



The New York State Domestic Violence Dashboard Guide

New York State responds to domestic violence with over 550 police departments, approximately 100 domestic violence hotlines, more than 200 hospital emergency rooms, and over 300 specialized courts. This large and decentralized system can make measurement challenging. In 2008, New York State began compiling information from a range of systems regarding the statewide prevalence of and response to domestic violence. This was the basis of our 2007 Dashboard. It served as the first attempt to synthesize and analyze data from various systems, to establish baselines that could then be used to trace trends in subsequent years.

Below is an overview of the data points reported in the 2007 Dashboard that were highlighted in that issue. Each subsequent year, as new data points were added, an explanation of the new points was included in the Introduction and the reader was also directed back to the 2007 Dashboard. This Guide serves to compile all those explanations in one central location. It will be updated annually.

Data is presented in either the Public Safety section or the Public Health and Welfare section of each Dashboard, depending on where it fits best.

2007 Dashboard

The Dashboard was published for the first time, with information presented in two sections: Public Safety, and Public Health and Welfare, because the response to domestic violence can be either – or both – criminal and civil. The Dashboard continues to organize data under those two sections.

Public Safety Data

- **Intimate Partner Homicides:** The Dashboard included statistics from the first-ever Domestic Homicide in New York State report, published in 2008 by the state Division of Criminal Justice Services. The report analyzed all domestic homicides that occurred in 2007, broken down into three categories: intimate partner homicides, homicides of children, and homicides of other family members. Only intimate partner homicide statistics were included in the Dashboard, however, because those crimes involved a spouse, ex-spouse, heterosexual or same sex partner (including ex-partner), whether or not the victim and offender lived together at the time of the incident or previously.
- **Police and Probation Training:** The Dashboard also included information detailing the minimum amount of training on domestic violence required of all police and probation officers, and noted that many departments far exceeded the minimum.
- **Orders of Protection:** Information about orders of protection is complex, because these orders can be issued by criminal or civil courts under a variety of circumstances.
 - Under Executive Law § 221, certain orders of protection (OPs) are required to be listed in the statewide order of protection registry, which is overseen by the Office of Court Administration (OCA). OCA calls orders that must be filed with the registry “required.”
 - These orders involve support, paternity, custody and visitation, guardianship, and OP cases in Family Court, and domestic violence cases from criminal court. While most of these orders protect an individual against their intimate partner, some may protect a child against a parent.
 - Orders of protection issued against unrelated parties, such as neighbors, are not required to be filed with the registry.
 - The Dashboard only includes data about required orders of protection. It also breaks that total number down by temporary orders and final orders. Because individuals may receive multiple temporary orders before the issuance of a final order, Dashboard statistics only “count” the temporary order arising out of each incident.

Public Health and Welfare Data

This section cites several national sources of information to provide some context to the New York



State data. New York City data is included if statewide data was not available. The Dashboard includes:

- The total number of calls made to domestic violence hotline across the state. This represented the first time these statistics were aggregated.
- The number of temporary assistance waivers, available because of New York State's adoption of the federal Family Violence Option.
 - All individuals in New York State seeking temporary cash assistance are asked if they are currently in danger due to domestic violence. Those who indicate "yes" can meet with a specially-trained domestic violence liaison, and may be able to opt out of some of the typical public assistance requirements if those requirements would be dangerous for them: that opt-out is known as a "waiver."

Most direct services to domestic violence victims, such as advocacy, counseling, legal representation, housing assistance, and case management, are provided by a strong network of non-profit providers across the state.

- The Dashboard includes statistics from non-profit organizations that are certified by the state Office of Children and Family Services (OCFS), either as residential providers that offer emergency shelter and/or non-residential services. OCFS regulations stipulate minimum requirements, which, if met, entitle the certified programs to access state reimbursement for services they provide.
- There also are non-profit and faith-based services that OCFS does not regulate; statistics from those providers are not included here.

New Data Points and Contributing Agencies by Year

OPDV has responded to changing laws, policies and practices by adding information to the Dashboard so it better reflects the scope of domestic violence statewide, and the response by different systems to victims and offenders. For example, the Dashboard now includes data illustrating the link between animal cruelty and domestic violence.

The following list details new data points and the year they were first included; a year is not listed if the Dashboard did not change.

2008 Dashboard – one data point:

- Orders of protection issued as a result of the Expanded Access to Family Court law. Enacted in July 2008, this law enables two individuals in an intimate relationship – such as a dating relationship without children – to petition Family Court for an order of protection. Prior to this change, those individuals could only obtain an order of protection from a criminal court.

2010 Dashboard – two data points:

- Percentage of individuals receiving assistance from the state Office of Alcoholism and Substance Abuse Services agencies who screen positive for domestic violence, as either an offender or victim.
- The number of domestic violence-related cases handled by local probation departments.

2011 Dashboard – three data points:

- The percentage of individuals released to parole after serving time in a state correctional facility, who had a history of domestic violence, provided by the state Department of Corrections and Community Supervision.
- The number of domestic incidents handled by police agencies outside of New York City.
- The number of strangulation charges brought at arrest or arraignment. New York State's strangulation statute took effect in November 2010; the crime frequently occurs in domestic

violence situations. These statistics illustrate the importance of the law and how broadly it is applied statewide.

2013 Dashboard – one data point:

- Domestic violence in later life. The state Office for the Aging provides information detailing whether and how older adults are being screened for domestic violence and what services and resources they sought in response.

2015 Dashboard – 10 data points:

This year marked a significant expansion to Dashboard data, from new sources as well as new information from existing contributors:

- Department of Health: hospital patient discharges and emergency department visits identified as domestic violence events; gender of individuals admitted as inpatients for domestic violence-related events; and the average length of stay for domestic violence-related inpatient discharges.
- Department of State: the number of people who use its Address Confidentiality Program, and how many pieces of mail were redirected as a result of that program.
- Office for the Aging: the living status of older adults who reported domestic violence; how many individuals live with the older adult; and the type of circumstance (independent home or facility, for example).
- Office of Court Administration: the number of pets named on orders of protection issued annually.
- New York State Animal Protection Federation: the number of pets sheltered in Safe Haven programs statewide. These programs care for pets when their owners move to domestic violence shelters.