



## October 2018

The [New York State Domestic Violence Dashboard](#) contains statistical information detailing the state’s response to domestic violence and the assistance that a variety of executive branch agencies and the courts provide to victims, survivors and their children.

The Dashboard reflects a commitment across agencies to screen for domestic violence. Quantifying the response to this crime also allows the Office for the Prevention of Domestic Violence (OPDV) to provide reliable information to stakeholders so that they can use it to better inform local and state decision-making, policies and programs.

We also publish a [Domestic Violence Dashboard Guide](#), which contains additional information about the publication and explanations of the data points it includes. We will update this guide as necessary to ensure it remains useful and relevant.

This is the 11th year that the Dashboard has been published by OPDV and the state’s [Domestic Violence Advisory Council](#). This Dashboard contains data from 2017, and highlights various trends and emerging issues OPDV has been tracking annually since 2007, the first year we collected data for the publication.

The 11-year trends continue to confirm what providers are seeing in the field: domestic violence disproportionately affects women and children; public assistance provides critical support to victims and their families; and teenagers and young adults are affected by intimate partner violence in ways that require specialized training and skills in addition to age-appropriate services and resources. Key data points:

- Statewide, intimate partner homicides were at their lowest since 2007, when the state Division of Criminal Justice Services began compiling data to include in an annual Domestic Homicide Report.
- The state Department of Health reported that pregnant women were involved in 21 percent of all domestic violence inpatient discharges and Emergency Department visits.
- More individuals took advantage of the state’s Address Confidentiality Program: 1,983 vs. 1,450 in 2016. The program resulted in 23,555 pieces of mail being redirected last year, as compared to 19,878 pieces of mail in 2016.
- Individuals who were 56 through 64 years old made the most calls to the state’s Domestic & Sexual Violence Hotline.
- The number of temporary orders of protection issued in Family Court that included protection for companion animals increased by 41 percent and the number of final orders of protection issued in Family Court that included protection for companion animals increased by 45 percent.

I welcome your feedback about the Dashboard and the ways in which it can be improved. Our goal is to provide you with meaningful data that you can use to inform domestic violence policy and programming in your communities.

Gwen Wright, Executive Director

### 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 Victim Services \(OVS\)](#)

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

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

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

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

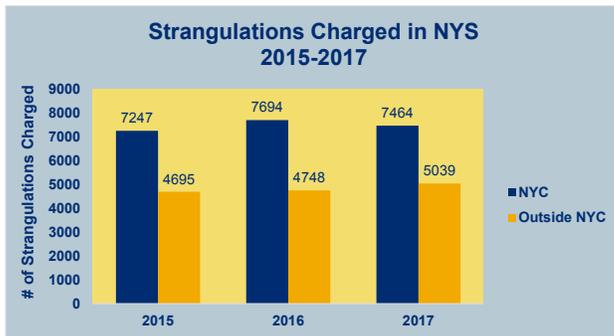
[Safe Horizon](#)

## PUBLIC SAFETY

### Strangulation and Homicide

#### Strangulation

The total number of strangulation offenses charged at arrest and arraignment in New York State remained relatively the same compared to 2016 but there were regional differences: charges decreased in NYC by 3.1 percent and increased 5.1 percent in the rest of the state.



Source: DCJS

#### Intimate Partner Homicide

Total homicides decreased 13 percent (630 to 547) from 2016 to 2017 while the number of intimate partner homicides decreased by 24.3 percent, from 78 to 59.



In 2017, 41.2 percent of female homicide victims who were 16 or older were killed by an intimate partner, as compared to 4 percent of male homicide victims of the same age.

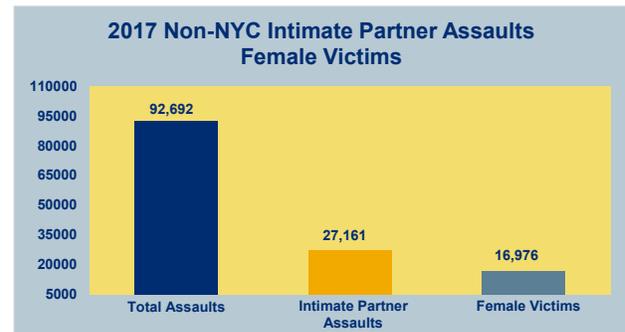
A knife, cutting instrument or object was used most frequently in intimate partner homicides: 24 of 58 (41%). Firearms were used in 15 of the 58 intimate partner homicides (26%).

Source: DCJS

### Law Enforcement and Community Supervision

#### Police

There were 92,692 total assaults reported by police agencies outside of New York City. Of these, 27,161 (29%) were committed by intimate partners and females were the victim in 80 percent of those assaults.



When compared to 2016, total assaults were down 3 percent and intimate partner assaults were down 4 percent in 2017. Intimate partner assaults where females were the victim also declined 3 percent.

Police in the 57 counties in the state outside of New York City responded to 183,843 domestic incidents, a 2 percent decrease from the year before.<sup>1</sup>

Source: DCJS

#### Probation

Local probation departments' domestic violence caseloads remained relatively stable in 2017: Departments added 5,939 new criminal court cases, compared to 5,904 cases in 2016.

Source: DCJS

#### Parole

In 2017, 25 percent (6,806) of the 27,231 individuals on parole in the community were identified as having a history of domestic violence. This was a slight increase from 2016, when 24 percent (6,577) of the 27,403 individuals on parole in the community were identified as having a domestic violence history.

Source: DOCCS

<sup>1</sup> The data are based on DIRs received in 2017 and entered into the repository as of 6/30/2018

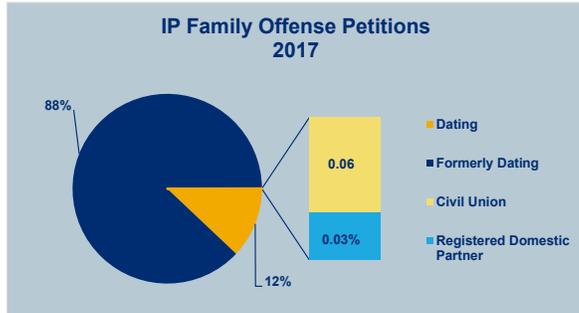
## PUBLIC SAFETY

### Courts

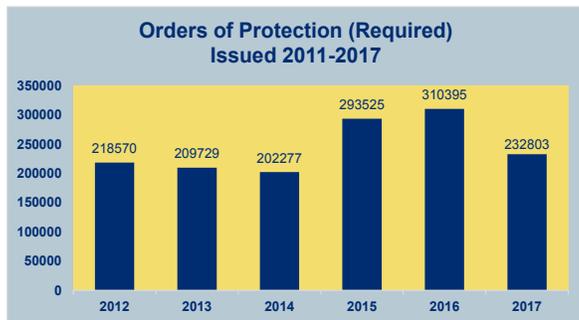
#### Family Offense Filings

In 2017, 18 percent of the family offense petitions in the state were filed under the expanded definition of intimate relationship. This represents a 1 percent increase over the prior year.

Approximately 7 percent of those filings involved individuals in current or former same-sex relationships. While this is a 2 percent increase from 2016, the proportion of filings involving same sex relationships has remained relatively stable since the 2008 enactment of the Expanded Access law.



In 2017, 39 integrated domestic violence courts operated across the state, hearing 8,510 new cases and assisting 1,776 new families.



Source: OCA

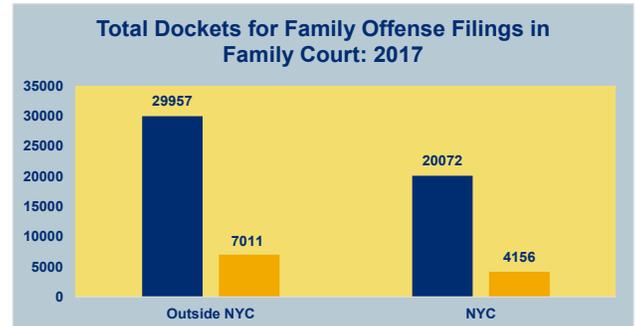
### Orders of Protection

Courts issued 232,803 orders of protection that were required to be entered in the state's Order of Protection Registry,<sup>2</sup> a 25 percent decrease from 2016.

#### Family Court Orders of Protection

There were 61,196 Family Court orders of protection issued statewide. Of those, 82 percent (50,029) were brought against non-intimate partners/other family members and 18 percent (11,167) were brought by intimate partners. This breaks down as follows:

- In New York City, 83 percent (20,072) were brought against non-intimate partners/other family members and 17 percent (4,156) were brought against intimate partners
- In rest of state, 81 percent (29,957) were brought against non-intimate partners/other family members and 19 percent (7,011) were brought against intimate partners



### Protections for Pets

The number of temporary orders of protection issued in Family Court that included protection for companion animals totaled 754, a 41 percent increase from 2016. There also was a 45 percent increase in the number of final orders of protection (171).

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 and WELFARE

### Crime Victim Compensation

Total compensation for claims filed by victims of domestic violence decreased by 24 percent, from \$2.1 million in 2016 to \$1.6 million in 2017. During this time, the number of claims also decreased 75 percent.

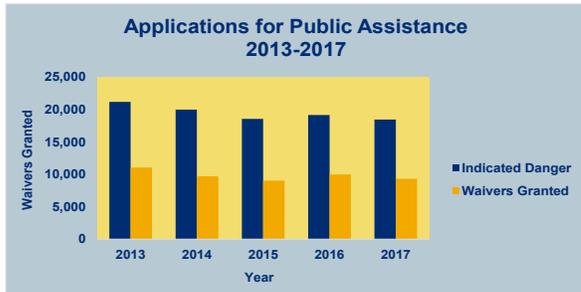
Fewer claims also were paid to victims of sexual assault: 516 in 2017 vs. 584 in 2016, but total compensation for sexual assault claims increased by 44 percent (\$1.11 million vs. \$776,753)

Source: OVS

### Public Assistance

Individuals seeking public assistance indicated danger due to domestic violence in 18,466 applications, a 4 percent decrease from 2016.

Family Violence Option waivers were granted to 9,323 applicants under the Temporary Assistance Program, a 7 percent decrease from 2016.



Source: OTDA

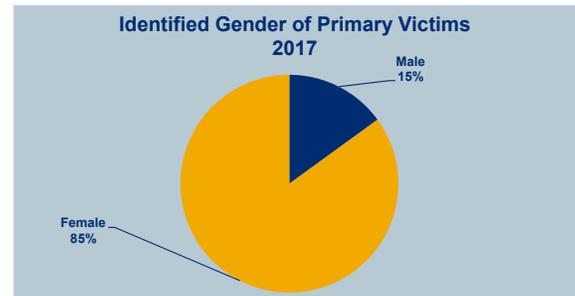
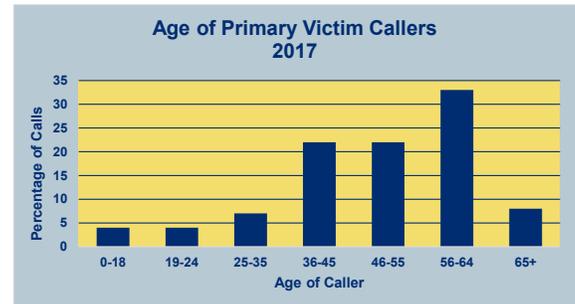
### NYS Domestic & Sexual Violence Hotline

The state's Hotline received 8,730 calls, a 2 percent increase from 2016.

The Hotline received the majority of those calls (56%) from New York City and Long Island (New York, Kings, Bronx, Queens, Suffolk, Nassau and Richmond counties). The highest call volume outside of those 7 counties came from the following counties: Albany (17%), Erie (14%), Westchester (10%), Orange (9%), Monroe (4%), Dutchess (4%) and Schenectady (4%).

Individuals who were 56 through 64 years old made the most calls to the state hotline.

Nearly 80 percent of the total calls to the Hotline were made by victims seeking assistance. Of those, 85 percent identified as female, and 15 percent identified as male.



Source: OPDV

The New York City Domestic Violence Hotline received 80,225 calls, a 4 percent decrease from 83,687 calls in 2016. (Source: Safe Horizon)

### Healthcare

The state Department of Health collected the following data from Oct. 1, 2016, through Sept. 30, 2017.<sup>3</sup>

#### Domestic Violence

Statewide, 2,851 hospital inpatient discharges and Emergency Department visits were identified as domestic violence-related events, a 16 percent increase when compared to the same time period for 2015-2016.

Women were involved in 87 percent of those events and were admitted as inpatients more often than men: 12 percent vs. 6 percent.

The average length of stay for domestic violence-related inpatients was five days: 41 percent of individuals stayed for four days or longer, a possible indication of seriousness of injury.

<sup>3</sup> The timeframe for this report includes the last quarter of 2016 and first three quarters of 2017. Coding definitions were updated in 2017 from the 2016 Domestic Violence Dashboard and sexual assault events are now counted separately. The same event, however, may be included in both domestic violence and sexual assault counts, making comparisons to the 2016 Dashboard domestic violence statistics not precise.

## PUBLIC HEALTH and WELFARE

Pregnant women were involved in 21 percent of all domestic violence events involving women; domestic violence-related hospital inpatient discharges accounted for 21 percent of all domestic violence events among pregnant women, and for 9 percent of all domestic violence events among not pregnant women.<sup>4</sup>

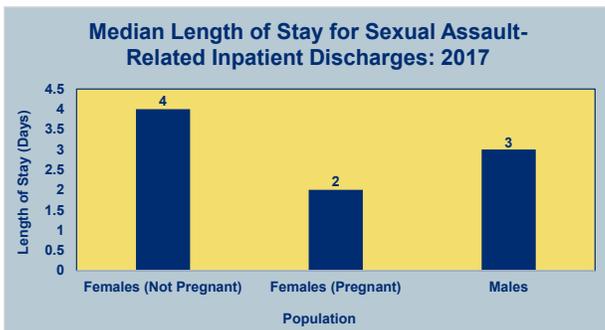
### Sexual Assault

Statewide, 3,567 hospital inpatient discharges and Emergency Department visits were identified as sexual assault-related events, a 2 percent increase from the 2016 Dashboard

Women represented 91 percent of all sexual assault-related visits and presented to [SAFE facilities](#) more often than men: 52 percent vs. 50 percent.

Average length of stay for all sexual assault-related inpatients was eight days, while the median was four days. In terms of gender, the median length of stay was three days for males, two days for pregnant females, and four days for females who were not pregnant. 55 percent of individuals stayed four days or longer, a possible indication of seriousness of injury.

Inpatient sexual assault-related discharges involving pregnant females represented 36 percent of all sexual assault events. Females who were not pregnant represented 52 percent of inpatient events and 48 percent of emergency department visits.

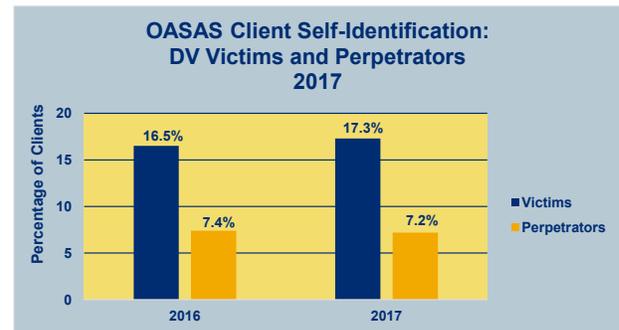


Source: DOH

<sup>4</sup> Since pregnancy is a known risk factor for domestic violence, 18 diagnosis codes describing physical, sexual, and psychological abuse of a pregnant woman were added as high-likelihood indicators of a domestic violence-related event.

### Substance Abuse

- 17.3 percent of clients assisted by the State Office of Alcoholism and Substance Abuse Services identified as victims of domestic violence, compared to 16.5 percent in 2016.
- 7.2 percent of clients in 2017 identified as perpetrators of domestic violence, compared to 7.4 percent in 2016.



Source: OASAS<sup>5</sup>

### Address Confidentiality Program

There was a 37 percent increase in the number of individuals who participated in the state's Address Confidentiality Program in 2017: 1,983, resulting in the redirection of 23,555 pieces of mail. In 2016, 1,450 individuals participated in the program with 19,878 pieces of mail redirected.

Source: DOS

### Special Populations

#### Teens

There were two intimate partner (IP) homicides involving victims who were between 16 and 19 years old: both were female. In 2016, there were three IP homicides involving victims – two males and one female – in the same age group.

Source: DCJS

Individuals who were 21 and younger filed 1,071 family offense petitions, a 2 percent increase from 2016: Individuals 17 through 21 filed 1,013 (less than 1% increase) and individuals 16 and under filed 58 (38% increase).

There were 2,778 family offense petitions filed for individuals who were 65 or older at the time of filing, a 10 percent increase from 2016.

Source: OCA

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



## About the Office for the Prevention of Domestic Violence

The agency's powers and duties are detailed in state Executive Law §575:

- Advise the governor and legislature on policies and practices for the State;
- Train professionals from all disciplines across the state about the intersection of domestic violence in their daily practice
- Serve as a resource regarding the issue of domestic violence by disseminating regular public awareness campaigns, publishing materials for use by non-profits and victims, distributing local assistance funds, and highlighting best practices in the field.

## About the Advisory Council

Since 2006, the New York State Domestic Violence Advisory Council has become a vibrant interagency entity that has driven significant policy changes at no additional cost to the state. It has also enhanced data collection, encouraged and facilitated dialogue and sharing among and between agencies and organizations, and strengthened OPDV's efforts to increase public awareness and information sharing.

### Membership

The Council includes representation from 14 state agencies, as well as three members appointed by the Governor, and six members appointed by the Governor upon recommendation of the legislature. The appointed members represent a broad cross-section of service providers, including advocates, human services providers, state agencies, judges, state police, and others. The Council is directed to meet twice annually.

### Responsibilities

Section 4 of Executive Law § 575 established the NYS Domestic Violence Advisory Council, whose mission is to:

- Make recommendations on domestic violence related issues and effective strategies for preventing domestic violence.
- Help develop appropriate policies and priorities for effective intervention, public education and advocacy.
- 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.

**Note: 2017 data on local domestic violence hotline call volumes and residential and non-residential service provision to children and adults were not available in time for publication. The Dashboard will be updated to include this information when the State Office of Children and Family Services publishes its 2017 annual report.**