



Hampden County Sheriff's Office Takes on Domestic Violence as 2024 Sheriff's Shuffle Will Benefit YWCA of Western Massachusetts

Springfield, MA – The Hampden County Sheriff's Office's 2024 Sheriff's Shuffle 5K run and 1.5-mile walk, scheduled for Sunday, September 29, at Ashley Reservoir in Holyoke, will raise funds for the YWCA of Western Massachusetts, supporting its vital services for victims of domestic violence.

At a press conference Wednesday, Sheriff Nick Cocchi, YWCA Chief Executive Officer Elizabeth Dineen, and Race Director Davis Snow discussed the upcoming Sheriff's Shuffle and how it kicks off an ongoing collaboration to address domestic violence across the region.

Following several high-profile fatal domestic assaults in recent months, including some which have hit close to home for the Sheriff's Office, Sheriff Cocchi has underscored the critical need to address domestic violence in Western Massachusetts.

"A lot of the unpleasant things that happen in life are unavoidable. But domestic violence, and the harm it causes, including the loss of life, are senseless and preventable," said Sheriff Cocchi. "That's why this year's Sheriff's Shuffle will support the YWCA of Western Massachusetts, an organization at the forefront of providing critical services to those affected by domestic violence. Together, we can make a difference and ensure that victims receive the support and resources they deserve before it's too late."

According to the Hampden County Sheriff's Office's Research Department, the prevalence of domestic violence governing charges among sentenced individuals released in 2023 increased since 2019 from 8.7 percent to 11.4 percent. Overall, those released were 25.7 percentage points more likely to have a violent crime.

HCSO and the YWCA partnered for the 2022 Sheriff's Shuffle, which raised over \$110,000. Funds raised directly support the YWCA's efforts to provide essential services and support to individuals and families impacted by domestic violence.

"Even if you are not a runner, please come and walk with us," said Elizabeth Dineen. "Every dollar we raise will go directly to help adults and children who are in danger and survivors of domestic abuse."

In 2023, the YWCA served 11,895 men, women, and children in its residential and community-based programs. The organization had 6,516 hotline calls for domestic violence and sexual assault with the numbers increasing about 5% annually since the COVID-19 Pandemic. Additionally, there are peaks in service requests when a high-profile homicide or a significant criminal case has concluded, resulting in media attention.

In addition to taking care of domestic violence victims, the YWCA has doubled its DV and sexual assault response teams over the past four years to help the community both proactively and on demand. These YWCA teams are also in several local schools teaching students about healthy relationships to break the cycles of abuse and educate young people about what behaviors are red flags and how to deal with them.

Registration for the Sheriff's Shuffle 5K/Walk is now open, with a registration fee of \$35 per person until September 28, and \$40 on the day of the race. Participants will receive a complimentary long sleeve dry-fit Sheriff's Shuffle shirt upon registration. Day-of-race registration will begin at 9 a.m. inside the Elks Lodge at 250 Whitney Ave., where the 1.5-mile walking course will also commence. The race and walk will start promptly at 10:30 a.m.

Following the race, participants and attendees can enjoy refreshments, food, awards, a raffle featuring numerous prizes, and live entertainment.

For more information, to register, or to make a donation, please visit www.runsignup.com/SheriffsShuffle5k

PLEASE PROMOTE THIS NUMBER: YWCA 24-HOUR domestic violence/sexual assault hotline (413) 733-7100

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DOMESTIC VIOLENCE STATISTICS

- A [report released by the Commonwealth](#) in February 2024 detailed a significant increase in domestic violence incidents in post-pandemic years, which includes a 56% increase in domestic violence murders in 2022 over the previous year, and an increase in aggravated assaults from 5,690 in 2020 to 6,102 in 2022.

-As of today, with a Total In-Custody Count of 1,202, there are 180 individuals or 15%, who have Domestic-related charges. 92% of them are men, and 8% are women.

-29% (45 persons) of those with DV charges are Sentenced with outdates from this week to late 2026

-71% (111 persons) are on pretrial detainment, with release dates that cannot be predicted

-Ages range from 18 to 68, with a median age of 36 among the 156 individuals with DV-related charges

-The prevalence of domestic violence governing charges among sentenced individuals released in 2023 increased since 2019 from 8.7 percent to 11.4 percent.

-Compared to 2019's sentenced population, today's offenders have more violent and abusive tendencies as evidenced through their charges.

Notable National Domestic Violence Statistics

<https://bjs.ojp.gov/female-murder-victims-and-victim-offender-relationship-2021>

<https://www.thehotline.org/stakeholders/domestic-violence-statistics/>

(Takeaways)

1. **1 in 5 victims in homicide cases** lost their lives to their intimate partner.
2. 44.2% of men have experienced domestic violence. However, **the domestic violence rate for women** is higher at 47.3%.
3. According to CDC statistics, **Intimate Partner Violence (IPV)** begins before age 25.
4. **60% of children in the United States** are eyewitnesses to domestic abuse against a parent.
5. LGBTQ individuals face domestic violence at equal **or higher rates than straight people**.