



## October 2016

The New York State Domestic Violence Dashboard contains a wealth of statistical information detailing the state’s response to domestic violence and the assistance that a broad range of executive branch agencies and the courts provide to victims, survivors and their children.

A joint project of the Office for the Prevention of Domestic Violence and the state’s Domestic Violence Advisory Council, the Dashboard is in its ninth year. The 2015 Dashboard provides data from that year as well as prior years for comparison purposes, dating back to 2007, the first year that we collected data for this important purpose.

With nearly a decade of data compiled, the trends continue to confirm what providers are seeing in the field: this crime disproportionately affects women and children, public assistance provides critical support to victims and their families, and teen-agers and young adults are not immune from this violence, among other factors.

### Key data points for 2015

- There were 63 intimate partner homicides, the fewest since 2007, which was the first year that the state Division of Criminal Justice Services analyzed this data.
- A total of 11,942 strangulation offenses were charged at arrest or arraignment, a statewide decrease of 1.5 percent. Most notably, New York City reported a decrease in the number of charges filed for the first time since 2012, when we first started documenting this information.
- Probation departments reported a significant increase in the number of Family Court cases handed statewide, from 76 in 2014 to 92 last year.
- While these numbers indicate positive system responses and utilization of resources, others are concerning:
- Firearms were used in 37 percent of intimate partner homicides, a significant increase when compared to 2014 (29%) and 2013 (33%).

Despite the 4 percent increase in police response to domestic incidents outside of New York City, calls to the state’s Domestic & Sexual Violence Hotline decreased by 5 percent and calls to local hotlines across the state were down 16 percent.

We know that data provides only one part of the story, but it is an important part. The Dashboard data reflects a commitment across agencies to screen for domestic violence. Quantifying the response to this crime also allows OPDV to provide reliable information to stakeholders so that they can use it to better inform local and state decision-making, policies and programs.

In an effort to continue providing a comprehensive, accurate snapshot of domestic violence data statewide, we have added data from the following agencies to the 2015 Dashboard: the state Department of Health (DOH), the state Animal Protection Federation (APF), and the Address Confidentiality Program at the state’s Department of State (DOS).

We also now collect additional information from several agencies that have contributed data to past Dashboards.

The state Office for the Aging provides information on the living status of older adults who reported domestic violence, given the substantiated link between animal cruelty and domestic violence, we now publish information from the state Office of Court Administration, detailing the number of pets named on orders of protection statewide last year. In addition, the APF provides the number of pets sheltered in New York State’s eight Safe Haven programs, available for pets when their owners are forced to leave their homes.

Also new this year, we have developed the Domestic Violence Dashboard Guide, which

## The following agencies contributed to the Domestic Violence Dashboard:

[NYS Office for the Prevention of Domestic Violence \(OPDV\)](#)

[NYS Department of Corrections and Community Supervision \(DOCCS\)](#)

[NYS Division of Criminal Justice Services \(DCJS\)](#)

[NYS Office of Alcoholism and Substance Abuse Services \(OASAS\)](#)

[NYS Office of Temporary and Disability Assistance \(OTDA\)](#)

[NYS Office of Children and Family Services \(OCFS\)](#)

[NYS Office of Victim Services \(OVS\)](#)

[NYS Office for the Aging \(OFA\)](#)

[NYS Office of Court Administration \(OCA\)](#)

[NYS Department of Health \(DOH\)](#)

[NYS Department of State \(DOS\)](#)

[NYS Domestic & Sexual Violence Hotline \(D&SVH\)](#)

[Safe Horizon](#)

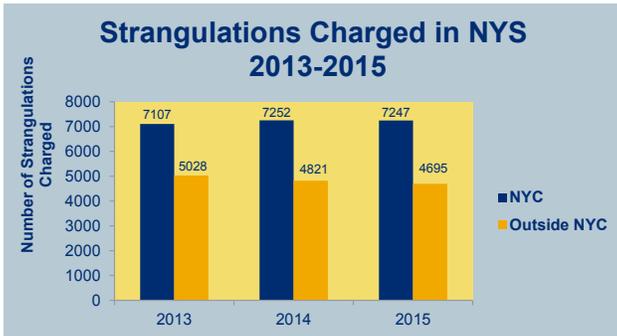
[NYS Animal Protection Federation \(APF\)](#)

## PUBLIC SAFETY

### Strangulation and Homicide

#### Strangulation

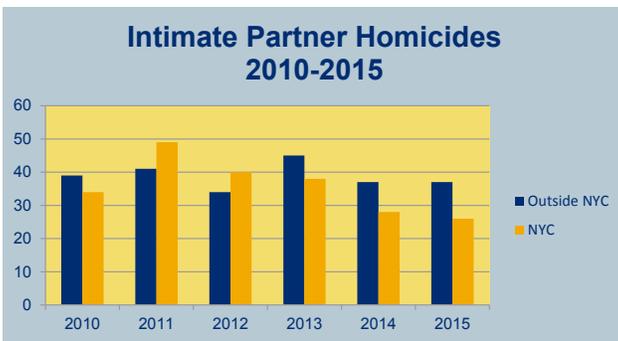
In 2015, strangulation offenses charged at arrest or arraignment in New York State decreased 1.5 percent from 2014, with New York City experiencing a decrease of less than 1 percent and the rest of the state a decline of 3.3 percent.



Source: DCJS

#### Intimate Partner Homicide

From 2014 to 2015, total homicides declined by 1 percent, from 616 to 613. The number of intimate partner homicides decreased 3 percent, from 65 to 63 during the same time period.



In 2015, 49.5 percent of female homicide victims aged 16 and older were killed by an intimate partner. Three percent of male homicide victims were killed by an intimate partner in 2015, the same as in 2014.

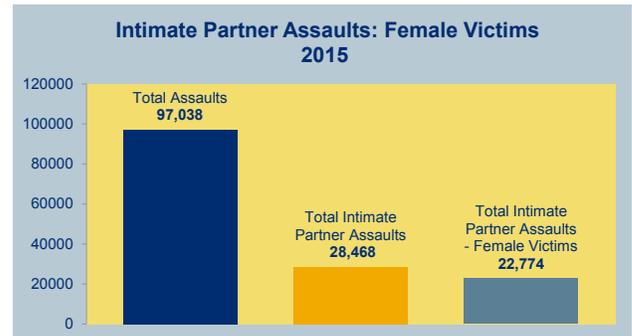
In 2015, firearms were used in 23 of the 63 intimate partner homicides (37 percent), up from 29 percent in 2014. In 2015, cutting/stabbing instruments were used in 23 of the 63 intimate partner homicides (37 percent).

Source: DCJS

### Law Enforcement and Community Supervision

#### Police

In 2015, there were 97,038 assaults reported by police agencies outside of New York City. Of these, 29 percent (28,468) were committed by intimate partners; females were the victim in 80 percent of these assaults, which also was the case in 2014.



Since 2014, total assaults declined 4 percent and intimate partner assaults decreased 2 percent. Intimate partner assaults where females were the victim declined 3 percent.

In 2015, police outside of New York City responded to 189,327 domestic incidents, a 4 percent increase from 2014.<sup>1</sup>

Source: DCJS

#### Probation

Local probation departments added 6,189 new criminal court domestic violence probation cases to their caseloads in 2015. This represents a 6 percent decrease from 6,586 new criminal court domestic violence cases added in 2014.

Local probation departments also handled an additional 92 Family Court cases statewide during 2015, a significant increase from the 76 handled in 2014, which represented a slight increase from 72 Family Court cases in 2013.

Source: DCJS

#### Parole

In 2015, 22 percent (6,087) of the 27,667 individuals on parole were identified as having a history of domestic violence. This number was consistent with 2014 data.

Source: DOCCS

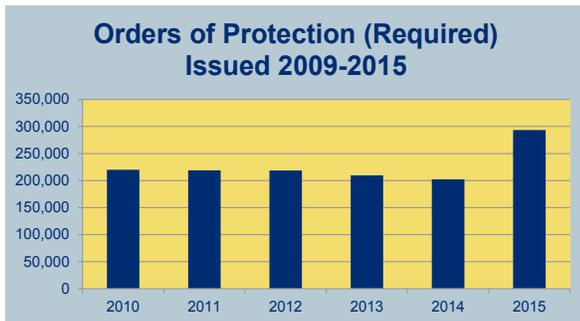
<sup>1</sup> This data is based on Domestic Incident Reports (DIRs) received in 2015 and entered into the state's DIR Repository as of 2/1/2016.

## PUBLIC SAFETY (cont'd)

### Courts

#### Orders of Protection

New York State courts issued a total of 293,525 orders of protection in 2015, compared with 293,774 orders issued in 2014, a decline of .08 percent. Of the total orders issued in 2015, 70 percent (205,364) were required to be recorded in the Unified Court System's Domestic Violence Registry.<sup>2</sup>

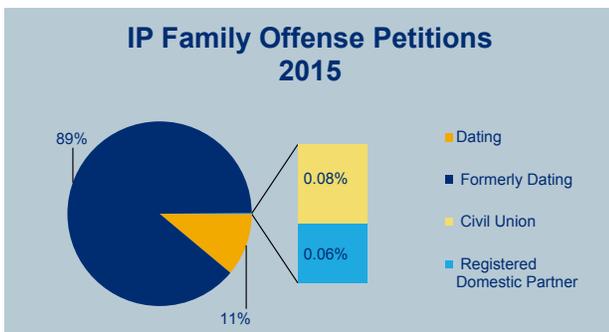


Source: OCA

#### Family Offense Filings

Just as in 2014, 18 percent of the 2015 family offense filings in Family Courts fell under the expanded definition of "intimate relationship," which took effect in 2008.

Approximately 5 percent of the 2015 family offense filings in Family Courts that fell under that expanded definition were made by individuals in current or former same-sex relationships, the same as in 2014. This number has remained relatively stable since the Expanded Access Law was enacted.



Source: OCA

<sup>2</sup> Under Executive Law § 221, the Office of Court Administration calls orders that must be filed with the registry "required." These orders involve intimate partners or family members. Other orders of protection issued against unrelated parties such as neighbors are "not required" to be filed with the registry and are not included here.

## PUBLIC HEALTH & WELFARE

### Domestic Violence Programs

A total of 34,430 adults and 6,313 children received non-residential domestic violence services in 2015, representing a slight decrease from 2014.

OCFS-licensed domestic violence residential programs served 5,678 adults and 5,907 children in 2015.

A total of 12,542 adults and 12,913 children were denied shelter in domestic violence residential programs in 2015.<sup>3</sup>

In 2015, 284 adults and 432 children entered transitional housing for survivors of domestic violence.

Source: OCFS

### Crime Victim Compensation

The number of claims paid to domestic violence victims was 1,606 in 2015, an 8 percent decrease from 2014. Total compensation for domestic violence claims decreased by 30 percent, from \$2.7 million in 2014 to \$1.9 million in 2015.

The number of claims paid to sexual assault victims decreased by 5 percent from 688 in 2014 to 653 in 2015, and total compensation for sexual assault claims in 2015 was \$819,906, a 3 percent decrease from \$849,599 in 2014.

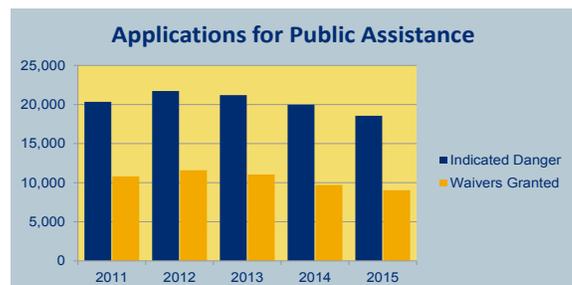
Source: OVS

### Public Assistance

Applicants for public assistance indicated danger due to domestic violence 18,556 times in 2015, a 7 percent decrease from 2014.

In 2015, Family Violence Option (FVO) waivers were granted to 9,037 applicants under the Temporary Assistance Program, representing a 7 percent decrease from 2014.

Source: OTDA



<sup>3</sup> Some data may reflect denials at more than one program as well individuals who obtain shelter at another program.

## PUBLIC HEALTH & WELFARE

### Domestic and Sexual Violence Hotlines

Domestic violence and sexual assault hotline calls received 251,753 calls in 2015, a 10 percent decrease from the total 280,995 calls received in 2014.

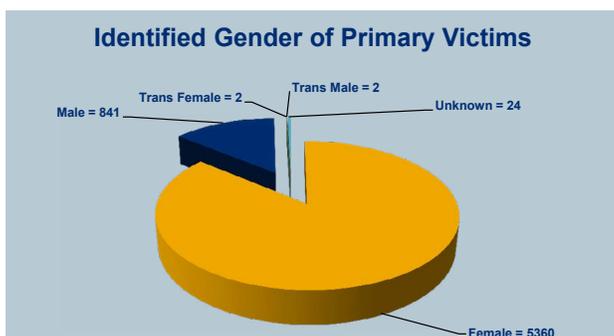
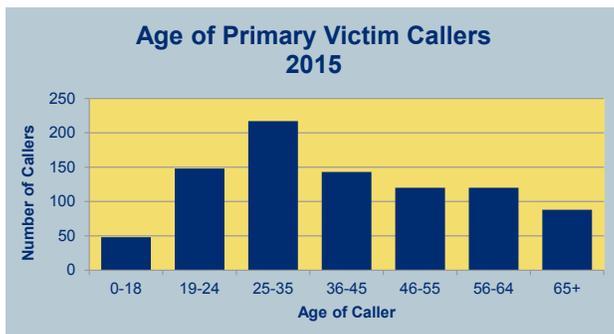
- The New York City Domestic Violence Hotline received 87,904 calls in 2015, a slight increase from 87,374 calls in 2014. (Safe Horizon)
- OCFS-approved local domestic violence hotlines received 156,603 calls in 2015, a 16 percent decrease from 2014. (OCFS)
- In 2015, the state's Domestic & Sexual Violence Hotline received 7,246 calls, a 5 percent decrease from 2014. (D&SVH)

Outside of New York City, the State Hotline received the highest call volume from Westchester (16 percent), Erie (10 percent), Albany (6 percent) and Monroe (6 percent) counties.

Demographics in 2015:

- Individuals aged 25-35 made the most calls to the hotline, followed by those in the 19-24 age group.
- Of the 6,229 primary victims who called the hotline, 86 percent identified female, 13.5 percent identified male, and the remaining identified as trans female, trans male, or were noted as "unknown."

Source: D&SVH



### Healthcare

The State Department of Health collected the following three data points from Oct. 1, 2014, through Sept. 30, 2015.<sup>4</sup>

A total of 4,778 hospital inpatient discharges and Emergency Department visits identified as domestic violence-related events.

Women were involved in 87 percent of all domestic violence-related events and were admitted to the inpatient setting slightly more often than men: 7.4 percent of all female domestic violence events vs. 5.5 percent of all male domestic violence events.

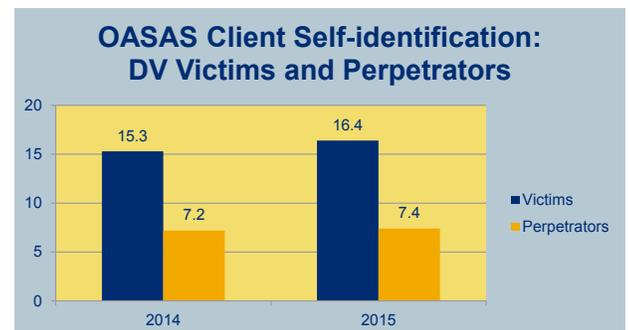
The average length of stay for domestic violence-related inpatient discharges was 7.6 days, with 45 percent staying for four days or longer, a possible indication of seriousness of injury.

Source: DOH

### Substance Abuse

OASAS treatment providers reported the following victim information<sup>5</sup> in 2015:

- The percentage of OASAS<sup>6</sup> clients who self-identified as victims of domestic violence increased from 15.3 percent in 2014 to 16.4 percent in 2015.
- The percentage of OASAS clients who self-identified as domestic violence perpetrators increased slightly from 7.2 percent in 2014 to 7.4 percent in 2015.



Source: OASAS

<sup>4</sup> Data pertains to adults aged 18 to 64. Note: a medical coding transition between 2014 and 2015 could have impacted data collected in 2015.

<sup>5</sup> Total includes only Yes/No answers and excludes Don't Know or Refused to Answer.

<sup>6</sup> Data represent only patient discharges from OASAS-certified treatment system and do not include those who do not enter treatment, or seek treatment elsewhere.

## PUBLIC HEALTH & WELFARE

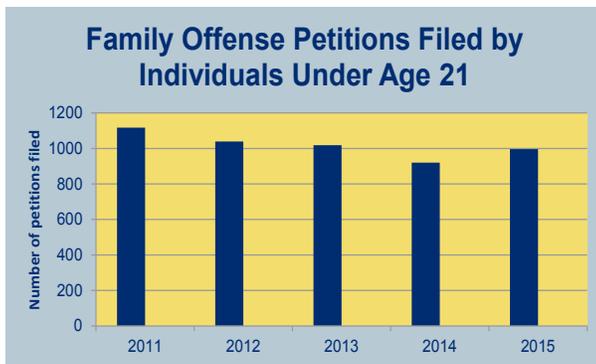
### Special Populations

#### Teen Dating Abuse

In 2015, there were two Intimate Partner (IP) homicides involving victims (one female and one male) between 16 and 19 years old. This represented a slight decrease from 2014, during which there were three IP homicides all including female victims between 15 and 19. (DCJS)

A total of 996 family offense petitions were filed by individuals 21 and younger. This total, which represents an 8 percent increase from 2014, is broken down by age, as follows:

- Individuals 17 through 21 yrs of age: 957 (10% increase from 2014)
- Individuals 16 and under: 48 (9 percent decrease from 2014) (OCA)



A 2015 survey by the U.S. Centers for Disease Control (CDC) of 15,624 students in grades nine through 12 in 125 public and private schools nationwide shared:

6.7 percent of students had been physically forced to have sexual intercourse.

9.6 percent had been physically hurt on purpose (hit, slammed into something, or injured with an object or weapon) by someone they were dating or going out with one or more times during the 12 months before the survey.

Among the 69 percent of students nationwide who dated or went out with someone during the 12 months before the survey, 11 percent had been forced engage in sexual contact ranging from kissing to intercourse,

#### Older Adults

Of the older adults who self-reported as victims of intimate partner violence in 2015, 58 percent were referred to Adult Protective Services, 8 percent were referred to a police agency, and 8 percent were referred to “other” services not specified. The remaining 25 percent were not referred for additional services.

The average age of older adults who self-reported as victims of intimate partner violence was 77, and gender was equally split between women and men.

Of the older adults who self-reported as victims of domestic violence:

- 33 percent were married
- 33 percent were widowed
- 8 percent had a domestic partner or significant other
- 8 percent were divorced
- 8 percent were single or never married
- 8 percent were separated

Of the older adults who self-reported as victims of domestic violence: 58 percent lived alone, 25 percent lived with a spouse only, and 17 percent lived with non-relatives.

Of the older adults who self-reported as victims of domestic violence: 67 percent rented their homes and 33 percent owned their homes.

Source: OFA

In 2015, there were 2,543 family offense petitions filed for petitioners more than 65 years of age at the time of filing.

Source: OCA

#### Address Confidentiality Program

In 2015, 1,016 individuals participated in the state’s [Address Confidentiality Program](#), reflecting the redirection of 15,450 pieces of mail.

Source: DOS

#### Protections for Pets

In 2015, 478 temporary orders of protection and 113 final orders of protection that included companion animals were issued for family offense cases in Family Court. (OCA)

Eight domestic violence shelters across the state had Safe Haven programs that cared for 71 animals at a cost of almost \$50,000 with length of stay between two weeks and three months. Private funds and donations paid for the sheltering of those pets.

Source: APF



## The New York State Domestic Violence Advisory Council

- Continued from page 1 -

contains background information about the publication and explanations of the data points. We will continue to update this guide as necessary to complement the annual publication of the Dashboard.

I welcome your feedback about the Dashboard and the ways in which it can be improved. Thank you for your work and efforts to raise awareness, enhance prevention and most importantly, support those whose lives have been affected by domestic violence.

Gwen Wright, Executive Director

### **This Domestic Violence Dashboard Project is a product of the New York State Domestic Violence Advisory Council**

#### **Background of the Advisory Council**

The mission and activities of the New York State Office for the Prevention of Domestic Violence are articulated in Executive Law §575; section 4 of this provision establishes the Advisory Council:

“An advisory council is hereby established to make recommendations on domestic violence related issues and effective strategies for the prevention of domestic violence, to assist in the development of appropriate policies and priorities for effective intervention, public education and advocacy, and to facilitate and assure communication and coordination of efforts among state agencies and between different levels of government, state, federal, and municipal, for the prevention of domestic violence.”

#### **Representation and Membership**

The Council includes representation from 14 State agencies, as well as 3 members appointed by the Governor, and 6 members appointed by the Governor upon recommendation of the legislature: the appointed members represent a broad cross-section of service-providers from advocates, to civil attorneys and prosecutors, to judges and legislators. It is directed to meet at least twice annually. Given the breadth of its statutory mandate, the challenge for the Council has always been how to focus its activities in order to ensure that the meetings result in significant policy advice and progress in the area of domestic violence.

#### **Goals of the Advisory Council:**

- 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.