



# NEW YORK STATE DOMESTIC VIOLENCE DASHBOARD PROJECT 2012 DATA

## Introduction from the Acting Executive Director

This is the sixth Annual New York State Domestic Violence Dashboard which contains data from 2007 through 2012. After six years of collecting data from a broad range of agencies, many trends confirm what providers are seeing in the field. We also continue to add information each year as more and more agencies include screening for domestic violence into their regular practice.

Once again, we are finding that, overall, numbers have increased in 2012, such as intimate partner assaults, strangulation charges, local hotline calls and reports indicating danger due to domestic violence when applying for public assistance. However, a variety of factors typically causes these numbers to rise, only one of which may be an increase in the amount of domestic violence actually taking place. Often, enhanced evidence collection, greater collaboration and coordination, even improved community awareness and local outreach efforts can all cause the numbers to go up due to stronger domestic violence response and reporting, as well as greater need for victim services and criminal justice intervention. Still, that is not to say that actual domestic violence has not increased, only that there are many elements to consider when measuring and analyzing trends. For example, you will notice the significant decrease in intimate partner homicides, down 17% from 2011. While this brings intimate partner homicides back to 2010 levels, use of firearms in intimate partner homicides has increased by 15% since 2011. As always, it is essential that we utilize this statewide data to inform our response efforts about what we know, and where we still must focus our resources and efforts.

In 2011, we analyzed the number of strangulation charges separately, to acknowledge the importance of that new law, and examine how broadly it was being used. Therefore, this year we were able to collect and compare the two full years of strangulation data that revealed an 11% increase in the strangulation offenses charged in arrests and arraignments. We acknowledge that this increase could be due to several factors, only one of which is an increase in the amount of actual strangulation taking place. Increased awareness of the law over the past year has likely led to increased reporting of strangulation by victims and enhanced charging of Strangulation, at both the misdemeanor and felony levels, by law enforcement.

The source agency for data referenced in each statement is indicated at the end of the sentence: published source material is footnoted. Statistics cited represent data for the 2012 calendar year and are statewide, unless otherwise indicated. The 2007 Dashboard offered a full explanation of each system from which this data was taken, including an [explanation of terminology](#). Since then, we have only explained data points that are new that year.

Thank you for reviewing the sixth Annual Dashboard: it reflects a commitment across agencies to screen for domestic violence, and share their information with all of you. OPDV staff work diligently to compile and present it in a way we hope will be of use. We encourage you to read it together with the [2012 NYS Domestic Violence Annual Report](#), which contains a broader summary of the work of our state agencies, as well as a few other community stakeholder organizations. Data is only part of the story, but it is an important part.

Gwen Wright  
Acting Executive Director

**The following agencies contributed to the 2012 Domestic Violence Dashboard Project:**

New York State Department of Corrections and Community Supervision (DOCCS)

New York State Division of Criminal Justice Services (DCJS)

New York State Office for the Prevention of Domestic Violence (OPDV)

New York State Office of Alcoholism and Substance Abuse Services (OASAS)

New York State Office of Children & Family Services (OCFS)

New York State Office of Temporary and Disability Assistance (OTDA)

New York State Office of Victim Services (OVS)

Office of Court Administration (OCA)

Safe Horizon

**The Domestic Violence Dashboard Project is a product of the New York State Domestic Violence Advisory Council.**

**The goals of the Advisory Council are to:**

Make recommendations regarding strategies for the prevention of domestic violence.

Assist in the development of appropriate policies and priorities for effective intervention, public education and advocacy.

Facilitate and assure communication and coordination efforts among state agencies and between different levels of government, state, federal, and municipal, for the prevention of domestic violence.





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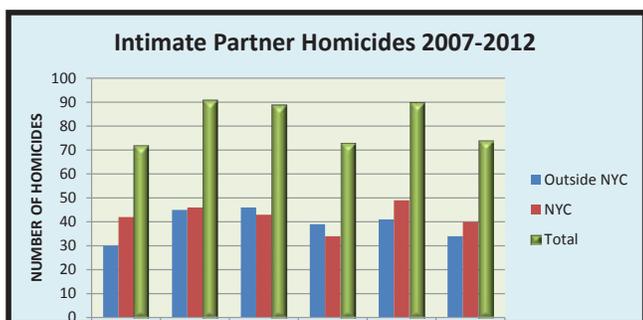
## PUBLIC SAFETY

### Strangulation

In 2012, strangulation offenses charged in arrests and arraignments in New York State increased 11% since 2011, with a 13% increase in NYC and a 9% increase in the rest of the state. (DCJS)

### Homicide

From 2011 to 2012, total homicides decreased 11% statewide, from 769 to 683. During the same time period, the number of intimate partner homicides dropped 17%, from 89 to 74. (DCJS)



In 2012, 58% of female homicide victims aged 16 and older were killed by an intimate partner, compared to 44% in 2011. Three percent of male homicide victims were killed by an intimate partner in 2012. (DCJS)

In 2012, firearms were used in 23 of the 74 intimate partner homicides (31%) compared to 2011, in which firearms were used in 22% (20 of 89) of intimate partner homicides. (DCJS)

### Law Enforcement and Community Supervision

In 2012, there were 119,355 total assaults reported by police agencies outside New York City.<sup>1</sup> Of these, 27% (31,911) were committed by intimate partners; females were the victim in 80% of these assaults, which was also the case in 2011. (DCJS)

Since 2011, total assaults increased by less than 1%, but intimate partner assaults increased by 6%, and intimate partner assaults where females were the victim also increased by 6%. (DCJS)

<sup>1</sup> Assaults include both aggravated and simple assaults as defined by the Uniform Crime Reporting (UCR) program.

In 2012, police outside New York City responded to 192,715 domestic incidents, a 5% decrease from 2011. (DCJS)

In 2012, local probation departments handled 34,956 criminal court cases statewide. Of those, 15% (5,217 cases) were domestic violence cases. Local probation departments also handled an additional 103 family court cases statewide during 2012. (DCJS)

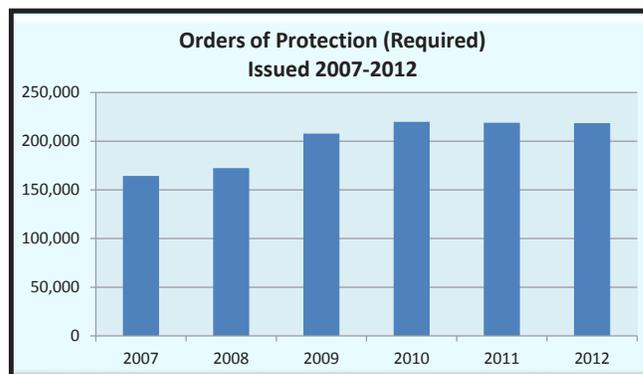
In 2012, 22% of the 27,823 parolees under Community Supervision (parole) were identified as having a history of domestic violence. (DOCCS)

### Courts

The 39 Domestic Violence (DV) Courts heard 28,365 new cases in 2012, a 14% decrease from 2011. (OCA)

The 42 Integrated Domestic Violence Courts (IDVCs) around New York State served 2,696 new families and handled 14,799 new cases in 2012. (OCA)<sup>2</sup>

Of the 304,239 total orders of protection issued by NYS Courts in 2012, 218,570 were required to be recorded in the UCS' Domestic Violence Registry. This represents a slight decrease from the 218,872 orders of protection that were required to be recorded in the UCS' Domestic Violence Registry in 2011. (OCA)



In 2012, 16% of the family offense filings in New York State Family Courts fell under the expanded definition of "intimate relationship," a 1% increase from 2011, of these 4% were made by individuals in current or former same-sex relationships, down 5% from 2011. This number has remained relatively stable since the 2008 passage of Expanded Access. (OCA)

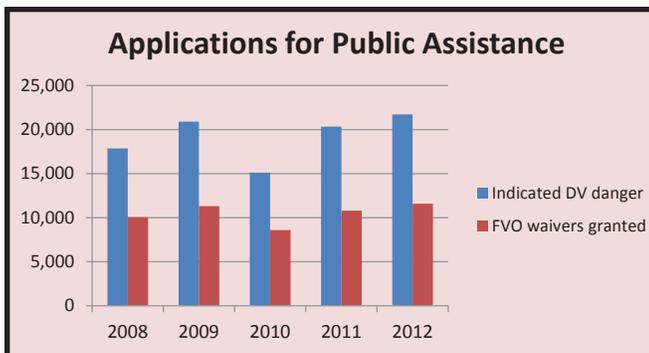
<sup>2</sup> Since 2011, one DV Court and four IDVCs have closed.

# PUBLIC HEALTH & WELFARE

## Public Assistance

In 2012, applicants for public assistance indicated danger due to domestic violence 21,721 times, a 7% increase from 2011. As the chart here indicates, this represents the highest number of victims indicating danger due to domestic violence in over five years. (OTDA)

In 2012, Family Violence Option (FVO) waivers were granted to 11,591 applicants under the Temporary Assistance Program, representing a 7% increase from 2011. As the chart here indicates, this increase brings the number to its highest point in over five years. (OTDA)



## Domestic Violence Services

In 2012, the number of crime victims' claims paid to domestic violence victims was 1,933. This showed a 4% decrease from 2011 and a 7% decrease from 2010. However, the amount of money paid for domestic violence claims has increased by 13% from \$2,836,343 in 2011 to \$3,191,279 in 2012. (OVS)

The number of claims paid to sexual assault victims decreased by 5% from 2011 to 2012<sup>1</sup>, but has increased by 79% since 2007. In 2012, the amount of money paid for sexual assault claims was \$4,166,111, down from \$5,230,008 in 2011.<sup>2</sup> (OVS)

A total of 329,164 domestic violence and sexual assault hotline calls were received in New York State in 2012.

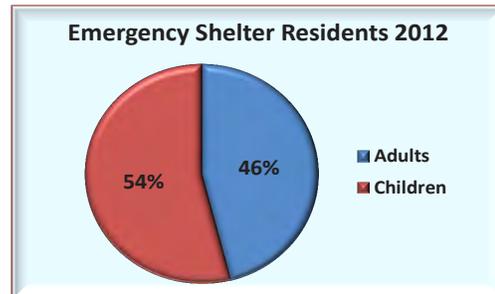
- New York State's two Domestic and Sexual Violence Hotlines received 11,234 calls in 2012, a 29% decrease from 2011. (OPDV)
- The New York City Domestic Violence Hotline received 122,751 calls in 2012, a 7% increase from 2011. (Safe Horizon)
- The OCFS-approved local domestic violence hotlines received 194,800 calls in 2012, a 2.5% increase from 2011. (OCFS)

<sup>1</sup> Due to a significant backlog of data entry in 2012, OVS estimates that it paid 1,219 more claims than reported, which suggests an 86% increase from 2011 in the number of claims paid to sexual assault victims.

<sup>2</sup> Due to a significant backlog of claim payments in 2012, OVS estimates the actual amount to be closer to \$5,105,404. This represents a decrease closer to 2.4% from 2011, rather than the 20% decrease indicated.

There were 87 approved non-residential programs that served 46,000 people in 2012. This represents a 7% increase of people served from 2011. (OCFS)

There were 163 domestic violence residential programs licensed by OCFS with a total of 3,046 beds that served 7,550 adults and 9,013 children. (OCFS)



There were 12,895 shelter denials of adults in 2012 and 13,981 shelter denials of children in 2012. The most common reason cited for denial was "Facility at capacity (no beds available)."<sup>3</sup> (OCFS)

## Teen Dating Abuse

According to a National Institute of Justice study released in 2012, of the 1,200 teens under 19 years of age who filed for a civil Order of Protection for dating violence in 2009 and 2010 in NYS<sup>4</sup>:

- The petitioner was younger than the respondent, with a mean age difference of 2.92 years; while most of the victims were teen girls, most of the abusers were men averaging 20.9 years.
- Abuse alleged by petitioners included harassment (83.7%), aggravated harassment (50.9%), and assault (52.3%).
- Reabuse rate was between 27% and 28% through 2011.

In 2012, approximately 9% of high school students report being hit, slapped, or physically hurt on purpose by a boyfriend or girlfriend in the 12 months before surveyed.<sup>5</sup>

## Health Care and Substance Abuse

In 2012, OASAS treatment providers reported that the percentage of overall clients self-reporting as victims of domestic violence has remained relatively steady, from 11.2% in 2010 to 11.6% in 2011 to 12.1% in 2012.

In 2012, OASAS treatment providers reported that 12% of discharged clients were identified as having been a victim of domestic violence and 23.2% of discharged clients were identified as having been a perpetrator of domestic violence, remaining relatively stable since 2010.<sup>6</sup>

<sup>3</sup> More than one denial reason is possible per family unit.

<sup>4</sup> [Final Report: An Exploratory Study of Juvenile Orders of Protection as a Remedy for Dating Violence.](#)

<sup>5</sup> Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. [Youth risk behavior surveillance—United States, 2011.](#) MMWR, Surveillance Summaries 2012; 61(no. SS-4).

<sup>6</sup> Domestic violence data from Addiction Crisis Centers are not reported to OASAS.