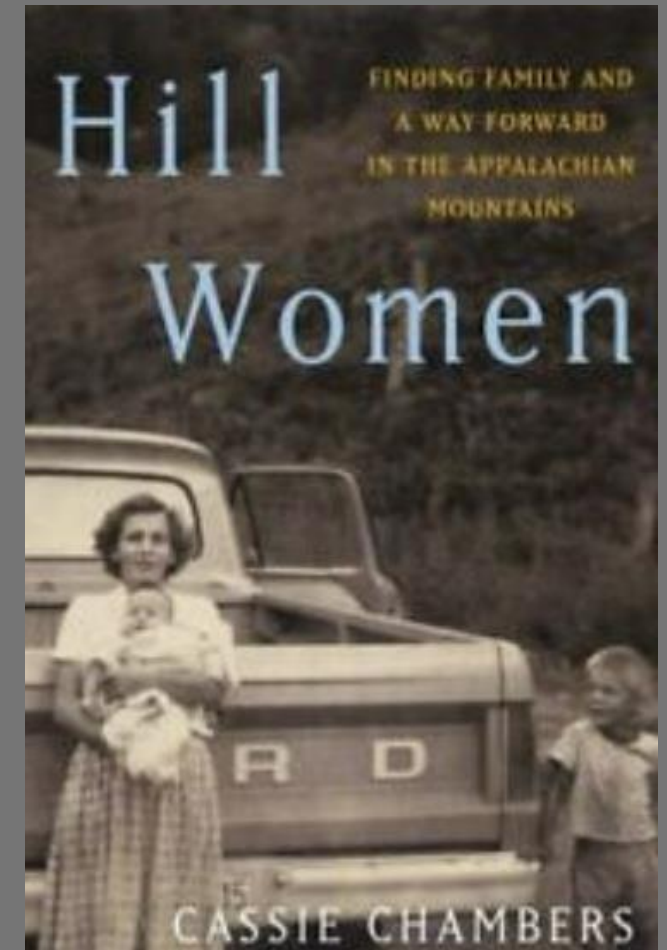


Examining Domestic Violence Trends in Rural and Urban Areas

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LAW

The Work and Where it Came From





SOUTHERN POLITICS

"Jeanette's Law" could help victims of domestic violence in Kentucky

by AUSTYN GAFFNEY April 23, 2018



Jeanette McCue, a nurse from Washington County, Ky., turned her husband's arrest for domestic violence into a new Kentucky law to protect domestic violence victims. Photo Credit: Austyn Gaffney

What Do We Mean When We Say “Urban” and “Rural”

- ▶ U.S. Census Bureau and OMB define “rural” as open territory with less than 2,500 residents.
- ▶ Everything else is urban

Domestic Violence Trends in Rural Areas

- ▶ The pre-Covid data
 - ▶ 2004 study: inverse relationship between rurality and percentage of homicides in which the killer was a family member or intimate partner
 - ▶ 2003 study: rural perpetrators of intimate partner violence are twice as likely to inflict severe physical injuries, more likely to use weapons during assaults, and twice as likely to make death threats.

Why Might Rural Trends Look Different?



Appalachia in Particular

- ▶ Older studies show extreme geography, social isolation, lack of educational/economic opportunity, and prevalence of gun ownership leads to more and more severe domestic violence
- ▶ Characterized the court systems as “victimizing abused spouses”

The pandemic is increasing intimate partner violence. Here is how health care providers can help.

October 26, 2021 | [Print](#) | [Email](#)

Written by: [Caroline Newman](#)

Media contact: [Anna Jones](#)

Among the hidden costs of the COVID-19 pandemic is an alarming rise in domestic violence and intimate partner violence.


According to the [American Journal of Emergency Medicine](#), domestic violence cases increased by 25-33 percent globally in 2020. At the local level, domestic violence calls in Jefferson County increased by 27 percent in March 2020 compared to March 2019. This trend continued in other cities around the United States, including Portland, San Antonio and New York.



Throughout the COVID-19 pandemic, there has been an alarming rise in domestic violence and intimate partner violence.

Louisville Metro Domestic Violence Statistics 2011-2021											
	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
Louisville Metro Police Department											
Calls for service	36,089	37,825	37,236	36,726	38,049	40,011	36,889	35,031	34,640	32,983	30,984
*JC-3 Domestic Violence Filed	4,898	4,213	3,653	3,691	4,885	5,281	4,742	4,553	5,267	5,765	7,317
Homicide	3	8	5	13	7	12	6	13	5	7	12
Sexual Assault	112	37	31	35	21	20	20	16	26	17	34
Aggravated assault	785	710	624	590	694	806	685	715	871	1,163	1,204
Simple Assault	3,132	2,630	2,464	2,481	2,805	3,033	2,856	2,713	2,702	2,519	2,785
Intimidation	520	439	382	408	485	529	498	414	474	646	805
All other offenses	346	389	147	164	874	881	677	682	1,189	1,413	2,477
Arrests	2,408	2,041	1,715	1,820	2,077	2,092	1,788	1,806	1,905	1,929	1,958
* The JC-3 DV form is used to document any information or injuries related to the domestic violence and abuse or dating violence and abuse.											
Jefferson County Attorneys Office											
New Domestic Violence Cases	4,473	4,043	3,517	3,542	3,810	3,658	3,779	3,858	3,625	3,625	3,606
Commonwealth Attorneys Office											
Domestic Violence Cases Handled	490	477	396	409	297	257	334	283	227	232	305
*CAO case processing includes new case referrals (cases that are indicted, declined for prosecution, or remanded to District Court) and cases that are closed out. In 2016, the CAO installed a new case management system and due to data entry concerns during the transition to the new system, data for the years 2015-2016 may not accurately reflect the number of cases processed.											
Circuit Court Clerks Office											
Total EPO/IPO Filings	4,589	4,800	4,515	4,415	4,290	4,797	5,044	5,028	5,158	4,074	4,307
Emergency Protective Order	4,589	4,800	4,515	4,415	4,290	4,174	4,322	4,328	4,553	3,382	3,520
Interpersonal Protective Orders	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	623	722	700	605	692	787

*In 2015, the Kentucky General Assembly passed HB 8 on Interpersonal Protective Orders (IPOs).



Though Louisville is seeing some positive trends resulting from its whole-of-government approach to public safety, he said, it's also seeing a sharp and tragic increase of domestic violence homicides. Louisville Metro Police Department (LMPD) statistics show that at this time in 2020, there were two domestic violence homicides in the city; in 2021, there were five; and so far this year, there have been 12.

Rural Areas During Covid

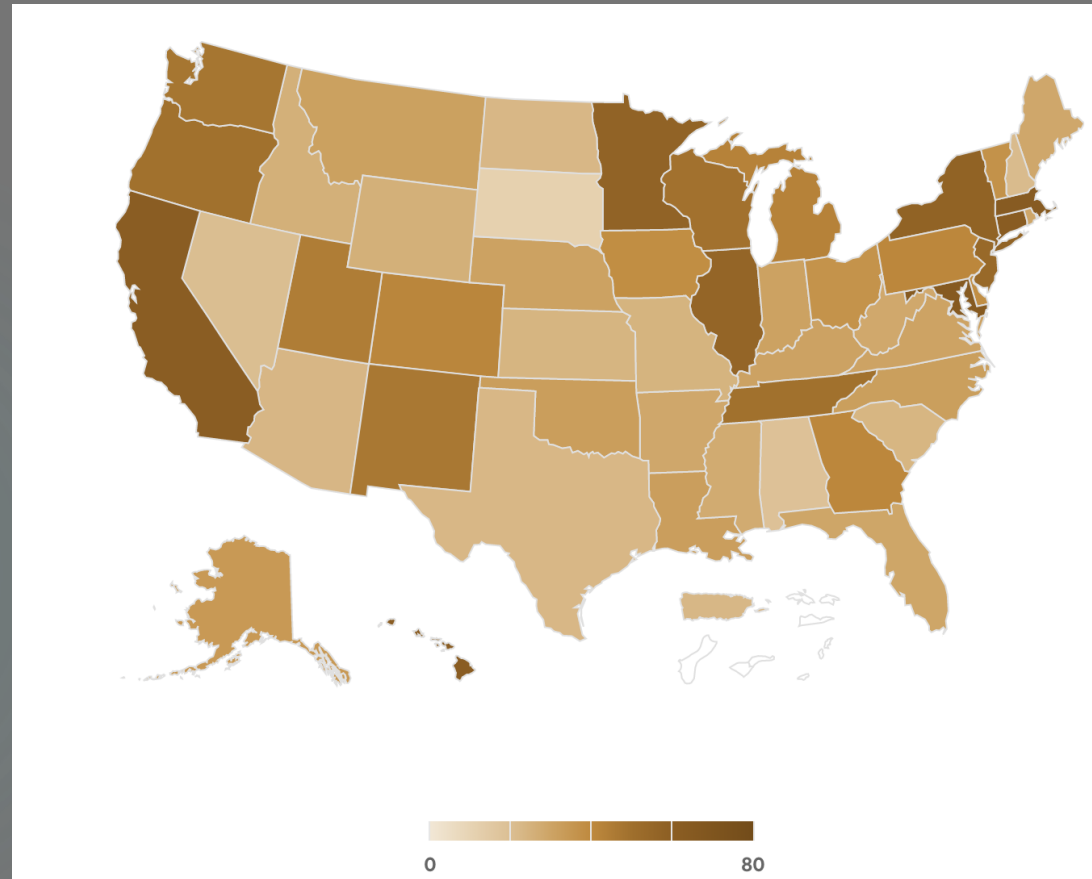
HEALTH

Domestic Violence in Rural America Increases During Pandemic

Rising economic pressures during the pandemic and limited access to transportation contributed to a rise in physical violence and abuse in rural households.

by **Liz Carey** October 19, 2020

What is Access to Justice?



Access to Justice in Rural Areas

- ▶ Data has shown that rural individuals are less likely to have their needs met
- ▶ Attorney access: one sixth of Americans reside in rural locations, but rural America has 2% of attorneys
- ▶ Pro bono challenges: rural lawyers may have higher case loads and thinner margins
- ▶ Legal services challenges: may be more spread out, cover a larger service area, and require more time travelling
- ▶ Legal aid funding: some studies suggest rural areas receive less than 1/3 the per-person funding of urban areas

Access to Justice in Rural Areas

- ▶ Rural courts are less likely to have on-site limited legal assistance available
- ▶ Rural courts may have additional fees like domestic relations commissioner fees
- ▶ Rural courts may be more likely to have processes that delay and frustrate justice (passing cases, large open docket calls)
- ▶ Rural courts are less likely to have specialized dv courts or dv intake centers
- ▶ Rural law enforcement is less likely to have victims advocates on staff

My Research



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But Data Has to Lead to Solutions

- ▶ Incentives to improve number of lawyers in rural areas
- ▶ Increased funding for rural legal aid organizations
- ▶ Stronger pro bono incentives
- ▶ Changes to court room procedures
- ▶ Increased dv resources in rural areas
- ▶ More trainings for court personnel on assisting pro se individuals



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What Do You See in Your Practice?

