New York State 2023 Gender-Based Violence Dashboard

Introduction

About the Office for the Prevention of Domestic Violence

The Office for the Prevention of Domestic Violence, created in 1992, is the country's only cabinet-level executive state agency dedicated to the issue of domestic and gender-based violence. It replaced the former Governor's Commission on Domestic Violence established in 1983.

Our Mission
To improve New York State's response to and prevention of domestic violence with the goal of enhancing the safety of all New Yorkers in their intimate and family relationships.

Our Vision
To create a State in which communities and systems are committed to supporting and promoting equality, dignity and respect so that individuals can feel safer in their intimate and family relationships.

Our Role
To advise the governor and legislature on policies and best practices; train professionals across the state; facilitate coordination between state agencies and stakeholders on issues related to domestic violence; and serve as a resource on the issues of domestic and gender-based violence.

OPDV uses three pillars to guide our work:

- Survivor-Centered - an approach that works with survivors to meet their needs as they prioritize and define them.
- Trauma-Informed - an approach that realizes that trauma is common, recognizes the signs, activators, and symptoms of trauma, and uses this knowledge to inform practices, policies, and procedures.
- Culturally Responsive - an approach that actively incorporates a holistic approach to a person's complex identities and cultural values, going beyond simply acknowledging their cultural identity exists. Culturally responsive services respond to differences in identities to actively meet the needs of all survivors and communities.

About the Gender-Based Violence Dashboard

The Gender-Based Violence Dashboard provides information related to incidents of domestic violence (DV) and other forms of gender-based violence, as well as the availability of services for victims, survivors, and children, across New York. The 2023 Gender-Based Violence Dashboard marks the 17th year that statewide data about domestic violence and other forms of gender-based violence have been compiled and published.

OPDV requests and receives data from the NYS Department of Corrections and Community Supervision (DOCCS), NYS Division of Criminal Justice Services (DCJS), NYS Office of Addiction Services and Supports (OASAS), NYS Office of Children and Family Services (OCFS), NYS Office of Temporary and Disability Assistance (OTDA), NYS Office of Victim Services (OVS), NYS Office of Court Administration (OCA), NYS Department of State (DOS), NYS Department of Labor (DOL), NYS Department of Health (DOH), and the National Domestic Violence Hotline (NDVH). The Dashboard can be used to help inform policy and practice for GBV prevention and response.

The following summary represents data reflecting January 1, 2023 through December 31, 2023 for the 2023 Dashboard, which was reported to OPDV by contributing agencies in Summer 2024. This is not a comprehensive review of the data that is currently available through the 2023 interactive Dashboard. OPDV selected key elements from the data for this summary. Please note this data reflects the information available at one point in time and is subject to change as cases are processed through the legal and other state systems. For the full 2023 Dashboard, as well as information from previous years, please visit OPDV's initiatives page.

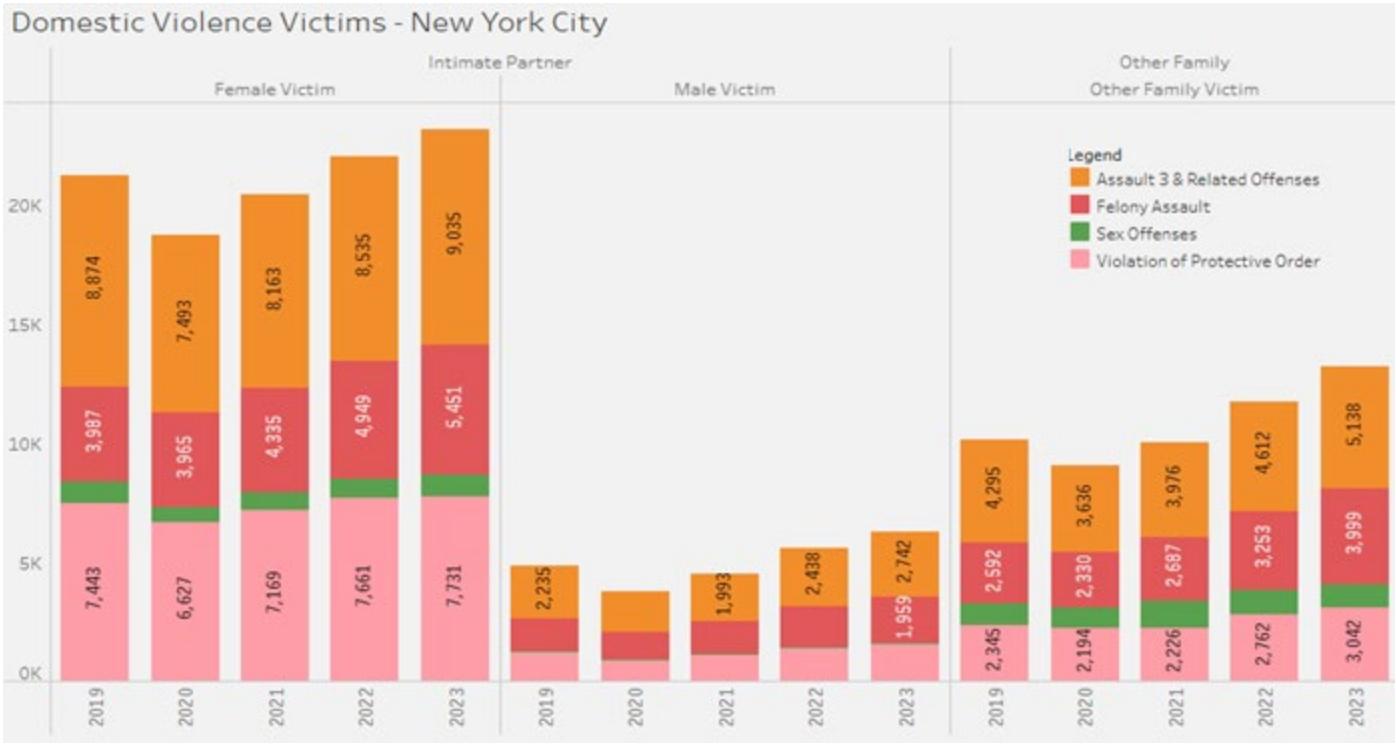
2023 Gender-Based Violence Dashboard: Key Takeaways

Domestic Violence Victims

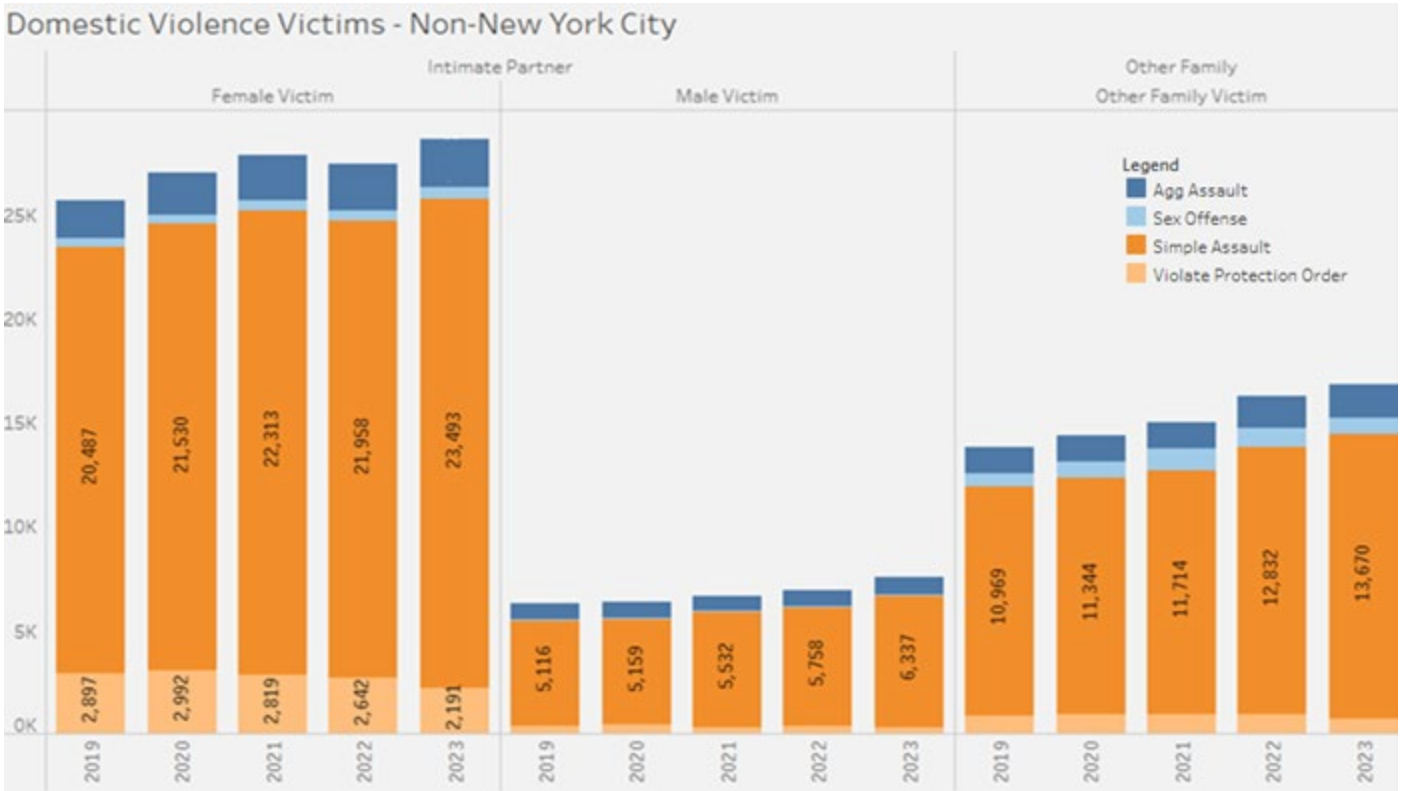
This section includes data related to DV and GBV that is reported to criminal justice agencies, tabulated and tracked by the NYS DCJS and the Office for Court Administration (OCA), and shared with OPDV by these agencies. It does not present the full breadth of who may experience DV and GBV, since many victims do not report to law enforcement.

The domestic violence-related data from these agencies includes intimate partner violence and other types of family violence. It should be noted that the DCJS provides OPDV data for NYC and the remainder of New York, but the NYC data is provided to DCJS from the NYPD. Also, NYC and the remainder of New York collect their crime data differently: NYC, collects data for "felonious assault" and "assault third degree and related offenses." The rest of New York State collects data for "aggravated assault" and "simple assault." Graph 1 and 2 display these regions respectively.

Graph 1. 2023 Domestic Violence Victims - New York City (Data Source: NYS DCJS)



Graph 2. 2023 Domestic Violence Victims - Non-New York City (Data Source: NYS DCJS)



Both graphs show an increase in the total reported number of DV victims since 2020. Please note that the NYC data appears in a temporary format as the NYPD's Uniform Crime Reports are still being developed. These totals are derived from the top charge of the reported complaint and the relationship/intimate partner information collected by the NYPD crime reporting system. Both NYC and the rest of New York State collect data related to sex offenses and violation of protective orders.

The full Digital Dashboard presents additional public safety indicators. Some notable data points include:

- From 2022 to 2023, arrests and arraignments for Penal Law (PL) § 121 strangulation charges in New York State, where PL § 121 appeared as a top or underlying charge at arrest or arraignment, increased by 3 percent. The total number of PL § 121 strangulation charges has increased over the past 3 years, from 12,260 in 2021 to 13,823 in 2022, and 14,211 in 2023. (Data source: DCJS) These data reflect *all* strangulation charges, *not just* incidents related to DV and GBV. However, strangulation is a lethality indicator for intimate partner violence, and studies have found that women who are victims of non-fatal strangulation are at higher risk of being killed by their intimate partner in the future (Glass et al., 2008; Mcquown et al., 2016; Spencer and Smith, 2018).
- According to the NYS OCA, the Orders of Protection in the Unified Court System's Domestic Violence Registry increased from 2021 to 2023. In 2023, there were 234,465 orders, which is a 10% increase from 2022 (n=212,406), 20% increase from 2021 (n=195,421), and 42% increase from 2020 (n=165,613). However, the number of orders for protection in 2023 is still lower than the 237,388 orders reported in 2019 before the COVID-19 pandemic. (Data Source: NYS Unified Court System as of 8/20/24)
- New York State's Red Flag Law, also known as the Extreme Risk Protection Order (ERPO) Law, was implemented in August 2019 with the purpose of preventing individuals who show signs of being a threat to themselves or others from purchasing or possessing any kind of firearm. In June 2022, in response to national gun violence including a racially motivated mass shooting in Buffalo, New York, Governor Hochul directed the New York State Police to seek an ERPO when there is probable cause that an individual is likely to engage in conduct that would result in serious harm to themselves or others. In July 2022, the law was enhanced to expand who can file an ERPO petition and to require all law enforcement officers and district attorneys to file ERPO petitions. Since implementation, the total number of extreme risk protection orders has increased from 240 ERPOs in 2019 to 9,266 in 2023. The largest increase occurred after the law was expanded, with a total of 1,207 orders issued from 2019-2021 and 13,415 orders issued from 2022-2023. (Data Source: NYS Unified Court System as of 8/20/24)
- For areas of New York State outside of NYC, there were 22 intimate partner violence homicide victims reported in 2023, which is 33% lower than the 33 victims reported in 2022 and 42% lower than the 38 victims reported in 2021.

(Data source: DCJS, Uniform Crime Report File as of 5/28/24; data from the NYPD for NYC were not available at time of report.)

- Although reported numbers of intimate partner violence homicides have declined since 2021, disparities in intimate partner violence continue. In 2023, among the 22 reported intimate partner homicide victims for New York State (excluding NYC), 18 (82%) were female. Though the total number of Black and Hispanic intimate partner homicide victims decreased over the past 3 years, Black and Hispanic victims continue to be disproportionately impacted. Black and Hispanic intimate partner homicide victims represented 45% (17 of 38) of victims reported in 2021, 48% (16 of 33) of victims reported in 2022, and 55% (12 of 22) of victims reported in 2023. (Data source: DCJS, Uniform Crime Report File as of 5/28/24; data from the NYPD for NYC were not available at time of report.)

Domestic Violence Services

Graph 3 represents information from OCFS about DV program admissions to non-residential and residential programs, shelter denials, and average length of stay in residential facilities for 2019-2023. In 2023, there were 44,512 total non-residential admissions and 10,122 total residential admissions. For non-residential admissions, 15% were children (n=6,552), while for residential admissions, 51% were children (n=5,189). For residential facilities, the average length of stay in 2023 continued to be longer for New York City (117 days) as compared to the rest of the state (41 days).

Graph 3. 2023 Domestic Violence Services (Data Source: NYS OCFS)

Considering data from 2019-2023, while the total number of residential admissions decreased 21% (12,797 to 10,122), the number of admissions to non-residential programs increased 11% (40,135 to 44,512). The proportion of children admitted to non-residential programs also increased from 10.6% of admissions in 2019 (4,272 of 40,135) to 14.7% in 2023 (6,552 of 44,512). The number of shelter denials increased each year (excluding 2020 which was heavily impacted by COVID-19), indicating that the number of people trying to access shelters, but unable to be admitted, increased during that time.

Victims of various types of GBV and members of their households are among groups eligible for New York's Address Confidentiality Program. Survivors who relocate as result of domestic violence can enroll in this program to shield their actual address as one facet of an overall safety plan. Based on data from the NYS DOS, in 2023 the total participants in the program increased by 17% compared to the previous year (3,605 compared to 4,213). Since 2019, the total number of participants has increased 41% (from 2,988 to 4,213).

Conclusion

This summary and data from the full 2023 Gender-Based Violence Dashboard illustrate the continued impact of DV and other forms of GBV across New York State. As described above, the total number of DV victims reported in 2023 increased from the previous year, as did the total reported number of people seeking DV program services. Similarly, the total orders of protection and extreme orders of protection issued were higher in 2023 as compared to 2022. The number of intimate partner homicide victims reported in 2023 for New York State (excluding NYC) was lower than previous years. At the same time, a large majority of intimate partner homicide victims were women, and Black and Hispanic victims continue to be disproportionately impacted by lethal violence.

The 2023 Gender-Based Violence Dashboard is a tool to understand current trends related to DV and GBV and to inform future action in New York State. Disparities in experiences of DV and other forms of GBV underscore the importance of survivor-centered, trauma-informed, and culturally responsive systems and services. OPDV is committed to working with our sister state agencies and system partners to prevent and respond to GBV across the state.