

**Intimate Partner Violence in Sedgwick County (SGC) Pre- and Post-COVID-19 Pandemic:  
A retrospective longitudinal analysis of Wichita Family Crisis Center services**

Karim Sanded,<sup>1</sup> Elizabeth Ablah, Ph.D.<sup>2</sup>, Hayrettin Okut, Ph.D.<sup>2</sup>, Tracey Gay, B.A.<sup>3</sup>,  
Lauren Koehler, B.A.<sup>3</sup>, Amanda Meyers, B.S.<sup>3</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Wichita Collegiate School

<sup>2</sup>The University of Kansas School of Medicine-Wichita, Wichita, Kansas, Department of  
Population Health

<sup>3</sup>The Wichita Family Crisis Center

*Received Mar. 19, 2026; Accepted for publication Apr. 20, 2026; Published online Apr. 22, 2026*  
<https://doi.org/10.17161/kjm.vol19.25394>

**Introduction.** Reports during the COVID-19 pandemic suggested a surge in domestic violence cases. It is important to examine whether patterns changed following the pandemic. Authors of this study evaluated whether Sedgwick County (SGC) experienced similar trends by comparing intimate partner violence (IPV)-related service utilization before, during, and after the pandemic.

**Methods.** Participants included IPV victims who accessed services through Wichita Family Crisis Center from January 1, 2018, to May 31, 2025. There were no exclusion criteria. Data were analyzed across three periods: pre-COVID (Period 1: 3/1/18 - 2/28/20), COVID (Period 2: 2/29/20 - 5/31/23), and post-COVID (Period 3: 6/1/23 - 5/30/25). Chi-square testing was used for statistical analysis.

**Results.** A total of 11,341 clients were included, with a 31% decrease from Period 1 to Period 2 and a 19% increase from Period 2 to Period 3. A total of 100,356 services were analyzed; services decreased during COVID and increased post-COVID to levels exceeding pre-pandemic levels ( $p < 0.001$ ). During COVID, the proportion of hotline calls related to children younger than 17 years doubled, then declined post-COVID ( $p < 0.0001$ ). Upward trends also were observed in safety planning services during and after COVID, along with an increase in sex trafficking-related services post-COVID ( $p < 0.0001$ ).

**Conclusions.** In SGC, IPV-related calls and services decreased during the pandemic and increased steadily in the post-COVID period. These patterns may reflect reduced access to care or changes in service availability during the pandemic, rather than a true reduction in IPV prevalence or service needs.