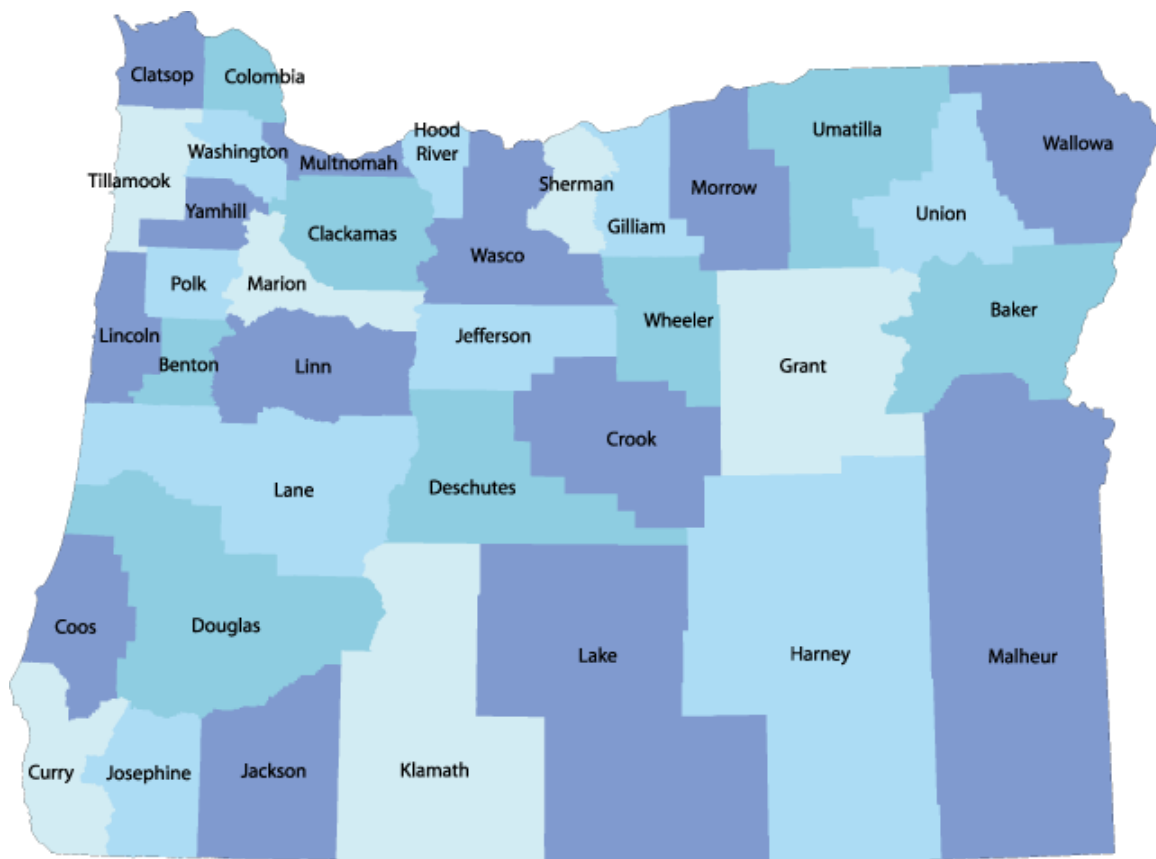




# Senator Jeff Merkley

## The Violence Against Women Act Oregon Report



U.S. Senator Jeff Merkley has urged his colleagues to pass the bipartisan **Violence Against Women Act** (VAWA) that would give law enforcement the necessary tools to fight back against rampant domestic violence throughout the state of Oregon. Merkley's call comes amidst new figures from the Oregon Uniform Crime Reporting Division of the Oregon State Police that shows over 10,000 domestic abuse offenses were committed in Oregon in the year 2011 alone. This vital law has decreased domestic violence by 50% since its creation in 1994, but expired for the first time in 2011.

Domestic violence and abuse are inexcusable. And so was the House of Representatives' failure to reauthorize the Violence Against Women Act last year.

Protecting the health and safety of American women should be a no-brainer, but some extreme elements in the House of Representatives are holding up this critical legislation because it adds protections to Native American and LGBT victims of domestic violence.

There are 24 new victims of domestic violence every minute. An average of three women will be killed today by their partners. It's long past time to reauthorize the Violence Against Women Act, and to take a stand against domestic violence.

#### **Oregon is stronger when victims and families are safe**

- Domestic violence services reduce re-assault by up to 70%.
- Safety from domestic violence would
  - save Oregon more than \$35 million per year in health care costs.
  - reduce 1/3 of child welfare cases in Oregon
  - save \$9.3 million in annual lost earnings, and prevent a leading cause of homelessness for women children.
- Approximately one in five homicides in Oregon was related to domestic violence.
  - **Over 40 Oregonians were killed by domestic violence in Oregon in 2012.**
  - slain women and children were all killed by a male perpetrator.
- Approximately two thirds of victims who were killed by an intimate partner were living with their perpetrators when the incident occurred.
- Sixty-five percent of victims who were killed by an intimate partner were at her/his own home when the incident occurred.
- On average each year, deaths related to domestic and family violence comprise at least 25% of all violent deaths in Oregon.
- Since January 2009, over 150 Oregonians died as a result of domestic violence. At least 10 of these victims were children.

# Oregon domestic violence offenses by county 2010

Oregon Uniform Crime Reporting Division, Oregon State Police

County	Domestic Violence incidents	April 1, 2010 Population count
Multnomah	5,461	735,334
Washington	2,021	529,710
Linn	1,695	116,672
Lane	1,560	351,715
Jackson	973	203,206
Marion	930	315,335
Deschutes	888	157,733
Clackamas	479	375,992
Umatilla	456	75,889
Union	452	25,748
Yamhill	445	99,193
Douglas	411	107,667
Wasco	408	25,213
Malheur	259	31,313
Lincoln	244	46,034
Harney	233	7,422
Benton	228	85,579
Clatsop	223	37,039
Columbia	183	49,351
Crook	176	20,978
Klamath	159	66,380
Jefferson	141	21,720
Tillamook	134	25,250
Polk	131	75,403
Morrow	85	11,173
Sherman	40	1,765
Grant	23	7,445
Hood River	23	22,346
Josephine	20	82,713
Gilliam	15	1,871
Wallowa	15	7,008
Coos	13	63,043
Curry	12	22,364
Wheeler	6	1,441
Baker	3	16,134
Lake	1	7,895