

2007 ANNUAL REPORT

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE COORDINATING COUNCIL



Domestic Violence Coordinating Council

2007 Annual Report

To:

Honorable Ruth Ann Minner
Governor, State of Delaware

Honorable Myron T. Steele
Chief Justice,
Supreme Court
State of Delaware

Members, General Assembly

TABLE OF CONTENTS

| | |
|--|----|
| Domestic Violence Coordinating Council Members | 2 |
| Who We Are/What We Do | 3 |
| Message From The Chairs | 4 |
| Message From The Executive Director | 5 |
| Legislative Updates - State of Delaware | 6 |
| Teen Dating Violence | 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 |
| Other DVCC Committees | 23 |
| Training/Presentations | 25 |
| 2006 Highlights | 26 |
| 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

Honorable Joseph R. Biden, III
Delaware Attorney General

Ms. Dana Harrington Conner
Associate Professor
Widener School of Law
Member-At-Large

Honorable Carl C. Danberg
Commissioner
Department of Correction

Ms. Mary Davis
Chair, Domestic Violence
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
Delaware State Senate
Commission on Family Law
Representative

Hon. Lawrence M. Sullivan
The Public Defender

Patricia Tedford
ContactLifeline, Inc.
Representative, Victims of
Sexual Assault

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 Assistant

Eileen Ondra
Trainer/Educator

WHO WE ARE/WHAT WE DO

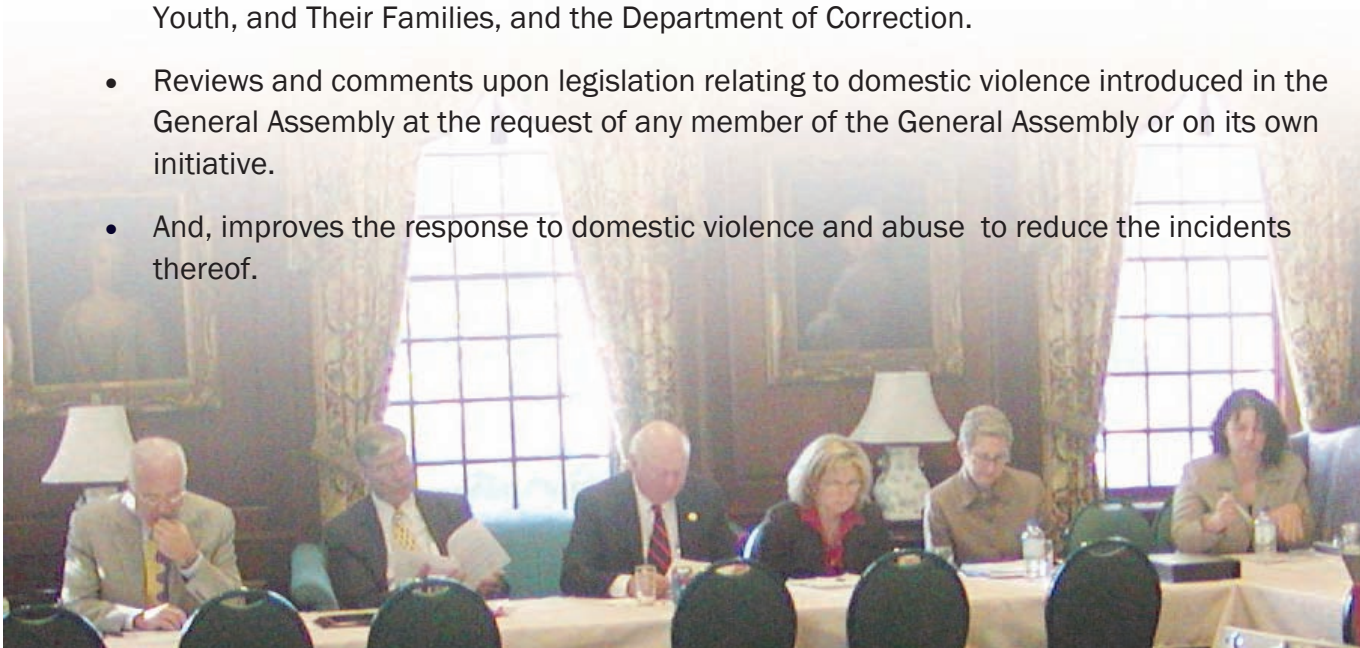
The mission of the Domestic Violence Coordinating Council is to reduce the incidence of domestic violence and abuse in all its forms.

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, training, 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



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

We are happy to present the 2007 Annual Report of the Domestic Violence Coordinating Council (DVCC). We thank our Council members and staff for their service and welcome our new members; the Honorable Joseph R. Biden, III, Delaware Attorney General, and Patricia P. Tedford, Executive Director, ContactLifeline, Inc.

The past year was a busy and productive one as the DVCC began work on the subject of Domestic Violence and Youth with a year-long focus on Teen Dating Violence. In January, we coordinated a Statewide training for Domestic Violence Hotline Workers on Teen Dating Violence. A teen centered social marketing campaign was developed in collaboration with students of Milford High School Communications Technology Department. The students used their research to design informational posters and brochures for distribution during February, Teen Dating Violence Awareness and Prevention Month. Their materials were used to create "Toolkits" for thirty-three high school wellness centers and their poster design appeared on 30 DART bus taillight ads throughout the month of February.

In March, the DVCC introduced legislation to provide Protection From Abuse (PFA) orders for relationships not previously covered by our domestic violence statute, such as dating relationships and same sex relationships. Prior to the passage of this important legislation, Delaware was one of only six states that did not provide protection for individuals in dating and same sex relationships. Senate Bill 57 passed and was signed into law June 20, 2007, thanks to the support of our many colleagues in the domestic violence community.

Another important piece of legislation in 2007 to protect victims of domestic violence was Senate Bill 111. This Bill created the crime of criminal contempt of a PFA order making the violation of a PFA order a felony in certain circumstances.

In the upcoming year, the Coordinating Council will continue to focus on the subject of Domestic Violence and Youth, looking specifically at the issue of child witnessing. We will continue to collaborate with law enforcement, government leaders, domestic violence advocates, and the community-at-large to improve Delaware's response to domestic violence.

Thank you for your support. ■

MESSAGE FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



Bridget V. Poulle
Executive Director

DVCC STAFF



Cynthia M. Boehmer
Project Coordinator



Laura M. Giles
Project Coordinator



Kenzel V. Messick
Administrative Assistant



Eileen Ondra
Trainer/Educator

On June 20, 2007, Governor Ruth Ann Minner signed, Senate Bill 57, which amends the definition of parties protected under the State's domestic violence statute to include dating relationships and same sex relationships. This important expansion of the Protection From Abuse Statute would not have been possible without the support of the Domestic Violence Coordinating Council's many partners, among them the Delaware Coalition Against Domestic Violence and the Domestic Violence Task Force.

The Coalition is a statewide non-profit organization, founded in 1994 by Child, Inc., People's Place II and the Project for Domestic Violence Reform. The Coalition serves as an educational and informational resource to their members and the community, and advocates for domestic violence concerns in Delaware. The Coalition provides a strong voice for domestic violence victims and their children and is an important partner in the Coordinating Council's legislative efforts.

The Domestic Violence Task Force, another valued partner, holds the distinction of being the oldest statewide coordinated effort to combat domestic violence in our state. The Task Force started meeting in the early 1980's to support and strengthen the community efforts to end domestic violence. The Task Force members brought attention to problems within the system and highlighted victim needs. Task Force members successfully advocated for Warrantless Arrests in domestic violence cases, ending the requirement of domestic violence victims, to take it upon themselves to go to court to press charges.

For nearly twenty-five years the Domestic Violence Task Force has provided a forum for the members of the DV community, evolving into a strong networking group that participates in policy development, and serves as a mobilizing force for change in the domestic violence community.

Thank you to the Coalition, the Task Force and all the agencies and individuals who work to end domestic violence in Delaware.

LEGISLATIVE UPDATES - STATE OF DELAWARE

The following bills were passed by the 144th Delaware General Assembly:

Senate Bill (SB) 57

AN ACT TO AMEND TITLE 10 OF THE DELAWARE CODE RELATING TO FAMILY COURT

This Act amends the definition of parties considered protected under the State's domestic violence statute. The change is intended to reflect substantive relationships not previously included under the law.

Primary Sponsor: Senator Patricia M. Blevins

Date Passed: 6/5/2007

Date Introduced: 3/27/2007

Date Signed by Governor: 6/20/2007



House Bill (HB) 90

AN ACT TO AMEND TITLE 16 OF THE DELAWARE CODE RELATING TO THE COMPOSITION OF THE CHILD PROTECTION ACCOUNTABILITY COMMISSION

This legislation adds a representative from the Domestic Violence Coordinating Council to the Child Protection Accountability Commission.

Primary Sponsor: Representative Deborah Hudson

Date Passed: 6/28/2007

Date Introduced: 3/22/2007

Date Signed by Governor: 7/5/2007

Senate Bill (SB) 111

AN ACT TO AMEND TITLE 11 OF THE DELAWARE CODE RELATING TO CRIMINAL CONTEMPT OF A DOMESTIC VIOLENCE PROTECTIVE ORDER.

This Act adds a Felony level violation to the existing provisions for criminal contempt of a domestic violence protection order. Criminal contempt of such an order will constitute a class F felony in cases where the violation involved physical injury or the use or threatened use of a weapon.

Primary Sponsor: Senator Liane M. Sorenson

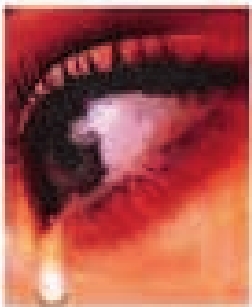
Date Passed: 6/30/2007

Date Introduced: 5/17/2007

Date Signed by Governor: 7/12/2007

TEEN DATING VIOLENCE

If It Is Love,
Then Why Are You Crying!



One in four teen couples is experiencing
an abusive relationship.
You don't have to be another statistic.
YOU
have the power to choose how you're loved.
YOU
have the power to choose your happiness.

Don't wait, see an adult you trust.
Go to your Wellness Center for more information.
National Domestic Violence Hotline:
1-800-799-SAFE (7233)

This Project was created by Milford High School Communication Technology Classes on behalf of the Domestic Violence Coordinating Council.
Funding was provided through the Delaware Criminal Justice Council by the U.S. Department of Justice, Office of Justice Programs, Office of Violence Prevention.

Dating Violence is Trust Betrayed

KNOW THE SIGNS OF AN ABUSIVE RELATIONSHIP


- BLAMES OTHERS FOR THEIR PROBLEMS OR FEELINGS
- CRUEL TO ANIMALS OR CHILDREN
- VERBALLY ABUSIVE
- ABUSED FORMER PARTNERS
- THREATENS VIOLENCE
- EXTREME JEALOUSY
- CONTROLLING BEHAVIOR
- UNPREDICTABLE MOOD SWINGS
- ALCOHOL AND DRUG USE
- EXPLOSIVE ANGER
- ISOLATES YOU FROM FRIENDS AND FAMILY
- USES FORCE DURING AN ARGUMENT

**DON'T WAIT SEE AN ADULT YOU TRUST
GO TO YOUR WELLNESS CENTER FOR MORE INFORMATION
NATIONAL DOMESTIC VIOLENCE HOTLINE
1-800-799-SAFE (7233)**

This Project was created by Milford High School Communication Technology Classes on behalf of the Domestic Violence Coordinating Council.
Funding was provided through the Delaware Criminal Justice Council by the U.S. Department of Justice, Office of Justice Programs, Office of Violence Prevention.

DVCC and Milford High School Teen Dating Violence Project

In 2006, the Domestic Violence Coordinating Council focused on Teen Dating Violence. The DVCC, in cooperation with Dr. Phyllis Kohel, Milford High School Principal, Mr. Bruce Liebu, Technology Teacher, and Milford High School Technology students designed a Teen Dating Violence Media Campaign, which included two projects. All of the posters appearing on this page were researched and designed by the students.



**DATING VIOLENCE
IS
TRUST BETRAYED**

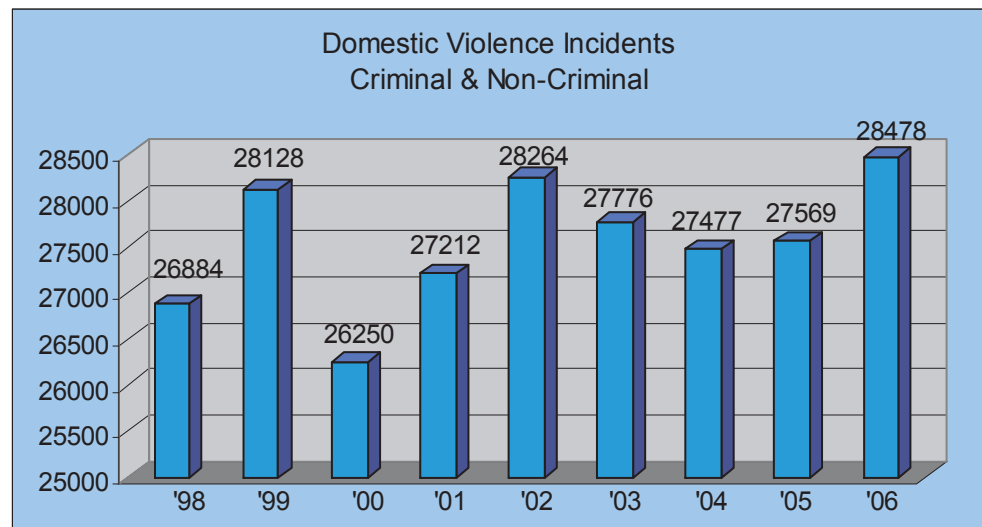
**Call the National Domestic Violence Hotline
1-800-799-SAFE (7233)
You Are Not Alone**

This Project was created by Milford High School Communication Technology Classes on behalf of the Domestic Violence Coordinating Council.
Funding was provided through the Delaware Criminal Justice Council by the U.S. Department of Justice, Office of Justice Programs, Office of Violence Prevention and the Department of Services for Children, Youth and Their Families, Office of Prevention and Early Intervention.

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE STATISTICS



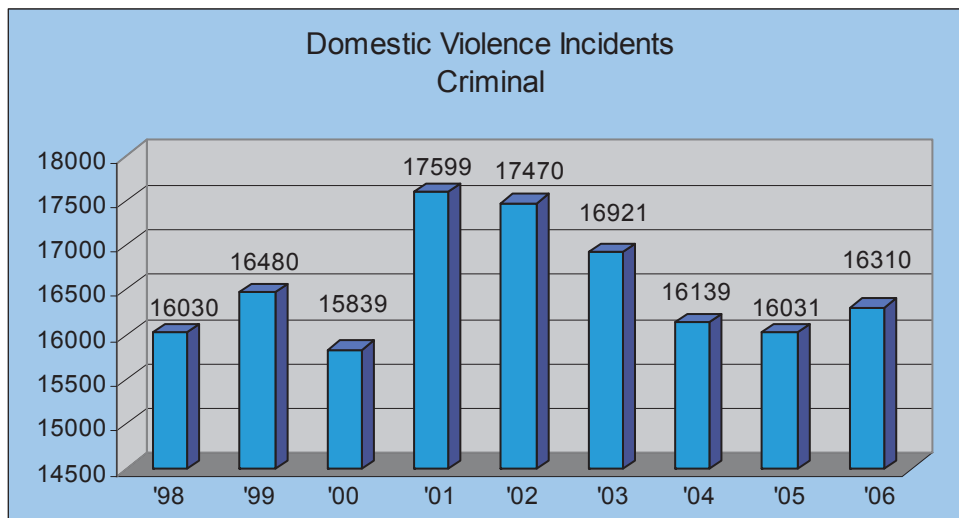
In calendar year 2006, as reported by the State Bureau of Identification, the total number of domestic violence incidents in Delaware was 28,478 (combined criminal and non-criminal). That is a 3.3% increase over 2005 reported incidents, but a 5.9% increase over the number reported in 1998.



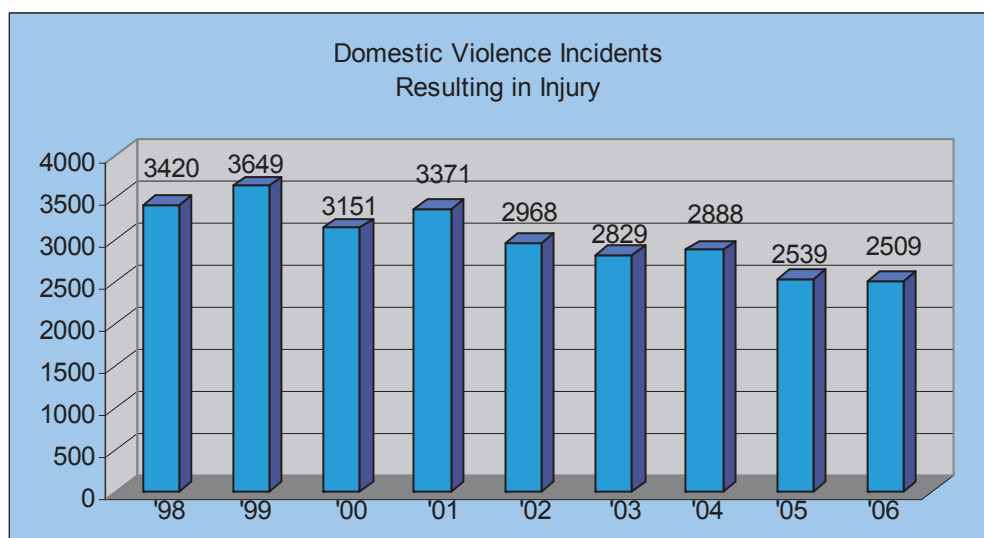
NOTE: Delaware has nine years of domestic violence statistics (1998 - 2006). A review of the statistics published by the State Bureau of Identification for calendar years 1998 through 2006 reveals some interesting information and trends.

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE STATISTICS

In calendar year 2006, the total number of domestic violence criminal incidents was 16,310. The total for 2006 reflects an increase of 279 incidents from the 16,031 reported in 2005.

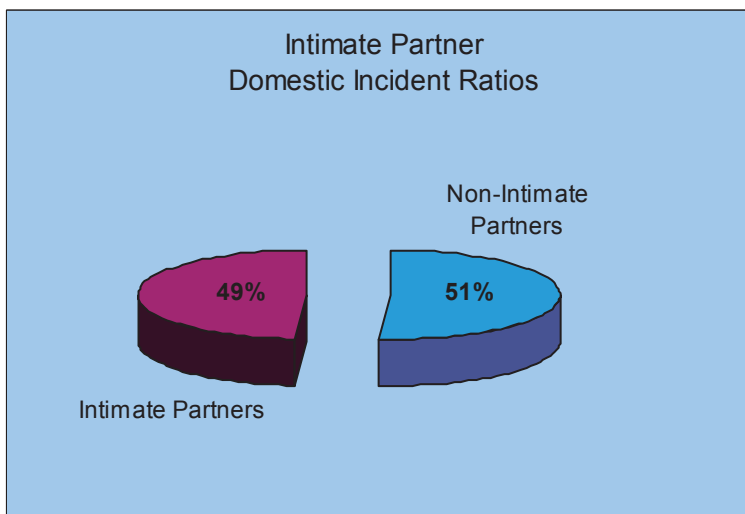


In 2006, out of the 16,310 criminal incidents, 15% resulted in injury.

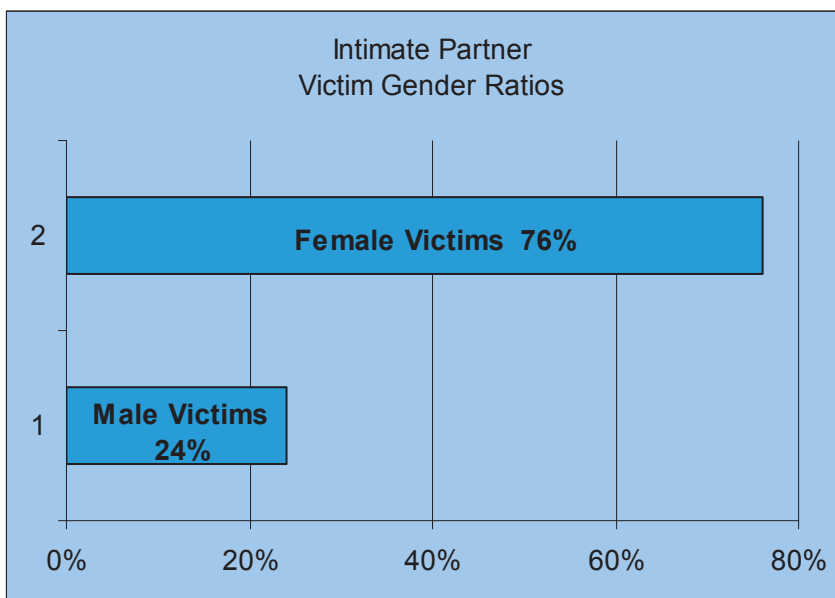


INTIMATE PARTNER STATISTICS

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 2006, as reported by the State Bureau of Identification, the total number of criminal domestic violence incidents involving "intimate partners" was 7,982. This number represents 49% of the total criminal domestic violence incidents.



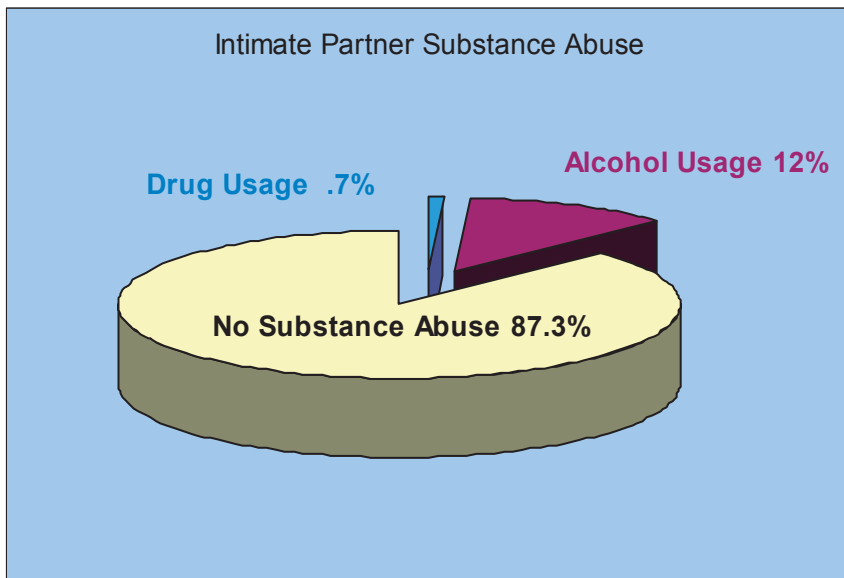
The ratios of reported victims of domestic violence incidents in the calendar year 2006 were 6,105 (76%) female and 1,910 (24%) male.



INTIMATE PARTNER STATISTICS

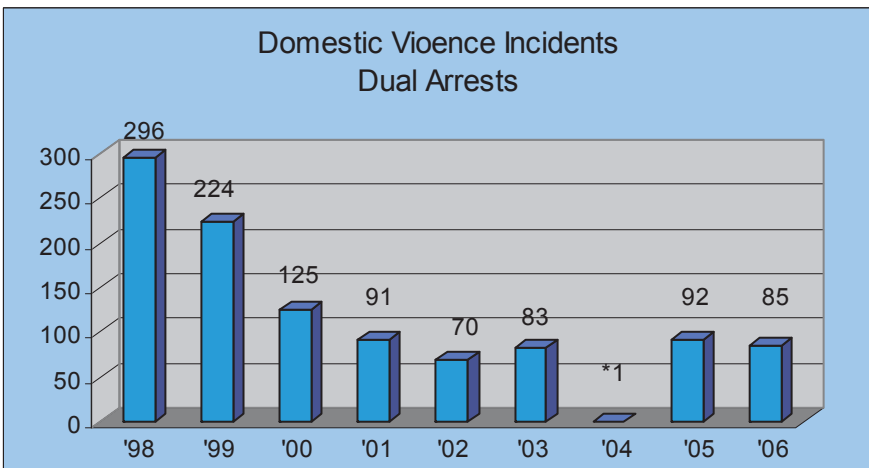
In 2006, there were 7,982 intimate partner domestic abuse incidents reported. Of those incidents, less than 13% were reported to have involved drugs or alcohol.

**These statistics were obtained from Delaware Criminal Justice Information System (DELJIS).*



In 2006, there were 85 reported dual arrests. In the past five years, the average is 66. This is a vast improvement since 1998, when there were 296 dual arrests.

**2004 data for this category was unavailable.*

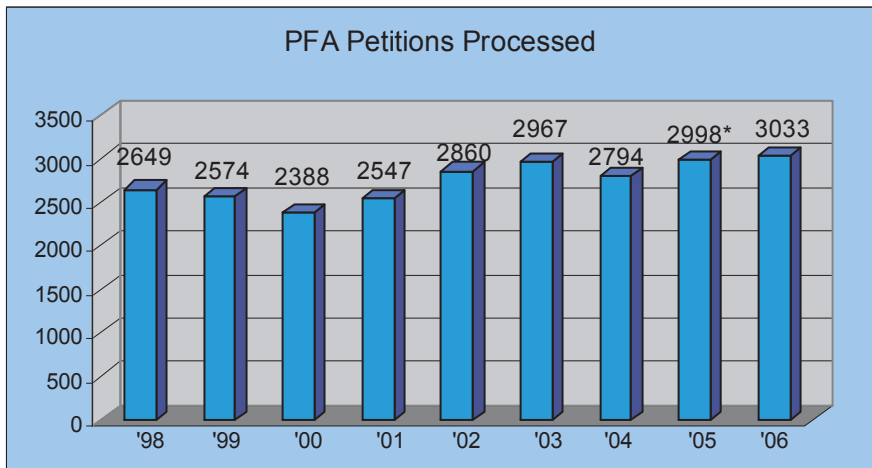


Dual arrest typically signifies a failure to identify the primary aggressor and may hold the victim accountable for the abuse.

PROTECTION FROM ABUSE STATISTICS

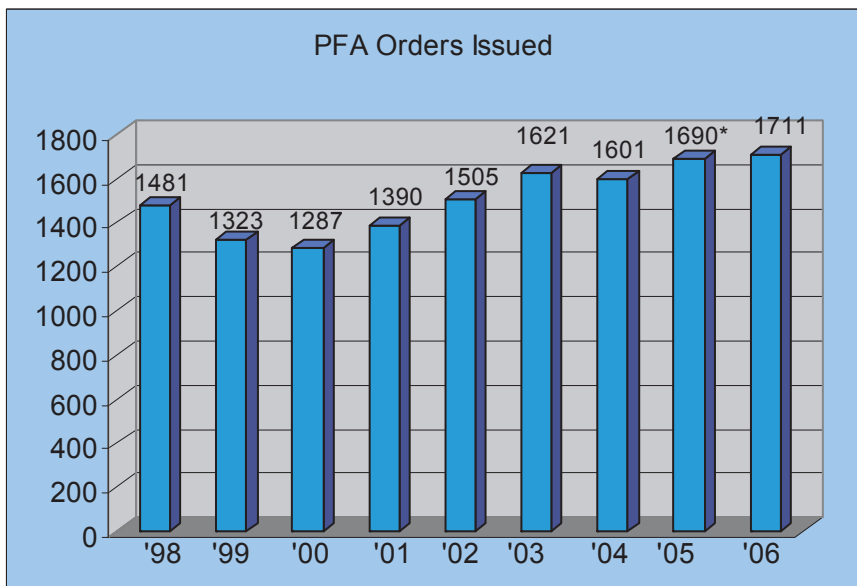
Family Court processed 3,033 Protection From Abuse Petitions (PFA), Statewide in 2006.

**Number reflects corrected PFA Petitions for 2005.*



In 2006, there were 1,711 Final Protection From Abuse Orders issued Statewide. Protection Orders issued may provide the following relief for victims: no contact with the Petitioner, exclusive use of the home or possessions, temporary custody, child support or support for the Petitioner, payment of expenses, surrender of firearms, counseling, and other relief that may help to prevent future violence.

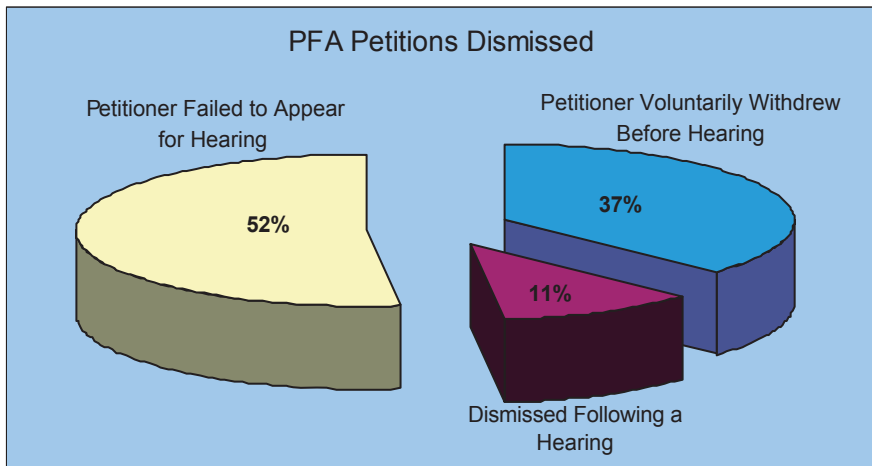
**Number reflects corrected Final PFA Orders for 2005.*



PROTECTION FROM ABUSE STATISTICS

Of the 3,033 petitions processed, 1,711 PFA Orders were issued. The remaining petitions were dismissed. A Protection From Abuse petition dismissal can occur one of three ways -

- The petitioner fails 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?

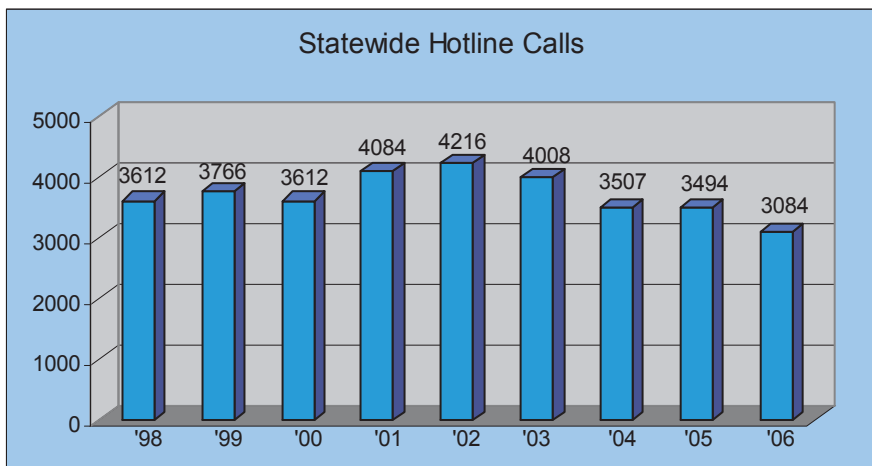
Spouses, ex-spouses, family members, persons of the opposite sex who lived together when the abuse occurred, and unmarried persons who have a child/children in common may file for an Order of Protection From Abuse. Also, the Division of Child Protective Services acting in the interest of a minor child 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.



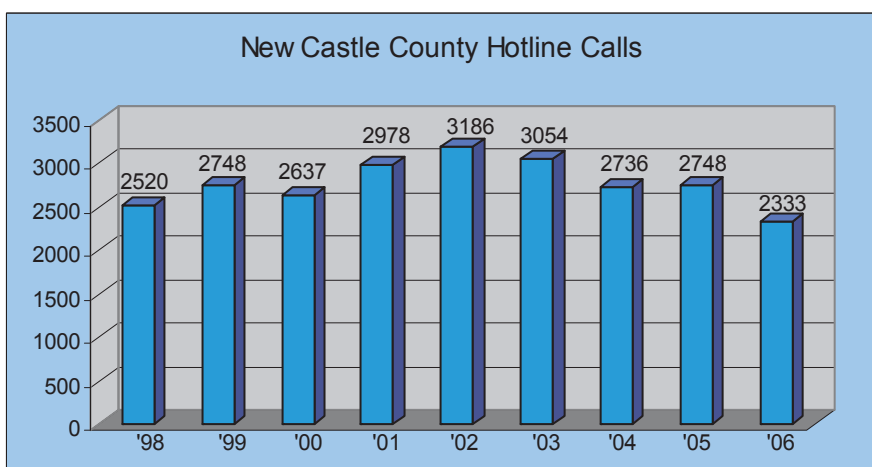
On June 20, 2007, Governor Ruth Ann Minner signed into law SB 57 amending the definition of parties considered protected under the State's domestic violence statute. The change reflects substantive relationships not previously included under the law, such as dating relationships and same sex relationships.

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE HOTLINE STATISTICS

In 2006, there were 3,084 calls received by domestic violence hotlines, Statewide. The average number of hotline calls received since 1998 is 3,709.

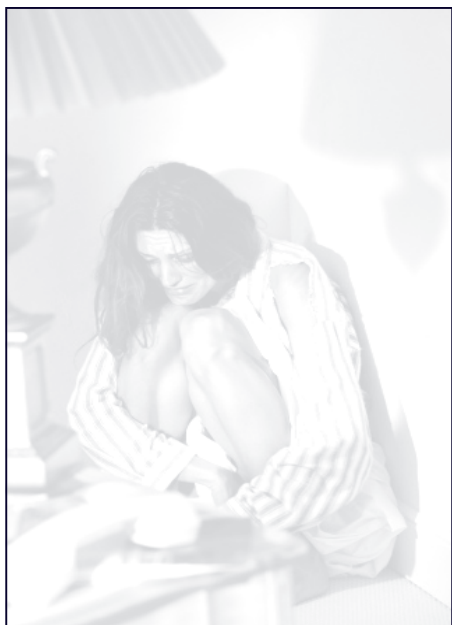
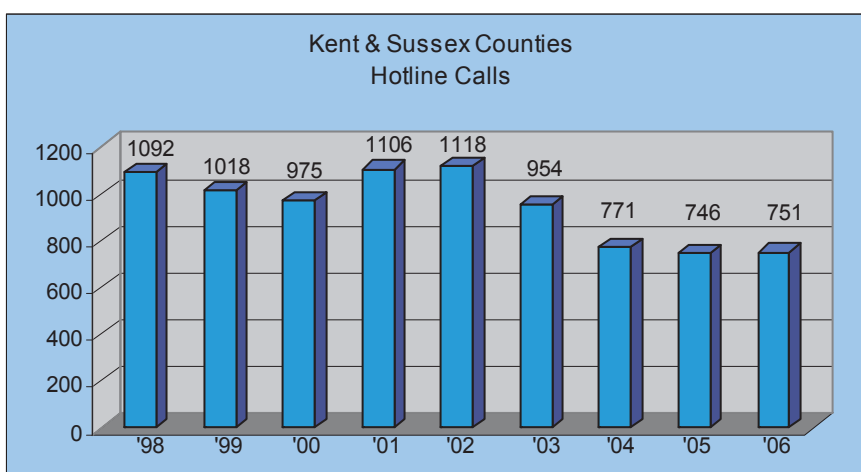


In 2006, there were 2,333 calls to the domestic violence hotline in New Castle County. This is a decrease of 415 calls from year 2005.



DOMESTIC VIOLENCE HOTLINE STATISTICS

In 2006, there was a total of 751 calls to domestic violence hotlines in Kent and Sussex Counties. This is an increase of 5 calls since year 2005.



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

Kent and Sussex Counties

Northern Kent

302-678-3886

Kent and Sussex

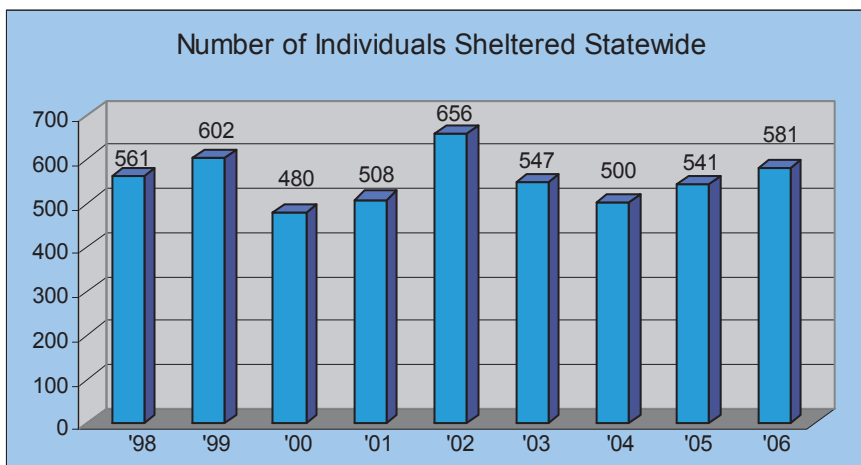
302-422-8058

Spanish Speaking

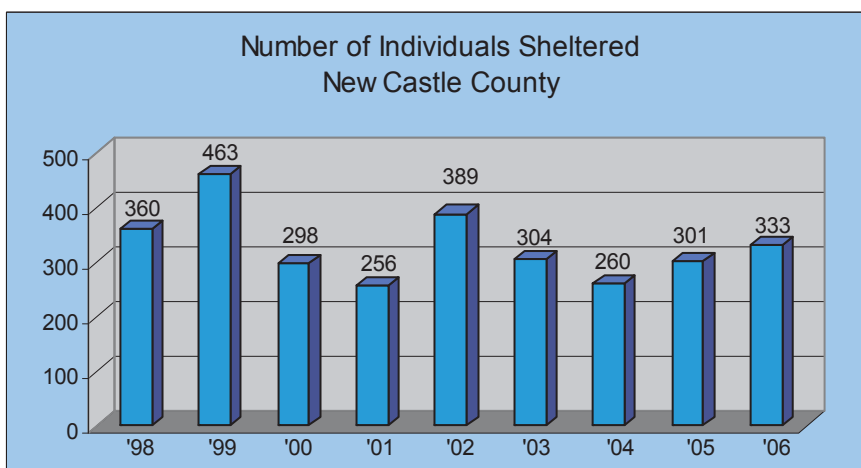
302-745-9874

SHELTER STATISTICS

In 2006, 581 women and children received shelter services in Delaware. The average number of individuals sheltered in Delaware's domestic violence shelters since 1998 is 552.

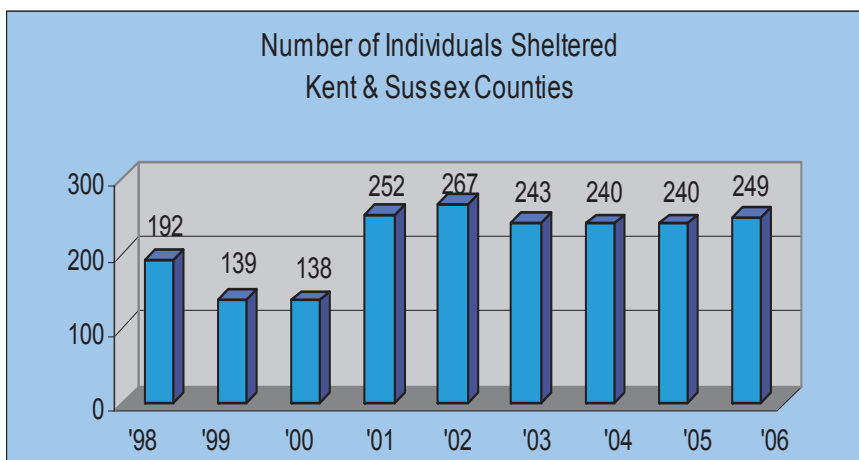


In New Castle County, 333 individuals were provided shelter in 2006. Of the 333 individuals provided shelter, 180 were women and 153 were children.



SHELTER STATISTICS

In Kent and Sussex Counties, the total number of individuals sheltered in 2006 was 249. Of the 249 provided shelter, 116 were women and 133 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



| New Castle County <i>These numbers represent new cases.</i> | |
|---|-----|
| Women Served: | 523 |
| Men Served: | 55 |
| Total Clients: | 578 |
| Kent County <i>These numbers represent some duplicated clients.</i> | |
| Women Served: | 345 |
| Men Served: | 25 |
| Total Clients: | 370 |
| Sussex County <i>These numbers represent services provided.</i> | |
| Women Served: | 499 |
| Men Served: | 27 |
| Total Clients: | 526 |

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.

SUBCOMMITTEES

Children and Domestic Violence

Chairs: Hon. Deborah Hudson and Hon. Cari DeSantis

Staff: Cynthia M. Boehmer

Highlights:

- Subcommittee plans to review how systems currently respond to children who witness domestic violence at “point of entry”, when the child first comes in contact with the system, either through police or hotline report, or referral.
- Group continues to review and update Menu of Services for Children, developed by Children and Domestic Violence Subcommittee in 2003. A working group will meet to develop questions for service providers and develop a layout for the Menu of Services.

Criminal Justice Subcommittee

Chairs: Hon. Chandlee Johnson Kuhn and Hon. David B. Mitchell

Staff: Laura M. Giles

Highlights:

- Criminal Justice Working Group met to explore the possibility of a grant to pay for Domestic Violence Treatment Program for inmates. The grant would focus on location, oversight, staffing, and costs associated with running a Level 4 Program.
- Worked with Family Court to remove social security numbers from all Protection From Abuse Orders (PFA) to help protect victim confidentiality.
- Created “new language” in the Writ of Injunction/Sequestration on PFA orders. The new language explains to both parties that any weapons seized will be destroyed 30 days after the expiration of the PFA Order, if the weapons are unclaimed.



SUBCOMMITTEES

Immigration Subcommittee

Chairs: Mary Davis, Northern Delaware and Maria Picazo, Southern Delaware

Staff: Eileen Ondra and Cynthia Boehmer

Highlights:

- Worked with DELJIS to create a DV Incident Statistical Report to track the number of domestic violence incidents reported in Hispanic and Asian communities.
- Worked with staff of the Administrative Office of the Courts to coordinate cross training with court-based interpreters and domestic violence advocates, scheduled for the fall of 2007.
- Developed public awareness campaign materials and provided education and outreach on domestic violence to more than 160 members of the immigrant community Statewide.

Legislative Drafting and Review

Chairs: Hon. Patricia M. Blevins and Hon. Joseph R. Biden, III

Staff: Bridget V. Poulle

Highlights:

The DVCC Legislative Subcommittee drafted three pieces of legislation. All of the bills passed and have been signed by the Governor. Please see page six in this Report for passed legislation.

Medical Subcommittee

Chairs: Dr. Matthew Hoffman and Vincent J. Poppiti, Esq.

Staff: Eileen Ondra

Highlights:

- Developed elder abuse and domestic violence section for inclusion on Domestic Violence Coordinating Council's website.
- Trained approximately 125 healthcare professionals - doctors, nurses, and paraprofessionals on the topic of domestic violence and screening.
- Attended wellness conferences and staffed booths. Provided information on healthcare and domestic violence.

SUBCOMMITTEES

Public Awareness/Education Subcommittee

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

Staff: Cynthia Boehmer

Highlights:

- Partnered with Milford High School's Communication Technology Classes to develop a "teen centered" social marketing campaign on Teen Dating Violence. Students researched the issue and used the information to develop posters and a brochure to increase awareness of Teen Dating Violence.
- Created and distributed to thirty-three (33) high school Wellness Centers, a Teen Dating Violence "Toolbox" containing Resource Manuals, Hotline numbers, and copies of the Posters and Brochure developed by students of the Milford High School.
- Developed Grant Proposal to fund:
 - ◇ Statewide Dart Bus Taillight Campaign, using posters developed by Milford High School students. The Taillight Bus poster appeared on 30 DART buses, Statewide, during February, Teen Dating Violence Awareness and Prevention Month.
 - ◇ Distribution of "Toolbox" to high school Wellness Centers statewide.



***DART Tailgate
Bus Display***

National Teen Dating Abuse Helpline
www.loveisrespect.org
1-866-331-9474

SUBCOMMITTEES

Treatment Subcommittee

Co-Chairs: Commissioner Carl C. Danberg, Hon. Lawrence M. Sullivan, and Patricia Tedford, ContactLifeline, Inc.

Staff: Bridget V. Poulle

Highlights:

- The Subcommittee members agreed to review best practices in Juvenile Offender Domestic Violence Offender Treatment programs, which was identified as a gap in services, during a January 2007 DV Task Force Meeting on Teen Dating Violence programs in Delaware.
- The first meeting was in May 2007 to discuss a “path forward.” Members received an update from DTI staff member, Li Wen Lin, on the Grants to Encourage Arrest discretionary grant to track domestic violence offenders’ compliance with PFA Orders requiring domestic violence treatment. The monitoring project is scheduled to begin in late August 2007.

2007 DVCC Staff Contact Information

Bridget V. Poulle, Executive Director

Bridget.Poulle@state.de.us

302-255-0406

Laura M. Giles, Project Coordinator

Laura.Giles@state.de.us

302-255-0410

Kenzel V. Messick, Administrative Assistant

Kenzel.Messick@state.de.us

302-255-0405

Cynthia Boehmer, Downstate

Project Coordinator

302-424-7238

Eileen Ondra, Trainer/Educator

Eileen.Ondra@state.de.us

302-255-0408

Visit us at our website:

www.dvcc.delaware.gov

OTHER DVCC COMMITTEES

Batterers' Intervention Certification Panel

Staff: Cynthia Boehmer

Highlights:

- Reviewed and approved Crossroads of Georgetown's Application for Certification. Crossroads of Georgetown will be offering a bilingual Intervention Program in Sussex County.
- Revised application materials to correspond to changes in the Intervention Standards.
- Reviewed the Dover Air Force Base Advocacy Program's Certification Renewal Application.

Downstate Domestic Violence Committee

Staff: Cynthia Boehmer

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

Highlights:

- In keeping with the goal, members have asked DVCC to review current Department of Family Services' investigation policies as they relate to chronic misdemeanor-level DV incidents, stalking as it relates to domestic violence, and how violations of a Protection From Abuse Order are handled by law enforcement and courts.
- Established Ad-Hoc Group to meet with members of the Maddie and Paul play on Teen Dating Violence, and how it could be used in Kent and Sussex Counties.

Law Enforcement Training Working Group

Staff: Eileen Ondra and Laura Giles

Highlights:

- Held four law enforcement trainings in 2006, training approximately 370 law enforcement, probation and parole, and domestic violence police advocates.
- Developed concept for pocket-sized Risk Assessment Notebooks for law enforcement officers responding to domestic incidents. Also received funds to provide domestic violence training videos for every law enforcement agency in the State.

SUBCOMMITTEES

Fatal Incident Review Team

Staff: Laura M. Giles

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. To avoid duplication of efforts, the Fatal Incident Review Team and the Child Death, Near Death, Stillbirth Commission held it's first "Joint Review" in February 2007. Members of both Review Teams will share information when the death of child is a result of domestic violence.

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.

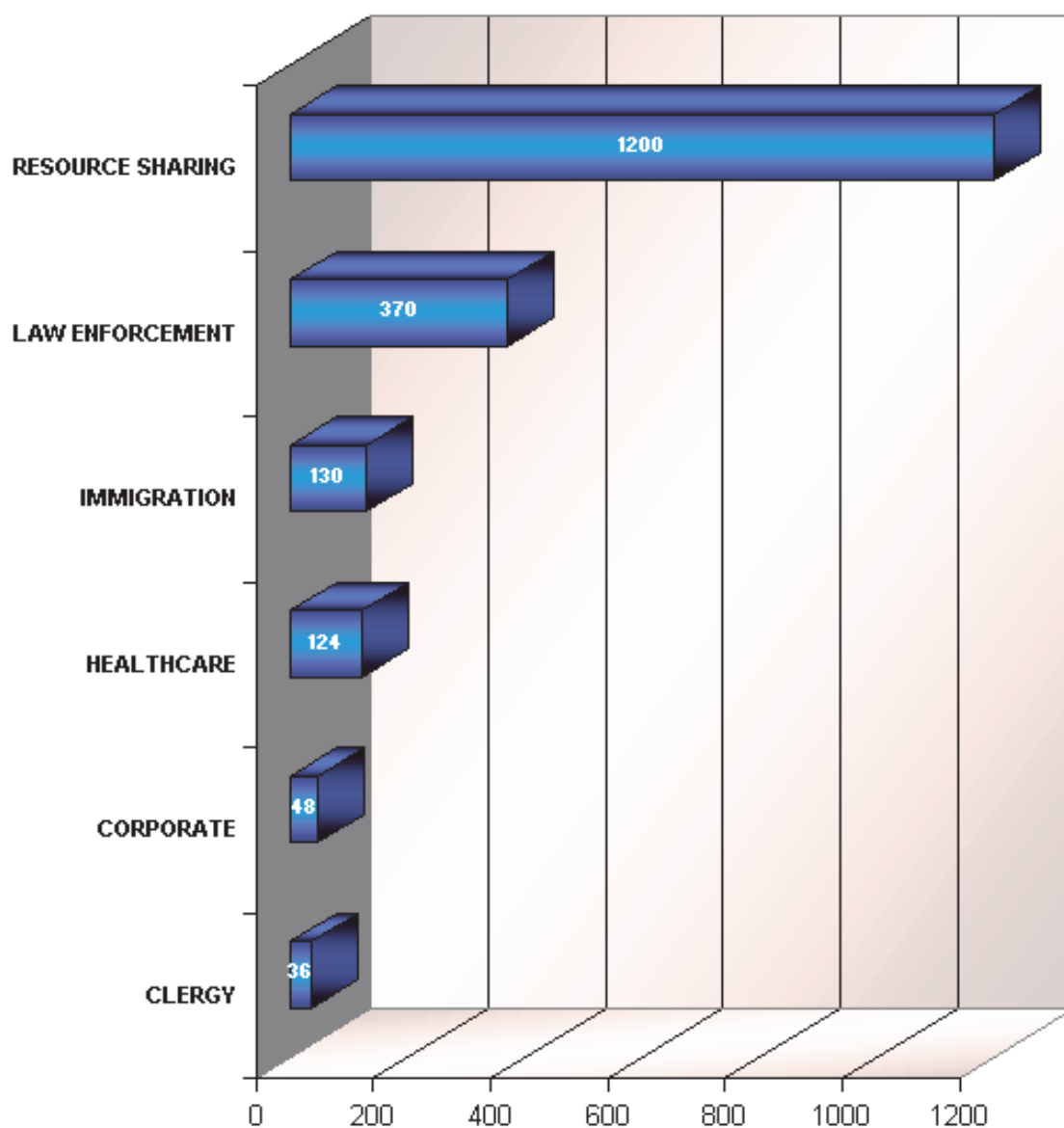
Confidentiality is maintained throughout the review process and is required by statute. The records of all reviews are confidential and are exempt from the provisions of the Freedom of Information Act in Title 29 of the Delaware Code. Reports published by the review team include only aggregate data and 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.delaware.gov and click on Reports.

2006 TRAINING CALENDAR

In 2006, a total of 708 persons were trained by the DVCC. 1200 persons were provided safety plans and resource cards at statewide conferences, workshops, and trainings (Resource Sharing). Training was delivered in a variety of methods, including designing and delivering on-site training for healthcare and other professionals, surveying potential participants, conducting conferences and trainings for law enforcement, probation and parole officers, schools, and members of the clergy.



2006 HIGHLIGHTS



*Above: Senate Bill 57
Passes the House!
Senate Bill 57 Supporters
May 8, 2007, Legislative Hall
Dover, Delaware*



Governor Signing of Senate Bill 57, June 20, 2007



*Above: Left to Right: Domestic
Violence Proclamation Signing,
October 2006
Left to Right: Governor Ruth Ann
Minner, Senator Patricia M. Blevins*



*Above: Milford High School Students
Participating in Teen Dating
Violence Media Project*

*Left to Right:
Elaine
Aviola,
Victim
Services,
New Castle
County
Police
Department
and Polli
Funk, ContactLifeline, Inc.*



*Registration Law Enforcement
Training February 2006
Wilmington College
Wilmington, Delaware*

*Below: February 15, 2006, Sexual Assault Training with JoAnne Archambault
Sexual Assault Training and Investigations
DVCC In Collaboration With ContactLifeline, Inc., Sexual Assault Network of Delaware
Funded by VAWA Grant No. VW03-216*



RESOURCES

Domestic Violence Advocacy Programs

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

Police Victim Services

| | |
|--|------------------------------|
| Delaware State Police Victim Services and Delaware Victim Center (Statewide-24 hours) | 800-842-8461 |
| Dover Police Department (Kent County) | 302-736-7134 |
| Georgetown Police Department/Sussex County | 302-856-6613 |
| 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 |

| | |
|----------------------------|--------------|
| Rape Crisis Hotline | 302-761-9100 |
|----------------------------|--------------|

For other information, training and referral, please contact:

Domestic Violence
Coordinating Council (DVCC)
www.dvcc.delaware.gov
302-255-0405

The Delaware Coalition Against
Domestic Violence (DCADV)
www.dcadv.org
302-658-2958

*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.delaware.gov.*



DOMESTIC VIOLENCE COORDINATING COUNCIL

Domestic Violence /Rape Crisis ***24-Hour Hotline Numbers***

New Castle County

| | |
|-------------------|--------------|
| Domestic Violence | 302-762-6110 |
| Rape Crisis | 302-761-9100 |

Northern Kent

| | |
|-------------------|--------------|
| Domestic Violence | 302-678-3886 |
|-------------------|--------------|

Kent and Sussex

| | |
|-------------------|--------------|
| Domestic Violence | 302-422-8058 |
| Rape Crisis | 800-262-9800 |
| Abriendo Puertas | 302-745-9874 |

DVCC **Main Office**

New Castle
County Courthouse
500 N. King St
Suite 9425
Wilmington, DE
19801

Phone: 302-255-0405
Fax: 302-255-2236

www.dvcc.delaware.gov

DVCC **Kent and Sussex** **County Office**

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

Phone: 302-424-7238
Fax: 302-424-5311

www.dvcc.delaware.gov

Domestic Violence Coordinating Council

www.dvcc.state.de.us