Cost	\$5,031,636

Table 12

Summary of Annual Costs for Cass and Clay Counties (2023)

Cost Category	Total Cost	Out-of-Pocket Costs
Medical Costs	\$18,634,953	\$4,658,738
Mental Health Costs	\$7,865,610	\$2,674,307
Lost Productivity	\$5,031,636	N/A
Total Estimated Cost	\$31,532,199	N/A

To evaluate the impact of YWCA interventions in Cass and Clay counties, we analyzed the economic benefits of their services using the Texas Health Domestic Violence Cost Calculator and data from the YWCA Annual Report 2023. This analysis estimated the reduction in victimizations resulting from YWCA's support services, specifically the protection provided to sheltered women. By preventing further assaults, YWCA programs significantly reduce the incidence of injuries that would otherwise require costly medical care and mental health services. We examined medical costs averted, including the number of medical cases and visits prevented, as well as the associated financial burden, including out-of-pocket expenses saved by victims.

Additionally, we assessed mental health costs averted by calculating the reduced need for counseling services among survivors, accounting for both total costs and the portion typically borne by individuals. Finally, we evaluated the impact on productivity losses, measuring the number of lost workdays prevented through YWCA interventions and the corresponding economic savings. This analysis provides a comprehensive view of the cost savings achieved through YWCA's programs, demonstrating their critical role in mitigating the financial and social toll of domestic violence on survivors and the broader community.

Table 13

Impact of YWCA Intervention

Category	Value

Sheltered women protected from further assault	636
Average victimizations per victim	3.4 per year
Total victimizations averted	2,162 victimizations/year

Table 14
 Medical Costs Averted by YWCA

Category	Value
Victimizations with injuries	840 cases
Medical cases (29.55% of injury cases)	248 cases
Total medical visits (1.9 per case)	472 visits
Total medical cost	\$2,134,431
Out-of-pocket costs averted (25%)	\$533,608

Table 15
 Mental Health Costs Averted by YWCA

Category	Value
Victimizations requiring mental health services	250 cases
Total mental health visits (12.65 per case)	3,158 visits
Total mental health cost	\$474,770
Out-of-pocket costs averted (34%)	\$161,423

Table 16
 Lost of Productivity Costs Averted by YWCA

Category	Value
Victimizations with lost workdays	164 cases
Total lost workdays (8.09 per case)	1,324 days
Total lost productivity cost	\$302,878

Table 17
 Total Costs Averted by YWCA in Cass/Clay in 2023

Category	Value
Medical Costs	\$2,134,431
Out-of-pocket (Medical)	\$533,608
Mental Health Costs	\$474,770
Out-of-pocket (Mental Health)	\$161,423
Lost Productivity Costs	\$302,878
Total Estimated Cost	\$3,607,110

Results

Evidence-Based Analysis

The economic burden of domestic violence in Cass and Clay Counties is substantial, with wide-ranging effects on healthcare systems, mental health services, workforce productivity, and law enforcement. Applying national domestic violence prevalence rates to the adult female population in both counties, it is estimated that 10,560 women experience Domestic Violence annually, resulting in a staggering 35,904 victimizations each year. Of these incidents, approximately 38.85% lead to physical injuries, and 29.55% of victims seek medical care. The medical costs associated with these cases are significant, with an estimated 7,828 medical visits annually, amounting to a total healthcare burden of \$18.6 million. Victims directly bear approximately 25% of these costs out-of-pocket, translating to \$4.6 million in expenses—a severe financial strain for individuals already facing trauma.

In addition to physical injuries, domestic violence leads to a notable demand for mental health services. Approximately 29.7% of victimizations require mental health care, resulting in 52,376 therapy visits annually. With an average cost of \$150 per session, this adds \$7.8 million to the total financial burden, of which victims pay \$2.6 million out-of-pocket. Compounding these costs, the productivity losses due to domestic violence are equally concerning. An estimated 19.5% of victims lose workdays, leading to a total of 22,005 days of work lost annually. Based on the average hourly wage of \$28.58, the economic cost of lost productivity amounts to \$5 million per year.

Beyond healthcare and workforce implications, domestic violence imposes an immense burden on public systems, particularly law enforcement. Using the RAND Cost of Crime Calculator, adjusted for 2023 inflation rates, the estimated cost of Domestic Violence-related crimes amounts to \$79.45 million annually. This figure includes the cost of one homicide (\$13.1 million), 48 cases of rape and fondling (\$15.8 million), and 382 aggravated assaults and stalking incidents (\$50.5 million). These findings highlight the disproportionate strain domestic violence places on public resources, diverting funds and capacity from other critical services.

YWCA plays an integral role in addressing these challenges by providing emergency shelter, medical interventions, counseling, and advocacy. Data from YWCA's 2023 Annual Report demonstrates the tangible impact of their services. YWCA's medical interventions alone, such as nurse-led care, onsite clinics, and respite care, averted 262 emergency room visits, 8 ambulance transports, and 8 inpatient hospitalizations. These services collectively saved the healthcare system approximately \$451,347 in 2023. Notably, YWCA's respite care provided critical recovery time for patients discharged from hospitals, alleviating pressure on healthcare systems while improving survivor outcomes.

Cost-Benefit Analysis

A cost-benefit analysis of YWCA's interventions demonstrates their significant economic value to the community. Domestic violence, as previously quantified, imposes an estimated \$31.5 million annual economic burden on Cass and Clay Counties, including medical expenses, mental health care, and lost productivity. Through targeted support and prevention programs, YWCA has effectively reduced this burden by addressing the root causes of victimization and offering essential services that mitigate its consequences.

YWCA's interventions have a measurable impact on reducing medical and mental health costs. By providing emergency shelter to 668 women, YWCA protected these survivors from further victimizations, preventing an estimated 2,162 assaults annually. Of these averted incidents, 840 cases would have resulted in injuries, leading to substantial healthcare savings. Specifically, by preventing 248 medical cases (based on 29.55% of injuries requiring care) and 472 associated medical visits, YWCA interventions saved \$2.1 million in medical costs, with survivors avoiding \$533,608 in out-of-pocket expenses. Similarly, YWCA's support reduced the need for mental health services. By preventing 3,158 mental health therapy visits, YWCA generated savings of \$474,770, including \$161,423 in out-of-pocket expenses for survivors.

YWCA's programs also address productivity losses by preventing workplace absenteeism. Of the victimizations averted, approximately 164 cases would have led to lost workdays, amounting to 1,324 workdays saved. Valued at an average hourly wage of \$28.58, these saved workdays translate to \$302,878 in economic productivity retained. Combined, the total cost savings generated by YWCA's interventions in 2023 amounted to \$3.6 million.

When comparing these savings to the broader economic impact of domestic violence, YWCA's services demonstrate a remarkable return on investment. While domestic violence costs the community \$31.5 million annually, YWCA's programs successfully reduce this burden by 11.4%, alleviating pressure on healthcare systems, improving survivor outcomes, and fostering economic stability. This analysis underscores the value of continued and increased investment in YWCA programs. By expanding their capacity to serve more survivors, YWCA has the potential to achieve even greater cost reductions and social benefits.

Recommendations

Based on the findings of this report, the following recommendations are proposed to further address the economic and social impact of domestic violence in Cass and Clay Counties:

1. Increased Funding for YWCA Programs

The analysis clearly demonstrates that YWCA's interventions generate significant economic savings while improving the well-being of survivors. With a cost savings of \$3.6 million annually, YWCA reduces the financial toll of domestic violence by 11.4%. Expanding funding for YWCA's initiatives, such as nurse-led care, emergency shelter, and mental health services, will enable the organization to serve more survivors and further mitigate the community's economic losses. This investment is both cost-effective and socially impactful, as it reduces healthcare utilization, improves productivity, and enhances survivor outcomes.

2. Enhanced Data Collection and Reporting Practices

While this analysis relied on a robust set of data sources, there are gaps in publicly available information, particularly regarding law enforcement resource allocation and detailed healthcare costs. Improving partnerships between YWCA, healthcare providers, law enforcement, and data analysts would streamline future data collection efforts. Developing

standardized reporting systems for metrics like medical costs avoided, emergency response savings, and victim support outcomes will allow for more precise impact assessments and advocacy efforts.

3. Collaboration with Public and Private Stakeholders

YWCA's role in mitigating domestic violence costs should be recognized as an essential service that benefits public systems, such as healthcare providers and law enforcement. Formal collaborations with hospitals, insurers, and local governments can strengthen YWCA's funding base and enhance service delivery. Joint programs—like hospital-to-shelter care pathways, mental health partnerships, and workforce reintegration programs—can amplify YWCA's impact while optimizing public resources.

4. Prevention-Focused Community Education

Addressing domestic violence at its root requires community-wide education and prevention programs. Increasing funding for educational campaigns targeting schools, workplaces, and at-risk populations can reduce the incidence of domestic violence. Preventative programs will, in turn, alleviate downstream costs associated with healthcare, law enforcement, and productivity losses.

5. Leveraging Economic Impact Data for Advocacy

The results of this report underscore the economic benefits of YWCA interventions. This data should be leveraged in grant applications, fundraising campaigns, and discussions with policymakers. Demonstrating the clear return on investment from YWCA programs will strengthen the case for sustained and increased funding, ensuring long-term sustainability of these critical services.

Strengths and Weaknesses

Strengths

The analysis presented in this report provides a comprehensive and evidence-based assessment of the economic impact of domestic violence and the benefits of YWCA interventions. By combining multiple data sources—including law enforcement statistics, healthcare cost data, and YWCA reports—the study offers a robust and holistic view of the issue.

1. Quantitative Approach

The use of tools such as the RAND Cost of Crime Calculator and the Texas Health Domestic Violence Cost Calculator adds precision to the findings. Adjusting for inflation ensures that the cost estimates are accurate and reflective of current economic conditions.

2. Focus on Tangible Outcomes

The report highlights concrete cost savings achieved through YWCA's programs, including averted medical visits, mental health costs, and lost productivity. This focus on measurable outcomes strengthens the report's credibility and provides actionable insights for stakeholders.

3. Regional Relevance

By focusing on Cass and Clay Counties, the analysis addresses the specific challenges faced by these communities, providing locally tailored solutions and recommendations. This regional focus allows for more targeted interventions and advocacy efforts.

4. Practical Recommendations

The recommendations provided are clear, actionable, and grounded in the data. They address both immediate funding needs and long-term strategies for reducing domestic violence costs through prevention and collaboration.

Weaknesses

Despite its strengths, the analysis has certain limitations that should be addressed in future research:

1. Data Gaps and Assumptions

The analysis relied on national prevalence rates and cost estimates, which may not perfectly reflect local conditions. While the methodology is sound, more granular local data—such as detailed healthcare costs, mental health utilization rates, and law enforcement resource allocations—would enhance the accuracy of the findings.

2. Lack of Baseline Metrics

The report highlights YWCA's impact but does not establish baseline metrics for measuring changes in domestic violence rates over time. Implementing consistent data collection practices will allow for better tracking of trends and program effectiveness.

3. Limited Scope of Analysis

The analysis primarily focuses on adult female survivors of domestic violence. Future studies could expand the scope to include male survivors, children, and other vulnerable populations, as well as examine the long-term societal impacts of domestic violence.

4. Unquantified Intangible Costs

While the report quantifies tangible costs like healthcare and lost productivity, intangible costs—such as emotional trauma, reduced quality of life, and intergenerational effects—are not included. Accounting for these factors would provide a more complete picture of the true cost of domestic violence.

Conclusion

This report provides a detailed analysis of the economic impact of domestic violence in Cass and Clay Counties and the measurable benefits of YWCA's interventions. Domestic violence imposes a significant financial burden on the community, with an estimated annual cost of \$31.5 million in medical expenses, mental health care, and lost productivity. Additionally, Domestic Violence-related crimes place further strain on public resources, costing taxpayers approximately \$79.45 million annually.

YWCA's programs play a critical role in mitigating these costs and supporting survivors. Through targeted interventions, YWCA successfully prevented over 2,162 victimizations in 2023, resulting in \$3.6 million in annual cost savings. These savings include reduced medical expenses, avoided mental health care costs, and retained productivity, demonstrating the organization's substantial return on investment.

The findings of this report make a compelling case for increased funding and support for YWCA programs. By expanding its capacity to serve more survivors, YWCA can further reduce the financial and social toll of domestic violence on individuals and the broader community. Additionally, improved data collection practices and stronger collaborations with healthcare providers, law enforcement, and policymakers will enhance the organization's impact and sustainability.

Ultimately, addressing domestic violence requires a coordinated, community-wide approach. Investing in YWCA's services, prevention programs, and advocacy efforts will not only save lives but also create healthier, safer, and more economically stable communities.

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