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## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### **Economic Impact of Domestic Violence Costs Ohio over \$1 Billion Annually**

*Biggest Costs: Loss of Life, Impact on Victims, and Loss of Worker Productivity for Employers*

**COLUMBUS**, Ohio (Feb. 24, 2025) -- Ohio experiences a significant economic loss every year because of intimate partner violence, according to a study commissioned by the [Ohio Domestic Violence Network](http://www.odvn.org) (ODVN). The cost -- estimated at nearly \$1.2 billion -- affects all Ohioans, from the direct losses experienced by victims, to lost worker productivity, a cost born by employers.

The largest economic factors were physical health care for victims (\$264.8 million annually, or 22.9% of the total cost); loss of life (\$239.9 million, or 20.8%); and loss of worker productivity (\$227.7 million, or 19.7%), according to a [report](#) released at a news conference today.

Those costs ripple out throughout the state with increased expenses for law enforcement and the judicial system; for incarcerating abusers; and for the long-term impact that domestic violence has on the children who witness the violence and are sometimes physically hurt themselves.

The research was conducted by [Joseph C. Von Nessen](#), Ph.D., an economist at the University of South Carolina, who has done similar work in North Carolina, South Carolina and Wisconsin. The report includes data for each of Ohio's 88 counties.

One of the reasons ODVN sought the study was to demonstrate the impact domestic violence has on employers and the workplace. When victims are hurt and unable to work, they lose wages and spend less in the local economy. Their employers lose productivity and consequently see decreased output, which affects the purchases they make with vendors and the amount vendors themselves are able to spend.

Other costs include lifetime loss of income when someone is killed through domestic violence. If a victim survives, there can be bills for medical care and mental health services, as well as costs for property damage, police response, prosecution in the courts and for needed domestic violence services such as legal advocacy and finding affordable housing.

Children who witness domestic violence or are themselves assaulted can face long-term physical and emotional challenges that sometimes limit their success in school and in the workforce – producing another layer of hidden economic cost that can linger for decades.

Ohio’s 2-year operating budget includes \$20 million for domestic violence services. The report demonstrates that the state earns a considerable return on that investment, which funded services for more than 127,000 survivors in 2023, said ODVN Executive Director Mary O’Doherty.

“Consider how much greater the cost would be if the advocates at our 76 member programs were not performing their life-saving work,” said O’Doherty, who noted that the state’s support is even more important as federal funding appears threatened.

The study estimated Ohio has more than 188,000 victims of intimate partner violence each year, with [114 fatalities](#) from July 1, 2023 through June 30, 2024. The National Coalition Against Domestic Violence estimates that 38% of Ohio’s women and 33% of the state’s men will experience intimate partner violence, rape or stalking at least once in their lifetime.

Ohio currently spends 85 cents per capita on domestic violence services, considerably less than the five surrounding states, which range from \$1.31 per capita in Indiana to \$3.06 per capita in Kentucky. In FY 2023 ODVN member programs reported both an increase in services they provided. The programs sheltered 9,707 survivors but turned away nearly 8,200, which meant that nearly one in two survivors who sought shelter didn’t get it.

For the state of Ohio, the need for funding is urgent – and the cost of not helping all too clear.

**About the Ohio Domestic Violence Network (ODVN):** ODVN provides a strong statewide voice for Ohio’s domestic violence programs that serve all 88 counties, and advocates on domestic violence-related issues at the state and federal level. The network’s 76 member programs served more than 127,000 survivors and answered 123,055 direct crisis communications in 2023.

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