

Domestic Violence Coordinating Council

2015 Annual Report & Fatal Incident Review Team Report

To: Honorable Jack Markell
Governor, State of Delaware

Honorable Leo E. Strine, Jr.
Chief Justice, Supreme Court
State of Delaware

Members, General Assembly

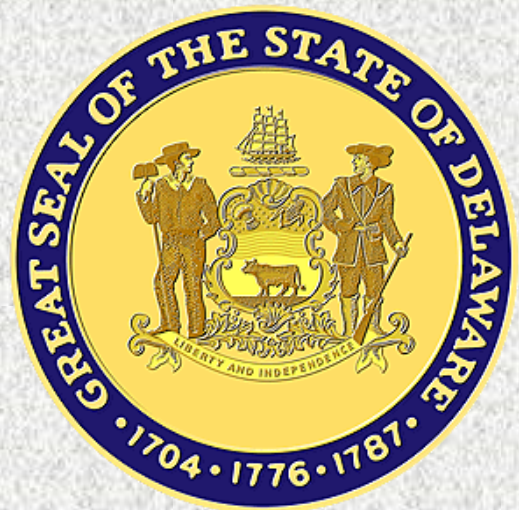


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Chairs' Message



Hon. Patricia M. Blevins
Member, Senate
Chair



Dana Harrington Conner
At-Large Member
Vice Chair

The Domestic Violence Coordinating Council is pleased to present the 2015 Annual Report and the Fatal Incident Review Team Report. Over the past year, the DVCC devoted a significant amount of time to strategic planning which included a facilitated retreat in the fall of 2014. At the conclusion of the retreat, an expanded vision statement was developed along with corresponding action steps. Many of the ideas that were generated at the retreat have become goals and initiatives for one or more of the DVCC committees this year.

In addition to the Council retreat, the Fatal Incident Review Team (FIRT) held two full-day planning meetings, one of which included technical assistance from the National Domestic Violence Fatality Review Initiative (NDVFRI). The Children and Domestic Violence Committee held a planning day with the assistance of Casey Family Programs to focus on enhancing Delaware's response to children experiencing domestic violence. Both the FIRT and Children and Domestic Violence Committee planning days are summarized within this report. We wish to thank all of the Council members, FIRT members, and community partners that took time out of their busy schedules to participate in the strategic planning events this past year.

In the upcoming year, the DVCC will continue to work on the initiatives that were underway in FY 2015 and outlined in this year's report. The DVCC plans to expand our focus on offender accountability to include revising the treatment standards and evaluating current programming, and providing offender-focused training for treatment providers in Delaware.

In FY 2015, the Council welcomed several new members including Neda Biggs, Esquire; Attorney General Matt P. Denn; President Judge Jan R. Jurden; and Chief Judge Michael K. Newell. Now, as we begin Fiscal Year 2016, we bid farewell to Representative Michael Barbieri who has served on the Council since 2009. We look forward to working with all of the new Council members who each bring a unique perspective to the issues. Delaware is fortunate to have strong collaboration among Council members, their agencies, and the many dedicated stakeholders that have committed to eradicating domestic violence and to leading the nation in a coordinated system response to violence in families and the community.

Executive Summary

The DVCC Annual Report not only provides a summary of activities and accomplishments for the agency over the past year, but it also compiles statistical data of domestic violence incidents and resources in Delaware. Previously, the Annual Report provided data on a calendar year basis (January to December). Beginning with the 2015 Annual Report, data will be provided on a fiscal year basis (July 1 to June 30). This change will provide more timely statistics, and will afford consistent reporting of activities, events and data for the same time period.

To make the transition from calendar year to fiscal year data reporting, we have included in this year's report both Calendar Year 2014 data and Fiscal Year 2015 data. In essence, six months of data (July 2014 to December 2014) is captured in both year's charts, but each chart or tabulation encompasses a full twelve month period. We hope the fiscal year reporting of data will continue to be helpful to those that reference the information.

The reporting of statistical data begins on page 21 with the preceding pages highlighting the DVCC activities in FY 2015 by committee. The report outlines the trainings this year with a special emphasis on teen dating violence activities. We have included collaborative trainings and activities between the DVCC and our partners, but also incorporated throughout the report other agencies' initiatives to address domestic violence and sexual assault. We hope that this comprehensive approach will lead to even greater coordination among stakeholders.

A summary of DVCC accomplishments and activities for FY 2015 are:

- Exploration of opportunities to enhance services for children experiencing domestic violence in child welfare cases;
- Support of legislation to clarify that PFA petitions may be filed against former parents;
- Reorganization of the Elderly and Domestic Violence Committee and the Public Awareness/Education Committee;
- Revitalization of the Fatal Incident Review Team process and procedures;
- Collaboration with the Department of Education to obtain and review policies regarding teen dating violence and sexual assault response from school districts and charter schools throughout the state;
- Participation and collaboration with the Domestic Violence Task Force, Victims' Rights Task Force and the Sexual Assault Network of Delaware (SAND) in community awareness events and subcommittee initiatives;
- Participation in the Family Court Enhancement Project;
- Presentations, workshops and resource tables to youth participants in Delaware's schools;
- Participation and support for the Delaware Law Enforcement Domestic Violence Conference, Widener University School of Law Symposium and the Protecting Delaware's Children Conference;
- Revisions and distribution of a more comprehensive *Guide for Advocates Working with Immigrant Victims of Domestic Violence*;
- Continuation of the training on the *Domestic Violence Resource Manual for Healthcare Professionals*;
- Collaboration with multiple agencies and community partners to provide training on human trafficking;
- Training on domestic violence and sexual assault to 1,845 persons; and
- Ongoing distribution of more than 500 domestic violence resource posters and publication of handouts for victims.

Council Members

"My time with the DVCC was very enlightening and helped me to develop a much greater appreciation for the prevalence and impact of domestic violence in our society. It has also helped me to see how a group such as this can identify needed changes and make this possible."

Representative Michael Barbieri

Hon. Patricia M. Blevins
Member, Senate
Chair

Dana Harrington Conner, Esq.
At-Large Member
Vice Chair

Hon. Michael A. Barbieri
Member, House of
Representatives

Neda Biggs, Esq.
At-Large Member

Warden Wendi Caplé
At-Large Member

Hon. Catherine L. Cloutier
Member, Senate

Hon. Robert M. Coupe
Commissioner,
Dept. of Correction

Dawn Culp, MSN, RN
At-Large Member

Hon. Carl C. Danberg
Judge, Court of
Common Pleas

Hon. Matthew P. Denn
Delaware Attorney
General

Ms. Diane Glenn
At-Large Member

Matthew Hoffman, M.D.
Representative,
Health Care Community

Chief Jeffrey Horvath
Representative,
Law Enforcement
Community

Hon. Deborah D. Hudson
Member, House of
Representatives

Hon. Jan R. Jurden
President Judge,
Superior Court

Hon. Michael K. Newell
Chief Judge,
Family Court

Hon. Brendan J. O'Neill
Chief Defender

Hon. Vincent J. Poppiti
At-Large Member

Hon. Jennifer B. Ranji
Secretary, Dept. of
Services For Children,
Youth and Their Families

Hon. Lewis D. Schiliro
Secretary, Dept. of
Safety & Homeland
Security

DVCC Staff

Eleanor Torres
Executive Director

Natasha Smith
Senior Administrator

Aimee String
Project Coordinator

Pat Kwetkauskie
Trainer/Educator

Karen Ewing
Administrative Specialist

Agency Main Number:
302-255-0405

Agency Purpose



Statutory duties of the DVCC (13 Del. C. § 2103)

- Continuously study court services and procedures, law-enforcement procedures and protocol, and criminal justice data collection and analysis as it relates to domestic violence.
- Effectuate coordination between agencies, departments and the courts with victims of domestic violence and abuse.
- Promote effective prevention, intervention, and treatment techniques which will be developed based upon research and data collection.
- Recommend 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.
- Review and comment 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.
- Improve the response to domestic violence and abuse so as to reduce the incidents thereof.

Vision Statement:

The Domestic Violence Coordinating Council (DVCC) is a state agency legislatively created to improve Delaware's response to domestic violence and sexual assault. The DVCC brings together all stakeholders including service providers, policy-level officials and community partners to eradicate domestic violence. The DVCC is committed to leading the nation through innovative legislative action, community education and an outstanding coordinated system response to violence in families and the community.

Committees

Much of our work is accomplished through committees made up of Council members, DVCC staff, first responders, service providers, policy-level officials, and community members. This collaborative approach has helped establish supportive ties in the community for victims of violence, identify areas of need, and implement policies and procedures that respond to those needs.

Children and Domestic Violence

Chairs: Hon. Deborah Hudson and Hon. Jennifer Ranji

Criminal Justice

Chairs: Hon. Jan Jurden, Chief Jeffrey Horvath and
Hon. Brendan O'Neill

Elderly and Domestic Violence

Chairs: Hon. Matthew P. Denn and Hon. Lewis Schiliro

Immigration

Chair: Neda Biggs, Esq.

Legislative Drafting and Review

Chairs: Hon. Patricia M. Blevins and Hon. Matthew P. Denn

Medical

Chairs: Matthew Hoffman, M.D. and Dawn Culp, MSN, RN

Public Awareness/Education

Chair: Hon. Carl C. Danberg

Treatment

Chairs: Hon. Brendan O'Neill and Hon. Robert Coupe



Additional DVCC Committees

Batterers' Intervention Certification Panel

Downstate Committee

Fatal Incident Review Team

Chairs: Hon. Vincent J. Poppiti, Hon. Jan R. Jurden and Dana Harrington Conner, Esq.



Children and Domestic Violence Committee

The Children and Domestic Violence Committee brings together representatives from the Department of Services for Children, Youth and their Families (DSCYF), the General Assembly, Family Court, the Department of Justice, law enforcement, advocates and community partners to examine services and system gaps for children experiencing domestic violence. In September 2014, Casey Family Programs partnered with the Children and Domestic Violence Committee and the DSCYF to hold a strategic planning day focused on enhancing Delaware's response to children experiencing domestic violence. During the planning day, participants worked together to:

- Identify shared values and principles for responding to children experiencing domestic violence;
- Examine current supports and gaps in services for children experiencing domestic violence; and
- Develop strategies and an action plan to improve outcomes for children experiencing domestic violence.

At the conclusion of the strategic planning day, an action plan was developed. As part of that action plan, several committee members traveled to Ohio to explore best practices in child welfare cases when children have experienced domestic violence. These committee members were able to observe a child welfare system that has instituted David Mandel's "Safe and Together Model." This model focuses on improving child welfare cases and cross system collaboration in domestic violence cases involving children. The model also addresses domestic violence perpetrator behavior as a way to improve the child welfare system's ability to help families and promote a system that is informed on the dynamics in domestic violence cases. After observing the model in Ohio, committee members invited David Mandel to present at the 2015 Protecting Delaware's Children Conference. His sessions were well received at the conference and the Committee continues to explore how this model could be implemented in Delaware's child welfare system.

In the upcoming year, the Children and Domestic Violence Committee will continue to work on enhancing services to children who have experienced domestic violence and implementation of the action plan. As part of that work, the Committee will be considering legislative changes to the Code provisions regarding perpetrators of domestic violence.



Criminal Justice Committee

The focus of the Criminal Justice Committee is to continuously review the system response to domestic violence and sexual assault in order to identify and implement improvements to the criminal justice system through policy development. This committee brings together law enforcement, the courts, the Chief Defender, the Department of Justice, the Department of Correction, DELJIS, advocates and community partners to resolve issues specific to the needs of those affected by domestic violence.

One issue identified and discussed in FY2015 was the service of default Protection from Abuse (PFA) orders on respondents who have failed to appear in court for a PFA hearing. As a result of the discussion, three large police agencies applied for grant funding to send additional law enforcement officers to serve difficult to locate respondents with PFA orders. The Committee is working on ways to more easily alert law enforcement officers that there is an unserved PFA order when they encounter a respondent in the course of their work. The Police Chiefs' Council is working on a protocol for serving respondents when law enforcement is made aware of the unserved order. The Committee also identified a number of respondents on probation with unserved PFA orders and as a result, Probation and Parole has instituted a protocol for notifying probationers of the unserved order.



Elderly and Domestic Violence Committee

In Fiscal Year 2015, the DVCC revitalized the Elderly and Domestic Violence Committee. The Committee met regularly and established goals. The goals set by the Committee are to:

- Develop systems to compile data to identify the needs of elderly victims of domestic violence;
- Provide education to the judiciary and law enforcement and promote awareness of domestic violence to older members of the community;
- Identify/expand emergency and safe transitional housing options for elderly who are victims of domestic violence; and
- Develop a statewide corps of volunteer peer advocates to provide advocacy and accompaniment to elderly victims throughout the criminal justice process.

The Committee, made up of representatives from the Department of Safety and Homeland Security, the Department of Justice, law enforcement, advocates and community partners, has gathered information about the types of data collected by various systems and agencies in order to identify trends and needs of elderly victims of domestic violence. This includes obtaining the types of crimes reported and the familial relationship of older victims to the accused in cases that are addressed by the legal system.

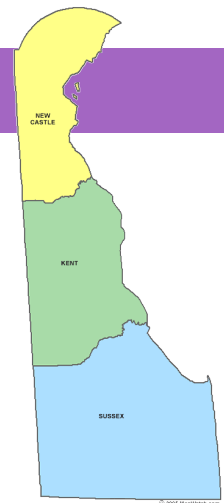
In addition, the Committee is working to identify safe, temporary housing options for elderly victims of domestic violence in order to reduce the potential for additional victimization when the accused is a family member who resides with the older victim.

Downstate Committee

The Downstate Committee is an informational and networking group that has been critical in bridging the gap between New Castle County and Kent/Sussex Counties. Domestic violence and sexual assault advocates and providers from Kent/Sussex Counties often find it difficult to participate in person at meetings that are primarily held in New Castle County. The Downstate Committee seeks to inform its meeting attendees about crucial information and services that are identified in northern Delaware meetings.

The Committee also identifies issues and needs that are specific to victims living in Kent and Sussex Counties and works to effectuate change. The Committee frequently invites guest speakers to attend the meetings. Over the past year presentation topics have included the Adopt-A-Family Program, Economic Empowerment and the DVCC's statewide PFA Survey results.

In 2015, the Downstate Committee will be re-launched as the Kent/Sussex Collaborative Working Group. This group will continue with the same mission and goals but will seek to increase its membership by reaching out to additional community partners.





Immigration Committee

Immigrant victims of domestic violence - whether documented or undocumented - face a number of barriers when seeking help and are less likely to report crimes or seek police assistance because they fear they will be reported to federal immigration authorities and deported. This

committee, made up of service providers, law enforcement, advocates, survivors of domestic violence and other interested parties, openly discusses the additional barriers confronting immigrant victims and works to effectuate change. The Committee also maintains an open dialogue about the constantly changing laws, service issues and needs of immigrant victims.

Over the past year, the Committee has worked diligently to revise and create a more comprehensive *Guide for Advocates Working with Immigrant Victims of Domestic Violence*. The Guide provides practical tips and considerations to help advocates address the complex and unique needs of an immigrant victim including a list of both state and national resources. The Guide can be found at <http://dvcc.delaware.gov/immimeetings.shtml>

During the next year, the Immigration Committee will coordinate with Christiana Care's Community Center of Excellence in Women's Health to bring a Domestic Violence Prevention Forum to the Hispanic community in Sussex County.

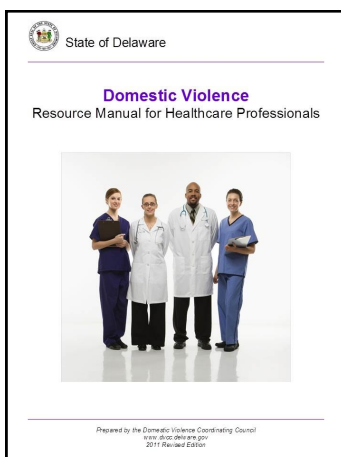
Guide For Advocates Working with Immigrant Victims of Domestic Violence



Delaware Domestic Violence Coordinating Council
www.dvcc.delaware.gov
October 2014

Medical Committee

Domestic violence remains a challenge to the medical community and patients alike. Domestic violence diminishes a health care provider's ability to deliver effective care and is often the root cause of many problems providers encounter including headaches, pain syndromes, noncompliance with medication and multiple emergency room visits. Domestic violence may affect as many as 33% of female patients and their children, and up to 7.4% of male patients.

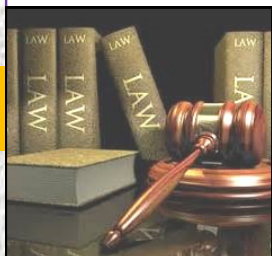


The Committee, made up of health care providers, advocates and service providers, acknowledges the profound difference that health care providers can make by universally screening for domestic violence and providing resources. The Committee seeks to provide accessible information and education to health care providers in Delaware regarding the screening and treatment of patients experiencing domestic violence.

The Committee is working on revising its *Domestic Violence Resource Manual for Healthcare Professionals* which was originally released in 2011 and widely praised for its comprehensive and collaborative approach.

The revised Manual and accompanying training will include information on the Lethality Assessment Tool in an effort to reflect best practices in Delaware, and an updated strangulation documentation tool. The training will be revised to include the addition of role plays where participants will have the opportunity to practice screening patients for domestic violence.

The *Domestic Violence Resource Manual for Healthcare Professionals* and information about how to schedule training can be found at: http://dvcc.delaware.gov/documents/D808563Manual_Proof_Final_01172012.pdf.



Legislative Drafting & Review Committee

The Legislative Drafting & Review Committee reviews proposed legislation addressing domestic violence and sexual assault issues and considers legislative initiatives to be supported by the DVCC. Participation on the Committee includes representatives from the General Assembly, the Department of Justice, the courts, law enforcement, advocates and community partners.

During Fiscal Year 2015, the Committee proposed legislation to amend the Protection from Abuse (PFA) statute to clarify that even when parental rights have been terminated, a PFA petition may be filed on behalf of a child against a former parent if there is conduct that constitutes abuse. Representative Barbieri was the prime sponsor of the bill which was introduced as House Bill 132. The bill was signed by the Governor on July 28, 2015. The other bill that was proposed by the Legislative Committee was Senate Bill 55. Senate Bill 55 would extend the number of days for an emergency ex parte PFA order from 10 days to 15 days to allow additional time to serve the petition. This bill is still pending in the General Assembly.

The Committee was asked to review proposed legislation that was later introduced as Senate Bill 83. SB 83 amended the PFA statute regarding the relinquishment of firearms and amended the person prohibited statute regarding misdemeanor crimes of domestic violence to include substantive dating relationships. The Committee discussed the draft bill and offered comments to the sponsors. SB 83 passed and is expected to be signed.

Treatment Committee

Ensuring the quality and effectiveness of offender treatment is essential to promoting violence free behavior and enhancing victim safety. The Treatment Committee develops and reviews batterers' intervention policies and procedures (Domestic Violence Intervention Standards) which mandate specific credentials, education and training for treatment service providers as well as outlining the components required for program content. The Intervention Standards seek to increase victim safety by eliminating violence in intimate relationships. Interventions focus on holding the offenders accountable for their behavior by teaching new skills and monitoring behavior while participating in intervention programs. The Committee continually monitors changes in the field and focuses on providing the best treatment programs possible for the State of Delaware.



Over the past year, the Committee worked to assist treatment providers to obtain appropriate access to domestic violence criminal history through the DELJIS DV Treatment Provider Project. This project allows treatment providers to access domestic violence criminal conviction records through a Probation and Parole referral process. This information allows treatment providers to better serve program participants and helps increase the safety of the provider.

In April of 2015, Aimee String, DVCC Project Coordinator, was afforded the opportunity to attend a three day International Batterers' Intervention Conference in Grand Rapids, Michigan. Participants came from throughout the United States and the United Kingdom, Australia and Hong Kong and featured leading experts in the field including Michael Paymar, David Mandel, Tony Porter, Kit Gruelle and many more. While at the Batterers' Intervention Conference, String was invited to serve as Delaware's representative to the national association of treatment providers, Acquiring Qualitative Understanding of Intervention Leading to Advocacy (AQUILA). AQUILA is dedicated to providing accurate, evidence-based information about batterer intervention programs and their impact on batterers. The Committee hopes to utilize this resource as we evaluate the treatment programs in Delaware in the upcoming year.

During the next year, the Committee plans to bring "offender-centered" training to Delaware in order to assist providers in obtaining hard-to-find and costly training hours that are required by the Delaware Domestic Violence Intervention Standards.



Batterers' Intervention Certification Panel

"I learned a lot and feel like I'm a better man and can be a better father".
Program Graduate

The Batterers' Intervention Certification Panel (Panel) is a subcommittee of the Treatment Committee. The Panel is responsible for overseeing and ensuring that treatment programs meet all specified requirements of the Domestic Violence Intervention Standards prior to being added to the list of Court Approved Certified Treatment Programs. The Panel is made up of eleven members from designated agencies as prescribed by the Certification Rules and Procedures. The panelists include a representative from three of the certified treatment programs, a victim advocate from an agency or organization that works directly with domestic violence victims as well as representatives from Family Court, the Attorney General's office, Probation and Parole, Youth Rehabilitation Services, the Office of Defense Services, the Department of Correction's Treatment Unit, and a representative from Delaware Prevention and Behavioral Health Services with experience in adolescent development.

The Panel also meets annually to review Certified Treatment Program's Annual Reports to ensure that programs remain in compliance with the Intervention Standards including compliance with all continuing education requirements for facilitators. This annual review process helps Delaware to maintain high quality and streamlined treatment services statewide.

Delaware currently has four certified programs which offer intervention treatment groups in numerous locations statewide:

Catholic Charities
2601 West 4th Street
Wilmington, DE 19805
Phone: 302-655-9624
Fax: 302-654-6432

CHILD, Inc.
507 Philadelphia Pike
Wilmington, DE 19809
Phone: 302-762-8989
Fax: 302-762-8987

Dover Air Force Base
436 MDOS/SGOW
Family Advocacy Program
300 Tuskegee Blvd.
Dover AFB, DE 19902
Phone: 302-677-2711

**Peoples Place II
(Turning Point)**
1129 Airport Road
Milford, DE 19963
Phone: 302-424-2420
Fax: 302-424-2402

The Domestic Violence Intervention Standards can be found at: <http://dvcc.delaware.gov/certinfo.shtml>.

Public Awareness/Education Committee



During Fiscal Year 2015, the DVCC re-established the Public Awareness/Education Committee. The Committee met regularly and focused on the following initiatives:

- Promoting awareness about domestic violence and resources available in Delaware for those experiencing abuse;
- Establishing a web-based clearinghouse to disseminate information about education and training opportunities available throughout Delaware.

The Committee identified the need to systematically disseminate information about education and training opportunities available throughout Delaware. The Committee is exploring the feasibility of creating a comprehensive web-based calendar that would include domestic violence-related training and educational events which are open to professionals and/or public.

The Committee also identified the need to distribute domestic violence resource posters to agencies and organizations that provide services to youth. This included providing posters for display in nurses' offices, health suites and counseling centers within public and charter middle schools. The Committee plans to expand distribution of the posters to private and parochial middle and high schools.

Posters were also provided to public libraries, Boys and Girls Clubs and YMCA's throughout Delaware. Posters were distributed to 120 locations as a result of this initiative.

The posters, in both English and Spanish, include contact information for domestic violence and sexual assault hotlines in Delaware as well as numbers for court-based advocacy services, Adult Protective Services, the Child Abuse Hotline and the 24-hour Delaware Victim Center. The National Dating Abuse Helpline, a resource for teens, their parents and educators, is also listed.

In addition to the efforts of the Public Awareness/Education Committee, the DVCC continuously conducts outreach to the community at large to inform the public about the services and assistance available to victims. Domestic Violence Resource Posters were also distributed to Justice of the Peace Courts, hospitals, urgent care centers, community-based health and mental health centers, social service agencies, police departments, faith based organizations, community centers, college libraries, military installations and the Lenape and Nanticoke Indian Tribes.

More than 500 domestic violence resource posters were distributed to locations throughout Delaware from July 1, 2014 through June 30, 2015.

DELAWARE DOMESTIC VIOLENCE RESOURCES

It Shouldn't Hurt To Go Home.

New Castle County	
24-Hour Domestic Violence Hotline	302-762-6110
24-Hour Rape Crisis Hotline	302-761-9100
Court-Based Advocacy Services	302-255-0420
Adult Victim Services	302-658-7174 ext.12
Kent and Sussex Counties	
24-Hour Domestic Violence Hotline	302-422-8058
Northern Kent County	302-678-3886
Bi-lingual Domestic Violence Hotline	302-745-9874
24-Hour Rape Crisis Hotline	1-800-262-9800
Kent Co. Court-Based Advocacy Services	302-672-1075
Sussex Co. Court-Based Advocacy Services	302-856-5843
National Resources	
National Teen Dating Abuse Helpline	1-866-331-9474
24-Hour National Domestic Violence Hotline	1-800-799-7233
24-Hour National Domestic Violence Hotline	TTY: 1-800-787-3224
Additional Resources in Delaware	
Adult Protective Services-Statewide	1-800-223-9074
Delaware Legal Help Link	1-888-225-0582
24-Hour Delaware Victim Center	1-800-842-8461
Child Abuse Report Hotline	1-800-292-9582

Abuse can include physical and sexual assault, stalking, threats and coercion, as well as emotional and economic abuse. Children are hurt just by seeing or hearing the violence. They are at risk for emotional and developmental problems.

If you are in immediate danger, call 911!

Prepared by: Domestic Violence Coordinating Council 100 Newlin Drive Delaware DE 19714

Recursos para víctimas de violencia doméstica en Delaware

No debería doler volver a casa

Condado de New Castle	
Línea confidencial para víctimas de violencia doméstica — 24 horas	302-762-6110
Línea confidencial para víctimas de abuso sexual — 24 horas	302-761-9100
Programa de ayuda para víctimas situado en la corte	302-255-0420
Servicios para adultos víctimas de delitos	302-658-7174 ext. 12
Condados de Kent y Sussex	
Línea confidencial para víctimas de violencia doméstica — 24 horas	302-422-8058
En la parte norte del Condado de Kent	302-678-3886
Línea confidencial bilingüe para víctimas de violencia doméstica	302-745-9874
Línea confidencial para víctimas de abuso sexual — 24 horas	1-800-262-9800
Programa de ayuda para víctimas situado en la corte	
Condado de Kent	302-672-1075
Condado de Sussex	302-856-5843
Recursos nacionales	
Línea nacional para adolescentes víctimas de noviazgos violentos	1-866-331-9474
Línea nacional para víctimas de violencia doméstica — 24 horas	1-800-799-7233
Línea nacional para sordos víctimas de violencia doméstica — 24 horas	TTY: 1-800-787-3224
Recursos adicionales en Delaware	
Servicios de protección para adultos en el estado de Delaware	1-800-223-9074
Línea confidencial para denuncias de abuso infantil	1-800-292-9582
Enlace de ayuda legal en Delaware — 24 horas	1-888-225-0582
Centro para víctimas de delincuencia en Delaware	1-800-842-8461

El abuso puede incluir:

Agresión física y sexual, acoso, amenazas y coerción, como también abuso emocional y económico. Los niños son afectados con solo ver o escuchar la violencia.

Si usted está en peligro inmediato, ¡llame al 911!

Preparedo por el: Domestic Violence Coordinating Council 100 Newlin Drive Delaware DE 19714

Trainings

Training and education fulfill an important function by increasing public awareness about domestic violence and sexual assault and the resources available to assist victims and their families. From July 2014 through June 2015, a total of 1,845 persons were trained. The DVCC provided 51 trainings for healthcare and behavioral health

professionals, law enforcement, judicial branch employees, schools and members of the community. DVCC training and education activities included:

- DE State Housing Authority
- Endoscopy Center of Delaware
- Family Court Mediators – Statewide
- DE Constables Academy (DTCC)
- Wilmington VA Medical Center
- Division of Child Support Enforcement - NCC
- University of Delaware - Nurse Practitioner Students
- Through the Word Bible Fellowship Church
- SODAT Delaware, Inc.
- ContactLifeLine Volunteers
- Polytech High School Faculty and Administrators
- Complete Family Care Center
- Wilmington Police Department - All Platoons
- Division of Substance Abuse and Mental Health
- Adolescent Development Class - Wilmington University
- The Ties That Bind - Zoë Ministries

The DVCC also collaborates extensively with community partners statewide by participating in public awareness events. For example:

- Day of Remembrance for Murder Victims
- DV Prevention Forum – Christiana Care
- DE Ecumenical Council on Children and Families
- Camp Rehoboth Health & Wellness Fair
- World Elder Abuse Awareness Day – Wilmington
- Dover Air Force Base - SAFETY FIRST Community Health & Wellness Expo
- YMCA Dover - Senior Wellness Expo
- DSP Troop 4 Community Safety Day
- Seeds of Greatness Bible Church – DV Breakfast
- Victims' Rights Tribute - Dover
- Safe Summer Day – Kent County Levy Court
- New Castle County Police Department Community Services Unit - Northern District *National Night Out*

In addition, the DVCC is invited by community partners to conduct interactive skill-building workshops for program participants. Workshop topics include understanding the dynamics of domestic violence including stalking and stalking using technology, safety planning, characteristics of healthy relationships and when requested, positive parenting techniques. The DVCC has conducted workshops through:

- YWCA Home Life Management Center, Wilmington
- DE Mentoring Program Pre-Release Classes – Baylor Women's Correctional Institution
- Habitat for Humanity of New Castle County
- Neighborhood House, Wilmington

Teen Dating Violence

The DVCC provided “lunch and learn” sessions, classroom presentations, workshops and resource tables to inform students about the characteristics and qualities of healthy relationships, dynamics of teen dating violence including cyber abuse, safety planning, resources available to teens, and ways to help a friend who is experiencing abuse in their dating relationship.

The DVCC provided education to students in the following high schools:

Alexis I. DuPont High School

Appoquinimink High School

Cape Henlopen High School

Christiana High School

Conrad Schools of Science

Middletown High School

Polytech High School

St. Georges Technical High School

Today I learned...

“If you are in a unhealthy relationship talk to a parent or teacher on how to handle it and get help.”

“An abusive relationship can be psychological, emotional or physical.”

“You are not alone.”

“Sexting is a crime.”

“People who abuse often use excuses to justify their behavior.”

“Communication and trust are big key factors in a healthy relationship.”

~Delaware high school students

Teen Dating Violence Awareness and Prevention Month

In observance of February as Teen Dating Violence and Prevention Month, the DVCC, the *safe + respectful* program of CHILD, Inc. and the *REAL Relationships* program of Turning Point at People's Place co-hosted the 2nd Annual Teen Dating Violence Awareness and Prevention Instagram Contest. High school students throughout Delaware were invited to submit original photographs representing characteristics of a healthy teen relationship. Characteristics depicted included: *Communication, Boundaries, Equality* or *Acceptance*. Each entry was accompanied by a caption describing the quality the student portrayed. More than 70 entries were received from students across the state.

A panel of judges reviewed the submissions and rated the photos on creativity, impact and the representation of one of the characteristics. The winners were announced at the Newark Charter High School. Winning submissions can be viewed at [#RelationshipRespectDE](https://www.instagram.com/RelationshipRespectDE).

The Instagram Contest had a positive impact on teens. As one high school principal noted, "The Instagram Contest is an example of an activity that assists us to develop respectful young adults."



2015 Instagram winning entry



(left to right): Aadesh Nagda, Jon Tressler, Katie Marianello (teacher), Shaily Patel, and Janel Wice

Did you know....

- 8.9% of Delaware high school students have experienced physical dating violence.
- 10.4% have experienced sexual dating violence in the last year.

(Source: Delaware YRBS 2013)

Domestic Violence Prevention Forum

Christiana Care's Community Center of Excellence in Women's Health, along with representatives from the DVCC, West Side Health Center, Henrietta Johnson Medical Center, Wilmington Police Department, Wilmington Police Department Victim Services Unit, New Castle County Police Department Victim Services Unit, Delta Outreach and Education Center, the YWCA – Wilmington, the Delaware Coalition Against Domestic Violence, and the *safe + respectful* program (CHILD, Inc.) joined to conduct three Domestic Violence Prevention Forums (DV Forums) for the community.

The DV Forums consisted of interactive theatrical skits along with audience and panel discussion. Two of the DV Forums focused on teen dating violence awareness and prevention. A DV Forum was held for students at the Howard High School of Technology. A second DV Forum, organized by a workgroup led by the Delta Outreach and Education Center, was offered to the public at the Carvel State Building. DVCC actively participated in this forum as a planning team member, panelist and a resource table exhibitor. The third DV Forum was conducted in Spanish at the Latin American Community Center.

More than 285 teens and adults attended the DV Forums and a significant majority of participants were teens.



Update on the Liane Sorenson Act

In 2012, Senate Bill 206, known as the Liane Sorenson Act, required that each school district and charter school in Delaware develop a policy for responding to teen dating violence and sexual assault. The Act specified that the policies be submitted to the DVCC for review by January 5, 2015. This year, the DVCC reviewed the school policies and advised that they adequately addressed the components set forth in the statute.

In addition, the DVCC provided the Department of Education with on-line training for administrators, school counselors and school nurses on responding to teen dating violence and sexual assault. The on-line training supplements the *Guidelines for Responding to Teen Dating and Sexual Violence in Delaware Schools* which was developed in 2012 by a workgroup of the Child Protection Accountability Commission (CPAC) Abuse Intervention Committee. The Guidelines can be found at: http://courts.delaware.gov/childadvocate/cpac_abuseintervention.stm.

Collaboration

The Intersection of Domestic Violence and Human Trafficking

The DVCC had several opportunities to join with other agencies and organizations to raise awareness of the intersection of human trafficking and domestic violence. DVCC and Zoë

Ministries in Sussex County co-sponsored a public forum “The Ties that Bind: Understanding the Intersection Between Domestic Violence and Human Trafficking.” The forum was held at Delaware Technical Community College Owens Campus in Georgetown. Service providers and the public learned about the dynamics of intimate partner violence, obstacles and barriers survivors encounter, resources and options available and ways to help a friend. Information about the types of and prevalence of human trafficking, control tactics used by sex and labor traffickers, the traumatic effects of trafficking on victims and domestic violence as a “push/pull” factor for human trafficking was presented. A tribute to victims concluded the event. In addition, resource tables and informational displays ensured that valuable information about local services was available to victims.



Pat Kwetkauskie, DVCC Trainer/Educator

The DVCC collaborated with the Delaware Department of Justice, Family Court, and the US Department of Homeland Security Investigations to conduct four trainings to police officers within the Wilmington Police Department. Topics included: Federal and State Laws Addressing Human Trafficking and Delaware’s Department of Justice’s Response; Understanding the Nexus of Domestic Violence and Human Trafficking; Role of the Family Court Judiciary in Human Trafficking Cases; and Law Enforcement Response to Human Trafficking.

Disabilities Subcommittee of the Victims’ Rights Task Force

As a participating member of the Disabilities Subcommittee of the Victims’ Rights Task Force, the DVCC collaborated to develop a concept for a statewide survey. The purpose of the survey was to identify the immediate needs for safety, support, and care of adults with disabilities who report victimization. Once the concept was finalized, staff from Delaware 211 developed a web-based survey. The survey was distributed to service providers such as forensic nurses, behavioral health staff, domestic violence program staff including DV hotline workers, rape crisis staff, 211 call takers, police-based victim services and central intake housing specialists. Staff from 211 will collect and analyze survey data and provide results to the Subcommittee at three and six month intervals. Results from the survey will then be utilized to inform the work and future initiatives of the Disabilities Subcommittee.

Conferences

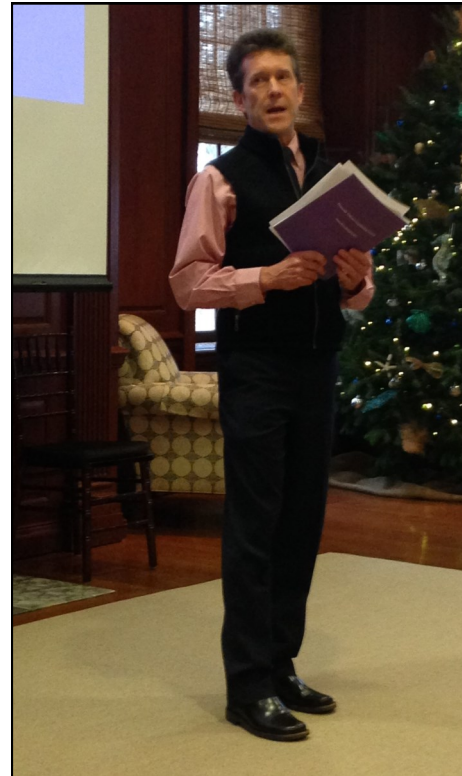
In Fiscal Year 2015, DVCC staff, Council members and FIRT members were able to participate in several conferences, workshops and trainings addressing domestic violence, sexual assault and fatality review.

- **Strengthening and Protecting Families: The Intersection of Family Health Law & Domestic Violence** hosted by Widener Law Review and Family Health Law & Policy Institute of Widener University School of Law
- **Protecting Delaware's Children Conference** hosted by the Child Death, Near Death & Stillborn Commission and the Child Protection Accountability Commission
- **DCADV 20th Anniversary Institute: Integrating Health, Prevention & Trauma-Informed Practices Into Our Work** hosted by Delaware Coalition Against Domestic Violence
- **Delaware Law Enforcement Domestic Violence Conference**
- **Domestic Violence 101 Workshop** hosted by Delaware Coalition Against Domestic Violence
- **Trauma Matters Networking Breakfast** hosted by Trauma Informed Care Interest Group of Delaware, the Department of Services for Children, Youth and Their Families, Division of Public Health and Division of Substance Abuse and Mental Health
- **The High Altitude Family Violence Summer Conference** hosted by the Family Violence Institute at Northern Arizona University
- **Fatality Review: Communities and Social Change** hosted by National Domestic Violence Fatality Review Initiative
- **Learning From Each Other Summit** hosted by the Family Violence Institute
- **Advancing the Narrative: Inspiring the Future** hosted by the Batterer Intervention Coalition of Michigan (BISC-MI)
- **SeXXX Ed! Talking to Youth about Sexually Explicit Media** hosted by Wilmington Teen Pregnancy Council

Events



Senator Patricia Blevins, Governor Jack Markell,
Brittany Lewis, Carol Post and Brian Eiermann
Domestic Violence Awareness Month Proclamation
October 2014



Matthew Dale
Sr. Consultant, NDVFR
Fatal Incident Review Team Retreat
December 2014



Ellie Torres, Liane Sorenson, Senator Patricia Blevins
Domestic Violence Coordinating Council
Outstanding Community Service Award
April 2015



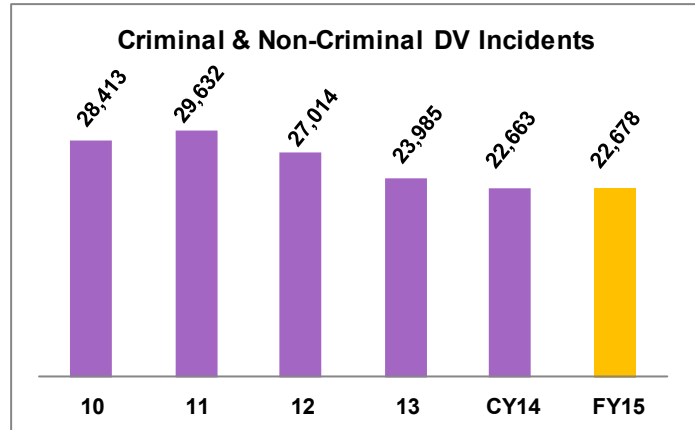
Domestic Violence Coordinating Council Retreat
October 2014

Domestic Violence Statistics

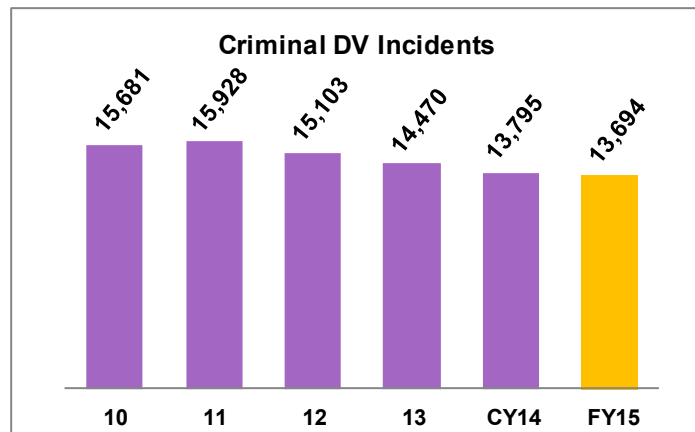
In Calendar Year 2014, there were a total of 22,663 criminal and non-criminal domestic violence incidents reported in Delaware. FY 2015 had a total of 22,678 combined criminal and non-criminal incidents.

Criminal domestic violence incidents are those in which a crime is committed or alleged.

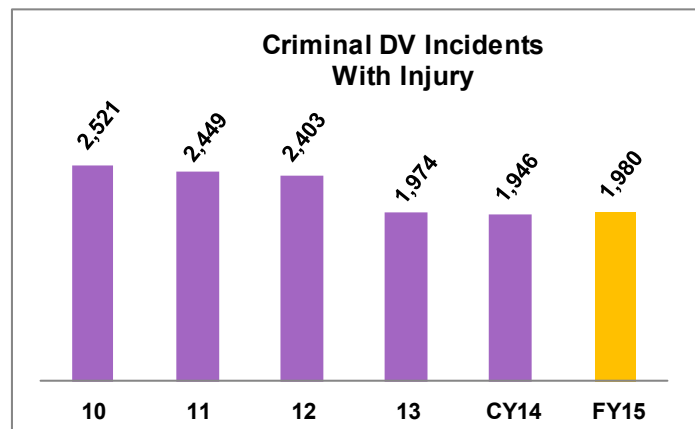
Non-criminal domestic violence incidents are those in which there is police contact, but no crime was alleged, e.g., a verbal argument without any threats.



In Calendar Year 2014, the total number of reported domestic violence criminal incidents was 13,795. FY 2015 had a total of 13,694 criminal incidents.

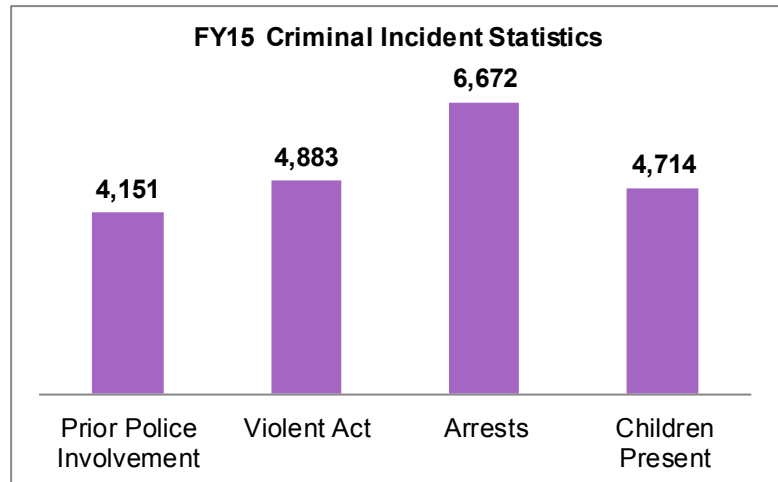


Of the 13,795 reported domestic violence criminal incidents in CY 2014, 1,946 resulted in physical injury to the victim. FY 2015 had a total of 1,980 incidents resulting in injury.



Domestic Violence Statistics

- In FY 2015, 30% of domestic violence incidents had prior police involvement.
- In FY 2015, 36% of domestic violence incidents involved a violent act.
- In FY 2015, 49% of domestic violence incidents resulted in an arrest.
- In FY 2015, children were present in 34% of domestic violence incidents.



Lethality Assessment Protocol (LAP)

Delaware adopted a Lethality Assessment Protocol (LAP) in late 2010. The LAP provides an easy and effective method to identify victims of domestic violence who are at the highest potential for being seriously injured or killed by an intimate partner. A risk assessment is completed by law enforcement at the scene of a domestic violence incident, and the victim is put in contact with the domestic violence hotline immediately for safety planning purposes.

Three years after adopting the LAP, the statistics indicated that it was not being effectively or consistently utilized by the 43 police agencies that write domestic violence reports in Delaware. In Calendar Year 2013, law enforcement completed the risk assessment **only 40% of the time** when writing a domestic violence report that qualified under the protocol.

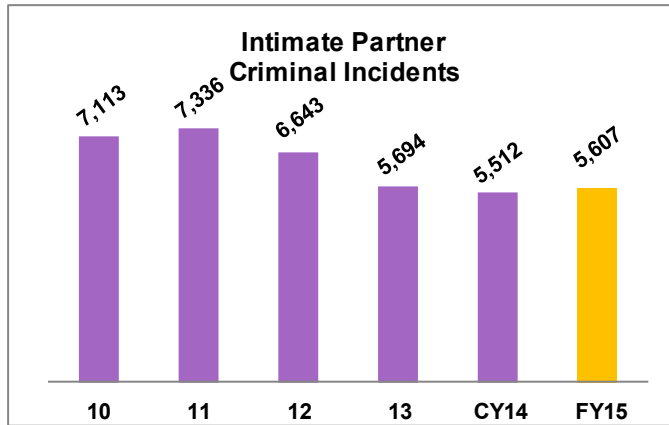
To increase usage of the LAP, the Department of Safety and Homeland Security hired a Domestic Violence Risk Analyst in 2013 to re-launch the LAP by training law enforcement officers statewide on the protocol. The Delaware Capitol Police received a grant through the Criminal Justice Council, under the Office on Violence Against Women (OVW) STOP Violence Against Women Formula Grant Program to support this initiative. Since beginning the training in 2014, the DV Risk Analyst has conducted **43 training sessions in 27 agencies to over 520 officers** and the utilization of the LAP has dramatically increased. In 2014, the completion rate was up to **64%** and the first six months of 2015 indicate a completion rate of **70%**.

In addition to the re-launch of the LAP, Capitol Police and the Domestic Violence Risk Analyst collaborated with the courts and community partners to develop a web-based referral program for high risk cases. The Domestic Violence Intervention Program (VIP) allows anyone to make a referral for a domestic violence victim to receive police accompaniment to a court hearing in any of the three counties. A link to the VIP is:

<http://capitolpd.delaware.gov/>.

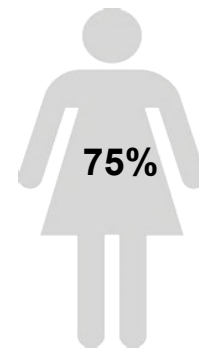
Intimate Partner Criminal Statistics

Incidents of domestic violence can be perpetrated against an intimate partner or a family member. Intimate partners can include current and former spouses, current and former dating couples with or without a child in common and teen dating couples. Intimate partners may be the same gender.

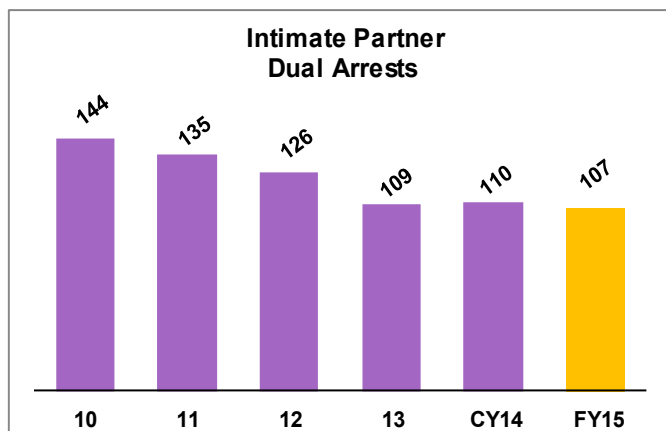


In Calendar Year 2014, of the 13,795 criminal incidents reported, 5,512 were between intimate partners. FY 2015 had 5,607 reports between intimate partners.

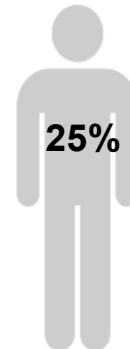
Of those reports in FY 2015, 950 indicated physical injury to the victim.



Of the intimate partner criminal incidents reported, 75% of the victims were female for both Calendar Year 2014 and Fiscal Year 2015.



Dual arrests occur when police officers arrest both intimate partners involved in a domestic violence incident. In Calendar Year 2014, there were 110 dual arrests made by law enforcement. FY 2015 had 107 dual arrests.



Protection From Abuse Statistics

An order of protection from abuse (PFA) is a civil order issued by the Family Court that provides protection from harm by a family or household member. In addition to family and household members, persons living separate and apart with a child in common, or persons in a current or former substantive dating relationship may file for a PFA. The Court may order the abuser to stay away from the person being abused, provide exclusive use of the home or possessions, award temporary custody, child support or spousal support, or payment of expenses. Additionally, the offender may be ordered to surrender firearms, or to seek treatment from a certified Batterers' Intervention Program.

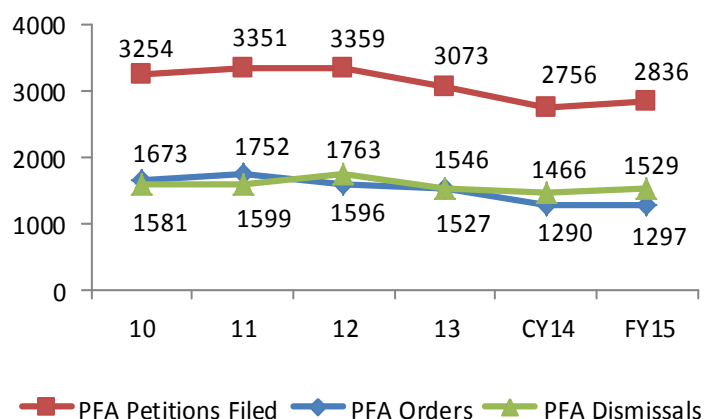
Upon a finding that aggravating circumstances exist, the Court may grant no contact relief for as long as reasonably necessary to prevent further acts of abuse or domestic violence up to and including a permanent, or lifetime, order.

In FY 2015, there were 70 lifetime PFA orders issued that were still in effect at the end of the fiscal year.

FY 15 Lifetime Orders

New Castle County:	37
Kent County:	25
Sussex County:	8
Total	70

- In CY 2014, Family Court processed 2,756 PFA petitions statewide. Of those petitions filed, 1,290 orders were issued and 1,466 petitions were dismissed.
- In FY 2015, Family Court processed 2,836 PFA petitions statewide. Of those petitions filed, 1,297 orders were issued and 1,529 petitions were dismissed.



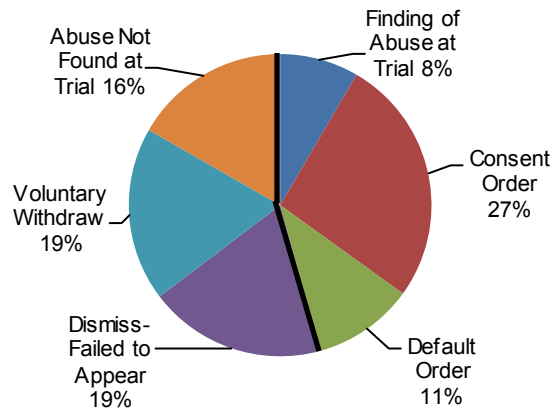
A PFA petition can be dismissed for one of three reasons:

- The petitioner failed to appear for the hearing;
- The petitioner voluntarily withdrew the petition before the hearing; or
- Abuse was not found by a preponderance of evidence following a hearing.

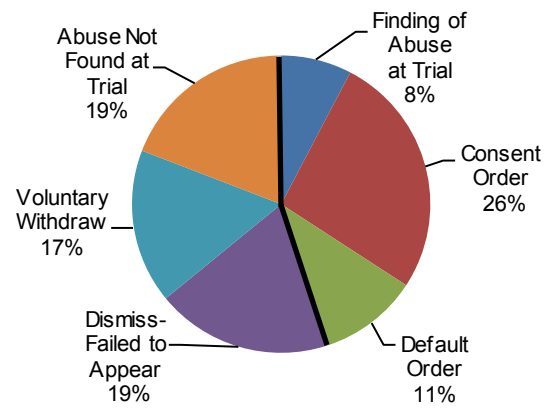
A PFA order can be issued by Family Court in one of three ways:

- The Court finds by a preponderance of the evidence following a hearing that domestic violence has occurred;
- The respondent consents to the entry of a protective order; or
- A default order is entered when the respondent fails to appear for a hearing after proper notice.

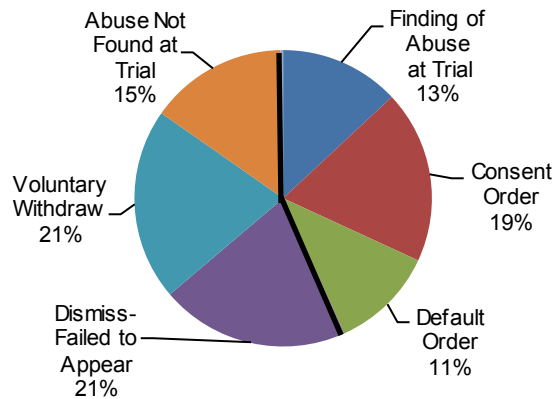
FY 2015 Statewide PFA Outcomes



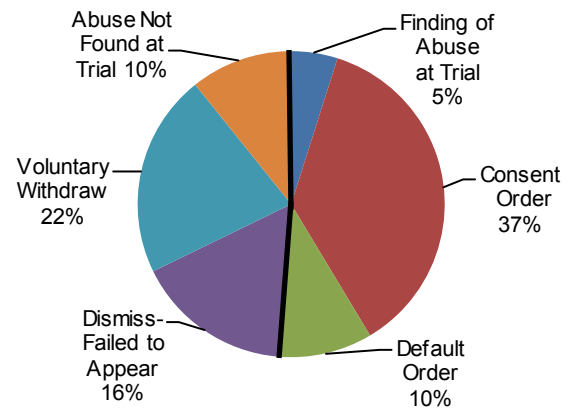
FY 2015 NCC PFA Outcome



FY 2015 Kent PFA Outcomes



FY 2015 Sussex PFA Outcomes



Family Court Enhancement Project

In November 2013, Delaware Family Court was one of four courts nationwide to be selected to participate in the Family Court Enhancement Project (FCEP). The FCEP was created by the United States Department of Justice's Office on Violence Against Women (OVW) with the goal of determining what family court procedures, practices, and structures related to custody and visitation can help keep victims of domestic violence and their children safe from further violence and trauma. The FCEP provides technical assistance, training, data collection, and an assessment of the changes made to the court systems in each community. The project is a collaboration with the National Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges, the Battered Women's Justice Project, the Center for Court Innovation, and the National Institute for Justice.

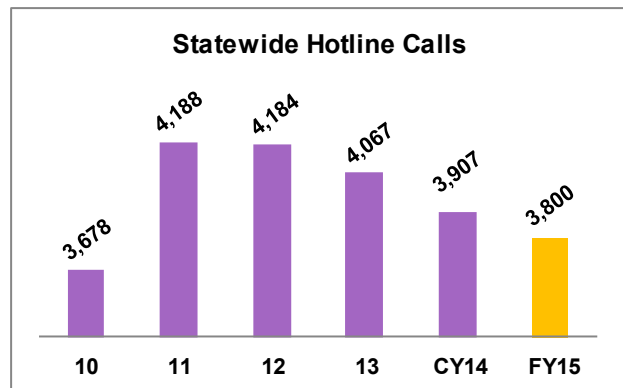
The project launched in Delaware in the spring of 2014 with the national partners and a diverse selection of local individuals and organizations interested in issues of child custody and domestic violence. By the fall of 2014, goals and objectives were established and subcommittees created. The Access to Justice Subcommittee is focused on evaluating and enhancing front-end resources for self-represented litigants in domestic violence-related parenting time and custody cases. The Differentiation Subcommittee is focused on developing a knowledge base regarding the impact of domestic violence on custody decision making. Both subcommittees are working to identify gaps in the current system; develop recommendations for training, case processing, resource development, evaluation and technical assistance; and submit recommendations to the Court.

Domestic Violence Hotline Statistics

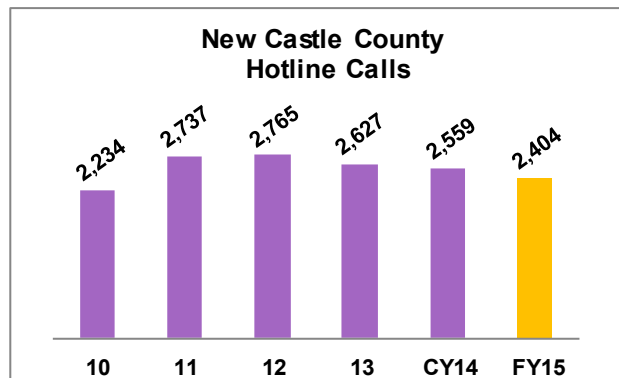
The Domestic Violence Hotlines are an important resource available to victims of domestic violence in Delaware. The hotlines, which are available in all three counties, are confidential and available 24 hours a day/7 days a week. Hotlines are staffed by trained professionals who assist in safety planning, offer emergency shelter when appropriate and refer victims to available resources. Services are available for victims who do not speak English and to those who are hearing impaired.

In Calendar Year 2014, there were a total of 3,907 calls received by the Domestic Violence Hotlines statewide. FY 2015 had a total of 3,800 calls received by the hotlines statewide.

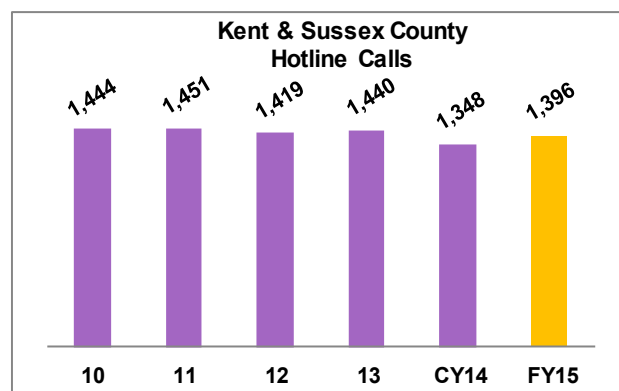
Over a five year span, the average number of hotline calls is 4,029 per year.



In Calendar Year 2014, there were 2,559 calls to the Domestic Violence Hotline in New Castle County. FY 2015 had a total of 2,404 calls to the New Castle County hotline.



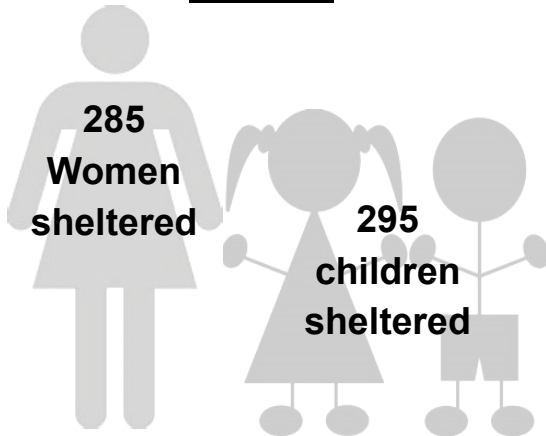
In Calendar Year 2014, there were a total of 1,348 calls to the Domestic Violence Hotlines in Kent and Sussex Counties. FY 2015 had a total of 1,396 calls to the Kent and Sussex Counties' hotlines.



Shelter Statistics

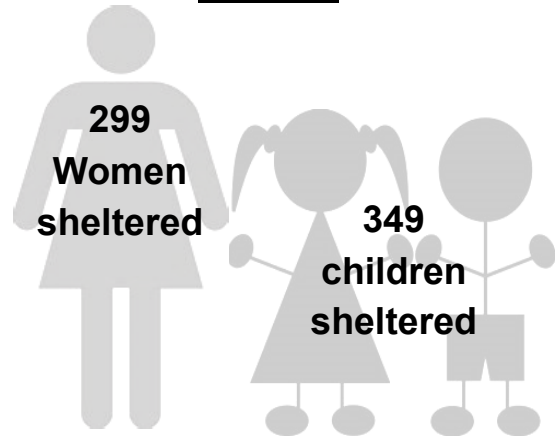
Two agencies, CHILD, Inc. and People's Place, offer shelter and transitional housing in confidential locations throughout Delaware. In addition to providing emergency shelter in a trauma-informed setting, domestic violence shelters offer safety planning, case management, advocacy, counseling, child care, job assistance and more.

CY 2014



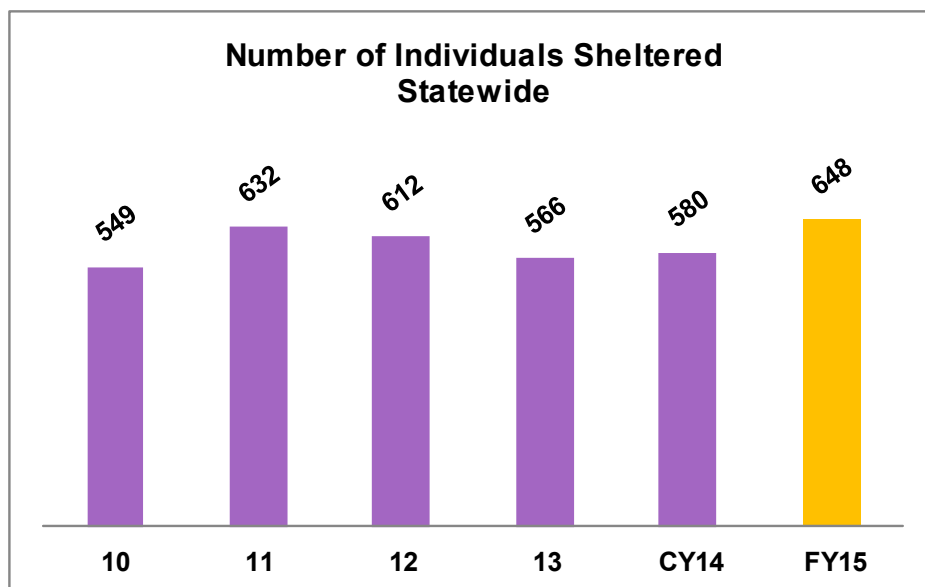
A 4% increase in the number of individuals sheltered from Calendar Year 2013.

FY 2015



A 12% increase in the number of individuals sheltered from Calendar Year 2014.

Number of Individuals Sheltered Statewide

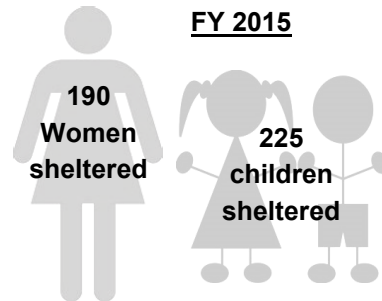
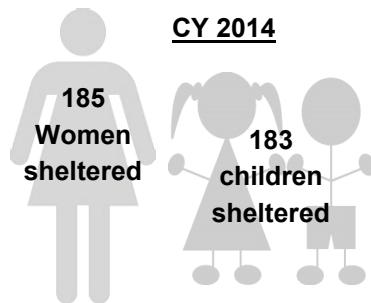
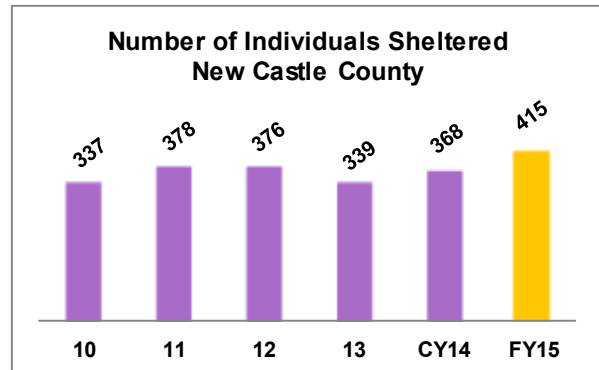


In Calendar Year 2014, 580 individuals were sheltered statewide. Shelter was provided for 648 individuals during Fiscal Year 2015.

Shelter Statistics by County

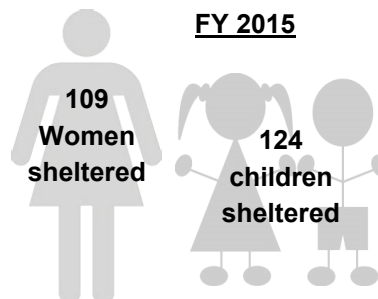
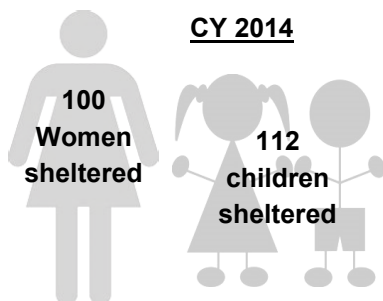
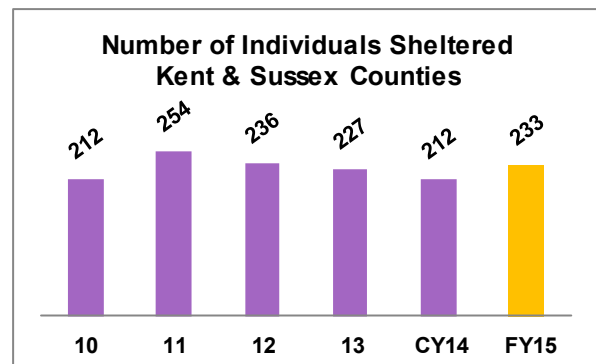
New Castle County

In New Castle County, 368 individuals were provided shelter in CY 2014. Shelter was provided for 415 individuals in FY 2015.



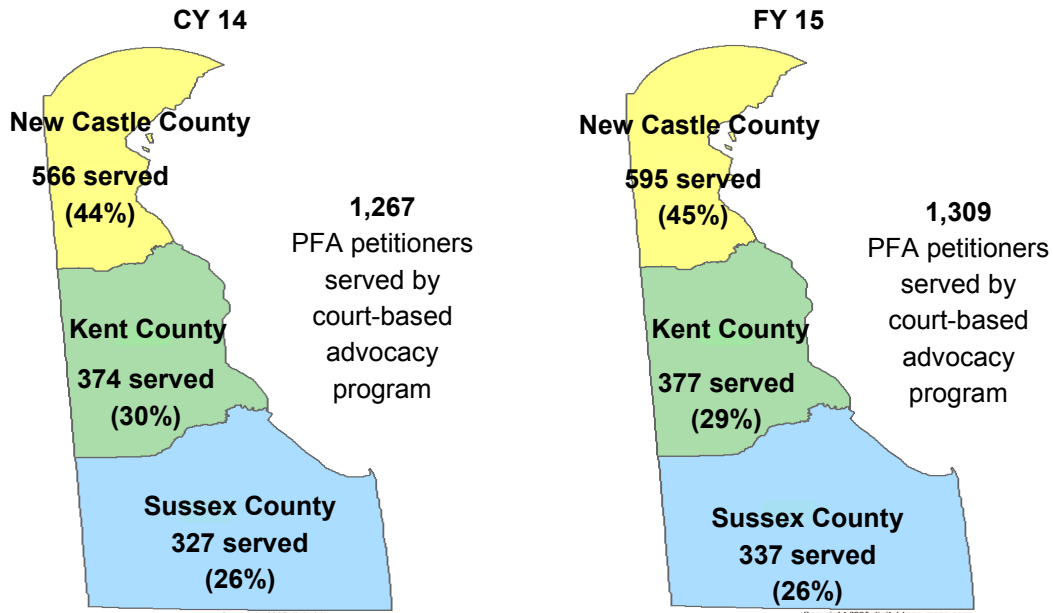
Kent & Sussex Counties

In Kent & Sussex Counties, 212 individuals were provided shelter in CY 2014. Shelter was provided for 233 individuals in FY 2015.



Domestic Violence Court-Based Advocacy Program

The Domestic Violence Advocacy Programs provide free services to help intimate partner victims of domestic violence navigate their way through the court system. CHILD, Inc. is the statewide provider of these services with an advocate located at the Family Court in each county. CHILD, Inc. trains advocates to assist victims with safety planning, answer questions about the court process, file petitions and provide a supportive presence at court hearings.



Legal Services for Victims

Community Legal Aid Society, Inc. (CLASI) provides legal services for victims of domestic violence in Kent and Sussex Counties. In Calendar Year 2014, CLASI handled 411 cases for victims of domestic violence. This was a decrease from 542 cases in 2013. Of the 411 cases, 345 were PFA cases, 29 custody cases, 22 divorce cases, and 15 child support cases.

Delaware Volunteer Legal Services (DVLS) provides free representation in New Castle County to indigent victims of domestic violence. In 2014, pro bono attorneys represented 203 victims through the PFA Pro Bono Program in obtaining protection orders. Pro bono attorneys also represented 80 other clients with PFA matters, custody/visitation and divorce matters. In-house staff and contract attorneys handled another 110 cases for victims including PFA matters, custody and divorce. In-house staff attorneys also provided advice or brief services to an additional 135 victims of domestic violence on PFA, custody and divorce matters.

The Delaware Civil Clinic at Widener University School of Law provides practical legal experience to law students admitted to the limited practice of law, pursuant to Delaware Supreme Court Rule 56. The interns are directly responsible for their client's cases, under the close supervision of the program's director and a staff attorney. In 2014, interns represented 32 victims of domestic violence living below the poverty level in seeking civil orders of protection from abuse, child custody and/or visitation.

Family Visitation Centers Statistics

Family Visitation Centers provide safe, supervised visits between visiting parents and their children at the centers, as well as supervised exchanges of children between parents for off-site visits. Visitation Centers are designed for families with a history of violence, including intimate partner violence, or in other situations when there is concern for the child's welfare. Families are most often referred by Family Court or the Division of Family Services (DFS), but families may also self-refer. The centers are structured to promote safety for families to include staggered arrival and departure times for parents, and separate entrances for parents. Family Visitation Centers employ experienced security guards for the safety of children and parents. The centers are equipped with age appropriate toys, games, crafts and the like. Trained staff support parents in engaging children in activities and positive interactions.

The Delaware Family Visitation Program is a federal and state funded program for the operation of the Family Visitation Centers. The Delaware Department of Health and Social Services/Division of State Service Centers (DHSS/DSSC) administers the program on a contractual basis with CHILD, Inc. and Turning Point at People's Place. The five centers in Delaware are located at the Belvedere State Service Center in Wilmington, the Hudson State Service Center in Newark, the Dover Center in Dover, the Milford State Service Center in Milford, and the Adams State Service Center in Georgetown.

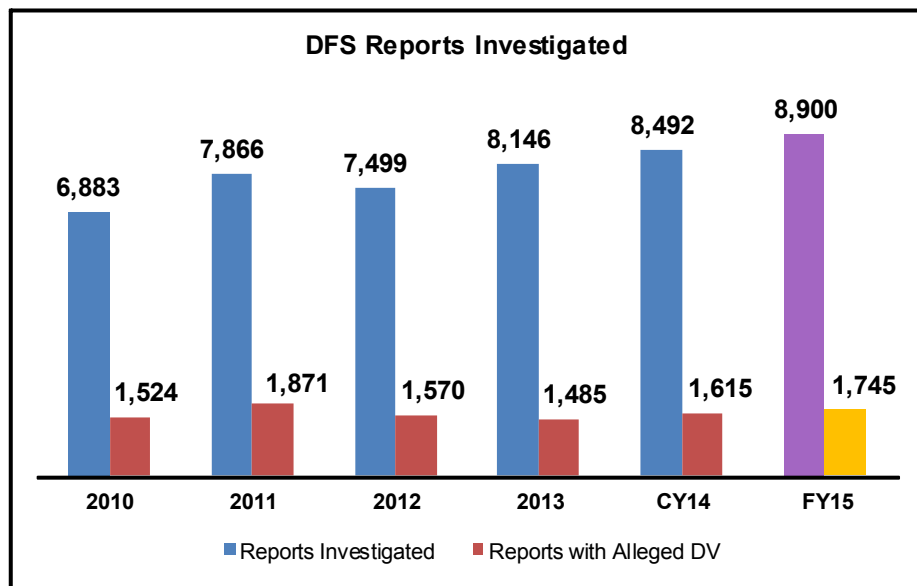
In 2012, DHSS/DSSC, in collaboration with CHILD, Inc. became the recipient of the U.S. Department of Justice Office on Violence Against Women (OVW) Safe Havens: Supervised Visitation and Safe Exchange Grant Program. The objective of the grant is to establish a new Family Visitation Center in the Middletown/Odessa/Townsend area (the Safe Haven Visitation Center) using the guiding principles of Safe Havens Program. The goal of the Safe Havens Visitation Center is to increase children's physical and emotional safety while facilitating visitation and exchanges; and providing for the safety of adult victims and other parties in cases of domestic violence. With the award of this grant, a core group committee was established comprised of representatives from DHSS/DSSC, Family Court, DSCYF/DFS, Delaware Coalition Against Domestic Violence, the DVCC, and CHILD, Inc. who will provide the visitation services. This committee is presently searching for a suitable location for the center and composing policies and procedures that are in line with the guiding principles. The Safe Haven Center will be staffed for approximately 26.5 hours per week (Wednesday, Friday and Sunday) and will serve a minimum of 50 families per week.

	CHILD, Inc. New Castle County		People's Place Kent & Sussex County		Statewide	
	<u>CY14</u>	<u>FY15</u>	<u>CY14</u>	<u>FY15</u>	<u>CY14</u>	<u>FY15</u>
Visitation Exchanges:	280	244	867	1,138	1,147	1,382
Group Visits:	416	440	754	875	1,170	1,315
Individual Supervised Visits:	658	770	805	780	1,463	1,550
Children Served:	168	159	178	221	346	380
Parent/Caregivers Served:	253	275	113	151	366	426

Division of Family Services Statistics

The Division of Family Services (DFS) screens for domestic violence when an allegation of child abuse or neglect is reported to the DFS hotline. In Calendar Year 2014, DFS received 18,348 reports alleging child abuse or neglect. Of those, 8,492 (46.3%) were accepted for investigation. Of those reports accepted for investigation, 1,615 (19%) also alleged domestic violence. Out of those reports accepted for investigation, 920 were substantiated* and 300 of the substantiated cases included domestic violence.

In FY 2015, DFS received 19,052 reports. Of those reports, 8,900 (46.7%) were accepted for investigation. Of those reports accepted for investigation, 1,745 (19.6%) also alleged domestic violence. Out of those reports accepted for investigation, 920 were substantiated* and 302 of the substantiated cases included domestic violence.



Since 2002, domestic violence advocates from CHILD, Inc. and the SAFE Program of People's Place have been located at DFS to assist victims referred by DFS. These DFS advocates provide safety planning and advocacy services and continue to work with the victims as needed.

New Castle County

CHILD, Inc.

	<u>CY14</u>	<u>FY15</u>
Victims Served by		
DFS Liaisons:	159	144

Kent County

People's Place

	<u>CY14</u>	<u>FY15</u>
Victims Served by		
DFS Liaisons:	73	78

Sussex County

People's Place

	<u>CY14</u>	<u>FY15</u>
Victims Served by		
DFS Liaisons:	39	42

* Substantiated means that following an investigation, DFS found support for the allegation of maltreatment or risk of maltreatment.

Services for Children Exposed to Domestic Violence

Trauma-informed therapeutic services are essential to help children who have witnessed domestic violence recover from the trauma it causes. Counselors providing these clinical services use age appropriate techniques, including play therapy for younger children. Safety planning, working through feelings related to the violence, and developing skills to break the intergenerational cycle of violence are the focus of this healing therapy. In New Castle County, services are provided by CHILD, Inc. In Kent and Sussex Counties, Turning Point at People's Place provides these services to children.

New Castle County

<u>Helping Children Heal (CHILD, Inc.)</u>		
	<u>CY14</u>	<u>FY15</u>
Children/Adolescents Served:	92	106
Parent/Caretakers Served:	136	165
Total:	228	271

Kent & Sussex Counties

<u>Turning Point (People's Place)</u>		
	<u>CY14</u>	<u>FY15</u>
Children/Adolescents Served:	97	103
Parent/Caretakers Served:	58	45
Total:	155	148

The Child Development Community Policing (CD-CP) Program provides immediate post-trauma counseling and referrals to children who have been impacted by witnessing homicides, rapes, assaults, domestic violence and other life threatening events. The CD-CP provides its services through collaboration between the Wilmington Police Department and the DSCYF's Division of Prevention and Behavioral Health Services.

Some families referred to the program declined services or were already receiving clinical services. All of the families received written information about reactions to trauma as well as information about resources.

	<u>CY14</u>	<u>FY15</u>
DV referrals:	209	109
Children receiving DV clinical services:	141	67

Treatment Program Statistics

"Before coming to group, I saw myself as someone that didn't need to be there but I can honestly say today that it was very helpful and I have learned a lot for myself and my future relationship. I've mostly used manipulation against my partner: lying, blaming, pretending to be the victim at times and using intoxication as an excuse. With my new partner, I would focus on honesty and accountability."

Male program participant

In FY 2015, there were four certified treatment providers offering batterers' intervention programs in Delaware. Each of these programs followed the guidelines established through the *Domestic Violence Intervention Standards* and were certified by the DVCC Batterers' Intervention Certification Panel. The four programs are Catholic Charities and CHILD, Inc. in New Castle County; Turning Point at People's Place in Kent and Sussex Counties; and the Dover Air Force Base offering treatment to military personnel only. Batterers' Intervention is court ordered in criminal cases, and the Family Court can also order PFA respondents to be evaluated to determine if treatment is appropriate.

FY15 Program Participation Statistics

	Catholic Charities		CHILD, Inc.		Peoples Place II	
	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female
Probation Evaluated:	74	16	133	21	204	34
With PFA Order Evaluated:	13	1	44	9	43	3
Self Referrals:	0	0	9	0	6	1
Court Ordered:	6	1	133	31	—	—
Group Intervention:	77	18	229	37	306	45
Completed Intervention: **	31	11	160	19	102	33
Total Number Served:	93	18	380	47	366	49

"This group has taught me so much about coping with behavior and emotions. It has greatly improved my relationship"

Female Group Participant

Note: FY 2015 data was not available for Dover Air Force Base.

** All offenders began specified measurement period FY15 (July 1, 2014 - June 30, 2015) have not had adequate opportunity to complete the intervention. Accurate completion data for FY15 will not be available until December 31, 2015.

Supervised Domestic Violence Offender Data

Probation and Parole has a specialized Domestic Violence Unit in each county with probation officers specially trained in the dynamics of domestic violence. Domestic violence cases are assigned to the DV Unit based upon criteria including offense, victim/offender relationship, and active PFA orders. The philosophy of the Probation and Parole DV Unit is to hold the offender accountable and maintain victim safety. In addition, Victim Service Agents are available to serve as liaisons between victims and probation officers and provide guidance through the criminal justice system once an offender is placed on community supervision.

New Castle County Domestic Violence Supervision

	CY14	FY15
Number of DV Offenders Supervised:	551	538
Number of Probation Officers Assigned to DV Cases	10	10
Probationer/Probation Officer Ratio	55:1	54:1
Number of Victims Served by Victim Service Agents:	121*	166

Kent County Domestic Violence Supervision

	CY14	FY15
Number of DV Offenders Supervised:	335	367
Number of Probation Officers Assigned to DV Cases	6	6
Probationer/Probation Officer Ratio	56:1	61:1
Number of Victims Served by Victim Service Agents:	265	208

Sussex County Domestic Violence Supervision

	CY14	FY15
Number of DV Offenders Supervised:	235	422
Number of Probation Officers Assigned to DV Cases	5	6
Probationer/Probation Officer Ratio	47:1	70:1
Number of Victims Served by Victim Service Agents:	0**	0**

* The Victim Service Agent position was vacant from April to August of Calendar Year 2014.

** There is no Victim Service Agent in Sussex County.

2014 Calendar Year Statistics

Percentages are a comparison to 2013 Calendar Year statistics.

Domestic Violence Incidents

Criminal & Civil Incidents
22,663

6%

Decrease

Criminal Incidents
13,795

5%

Decrease

Criminal Incidents w/injury
1,946

1%

Decrease

Intimate Partner Incidents

Intimate Partner Incidents
5,512

3%

Decrease

Intimate Partner Injury
976

7%

of total incidents

Dual Arrests
110

Less than 1%

Increase

Protection from Abuse Orders

Petitions Processed
2,756

10%

Decrease

Orders Issued
1,290

17%

Decrease

Petitions Dismissed
1,466

4%

Decrease

Hotline Calls

Statewide
3,907

4%

Decrease

New Castle County
2,559

3%

Decrease

Kent & Sussex Counties
1,348

6%

Decrease

Shelter

Statewide
580

2%

Increase

New Castle County
368

8%

Increase

Kent/Sussex Counties
212

7%

Decrease

Survivor Stories

“Trish”* was referred to the SAFE Domestic Violence Liaison by her Division of Family Services worker. She had a past history of domestic violence and had recently lost her job due to transportation concerns. Her car broke down and she was unable to afford the costly repairs. Having no other means to get to work, her job was forced to let her go. She and her son were trying to live off an unemployment check, but she was struggling to keep up with the rent. When the Liaison met with her, Trish was deliberating whether or not to ask her past abuser if he would be willing to help her with the cost. She was worried that this would indirectly invite him back in to her life, and did not want that to happen, but she didn’t see any other way to fix the problem. The Liaison took Trish’s story to the SAFE team and was able to cover the costs of the car repairs. Within a few weeks, thanks to having reliable transportation, Trish found new employment. She has also been able to learn more about the dynamics of domestic violence and receive emotional support. She also started attending SAFE’s Financial Empowerment class and has learned many new ways to save and invest money. Trish and her son are doing well and feel safe, both physically and financially.

“I fled my home with my children and the clothes we were wearing. They helped me get clothes, put gas in my car and made sure I had a cell phone so that I could keep my job and my children could go to school safely.”

Domestic Violence Survivor

“Cassie”* came into the SAFE shelter after she was assaulted by her live-in boyfriend as she was attempting to separate from him. As frequently occurs in domestic violence, when victims attempt to leave their abusive partners, their risk to be hurt or killed increases greatly. Fortunately, Cassie’s children were able to contact the police for intervention. The police completed a risk assessment on the scene and contacted SAFE’s 24/7 DV Hotline. Cassie created a safety plan with the hotline worker and decided to come into shelter with her children.

SAFE provides specialized shelter services using the Sanctuary Model, which is a trauma-informed model that works to empower program participants while helping them heal from the trauma that they have experienced. While in shelter, Cassie continued safety planning, obtained a Protection From Abuse Order, and learned about domestic violence and about how trauma has impacted her and her children.

“Everyone has been very helpful, patient and accommodating. They have listened and given me tissues when I needed them.”

Domestic Violence Survivor

Working with the shelter staff, Cassie developed a plan for her and her children’s future. She began therapy with a domestic violence specialist, which she continued after shelter. She participated in the Allstate Foundation Financial Literacy Program, enabling her to learn new skills and understand that part of the abuse she was experiencing was financial. She also

created a savings goal and earned a matched savings from the Allstate Program. Cassie found employment, made childcare arrangements, and established a new safe home for her and her children. She successfully left shelter after two and a half months, creating her own safe home for her and her children.

* Names were changed to maintain confidentiality.

Fatal Incident Review Team Report

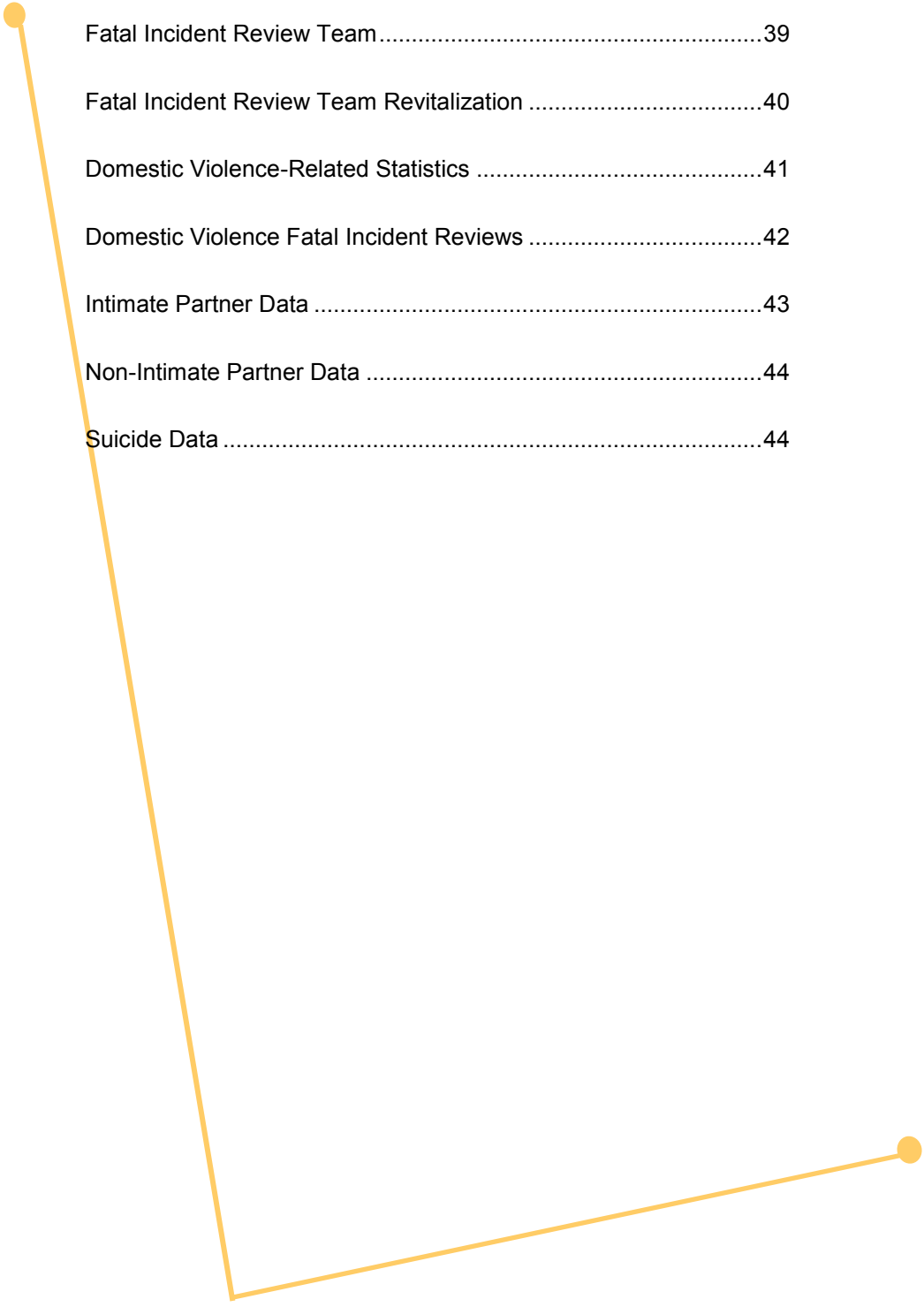
2015

“For the 1.3 million women that fall victim each year, for the mother that had to bury her daughter, the father who will never walk his daughter down the aisle, for the sister who lost her best friend and for the children who will be raised without a mother because of domestic violence.”

Miss Delaware 2014 - Brittany Lewis



Table of Contents

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Fatal Incident Review Team

The Domestic Violence Coordinating Council's Fatal Incident Review Team (FIRT) was established by statute in 1996 and became the first statewide team in the country. FIRT members are dedicated professionals who conduct system audits of State agencies and private organizations that had contact with the deceased victim and/or the perpetrator to assess the system's response. Although domestic violence fatality reviews are retrospective in nature, their purpose is prospective. Reviews focus on identifying trends, patterns and obstacles in services, assessing agency interventions, and most importantly, developing practical recommendations aimed at improving the system and preventing future injury and death. In 2009, the General Assembly granted FIRT the authority to conduct near-death reviews. These reviews enhance the team's ability to improve Delaware's response to domestic violence with the wealth of knowledge that can be gained from speaking directly with the domestic violence survivor about the incident, the history of violence, system involvement, and awareness of resources.

FIRT Co-Chairs

The Honorable Vincent J. Poppiti
The Honorable Jan R. Jurden
Dana Harrington Conner, Esq.

FIRT Members

In accordance with 13 Del. C. § 2105, in addition to the co-chairs, the Review Team shall consist of seven core members:

- The Attorney General or the Attorney General's designee
- The Director of the Division of Family Services or the Director's designee
- A victim advocate appointed by the Council
- The Chief Judge of the Family Court or the Chief Judge's designee
- The Chief Magistrate of the Justice of the Peace Courts or the Chief Magistrate's designee
- The Director of the Division of Substance Abuse and Mental Health, or the Director's designee
- A law-enforcement officer to be appointed by the Delaware Chiefs of Police Council

All members of the Review Team, plus other individuals invited to participate, are considered part of the review panel for a particular case or incident. The Review Team frequently invites law enforcement personnel to participate in any case in which his or her agency investigated the death, near death or had involvement with the victim prior to the domestic violence incident under review. The Review Team may also invite the participation of individuals with particular expertise that would be helpful to the review panel, or representatives from organizations or agencies that had contact with or provided services to the individual prior to that individual's own death or near death, that individual's abusive partner or family member and/or the alleged perpetrator of the death or near-death.

Fatal Incident Review Team Revitalization



The Fatal Incident Review Team (FIRT) devoted much of Fiscal Year 2015 to revitalizing the fatality review process. After almost 20 years of domestic violence fatality reviews in Delaware, it was an appropriate time to examine best practices nationally to determine if the process could be improved when reviewing domestic violence related deaths and near deaths.

Beginning in May of 2014, FIRT members participated in an all-day meeting where members discussed a number of

issues including identification of cases for review; making effective recommendations to agencies and community partners; offering assistance in implementation of recommendations; redefining near death cases; and examining the policies and procedures of FIRT to ensure that Delaware is in line with best practices in the field. Immediately following that meeting, the DVCC applied for a technical assistance grant to address the identified issues.

In July 2015, two FIRT members attended a conference hosted by the Family Violence Institute at Northern Arizona University. In addition to gathering valuable information at the conference, staff was able to discuss with representatives of the National Domestic Violence Fatality Review Initiative (NDVFRI) the possibility of providing Delaware's Team with technical assistance. In December, Matthew Dale, the Senior Consultant for the NDVFRI, and Director for the Office of Victim Services, Montana Department of Justice and the Team Coordinator for the Montana Fatality Review Team, came to Delaware to provide technical assistance to the Team. Mr. Dale was also able to present on the fatality review process to Council members at the DVCC Quarterly Meeting that same afternoon.

In February 2015, FIRT members were able to utilize the training and technical assistance received to determine how to restructure FIRT to conduct cutting edge death and near death reviews in Delaware. The FIRT members decided that restructuring the scope of the fatality reviews was important. The Team decided to expand the case reviews to an "inch wide, mile deep" approach. This would shift the approach from reviewing multiple cases each year with only the benefit of the police reports and court records, to reviewing only a select number of cases but more in depth. The in depth approach would include interviews with the family, friends and those who knew the victims and perpetrators personally. FIRT members agreed that reaching out to family and friends could provide historical information that would not appear in official reports and could help to identify risk factors in these cases. The Team also agreed to consider expanding the FIRT membership to include representation from a batterers' intervention treatment program, a domestic violence shelter, and a domestic violence survivor.

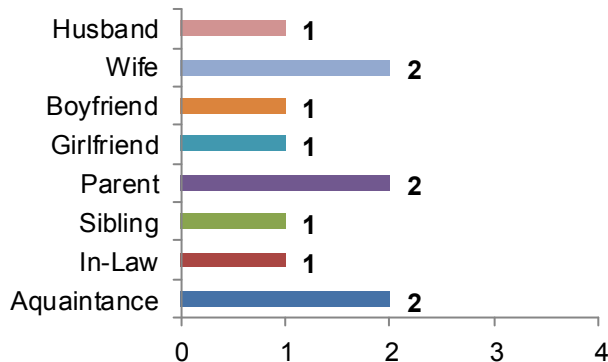
In May of 2015, three FIRT members were afforded the opportunity to attend the NDVFRI's national conference and gathered additional techniques for conducting fatality reviews. The conferences attended and technical assistance received during FY15 enabled the Team to make changes that will improve the result of the death and near death reviews in the future. The next steps for Fiscal Year 2016 include formalizing the changes in the FIRT statute and procedures, as well as improving the FIRT database that is used to track the cases reviewed, the findings, and recommendations. Improved data collection will provide valuable information that can be utilized to prevent fatalities in the future.

Domestic Violence-Related Deaths

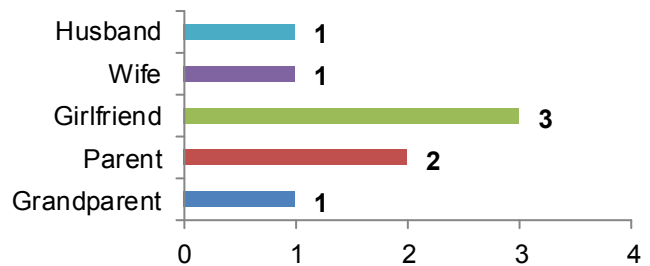
The DVCC tracks domestic violence-related deaths that occur throughout the State of Delaware. These domestic violence-related deaths include victims, perpetrators, or by-standers if the death was a result of domestic violence, either intimate partner violence or between family members.

	2013	2014
Incidents of domestic violence homicide	11	11
Victims of domestic violence homicide (excluding by legal intervention)	11	8
Homicides by legal intervention (responding law enforcement)	0	1
All domestic violence-related homicides	11	9
Perpetrator suicide (excluding by legal intervention)	4	4
Total deaths (victim and perpetrator)	15	13

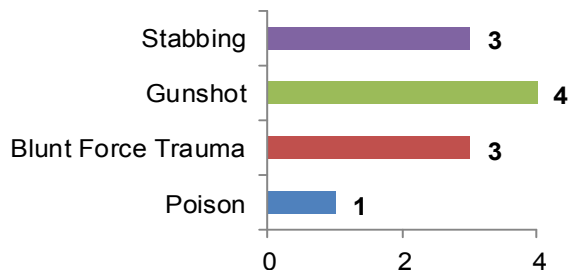
CY 13
Homicide Victim
Relationship to Offender



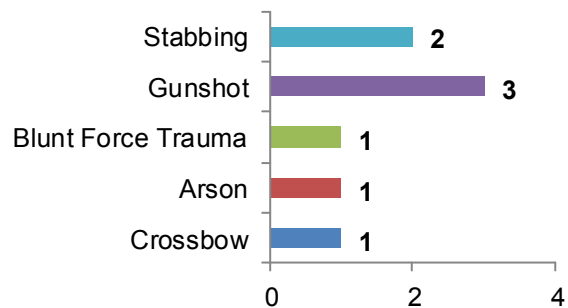
CY 14
Homicide Victim
Relationship to Offender



CY 13
Homicide Cause of Death



CY 14
Homicide Cause of Death



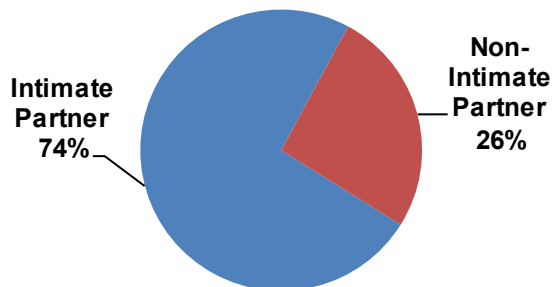
Domestic Violence Fatal Incident Reviews

This report is a compilation of data from 130 domestic violence fatal incident reviews conducted by FIRT between 1996 and 2015. These reviews included cases where prosecution was completed and the Department of Justice authorized FIRT to conduct a final review. The cases reviewed do not reflect all domestic violence homicides or near-deaths since 1996. Of the 130 fatal incident reviews, there were 163 domestic violence-related deaths plus two near-deaths.

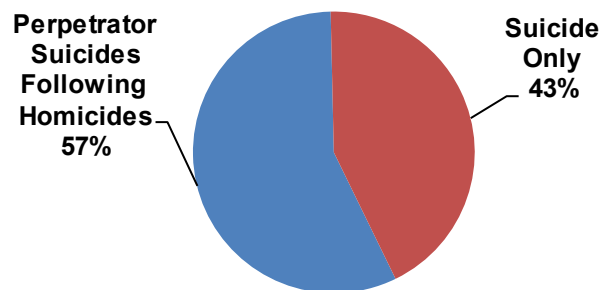
Domestic Violence-Related Deaths and Near-Deaths

Homicide Victims	111
Perpetrator Suicides Following Homicides	29
Suicide Only	22
Undetermined Victim Deaths*	1
Near-Death	2

**Homicide Victims
1996 - 2015**

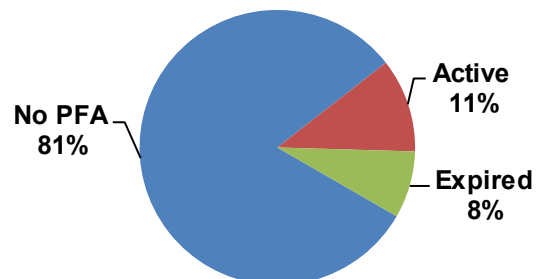


**Suicide Deaths
1996 - 2015**



In the 130 cases reviewed by FIRT, 122 children lost a parent to domestic violence homicide and two children were impacted by the near-death of a parent.

**Victims with Protection from Abuse Orders
1996 - 2015**



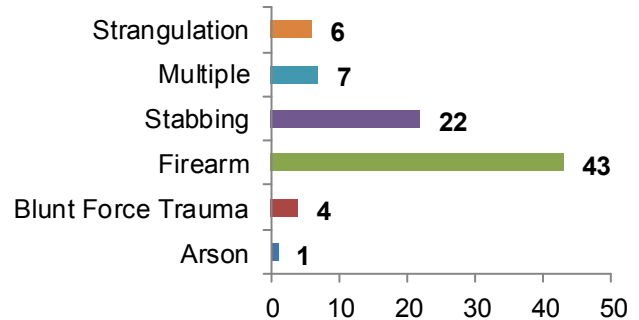
* If a case lacks a clear indicator as to whether or not the death was intentionally caused by another or accidental, the case will remain suspicious in nature and the exact manner of death will be undetermined.

Intimate Partner Data

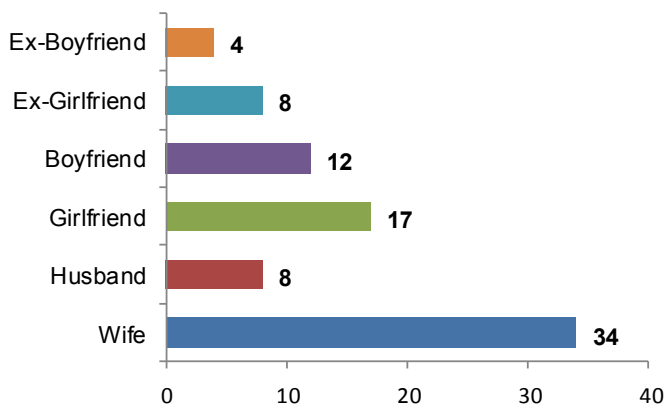
Of the 111 homicide victims and 2 near-death victims reviewed by FIRT, 83 victims or 74% of the homicides occurred in a past or present intimate partner relationship. The term “intimate partner” includes current and former spouses, current and former dating couples with or without a child in common, and teen dating couples. Intimate partners may be of the same gender.

Out of 83 intimate partner homicides or near deaths, 47% of the homicides occurred when a victim attempted to leave or had ended a relationship with the perpetrator.

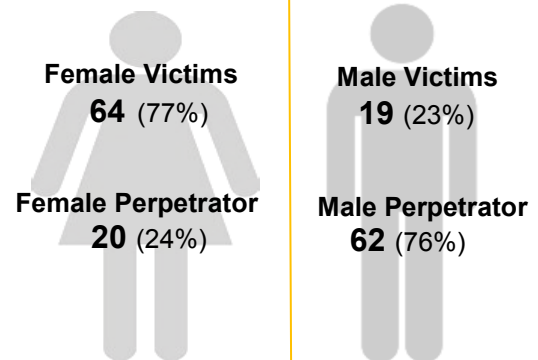
Victim Cause of Death



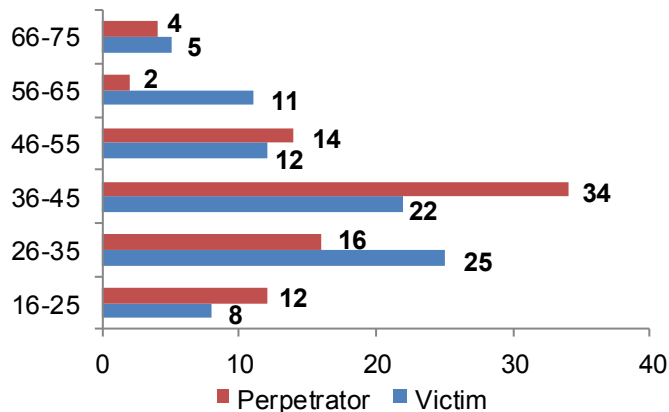
Victim Relationship to Offenders



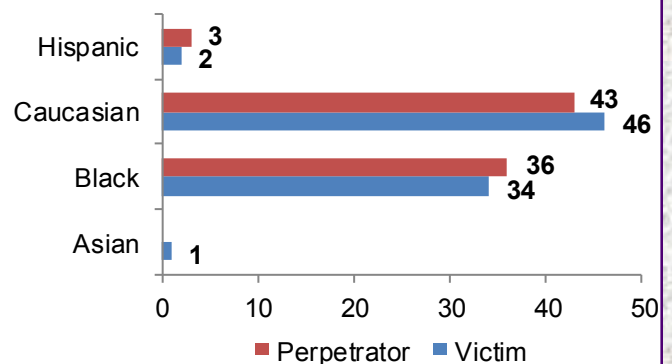
Victims & Perpetrators by Gender



Victims & Perpetrators Age at Time of Incident



Victims & Perpetrators by Race

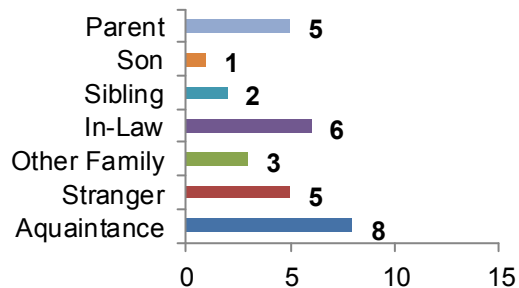


Non-Intimate Partner Data

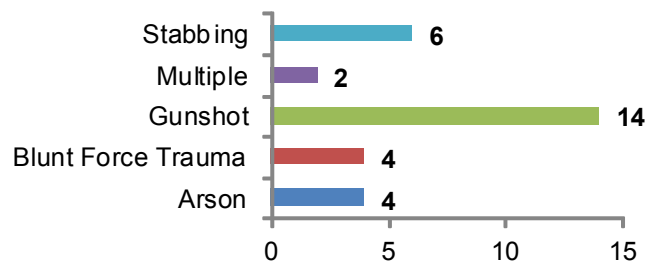
Domestic violence-related deaths between non-intimate partners includes individuals with a familial relationship such as parent/child or sibling relationship.

Of the 111 homicides victims included in this report, 30 victims were “non-intimate partners”. Also included in these homicide numbers are victims who were bystanders (acquaintances or strangers).

Victim Relationship to Offender



Victim Cause of Death

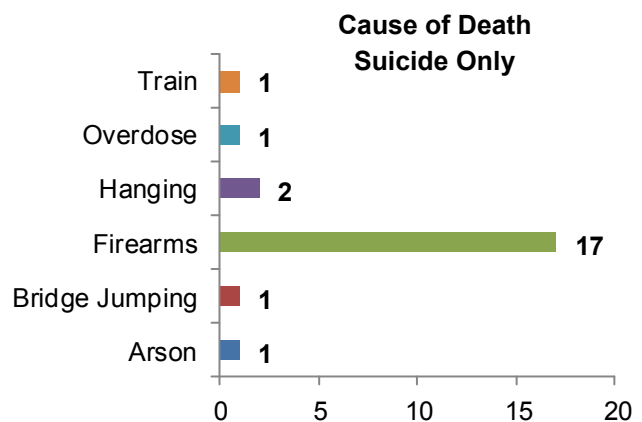


Suicide Data

Of the 162 domestic violence deaths included in this report, there were 29 perpetrator suicides following a homicide, or murder/suicide cases. Out of the 29 murder/suicide cases reviewed, 27 of the perpetrators were male and 2 were female.



“Domestic violence-related suicides” are counted separately from the murder/suicide cases. The suicide only cases are victims or perpetrators who have taken their own lives and have a significant history of abuse by or toward their partner. There were a total of 23 domestic violence related-suicides, including one undetermined death where it could not be concluded if it was a suicide or accidental.



If you are in danger, please call 911.

Domestic Violence/Rape Crisis 24-Hour Hotline Numbers

New Castle County

Domestic Violence	302-762-6110
Bi-Lingual	302-762-6110
Rape Crisis	1-800-773-8570
TTY	1-800-232-5460

Northern Kent

Domestic Violence	302-678-3886
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Kent & Sussex

Domestic Violence	302-422-8058
Rape Crisis	1-800-262-9800
Bi-lingual	302-745-9874

DVCC Main Office

New Castle County Courthouse
Suite 700
500 N. King Street
Wilmington, DE 19801

Phone: 302-255-0405

Fax: 302-255-2236

www.dvcc.delaware.gov

DVCC Kent & Sussex County Office

Milford State Service Center
Suite 105
13 S. W. Front Street
Milford, DE 19963

Phone: 302-424-7238

Fax: 302-424-5311

www.dvcc.delaware.gov

Domestic Violence Coordinating Council

www.dvcc.delaware.gov