
TABLE OF CONTENTS

Domestic Violence Coordinating Council Members	2
Who We Are/What We Do	3
A Message From The Chairs	4
A Message From The Executive Director	5
Legislative Updates—State of Delaware	6
Legislative Updates—National	7
Domestic Violence Statistics	8
Intimate Partner Statistics	10
Protection From Abuse Statistics	12
Domestic Violence Hotline Statistics	14
Shelter Statistics	16
Victim Advocacy Program Statistics	18
Subcommittee Highlights	19
Training/Presentations	25
Resources	27

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE COORDINATING COUNCIL MEMBERS

The Domestic Violence Coordinating Council is a state agency legislatively created in 1993 to improve Delaware's response to domestic violence. The Coordinating Council brings together domestic violence service providers and policy level officials to identify and implement improvements in system response through legislation, education, and policy development.

Chairs

Hon. Patricia M. Blevins
State Senate
Council Chair

Hon. Chandlee Johnson Kuhn
Chief Judge Family Court
Council Vice Chair

Members

Ms. Dana Harrington Conner
Assoc. Professor, Widener
University School of Law
Member-At-Large

Hon. Carl C. Danberg
State Attorney General

Ms. Mary Davis
Chair, DV Task Force

Hon. Cari DeSantis
Secretary, The Dept. of
Services for Children, Youth,
and Their Families

Dr. Matthew Hoffman
Christiana Hospital
Medical Board

Chief Jeffrey Horvath
Dover Police Department
Law Enforcement
Representative

Hon. Deborah Hudson
House of Representatives

Ms. Geraldine Lewis-Loper
Administrative Director
Delaware Center for Justice
Member-At-Large

Hon. David B. Mitchell
Secretary, Dept. of Safety
and Homeland Security

Ms. Maria Picazo
Executive Director
Abriendo Puertas
Member-At-Large

Hon. Vincent J. Poppiti
Blank Rome, LLP
Member-at-Large

Hon. Liane M. Sorenson
State Senate
Commission on Family
Law/Advocacy Community

Hon. Lawrence M. Sullivan
The Public Defender

Hon. Stanley W. Taylor
Commissioner
Department of Correction

Hon. James T. Vaughn, Jr.
President Judge
Superior Court

Staff

Bridget V. Poulle
Executive Director

Cynthia M. Boehmer
Project Coordinator

Laura M. Giles
Project Coordinator

Kenzel V. Messick
Administrative Secretary

Eileen Ondra
Trainer/Educator

WHO WE ARE/WHAT WE DO

The mission of the Domestic Violence Coordinating Council is to reduce the incidence of domestic violence and abuse in all of its forms.

The Council meets at least four times per year and seven members constitutes a quorum. The DVCC establishes committees composed of Council members and other knowledgeable individuals, to assist in planning, policy work, goal and priority recommendations, and in developing implementation plans to achieve the purposes of the Council. Each year, the Council submits a written report of its activities and recommendations to the Governor, General Assembly, and the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court .

The Domestic Violence Coordinating Council is a state agency legislatively created in 1993 to improve Delaware's response to domestic violence. The Coordinating Council brings together domestic violence service providers and policy level officials to identify and implement improvements in system response through legislation, education, and policy development.

Delaware Code, Title 13, Domestic Relations, Chapter 21

The Domestic Violence Coordinating Council:

- Studies court services and procedures, law enforcement procedures and protocol, and criminal justice data collection and analysis, as it relates to domestic violence.
- Effectually coordinates among agencies, departments, and the courts with victims of domestic violence and abuse.
- Promotes effective prevention, intervention and treatment techniques based upon research and data collection.
- Recommends standards for treatment programs for perpetrators of domestic violence to the Department of Health and Social Services, Department of Services for Children, Youth, and Their Families, and the Department of Correction.
- Reviews and comments upon legislation relating to domestic violence introduced in the General Assembly at the request of any member of the General Assembly or on its own initiative.
- And, improves the response to domestic violence and abuse to reduce the incidents thereof.



MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIRS



Hon. Patricia M. Blevins
State Senate
Chair

We are pleased to present the 2005 Annual Report of the Domestic Violence Coordinating Council (DVCC). The DVCC experienced significant changes during 2005 among our staff, and leadership. After five years with the DVCC, Ronald T. Keen retired as Executive Director and Bridget V. Poulle was hired as the new Executive Director.

The Honorable M. Jane Brady who served on the Council from January 1995 to December 2005 was appointed to the Superior Court Bench by Governor Ruth Ann Minner. The Honorable Carl C. Danberg, joined the Council, following his appointment by Governor Minner, as the new Attorney General. Cynthia M. Boehmer, a member of the Council since its inception, resigned from the Council and was hired for the newly created DVCC position of Southern Delaware, Project Coordinator. We thank our former associates for their dedication and service and welcome Dana Harrington Conner, Associate Professor at Widener University School of Law, and longtime advocate, as our newest Council member.



Hon. Chandlee Johnson Kuhn
Chief Judge, Family Court
Vice Chair

The DVCC Subcommittees worked on numerous issues throughout the year; such as, weapon relinquishment, offender referral to domestic violence treatment, supervision of offenders using enhanced technology, domestic violence among the elderly, and reimbursement for forensic evaluations.

For the coming year, the Coordinating Council will focus on the subject of Domestic Violence and Youth, looking specifically at the issues of child witnessing and teen dating violence. We look forward to continuing our collaborative efforts with government leaders, domestic violence advocates, and the community at large in identifying and implementing improvements to Delaware's response to domestic violence.

Thank you for your continued support. ■

MESSAGE FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



Bridget V. Poule
Executive Director

DVCC STAFF



Cynthia M. Boehmer
Project Coordinator



Laura Giles
Project Coordinator



Kenzel V. Messick
Administrative Secretary



Eileen Ondra
Trainer/Educator

When I joined the staff of the Domestic Violence Coordinating Council (DVCC) as an advocate in 1998, I was excited for the opportunity to help develop the policies that define Delaware's response to domestic violence. Now as Executive Director of the Coordinating Council, I am excited for the opportunity to help lead in developing future policies and practices that will further define Delaware's response to domestic violence.

The Domestic Violence Coordinating Council Annual Report has undergone some changes this year. The 2006 Annual Report still includes criminal data, shelter, and hotline program statistics, as well as subcommittee updates and Council activities, as in the past. However, in order to highlight other important information, usually contained in the Annual Report, we decided to develop a separate publication. The new publication, "The Delaware Domestic Violence Resource Manual," will include information on the dynamics of domestic violence; such as, the cycle of violence and power and control techniques, as well as the Directory for Statewide Services. The manual should be available in the near future.

I have been fortunate during my time here to work with highly dedicated and skilled professionals. I thank the Coordinating Council members, staff, and our many partners for their ongoing commitment to ending domestic violence. I look forward to our continuing collaboration. ■

LEGISLATIVE UPDATES - STATE OF DELAWARE

The following bills were passed by the Delaware General Assembly:

SB 262

AN ACT TO AMEND TITLE 13 OF THE DELAWARE CODE RELATING TO THE FATAL INCIDENT REVIEW TEAM.

This Bill expands the Fatal Incident Review Team to include the Secretary of the Department of Education and the Director of the Division of Substance Abuse and Mental Health. Under statute, the Fatal Incident Review Team is charged with investigation and review of the facts and circumstances of all deaths that occur in Delaware as a result of domestic violence.

SB 274

AN ACT TO AMEND TITLE 25 OF THE DELAWARE CODE RELATING TO THE RESIDENTIAL LANDLORD-TENANT CODE.

This Bill amends Title 25 of the Delaware Landlord-Tenant Code by permitting tenants who are domestic violence, sexual offense or stalking victims to terminate their leases early for safety reasons.

HB 391

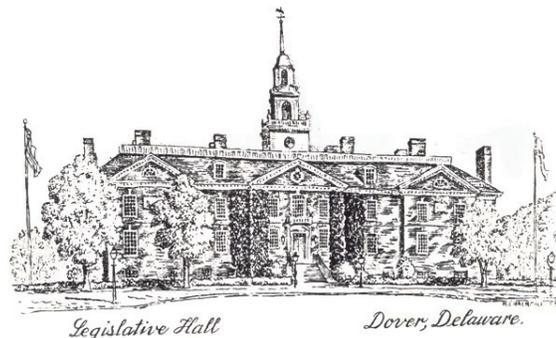
AN ACT TO AMEND TITLE 13 OF THE DELAWARE CODE RELATING TO THE COMPOSITION OF THE DOMESTIC VIOLENCE COORDINATING COUNCIL.

This bill expands the number of Coordinating Council members from 17 to 18, by adding a member representing victims of sexual assault.

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION 27

DESIGNATING THE MONTH OF FEBRUARY 2006 AS TEEN DATING VIOLENCE AWARENESS AND PREVENTION MONTH IN DELAWARE.

This Resolution designates the month of February 2006 as Teen Dating Violence Awareness and Prevention Month in Delaware.



LEGISLATIVE UPDATES - NATIONAL



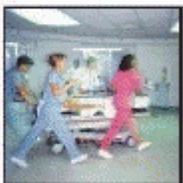
U.S. Senator, Joseph R. Biden, Jr.
Author of the original
Violence Against Women Act (VAWA) of 1994 and VAWA 2000.

Violence Against Women Act of 2005 H.R. 3402

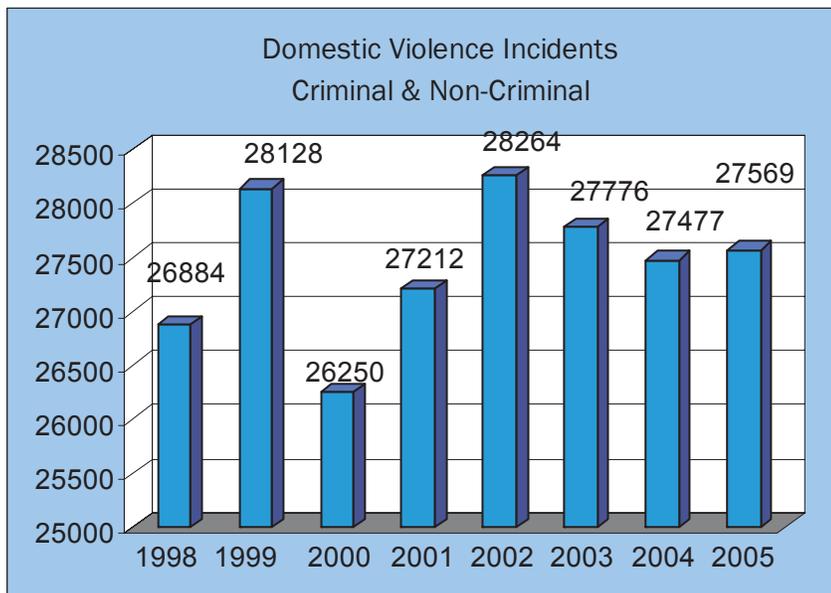
The “Violence Against Women and Department of Justice Reauthorization Act of 2005”, co-authored by Senators Biden, Arlene Specter (R-PA) and Orrin Hatch (R-UT) was signed into law, January 5, 2006. The law reauthorizes the Violence Against Women Act for FYs 2007-2011 and makes amendments to criminal and immigration law, consolidates major law enforcement grant programs and authorizes appropriations for the Department of Justice for FYs 2006-2009. New focus areas of the grant include:

- Prevention strategies to stop the violence before it starts,
- Protection of individuals from unfair eviction due to their status as victims of domestic violence or stalking,
- Creation of the first federal funded stream to support rape crisis centers,
- Development of culturally and linguistically-specific services for communities,
- Enhancement of programs and services for victims with disabilities, and
- Broadens VAWA service provisions to include children and teens.

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE STATISTICS



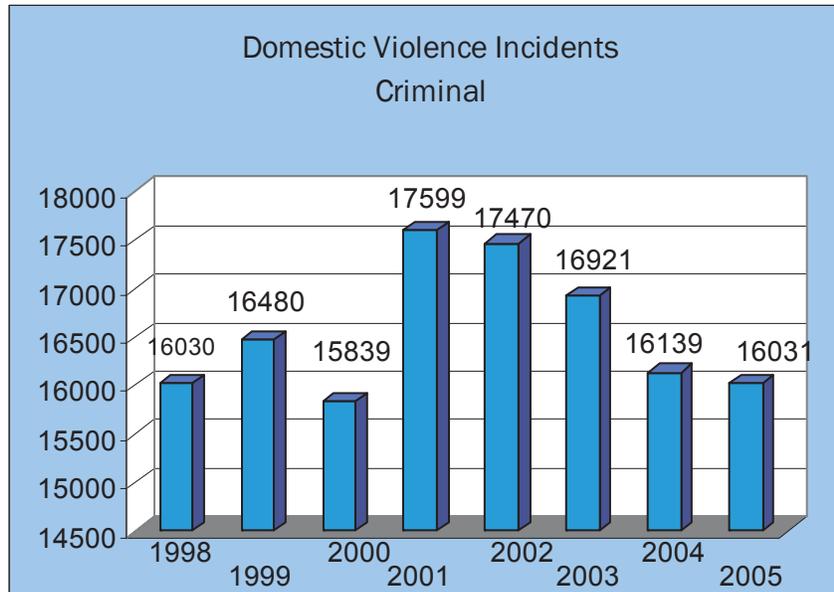
In calendar year 2005, as reported by the State Bureau of Identification, the total number of domestic violence incidents in Delaware (combined criminal and non-criminal) was 27,569. That is a slight increase from 27,477 reported in 2004, but an increase of 2.5% over the number reported in 1998.



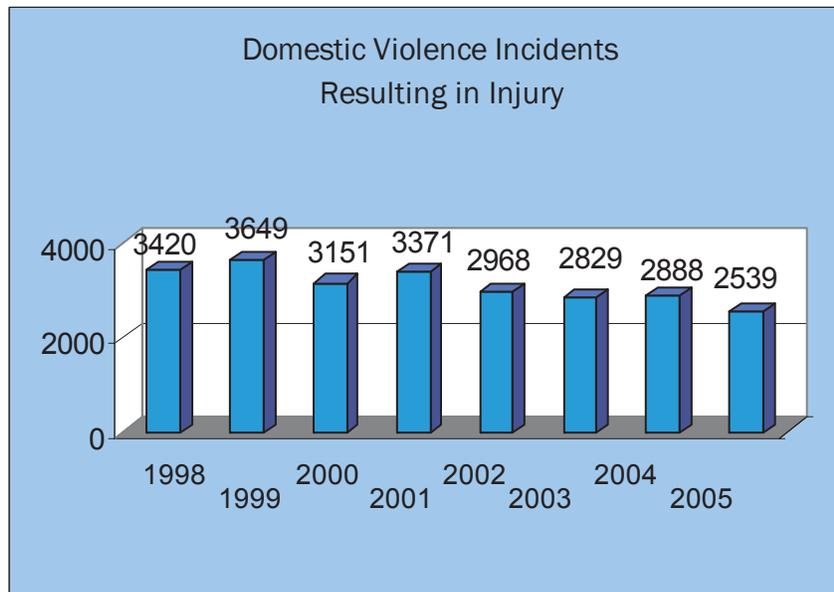
NOTE: Delaware has eight years of domestic violence statistics (1998-2005). A review of the statistics published by the State Bureau of Identification for calendar years 1998 through 2005 reveals some interesting information and trends.

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE STATISTICS

In calendar year 2005, the total number of domestic violence criminal incidents was 16,031. The total for 2005 reflects a decrease of 108 incidents from the 16,139 reported incidents in 2004.

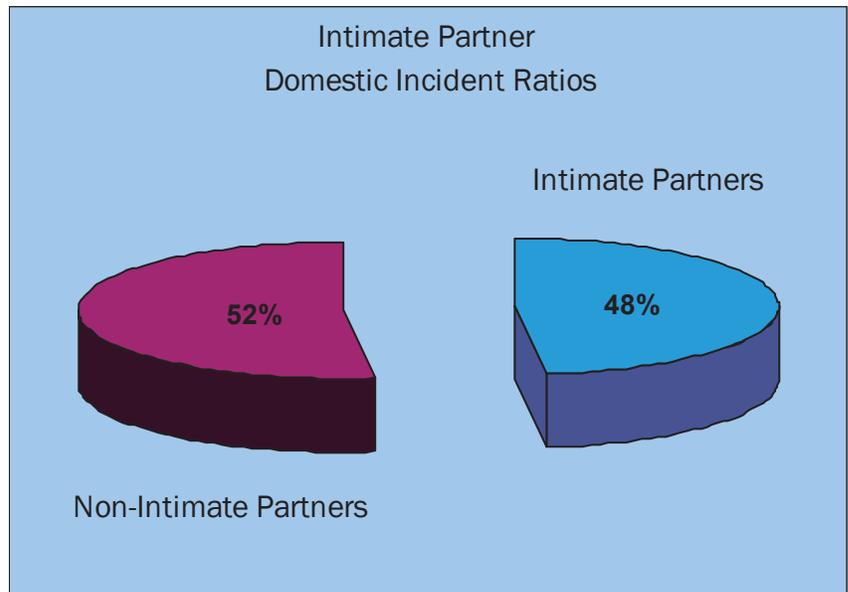


In 2005, out of the 16,031 criminal incidents, 16% resulted in injury.

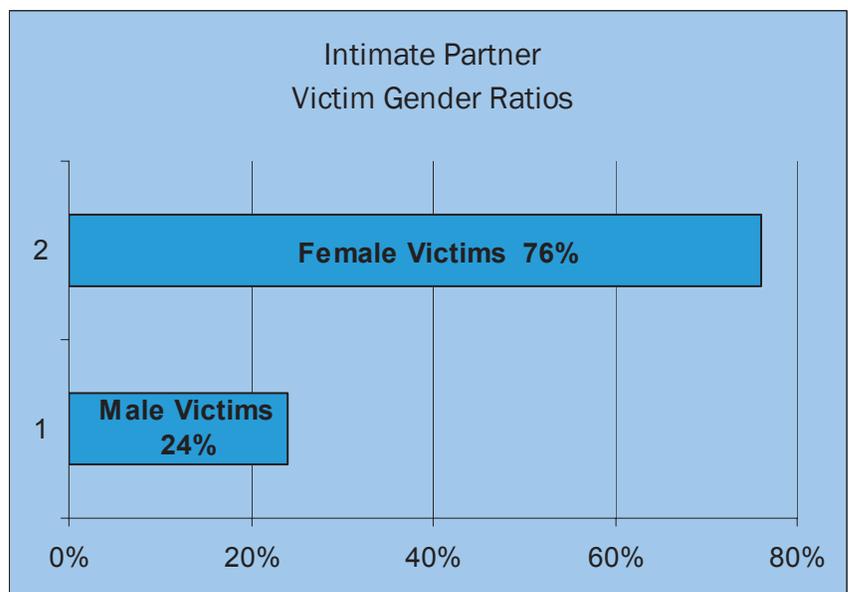


INTIMATE PARTNER STATISTICS

Intimate partner cases include current and former spouses and current and former dating couples. Intimate partners may be of the same gender. In calendar year 2005, as reported by the State Bureau of Identification, the total number of criminal domestic violence incidents involving "intimate partners" was 7,681. This number represents 48% of the total criminal domestic violence incidents.

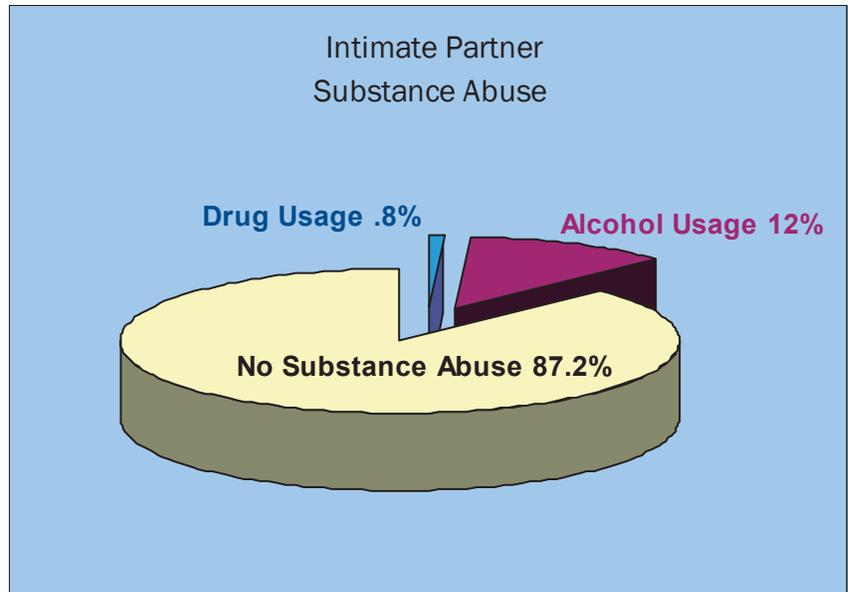


The ratios of reported victims of domestic incidents in the calendar year of 2005 were 76% female and 24% male.



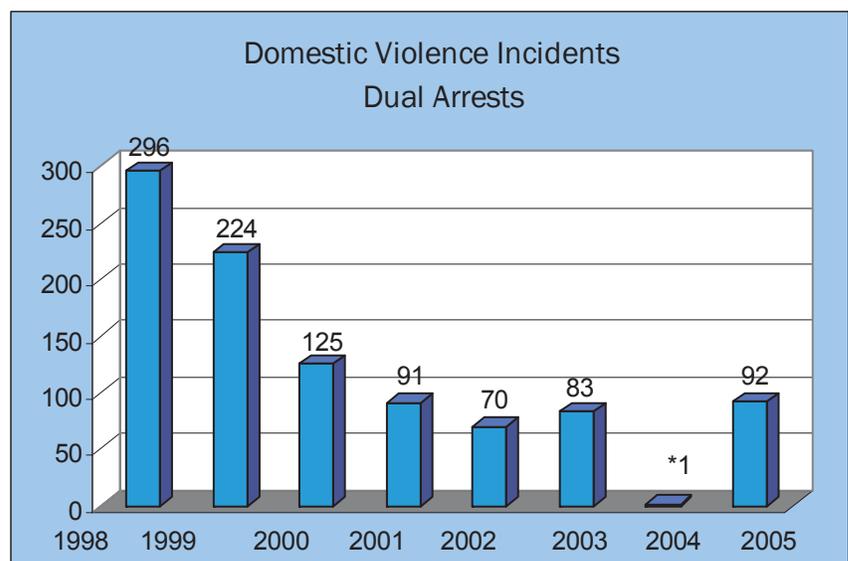
INTIMATE PARTNER STATISTICS

In 2005, there were 7,681 intimate partner, domestic abuse incidents reported. Of those incidents, less than 13% involved drugs or alcohol.



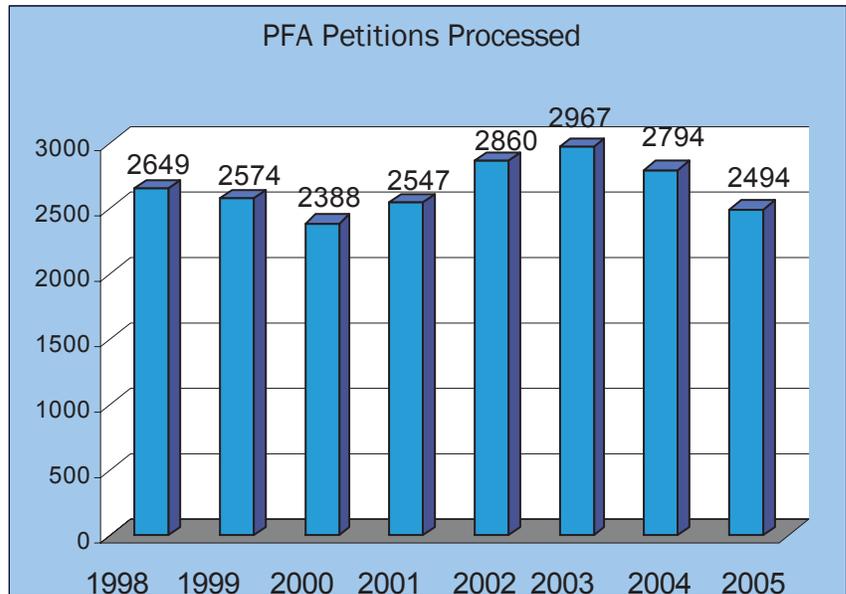
In 2005, there were 92 reported dual arrests. In the past five years, the average is 67. This is a vast improvement since 1998, when there were 296 dual arrests.

**2004 data for this category was unavailable.*



PROTECTION FROM ABUSE STATISTICS

Family Court processed 2,494 Protection From Abuse Petitions (PFA), Statewide in 2005.



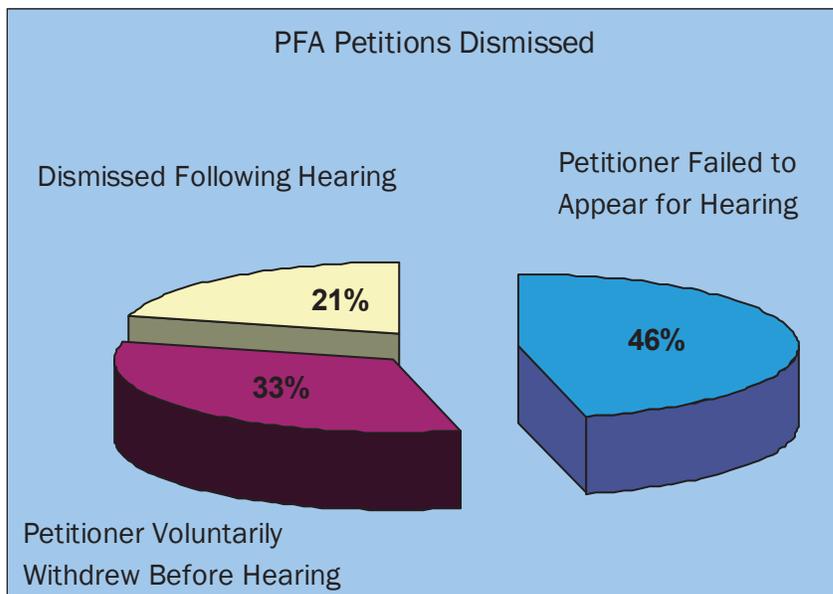
In 2005, there were 1,479 Final Protection From Abuse Orders issued Statewide.



PROTECTION FROM ABUSE STATISTICS

Of the 2,494 petitions processed, 1,479 PFA Orders were issued. The remaining petitions were dismissed. A protection from abuse petition dismissal can occur one of three ways -

- The petitioner failure to appear for the hearing,
- Petitioner voluntarily withdraws the petition before the hearing,
- Or, abuse was not found by a preponderance of evidence following a hearing.



What is an Order of Protection From Abuse?

An Order of Protection From Abuse is an order of Family Court ordering someone to stop abusing another person, and may include other relief, such as ordering the abuser to stay away from the person being abused. Abuse is defined as any threatening or harmful conduct including serious emotional harm.

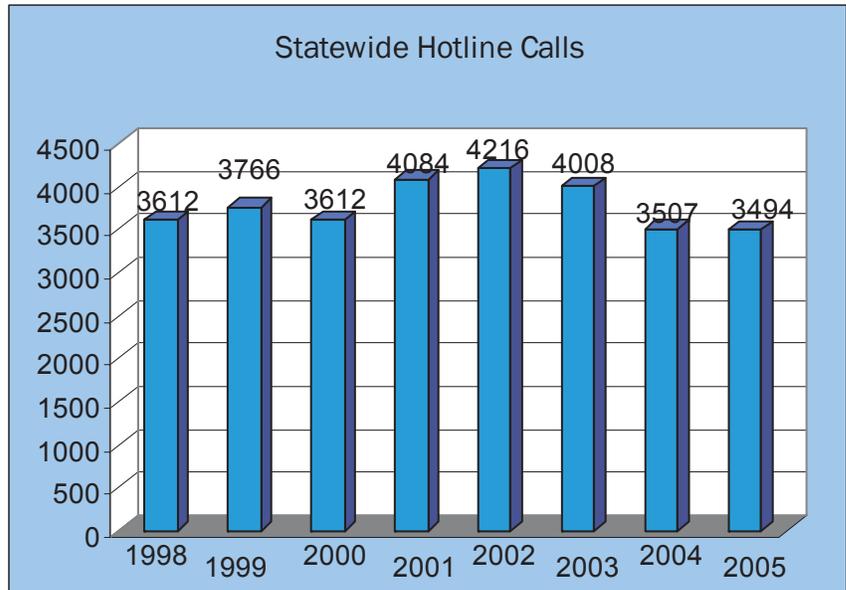
Who can file for Protection from Abuse?

Spouses, ex-spouses, family members, persons of the opposite sex who lived together when the abuse occurred, and unmarried persons who have a child/children in common may file for an Order of Protection from Abuse. Also, the Division of Child Protective Services acting in the interest of a minor child may file a petition alleging domestic violence; or the Division of Adult Protective Services acting in the interest of an infirm adult may file a petition alleging domestic violence.

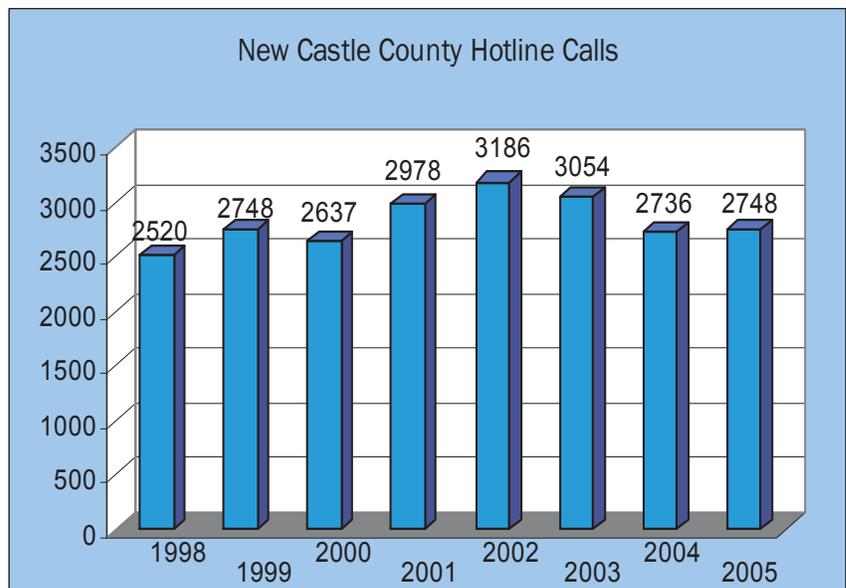


DOMESTIC VIOLENCE HOTLINE STATISTICS

In 2005, there were 3,494 calls received by the domestic violence hotlines, Statewide. The average number of statewide domestic violence hotline calls received since 1998 is 3,787.

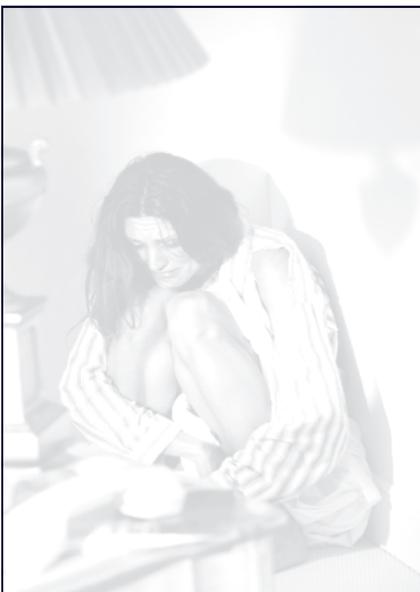
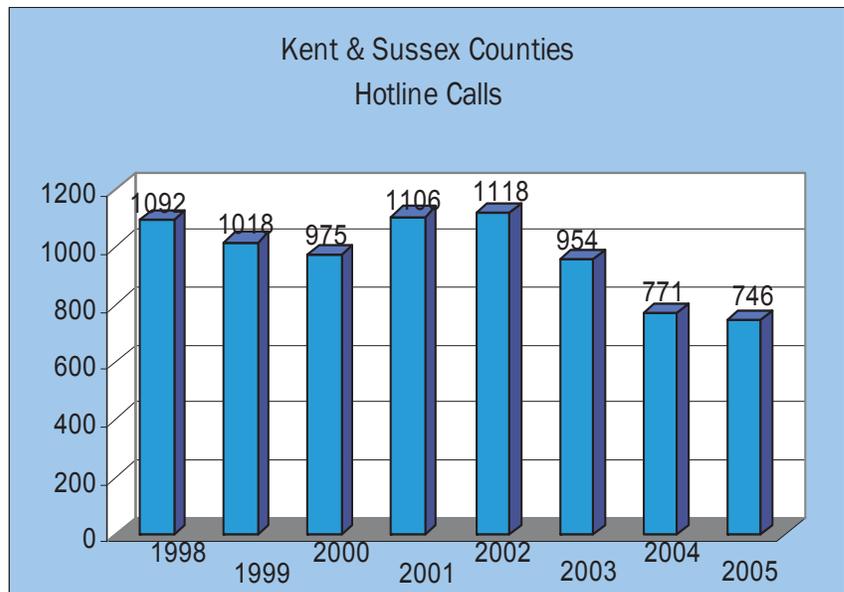


In 2005, there were 2,748 calls to the domestic violence hotline in New Castle County. This is an increase of 12 calls from the year 2004.



DOMESTIC VIOLENCE HOTLINE STATISTICS

In Kent and Sussex Counties (including Abriendo Puertas), the total number of hotline calls received in 2005 was 746. This is a decrease of 25 calls from the year 2004.



Both men and women may be victims of domestic violence. Hotline personnel are available 24 hours a day to answer hotline calls. For those persons seeking assistance, the Delaware hotline numbers are:

New Castle County - 302-762-6110

Northern Kent - 302-678-3886

Kent and Sussex - 302-422-8058

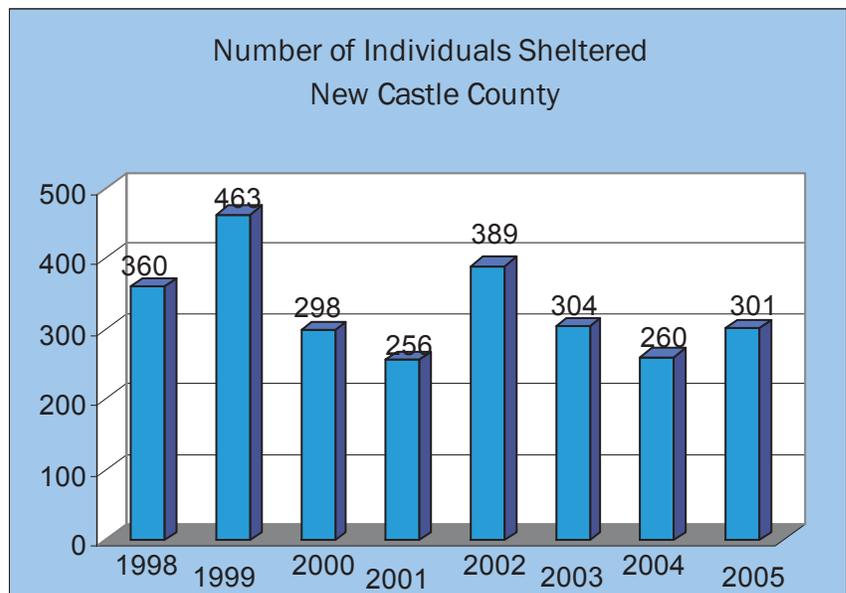
Abriendo Puertas - 302-745-9874

SHELTER STATISTICS

In 2005, 541 women and children received shelter services in Delaware. The average number of individuals sheltered in Delaware's domestic violence shelters since 1998 is 549.



In New Castle County, 301 individuals were provided shelter in 2005. Of the 301 individuals provided shelter, 162 were women and 139 were children.



SHELTER STATISTICS

In Kent and Sussex Counties, the total number of individuals sheltered in 2005 was 240. Of the 240 provided shelter, 122 were women and 118 were children.



Delaware Shelters

There are five shelters located throughout the State of Delaware. Women and their children find a temporary home, where they can receive assistance with safety planning and information on criminal and civil process, participate in support groups and individual counseling, and find assistance in locating employment and permanent housing.

VICTIM ADVOCACY PROGRAM STATISTICS



<i>New Castle County</i>	
Women Served:	547
Men Served:	67
Total Clients:	614
<i>Sussex County</i>	
Women Served:	675
Men Served:	17
Total Clients:	692
<i>Kent County</i>	
Women Served:	615
Men Served:	32
Total Clients:	647

The Victim Advocacy Programs help victims of domestic violence navigate their way through the court system. Trained advocates assist victims with safety planning, answer questions about the court process, assist in filing petitions, provide a supportive presence at court hearings and offer information and referrals to community programs and services.

Total Clients Served Statewide - 1,953

SUBCOMMITTEES

Children and Domestic Violence

Chair: Hon. Deborah Hudson and Hon. Cari DeSantis

Staff: Cynthia Boehmer

Highlights:

- Began work on developing a guide for safety planning with children.
- Reviewed the recommendations from the Child Abuse/Neglect Death and Near Death Case Reviews from the Office of the Child Advocate.
- Reviewed the Children’s Menu of Treatment Services and identified new services for children living in violent homes.

Correction and Treatment Subcommittee

Chairs: Hon. Stanley W. Taylor and Hon. Lawrence M. Sullivan

Staff: Cynthia Boehmer

Highlights:

- Addressed the Fatal Incident Review Team’s 2005 recommendation that a protocol be developed to be used by therapists, group facilitators, and counselors when a domestic violence offender discloses a new or recent physical assault against his/her victim.
- Collaborated with the Victims’ Rights Task Force to develop and post a list of “Frequently Asked Questions by Victims” on the Department of Correction website.
- Developed the brochure - *“Domestic Violence: How It Affects Children”* in 2005.

Court Procedures and Services Subcommittee

Chair: Hon. Chandlee Johnson Kuhn and Hon. James T. Vaughn, Jr.

Staff: Bridget V. Poulle

Highlights:

- Developed language to address handling and disposition of firearms collected by law enforcement agencies as the result of Protection From Abuse Orders, particularly in cases where weapons cannot be relinquished back to offenders.
- Developed standard language to be used in Protection From Abuse Orders when referring individuals for domestic violence treatment.

SUBCOMMITTEES

Immigration Subcommittee

New Castle County

Chair: Mary Davis

Staff: Eileen Ondra

Highlights:

- Reviewed and revised mission and goals from 2002. Developed new goals, objectives, strategies targeted to immigrant communities in New Castle County.
- Distributed posters, originating from Child, Inc., to apartment complexes, churches, grocery stores, laundromats, and other public places.
- Created new Immigration Resource Brochure and placed on DVCC website at www.dvcc.state.de.us.
- Developed core curriculum and reviewed bi-lingual materials to use for workshops, discussion, and other training, which will be conducted in 2006/2007.

Kent/Sussex Counties

Chair: Maria Picazo

Staff: Cynthia Boehmer

Highlights:

- Collaborated with the Delaware Coalition Against Domestic Violence DELTA Project (Center for Disease Control), Abriendo Puertas, and the Center for Disease Control in implementing a program for Hispanic youth through the faith-based community in Sussex County.
- Provided education to the immigrant community on domestic violence and children and domestic violence.
- Expanded knowledge and capacity to appropriately address the prevention and intervention efforts geared toward the Hispanic community in Sussex County.
- Discussed legal issues in Sussex County that affect the reporting and delivery of effective service to immigrants.

SUBCOMMITTEES

Law Enforcement Subcommittee

Chairs: Hon. David B. Mitchell and Chief Jeffrey Horvath

Staff: Cynthia Boehmer

Highlights:

- Established a committee to develop stalking protocol, to promote early intervention and define the roles of the criminal justice system to investigate and collect evidence.
- Assessed need for in-house training for officers. First training will take place Fall 2006.
- Developed and sent recommendations to the Law Enforcement Training Working Group concerning law enforcement training.

Legislative Drafting and Review

Chairs: Hon. Patricia M. Blevins and Hon. Carl C. Danberg

Staff: Bridget V. Poulle

Highlights:

The Legislative Subcommittee worked on three bills, all of which were passed by the General Assembly and signed by the Governor.

- SB 262, An Act to amend Title 13 of the Delaware Code relating to the Fatal Incident Review Team.
- SB 274, An Act to amend Title 25 of the Delaware Code relating to the Residential Landlord-Tenant Code.
- HB 391, An Act to amend Title 13 of the Delaware Code relating to the composition of the Domestic Violence Coordinating Council.

SUBCOMMITTEES

Medical/Healthcare Subcommittee

Chairs: Dr. Matthew Hoffman and Hon. Vincent J. Poppiti

Staff: Eileen Ondra

Highlights:

- Co-sponsored with health care facilities a number of training events, including “Healthcare Response to Domestic Violence.”
- Updated the Resource Manual for Healthcare Providers (published in 2000) and will post the updated Manual on the DVCC Website.

Worked on the growing issue of domestic violence among the elderly, particularly incidents which occur in hospitals and long-term care centers.

Public Awareness/Education Subcommittee

Chairs: Hon. Liane M. Sorenson and Geri Lewis-Loper

Staff: Cynthia Boehmer, DVCC

Highlights:

- Designated February 2006 as Teen Dating Violence Awareness and Prevention Month in Delaware (Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 27) in collaboration with the Prevention Subcommittee of the Victims’ Rights Task Force and the Domestic Violence Task Force, sponsored by Senators Blevins and Sorenson, and Representative Hudson.
- Planned a Teen Dating Violence media-based project, with the Milford School District, to engage teens in developing materials that will focus on outreach and education.

Batterers' Intervention Certification Panel

Staff: Bridget V. Poulle

Highlights:

- Revised application materials to correspond to new Intervention Standards.
- Finalized and implemented recertification.
- Identified gaps in delivery of treatment services; e.g., Bilingual programs.

SUBCOMMITTEES

Kent & Sussex Committee

Staff: Cynthia Boehmer

This group was formed to discuss procedures, issues and concerns relating to the delivery of services for domestic violence and sexual abuse that are unique to Kent and Sussex Counties. The goal of this committee is to facilitate networking, collaboration, and communication.

Highlights:

- Increased participation of Kent and Sussex stakeholders in domestic violence issues.
- Reported new policies or procedures, expansion of programming, concerns, and new ideas for victim safety.
- Identified the rural needs of victims of domestic violence, dating violence, and child victimization in response to a request from the VAWA Implementation Committee.

Law Enforcement Training Working Group

Staff: Eileen Ondra

Highlights:

- Trained 232 law enforcement officers, probation and parole officers, police-related personnel, prosecutors, and dispatch managers on these topics: identifying the primary aggressor, matrix risk assessment training and domestic violence training for dispatchers.
- Gathered information on costs for developing video tapes for roll call training.
- Developed concepts for 2006 conference - domestic violence, sexual assault, and technology.

SUBCOMMITTEES

Fatal Incident Review Team

Chairs: Hon. Vincent J. Poppiti, Member -At-Large

Dana Harrington Conner, Member- At-Large

Staff: Bridget V. Poulle

A significant part of the Domestic Violence Coordinating Council's work is to track domestic violence fatalities and review the circumstances of those cases. The Domestic Violence Fatal Incidents Review Act statute, signed into law in June 1996, established a Fatal Incident Review Team to investigate and review the facts of all domestic violence related fatalities, both homicides and suicides that occur in Delaware.

The ultimate purpose for reviewing domestic violence fatalities is to prevent such deaths in the future. By conducting system audits of state agencies and private organizations that had contact with the deceased victim and or the alleged perpetrator, the system's response to domestic violence may be improved. Steps may be taken to prevent future deaths and injuries by making changes to existing policies and practices and by identifying gaps in services and developing programs to fill those gaps.

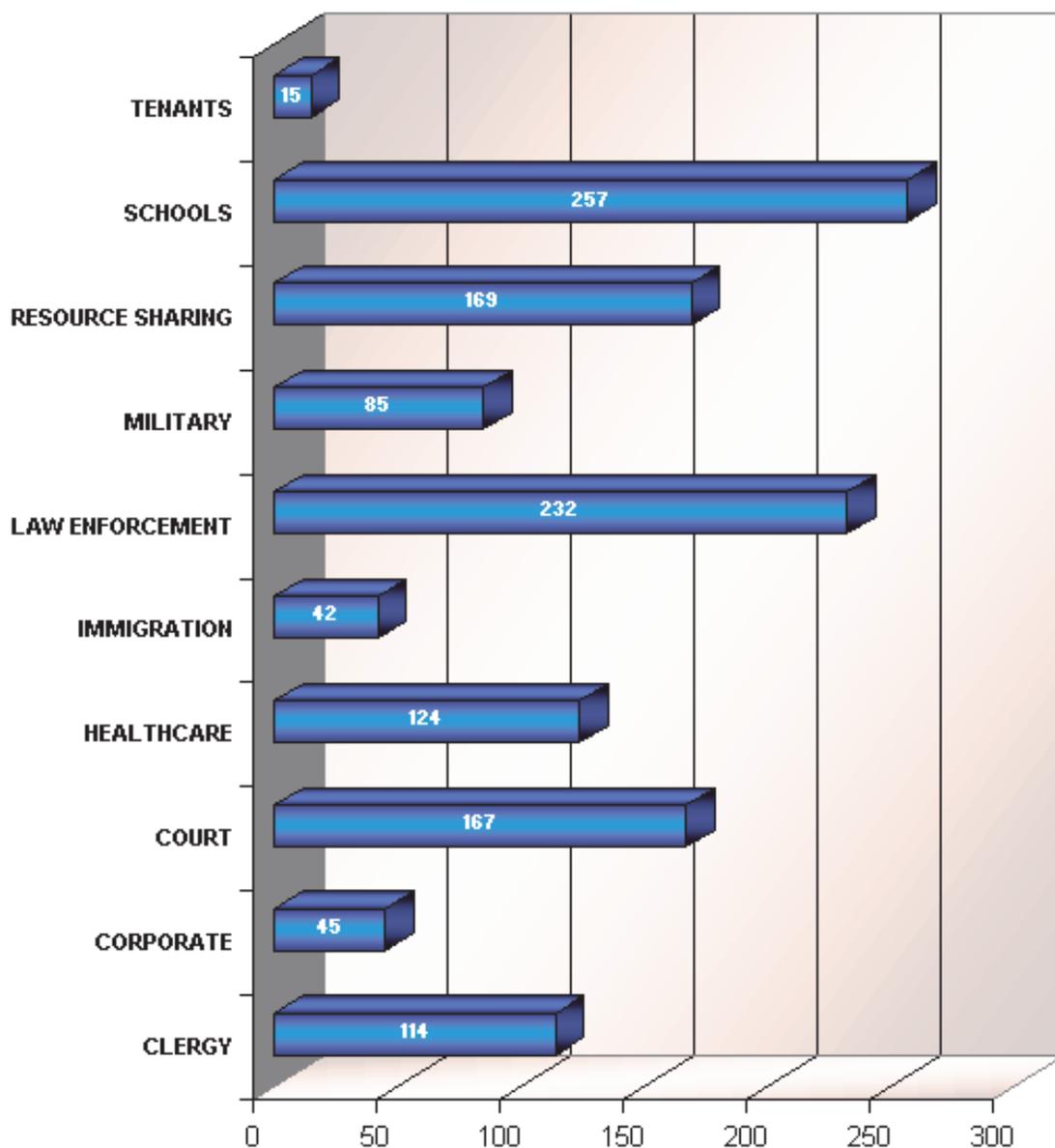
Confidentiality is maintained throughout the review process and is required by statute. The records of all reviews are confidential and are exempt from the provisions of the Freedom of Information Act in Title 29 of the Delaware Code. Reports published by the review team include only aggregate data and do not identify specific cases.

Although the domestic violence fatality reviews are retrospective in nature, their purpose is prospective. The reviews focus on identifying trends and obstacles in service delivery, assessing the adequacy of agency interventions and, most importantly, developing recommendations for policies and practices aimed at reducing domestic violence deaths in Delaware.

Team members review between ten and twelve cases each year. The review team members are established by statute, and range from Chief Judge to victim advocate. Although the review team members represent different agencies and interests, they focus on the common goal of developing recommendations to reduce domestic violence in Delaware and prevent future deaths. To view the most recent copy of the Delaware Fatal Incident Review Team Annual Report, log onto the DVCC website at www.dvcc.state.de.us and click on Reports.

2005 TRAINING CALENDAR

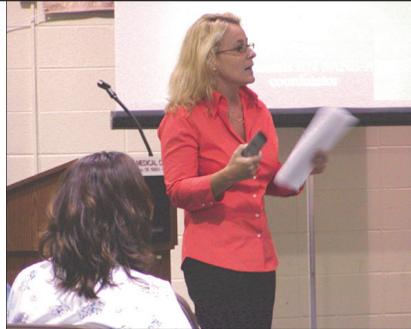
In 2005, a total of 1,250 persons were trained by the DVCC. Training was delivered in a variety of methods, including designing and delivering on-site training for healthcare and other professionals, surveying potential participants and participating in surveying students, conducting conferences and trainings for law enforcement, probation and parole officers, schools, and clergy.



2005 TRAINING HIGHLIGHTS



2004 Domestic Violence Awareness Month
Proclamation Signing
Governor Ruth Ann Minner



Domestic Violence Training
Emily Bissell, Anita Symonds
Christiana Care Forensic Nurse Examiner



Corporate Briefing, Fall 2005



Matrix Training, 2005



2004 Domestic Violence Awareness Month
Proclamation Signing
Senator Patricia M. Blevins, DVCC Chair



DVCC Booth, Wilmington Wellness Day
September 2005
Miss Delaware, Becky Bledsoe



Honorable Chandlee Johnson Kuhn
2005 Domestic Violence
Awareness Proclamation Signing



Police Training, March 2005



Henrietta Johnson Medical Ctr.
Dr. Matthew Hoffman
Christiana Care

RESOURCES

Domestic Violence Advocacy Programs

New Castle County	302-255-0420
Kent County	302-672-1075
Sussex County	302-856-5843

Police-Based Victim Services

Delaware State Police Victim Services (Statewide-24 hours)	800-842-8461
Dover Police Department (Kent County)	302-736-7134
New Castle County Police Department (New Castle County)	302-395-8139
	302-395-8135
Wilmington Police Department (New Castle County)	302-576-3648
	302-576-3622

Probation and Parole Victim Services

New Castle County	302-323-6050 Extension 220
Kent County	302-674-7200
Sussex County	302-856-5243

*The Domestic Violence
Coordinating Council meets quarterly.
The Coordinating Council's meetings
are open to the public.*

*For more information, call 302-255-0405
or visit the DVCC website at:
www.dvcc.state.de.us.*

