

2020

ANNUAL REPORT



THE
**DELAWARE
DOMESTIC
VIOLENCE
COORDINATING
COUNCIL**

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2020

CHAIR'S MESSAGE

On behalf of the members of the Domestic Violence Coordinating Council, we are pleased to present the 2020 Annual Report.

Each year, the DVCC Annual Report provides data on the incidence of domestic violence in Delaware and our response to those incidents. The Annual Report also highlights the work of the DVCC committees and staff during the fiscal year. This year, while the Report provides domestic violence data in a familiar format to previous years, the effects of a pandemic in the fourth quarter of the fiscal year is a story that is yet to be fully realized. Victims nationwide have been impacted by stay at home orders, which increased likelihood of subsequent violence in the home, and prevented opportunities for victims to leave. The pandemic created additional barriers to accessing services; while service providers, law enforcement, the legal and medical communities adapted practices to continue to provide necessary services, many victims did not reach out because of health concerns or because they believed the courts were closed.

A review of data from March to June shows a decrease in calls to police and a decrease in the filings of petitions for Protection from Abuse (PFA). However, during that same period, calls to the domestic violence hotlines in New Castle County remained consistent with the same time period the previous year, and in Kent and Sussex Counties, there was an increase in calls.

Likewise, the number of victims and children sheltered during this time period also increased. For those victims that did reach out for services, Family Court instituted electronic processes so that petitioners could safely file PFA petitions, and advocates continued to assist victims with the new filing process. The Court continued to hold hearings and issue both temporary and final orders. Shelters quickly adopted protocols to meet health standards and all service providers worked closely with each other and the community to meet the needs of victims during this pandemic. With stay at home orders lifted, many of the practices continued, including electronic filing of petitions and the option of remote participation in hearings.

As we strive to meet the needs of victims and improve the system's response to domestic violence during this pandemic, the DVCC will continue the many collaborations that have been built to address domestic violence. With the support from our criminal justice and community partners, the DVCC remains committed to identifying gaps in services and to develop solutions to address those gaps.

We wish to commend the Delaware law enforcement agencies, legal community, medical professionals, and advocates for their hard work and commitment in the fight against domestic violence, especially during these challenging times.

2020 EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

We are proud to present to you our Fiscal Year 2020 Annual Report. This report highlights the DVCC's initiatives during the past year, as well as statistical information on domestic violence incidents and services provided throughout Delaware.

The statistical data that begins on page 25 reflects the collective efforts of our community-based and justice-based partners in the State's response to domestic violence.

Highlights of the DVCC's accomplishments and activities for FY2020 include:

- A Domestic Violence High Risk Team pilot project was implemented in Kent County.
- Recommendations were submitted under House Resolution 12, which examined the expansion of domestic violence, teen dating violence, and sexual violence advocacy and legal services to minors.
- The Public Awareness and Education Committee created a new social media campaign strategy to increase awareness on issues impacting victims and survivors.
- DVCC staff shifted trainings and educational workshops to online platforms to ensure delivery of information and materials during COVID-19.

This work would not be possible without the knowledge and dedication of the DVCC staff, Council members, Committee members, and community partners.

Thank you!



COUNCIL MEMBERS

CHAIR

Honorable Michael Newell
Chief Judge, Family Court

VICE-CHAIR

Laura Graham, Esquire
At-Large Member

Honorable Catherine Cloutier, Member, Senate

Honorable Nicole Poore, Member, Senate

Honorable Krista Griffith, Member, House of Representatives

Honorable Michael Smith, Member, House of Representatives

Honorable Jan Jurden, President Judge, Superior Court

Honorable Carl Danberg, Judge, Court of Common Pleas

Honorable Kathleen Jennings, Attorney General, Department of Justice

Honorable Robert Coupe, Secretary, Department of Safety and Homeland Security

Honorable Brendan O'Neill, Chief Defender, Office of Defense Services

Honorable Claire DeMatteis, Commissioner, Department of Correction

Honorable Josette Manning, Secretary, Department of Services for Children, Youth & Their Families

Master Corporal Adrienne Owen, Appointed Representative of the Law Enforcement Community

Dr. Margaret Chou, At-Large Member, Representative of the Medical Community

Professor Dana Harrington Conner, At-Large Member

Debra Reed, At-Large Member

Ariana Langford, At-Large Member

Professor Jennifer Naccarelli, At-Large Member

Honorable Vincent Poppiti, At-Large Member

STAFF MEMBERS

Maureen Monagle, Executive Director

Natasha Smith, Social Services Senior Administrator

Dayna Belfiore, Criminal Justice Senior Planner

Amanda Alcaraz, Trainer/ Educator

Timothy Valeski, High Risk DV Coordinator - Contractor

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.

STATUTORY DUTIES

13 Del.C. § 2103 (1-6)

The Council shall:

1. Continuously study court services and procedures, law-enforcement procedures and protocol, and criminal justice data collection and analysis as it relates to domestic violence;
2. Effectuate coordination between agencies, departments and the courts with victims of domestic violence and abuse;
3. Promote effective prevention, intervention and treatment techniques which will be developed based upon research and data collection;
4. 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;
5. 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; and
6. Improve the response to domestic violence and abuse so as to reduce the incidents thereof.

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.

Children and Domestic Violence

Honorable Josette Manning ~ Chair

Criminal Justice

Honorable Jan Jurden, Honorable Brendan O'Neill, and Master Corporal Adrienne Owen ~ Chairs

Elderly and Domestic Violence

Honorable Robert Coupe ~ Chair

Immigration

Laura Graham, Esquire ~ Chair

Legislative Drafting and Review

Honorable Krista Griffith ~ Chair

Medical

Dr. Margaret Chou ~ Chair

Public Awareness/Education

Honorable Carl Danberg ~ Chair

Training

Honorable Michael Newell ~ Chair

Treatment

Honorable Brendan O'Neill and Honorable Robert Coupe ~ Chairs

Batterers' Intervention Certification Panel

Fatal Incident Review Team {FIRT}

Honorable Jan Jurden, Professor Dana Harrington Conner, and Honorable Vincent Poppiti ~ Chairs

CHILDREN AND DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

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.

FY 2020 ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Members of the Committee worked in partnership with the Separating and Divorcing Parents Education (SDPE) Workgroup of the DSCYF to focus on the identification of barriers to access these classes.

Barriers identified included challenges with attendance at in-person classes and a lack of availability of Spanish speaking classes. Additionally, the workgroup established standing agenda items to guide and direct their work. Agenda items included:

- Evaluating the need for online parenting classes
- Identifying an avenue to illicit feedback on SDPE classes
- Review of standards/requirements for providing SDPE classes

Informed by the information provided by the SDPE Workgroup, the Committee discussed the value in having select Separating and Divorcing Parent Education course providers present information at an upcoming Family Court Judges' and Commissioners' meeting.

In an effort to meet the needs of the litigants required to complete the course, an online course for the Separating and Divorcing Parenting Education class was made available and approved by the DSCYF. This issue will continue to be discussed in Fiscal Year 2021.

Formation of the House Resolution 12 Workgroup

In June 2019, House Resolution 12 was passed which directed for the Domestic Violence Coordinating Council to examine the expansion of advocacy and legal resources for minors who are victims of teen dating and sexual violence. In response, the Committee formed the House Resolution 12 Workgroup (HR12) to systemically and collaboratively research the issues. The first HR 12 group met in October 2019 and met on a monthly basis thereafter. In April 2020, the HR12 Workgroup drafted the recommendations discussed which were included in the Final House Resolution 12 Report that was submitted to the General Assembly in May 2020.

HOUSE RESOLUTION 12

In June 2019, through the passing of House Resolution 12 (HR12), the General Assembly directed the Domestic Violence Coordinating Council (DVCC) to examine the expansion of domestic violence, teen dating violence, and sexual violence advocacy and legal services to minors. HR12 allowed for the DVCC to study the issue with assistance from various organizations outlined in the Resolution in order to provide recommendations to the General Assembly by May 31, 2020.

Following the passage of the Resolution, the DVCC gathered representatives from the Department of Services for Children, Youth and Families (DSCYF), Child Inc., People's Place, the Delaware Coalition Against Domestic Violence (DCADV), Delaware Volunteer Legal Services (DVLS), Community Legal Aid Society, Inc of Delaware (CLASI), the YWCA of Delaware, the Sexual Assault Network of Delaware (SAND), the General Assembly, Family Court, the Department of Education, the Department of Justice, and Office of the Child Advocate to conduct a systemic analysis of the issues raised using a multidisciplinary approach.

Below are a list of the recommendations provided to the General Assembly in May 2020:

1. Have school districts provide targeted outreach to students, parents and the school community on the benefits of School-Based Health Centers (SBHC). This could include SBHC staff being available during school open houses to provide information and field questions of those in attendance.
2. Make provisions for the school districts that have highly engaged students in their SBHCs to share their best practices with other school districts that are not as utilized.
3. Enhance school-based health centers with the addition of domestic violence services co-located within the health centers.
4. Expand student led safe spaces for teens to have Peer to Peer programs for teen dating and sexual violence.
5. Have community-based agencies review their internal age of parental consent policies to achieve consistency in the domestic violence and sexual violence areas.
6. Provide education to community stakeholders, School-Based Health Centers, and Community Centers about resources available for teens filing a Protection from Abuse petition.
7. Family Court to explore adding representatives from Child Inc.'s Domestic Violence Advocacy Program, Delaware Volunteer Legal Services and Community Legal Aid Society of Delaware to an existing Family Court committee reviewing juvenile filings and the GAL process. This would also include creating a specific document for the GAL process as it relates to PFA petitions.
8. Mandate public, private, charter schools and institutes of higher learning to print the national hotline number on any school issued identification cards. This would be similar to a law passed in California in the past year.
9. Partner with agencies that are already in contact with youth who may be in a non- traditional school setting. This would include outreach to agencies that provide educational development as well as job skills training.

[Please click here to read the Final Report for House Resolution 12.](#)

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 Office of Defense Services, 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.

FY 2020 ACCOMPLISHMENTS

The Criminal Justice Committee received quarterly updates on the progress of the Domestic Violence High Risk Team. The Kent County pilot program established a core group of team members and drafted policies and procedures for the program. In addition, the team began holding monthly meetings to identify and track high risk domestic violence cases in Kent County.

The Committee also discussed the implementation of the lethal violence protection order as well as law enforcement being able to file for relinquishment orders in Justice of the Peace Court.

The Committee also discussed Interim Rule 55 and the language that allows for the lethality assessment protocol (LAP) to be used as the assessment tool in determining bail conditions in domestic violence cases. This issue will continue to be discussed in Fiscal Year 2021.

The Committee met and discussed body worn cameras and the Delaware Police Chiefs Council's policy for body worn camera usage. Also the Committee will be looking at the issue of expungement and the first offenders' program in domestic violence cases in Fiscal Year 2021.

ELDERLY AND DOMESTIC VIOLENCE COMMITTEE

The Committee is comprised of representatives from the Department of Justice, law enforcement, healthcare, advocates, and community partners including the Delaware Center for Justice (DCJ); University of Delaware's Center for Drug and Alcohol Studies; the Division of Services for Aging and Adults with Physical Disabilities (DSAAPD); Adult Protective Services (APS); as well as representation from the housing sector. The Committee continuously reviews data and information about the prevalence of domestic violence against aging Delawareans. In addition, the Committee learns from key informants, including citizens, about existing services and programs available to elderly victims; the unmet needs of elders experiencing abuse, and elderly victims' experiences in Delaware.

FY 2020 ACCOMPLISHMENTS

The Committee, made up of representatives from the Department of Safety and Homeland Security; the Department of Justice; law enforcement; advocates; and community partners, met regularly to develop a strategic plan to guide the Committee's work for the next 12 months.

The Committee established 3 measurable goals which are as follows:

1. Conduct a needs assessment to determine areas of focus. The needs assessment will be in the form of a survey distributed statewide.
2. Train Adult Protective Services on an areas of need (Identifying Domestic Violence, Navigating Domestic Violence Resources, etc.).
3. Create partnerships with at least 2 additional agencies and/or providers whose work intersects with elderly victims and survivors of domestic violence.

In honor of World Elder Abuse Awareness Day, the DVCC Elderly and DV Committee partnered with the Department of Justice and DSAAPD to include DVCC's Older Adults Domestic Violence Resource Flyer in meal delivery kits. Through this partnership the resource flyer reached over 400 homes in Delaware.

A Resources & Needs Assessment Survey was distributed to partners throughout Delaware through the Domestic Violence Task Force listserv, University of Delaware's Public Health Events distribution list, and Committee members' distribution lists.

Finally, the Committee provided thoughtful feedback on the Aging and Behavioral Health Report which will be submitted to the Behavioral Health Consortium.

Domestic Violence in Aging People

5 Signs of Domestic Violence in Aging People



From the Delaware Domestic Violence Coordinating Council

#1 Financial Abuse

An abusive partner might steal from the victim or prevent them from accessing their own money. The abuser might "borrow" from the victim and never pay them back. Financial abuse might also be refusing to assist with paying necessary bills, or forcing the victim to pay the bills of the abuser.



#2 Medical Neglect

If an elderly person seems to have untended, lingering medical needs, they might be experiencing domestic violence. Abusers may refuse to help a victim get to medical care, or may delay the care. They might steal or withhold medications and/or assistive devices. People with mobility challenges or verbal difficulties are especially vulnerable.



#3 Injuries or Bruises

Unexplained bruises on the arms, face, or body can be an indicator of abuse. People with memory issues may not remember how the injuries happened. Sore muscles or pain with walking or sitting can also be warning signs. Swelling around the neck, a hoarse voice, and throat pain can mean the victim was choked.



#4 Isolation

When was the last time the older person spent time with other people, in or out of their home? Abusive people will isolate victims from their support networks, sometimes under the guise of "protecting" them. The older victim may stop going to the store, to church, to family gatherings, or other activities.



#5 Mental Health Issues

A sudden onset of anxiety and depression are signs of abuse. The loss of acquired skills, frequent confusion, or quick cognitive decline can indicate that the victim has unmet medical needs. The victim might begin to struggle with addiction or to maintain their sobriety. Fear, paranoia, anger and self-isolation might also be responses to an abusive relationship.



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IMMIGRATION COMMITTEE

Working with immigrant victims of domestic violence and sexual assault brings additional barriers and challenges. Immigrant victims often feel trapped in abusive relationships because of immigration laws, language barriers, social isolation, and lack of financial resources. In addition, the immigrant population is less likely to report violence out of fear of law enforcement and deportation. The Immigration Committee, made up of service providers, law enforcement, advocates and survivors of domestic violence, discusses the additional barriers confronting immigrant victims and works to effectuate change.

FY 2020 ACCOMPLISHMENTS

This year has been another year robust with policy and federal rule changes that affect the immigrant community. The Immigration Committee continues to be committed to identifying changes affecting victims and educating service providers and community members. The Committee continues to be a trusted resource and network for information exchange among service providers.

The Committee has begun to explore the benefits of using a community engagement approach to better reach, engage and serve Latinx Community members. A community engagement model will actively involve community members in a wide variety of prevention efforts, intervention strategies and research.

In order to identify Committee goals as they relate to a community needs assessment, a Providers Survey was disseminated to DVCC Immigration Committee members and partners, as well as outside agencies who serve, or may serve, Latinx community members impacted by domestic violence. This survey is intended to give the DVCC a fuller picture of the services available to Latinx in the community, barriers to providing services to Latinx survivors, and areas where connections between providers and Latinx consumers can be improved or created.

Community agencies may respond to this survey by following this link:
https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/dvcc_immigration_providers_survey

LEGISLATIVE DRAFTING AND REVIEW COMMITTEE

The Legislative Drafting and Review Committee reviews proposed legislation addressing domestic violence and sexual assault 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.

FY 2020 ACCOMPLISHMENTS

The Legislative and Drafting Committee reviewed several issues related to domestic violence and sexual assault during this past year.

The Committee reviewed the strengths and challenges related to the First Offenders Domestic Violence Diversion Program and certain crimes that qualify for Probation Before Judgement. The Committee hopes to continue holding discussions with the Department of Justice, Office of Defense Services, the Courts, and the agencies certified as Domestic Violence Treatment Programs.

Focused conversations were held on the review of House Bill 215-the Advocate Privilege Bill. Victim advocates offer a unique and necessary service to victims and survivors of domestic violence and sexual assault. When victims of violence are assured of confidentiality, they are more willing to access services and to disclose the true nature of the abuse or assault they have experienced. Recognizing confidentiality as an important element of victim services, HB215 was drafted to establish Advocate Privilege under 10 Del. C §4319A. The intent was to protect the dissemination of communications between victims of domestic violence, domestic abuse, sexual assault, abuse by a caregiver, human trafficking, or stalking and their advocate. This bill did not move forward in the 150th General Assembly. However, the DVCC hopes to continue discussions with community-based advocates and remain informed on similar laws that have been implemented in other states.

MEDICAL COMMITTEE

The presence of domestic violence is a serious social determinant of health that affects the health and well-being of millions of people each year. It occurs across boundaries of race, class, sexual orientation, and gender identity and may have significant, and often chronic, health consequences including cardiovascular, gastrointestinal, reproductive, musculoskeletal, and nervous system conditions. Additionally, patients impacted by domestic violence may experience depression, sleep disturbances, post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) and are at higher risk for engaging in health risk behaviors, such as smoking, substance use, and HIV risk behaviors (unsafe sexual practices).

The Medical Committee, made up of health care providers, advocates, service providers and other interested parties, acknowledges the profound difference that health care providers can make by 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.

FY 2020 ACCOMPLISHMENTS

The Committee has began extensive revisions to the Domestic Violence Resource Manual for Healthcare Professionals which was originally released in 2011 and widely praised for its comprehensive and collaborative approach.

Highlights include:

- Convened a monthly meeting of the Medical Manual Revision Workgroup, made up of healthcare representatives working in the fields of obstetrics and gynecology, pediatrics, nursing, geriatrics, and mental health; advocates from the Delaware Coalition Against Domestic Violence and YWCA of Delaware; and subject matter experts in the areas of Traumatic Brain Injury and LGBTQ specific issues.

- Hosted a training and information session lead by The Department of Justice and The Office of the Child Advocate on the topic of *A Healthcare Providers Duty to Report Child Abuse in Cases Involving Domestic Violence*. The presenters provided feedback and insight on several case vignettes submitted by the DVCC Medical Committee which illustrated parents/caregivers and/or children impacted by domestic violence to varying degrees.
- Engaged in collaborative discussions and consultation with representatives from the Division of Services for Aging Adults and Persons with Disabilities, The Office of the Child Advocate and the Department of Justice to create a Legal Mandates chapter for inclusion in the Resource Manual.
- Formed a partnership with the University of Delaware Center for Drug and Health Studies to ensure the inclusion of Delaware-specific data throughout the manual.

TRAINING COMMITTEE

The Training Committee was established in April of 2017 as a result of a need identified by the Family Court Enhancement Project. The Committee's goal is to identify domestic violence and sexual assault training needs throughout the State.

FY 2020 ACCOMPLISHMENTS

The Committee has been working on the creation of a centralized training calendar that will promote and track training events throughout the State. The Committee partnered with the Government Information Center (GIC) to create the online calendar and house it on DVCC's website. Additionally, the Committee drafted procedures for submitting, verifying, and editing training opportunities.

The Committee goals include:

- To offer evidence-based instruction about domestic violence and sexual violence to professionals and community organizations
- To collaborate within systems to effectively pass on information, best practices, research and trends in the field.
- To serve as a referral source for anyone seeking instruction on responses to domestic violence or organizational training requests.
- To be a space where professionals can collaboratively create, explore and share training technologies, methods, and opportunities for professional development.

Additionally, the Law Enforcement Training Workgroup (which creates an annual law enforcement training focused on domestic violence and sexual assault) was moved to the Training Committee.

This past year, the DVCC provided trainings on topics such as:

- Domestic Violence Basics: Power, Control and the Cycle of Violence
- Technology and Stalking
- Technology and Safety Planning
- Screening for Domestic Violence and Response
- Teen Dating Violence & Healthy Relationships
- Responding to Domestic Violence and Homelessness

TREATMENT COMMITTEE

Ensuring the quality and effectiveness 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 outlines the components required for program content. The Intervention Standards seek to increase victim safety by eliminating violence in intimate relationships. Interventions focus on holding offenders accountable for their behavior by teaching new skills and monitoring behavior while participating in intervention programs. The Committee continuously monitors changes in the field and is committed to providing the best intervention programs possible.

In FY2020, as part of the DVCC Strategic Plan, the Committee set out to review, evaluate and update the existing Domestic Violence Interventions Standards. The central purpose in revising the Intervention Standards is to provide transparent, evidence-based, and consistent minimum operating standards for DVCC certified programs to follow.

FY 2020 ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- Convened the Domestic Violence Intervention Revision Workgroup made up of representatives from Family Court, Department of Correction, Office of Defense Services, the Division of Prevention and Behavioral Health Services of DSCYF, existing and prospective Domestic Violence Intervention Programs.
- Researched domestic violence intervention standards across the nation.
- Explored methods to reduce the cost barrier for domestic violence treatment by interviewing out-of-state intervention programs who deliver reimbursable interventions.
- The Domestic Violence Intervention Revision Workgroup has been successful in creating a working draft of the revised Domestic Violence Intervention Standards.
- Implemented a yearly commitment from the 11-panel members to participate in the annual certification panel meeting. Additionally, revised the "Certification Panel Rules and Procedures" to include an avenue to hold a desk review in the absence of a quorum.

BATTERERS' INTERVENTION CERTIFICATION PANEL

The Domestic Violence Intervention Certification Panel (the 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 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 representatives from Family Court, the Department of Justice, Probation and Parole, Youth Rehabilitation Services, the Office of Defense Services, the Department of Correction's Treatment Unit, the Division of Prevention and Behavioral Health Services of DSCYF, three representatives from Certified Intervention Programs, and a victim advocate from an agency or organization that works directly with domestic violence victims.

The Panel meets every year and as needed to review new applications for certification and certified treatment programs' Annual Reports to ensure that programs remain in compliance with the Intervention Standards including compliance with all continuing education requirements for facilitators. The annual review process helps Delaware maintain high quality and streamlined treatment services statewide.

At the conclusion of FY2020, the Panel certified three intervention programs in Delaware.

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

TURNING POINT (PEOPLES PLACE II)

1129 Airport Rd
Milford, DE 19963
Phone: 302.424.2420
Fax: 302.424.2402

PUBLIC AWARENESS AND EDUCATION COMMITTEE

The Committee brings together representatives from the courts, law enforcement, healthcare, Department of Services for Children, Youth and their Families, advocates and community partners to promote awareness and education about domestic violence, sexual assault and the resources available to victims.

FY 2020 ACCOMPLISHMENTS

From October 2019 to June 2020, DVCC Staff participated in 18 education and/or awareness events, reaching approximately 3,442 people. DVCC Staff partnered with Career TEAM to provide monthly educational workshops for Career TEAM's participants. Monthly educational workshops were also conducted at Hope House I in Wilmington to provide single women experiencing homelessness information and resources about domestic violence. Each month, DVCC staff worked with Parkway Academy in Dover to deliver workshops surrounding issues of consent and Teen Dating Violence.

In February of 2020, DVCC partnered with Child, Inc, DCADV, YWCA Delaware and People's Place to execute a state-wide Teen Dating Violence (TDV) Campaign. Each organization brought resource tables to high schools and middle schools with informational literature, resources, giveaways, and a custom TDV banner. Students were encouraged to participate in a trivia game to earn prizes and to learn more about TDV. As a result of this effort, DVCC and community partners were able to reach 15 schools throughout the state.

In January 2020, the Public Awareness Committee began a new social media campaign to highlight the work of the Council and to engage Delawareans in contemporary issues relating to domestic violence. Committee members collaborated to create a calendar of relevant posts and engaging content. As a result of this effort, DVCC's social media presence (determined by the number of Facebook/ Instagram views) increased.

October

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AWARENESS MONTH

PROCLAMATION SIGNING

October 21, 2019

Domestic Violence Awareness Month provides an opportunity for citizens to learn more about preventing domestic violence and to show support for the agencies and organizations who provide critical advocacy, service and assistance to victims. Governor Carney signed the Proclamation on October 21, 2019.



February

TEEN DATING VIOLENCE AND PREVENTION

PROCLAMATION SIGNING

February 27, 2020

On February 27, 2020, the Delaware Coalition Against Domestic Violence, the DVCC and Governor John Carney worked together to proclaim the month of February as Teen Dating Violence Awareness and Prevention Month. By providing young people with relationship skills and by changing attitudes that support violence, we recognize that dating violence can be prevented; and every person has the right to optimal health and safe and respectful relationships free from abuse.



OUTSTANDING COMMUNITY SERVICE AWARD

Marcey Rezac is a domestic violence advocate, leader, and agent of change who has made a significant impact in the field over the past decade.

For several years, Marcey served as the Program Director of Domestic Violence Services at People's Place II, Inc. During that time, she supervised the operations and staff of two Domestic Violence Shelters, the 24-hour Hotline, Transitional Housing Program, Family Violence Community Advocacy Program and Domestic Violence Liaison Program- working closely with the Department of Services for Children, Youth and their Families (DSCYF). Marcey was considered a valuable member of the leadership team that promoted and fostered the vision and growth of the People's Place.

Since 2017, Marcey has carried her knowledge and passion to the Delaware Coalition Against Domestic Violence where she continues to be a voice for victims and survivors. This is demonstrated by her work on policy and programs to address homelessness and safe and stable housing. Marcey is a passionate, determined and dedicated advocate. She is an active partner on the Domestic Violence Task Force and Victims Rights Task Force, and the Delaware Continuum of Care. She has mentored many victim serving professionals throughout the state. She is a compassionate advocate who continues to make a difference in the lives of countless survivors.

The DVCC presented Marcey with this award during the Governor's Proclamation signing for Domestic Violence Awareness Month on October 21, 2019.



2019 ANNUAL LAW ENFORCEMENT TRAINING CONFERENCE

The 2019 Annual Law Enforcement Conference took place on November 4, 2019, at Del-One Conference Center in Dover, DE. There were 167 attendees from State and local law enforcement agencies, prosecutors, judicial officers, court personnel, SANE nurses, various advocates and community stakeholders from across the State.

This conference included three national speakers presenting on complex issues related to the investigation and prosecution of domestic violence and sexual assault. Kelsey McKay, Esq., from McKay Training and Consulting, LLC, presented The Strategic Investigation and Prosecution of Strangulation Related Crimes.

The Annual Law Enforcement Training conference is supported by a subgrant awarded by the Criminal Justice Council through a federal grant from the U.S. Department of Justice, Office on Violence Against Women, STOP Formula Grant Program.



Year in Review

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE STATISTICS

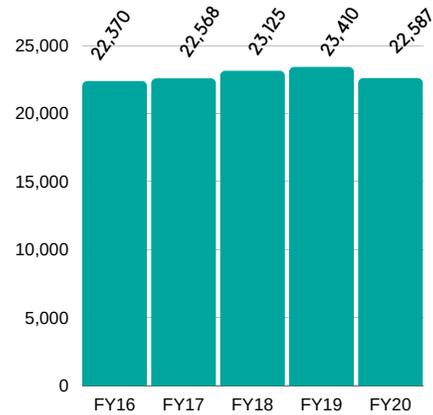
In FY2020, there were a total of **22,587** combined criminal and non-criminal domestic violence incidents reported in Delaware.

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

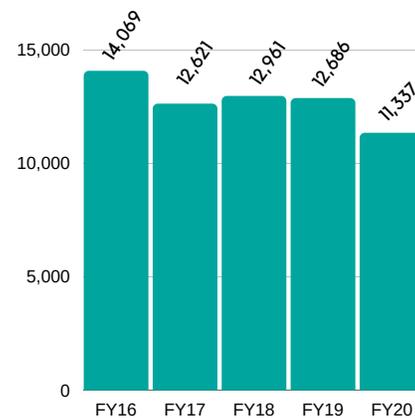
Non-criminal domestic violence incidents are those in which there is police contact, but no crime was alleged, e.g., a verbal argument without any threats.

In FY2020, the total number of reported criminal domestic violence incidents was **11,337**.

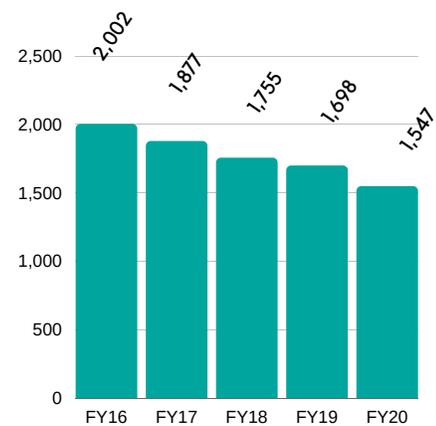
Of the 11,337 reported criminal domestic violence incidents in FY2020, **1,547** resulted in physical injury to the victim.



Criminal and Non-Criminal DV Incidents



Criminal DV Incidents

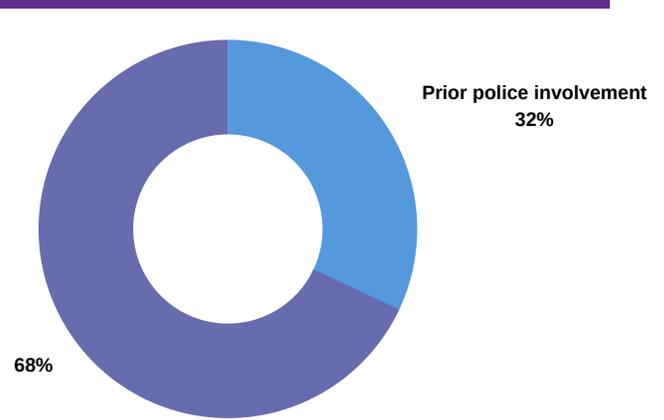


Criminal DV Incidents with Injury

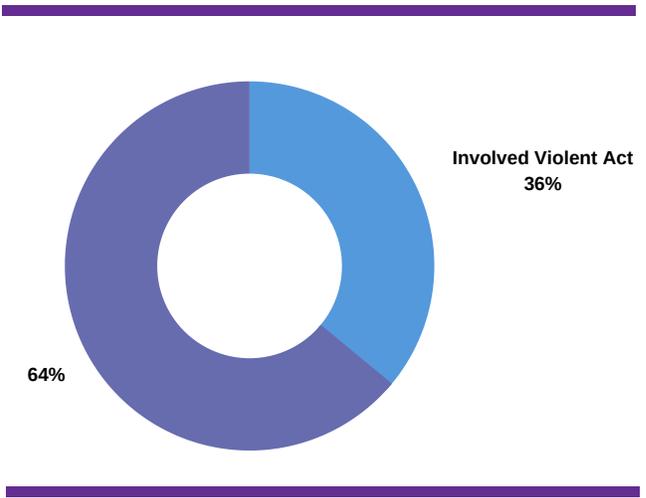
Year in Review

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE STATISTICS

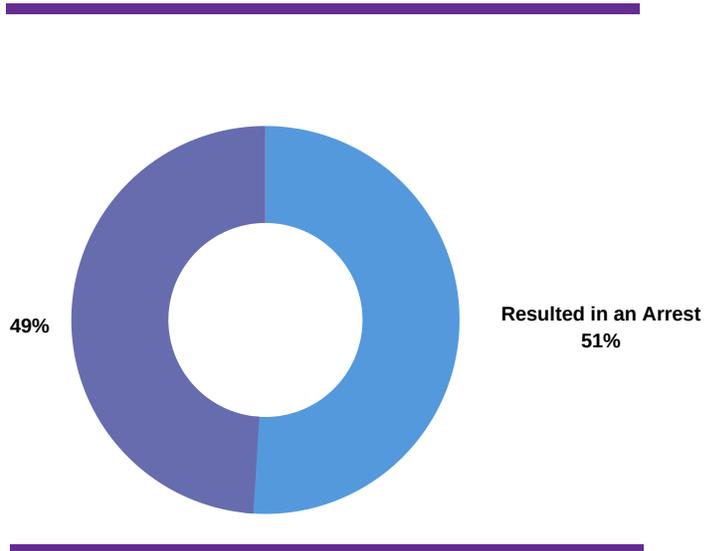
In FY2020, **3,664** of the criminal domestic violence incidents had prior police involvement.



In FY2020, **4,026** of the criminal domestic violence incidents involved a violent act.



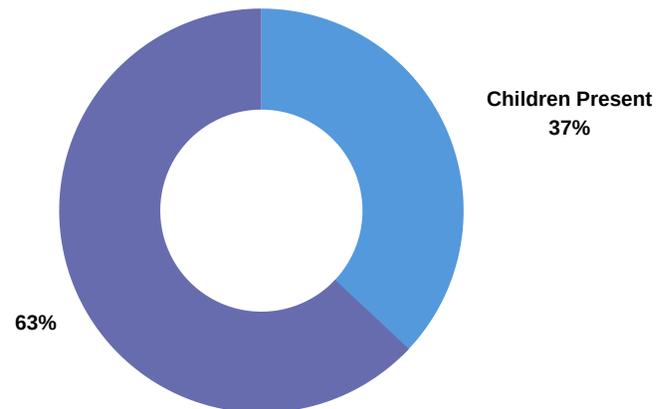
In FY2020, **5,777** of the criminal domestic violence incidents resulted in an arrest.



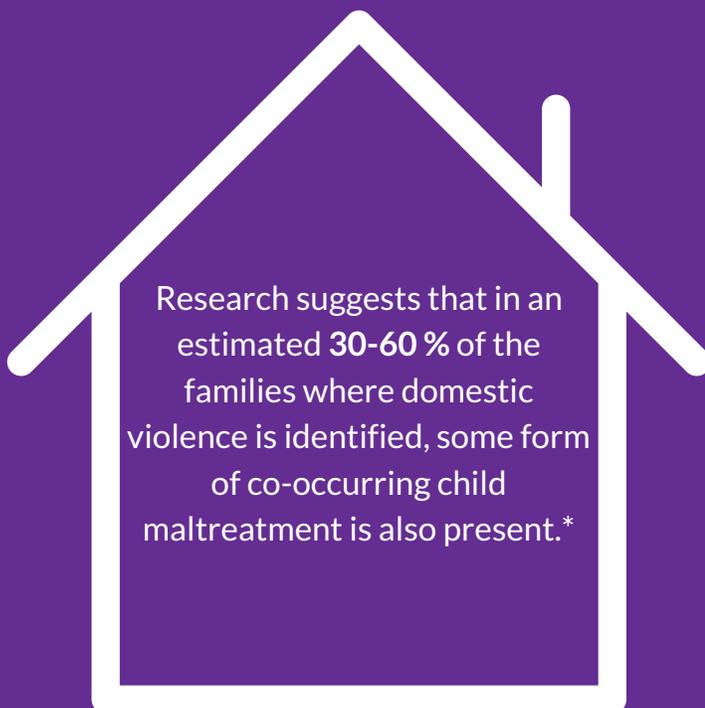
Year in Review

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE STATISTICS

In FY2020, **4,249** of the criminal domestic violence incidents happened with children present.



IMPACT ON CHILDREN EXPOSED TO DOMESTIC VIOLENCE



- Children who witness violence in the home are at greater risk of experiencing domestic violence as adults.
- Children who witness violence in the home are at greater risk for behavioral problems in adolescence (e.g., delinquency, alcohol or substance abuse).
- Children who witness violence in the home are at greater risk for emotional, mental and physical health issues.
- Children who witness violence in the home are at greater risk for poor school performance or truancy.

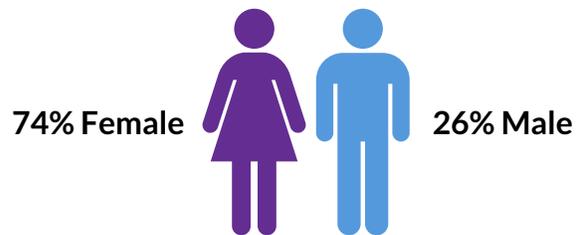
*The Resource Center on Domestic Violence: Child Protection and Custody

Year in Review

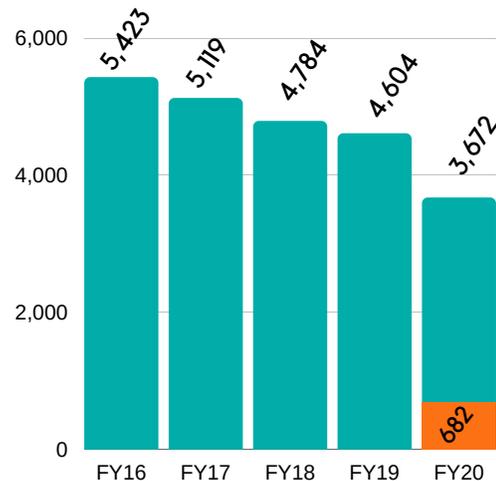
INTIMATE PARTNER CRIMINAL STATISTICS

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 FY2020, of the intimate partner criminal incidents reported, **74%** of the victims were female.



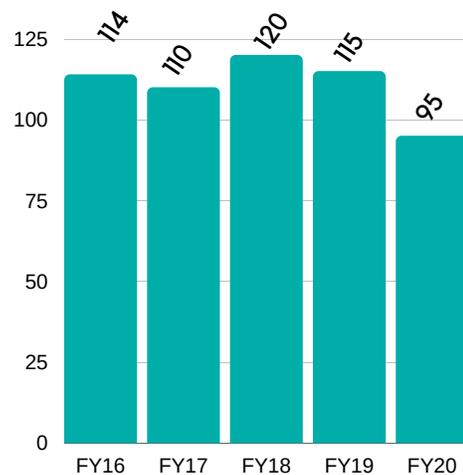
In FY2020, of the **11,337** criminal incidents reported, **3,672** were between intimate partners.



Of those reported in FY2020, **682** indicated physical injury to the intimate partner victim.

Dual arrests occur when police officers arrest both intimate partners involved in a domestic violence incident.

In FY2020, there were **95** dual arrests made by law enforcement.



LETHALITY ASSESSMENT PROTOCOL



The Lethality Assessment Protocol (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 immediately put in contact with the domestic violence hotline for safety planning purposes.

Capitol Police's Domestic Violence Risk Analyst has continued to train law enforcement officers on the statewide protocol. Since 2014, the DV Risk Analyst has conducted 55 training sessions in 29 agencies to 625 law enforcement officers and the utilization of the LAP has dramatically increased. During the 2019 calendar year, police officers statewide completed the LAP on scene 87% of the time. Through the first 6 months of 2020, the LAP usage was up to 87% statewide.

In addition, the DV Risk Analyst worked with programmers at the Delaware Criminal Justice Information System (DELJIS) during the creation of the new Law Enforcement Information Statewide System (LEISS) product. Built into LEISS is an emergency email mechanism for every new high-risk domestic violence report that is written. When the DV Risk Analyst receives these emergency emails, they immediately forward them to the respective police-based victim service unit and the DVCC's High Risk DV Team Coordinator, with special attention given to any report where the victim declined to speak to a domestic violence hotline. On average, over 300 emails per quarter are generated.

As part of the re-launch of the LAP, Capitol Police 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. To date, over 700 high risk victims have been accompanied to their respective hearings.

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE HIGH RISK TEAM

Through a partnership with the Delaware State Police, Dover Police, Probation and Parole, the Department of Justice, and People's Place II, Inc., the DVCC launched a pilot Domestic Violence High Risk Team (DVHRT) in Kent County.

Research has shown that intimate partner domestic violence homicides are often predictable; and if they're predictable, they're preventable. The DVHRT Model leverages that predictability by incorporating evidence-based risk assessment into a community's domestic violence response system to identify and intervene in the most dangerous cases. The Department of Justice, Office on Violence Against Women (OVW) has the DVHRT Model as a "leading promising practice" in intimate partner homicide prevention.

The concept for a DVHRT was originated by the Jeanne Geiger Crisis Center in Newburyport, MA in 2005. The model has been adopted and successfully implemented in several jurisdictions around the country. Although adaptations to the original model have been tailored to fit Delaware's structure and community needs, Delaware's DVHRT operates under the same guiding principles and goals to increase victim safety and offender accountability. The DVHRT Model consists of four central strategies: early identification of high-risk cases through risk assessment; engagement of a multi-disciplinary team; ongoing monitoring and management of offenders; and the connection of victims to domestic violence services. The DVHRT manages critical information in high risk cases to identify and close systemic gaps where homicides occur.

Delaware's DVHRT utilizes the Lethality Assessment Protocol (Law Enforcement) and the Danger Assessment Protocol (non-Law Enforcement) tools to identify which cases pose the greatest risk of serious re-assault or lethal violence to domestic violence victims. Victim advocates, officers at the scene, and probation officers all regularly conduct these assessments to identify high-risk cases, providing a formalized process for communication across disciplines. Team members work in consultation to develop individualized intervention plans that will interrupt the cycle of escalating violence.

Following the development and approval of policies and procedures, the DVHRT began holding reviews in December of 2019. Since that time, the Team has reviewed 264 cases. Of those, 19 were accepted for continued monitoring. We hope to report more outcomes as the work of the Team evolves.

The DVCC has been able to implement this pilot project with funding support through a subgrant by the Criminal Justice Council, through the Office for Victims of Crime (OVC), VOCA—Victims Assistance Formula Grant Program.

PROTECTION FROM ABUSE STATISTICS

A Protection From Abuse (PFA) Order is a civil order issued by the Family Court that provides protection from harm by a family member 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 offender 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, and/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.

74

74 lifetime PFA orders issued in FY2020 remained in effect at the end of the fiscal year.

Lifetime PFA Orders by County

47	New Castle County
17	Kent County
10	Sussex County

STATEWIDE PFA OUTCOMES

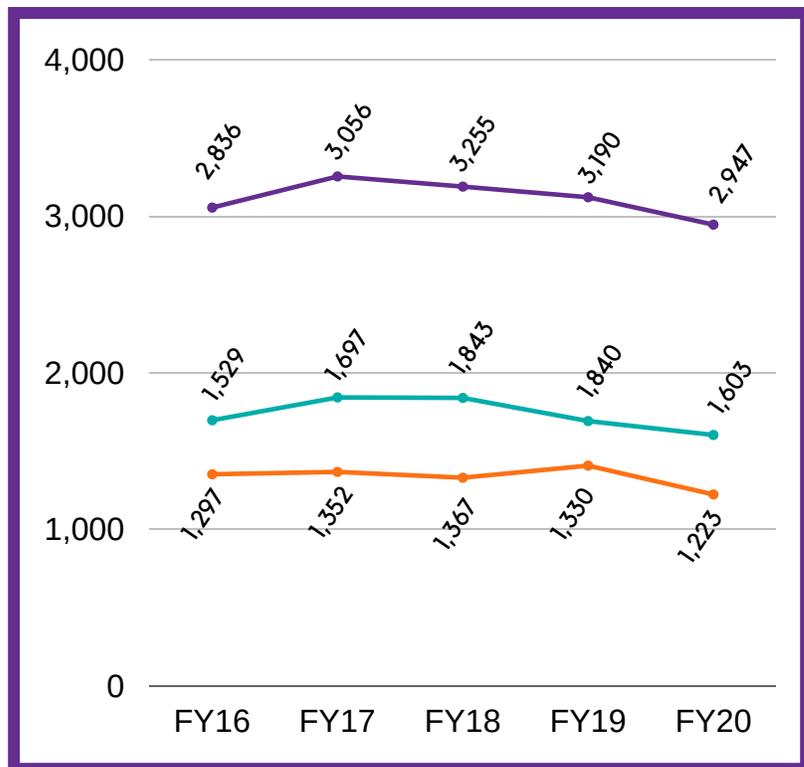
A PFA Order can be issued by Family Court in one of three ways:

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

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

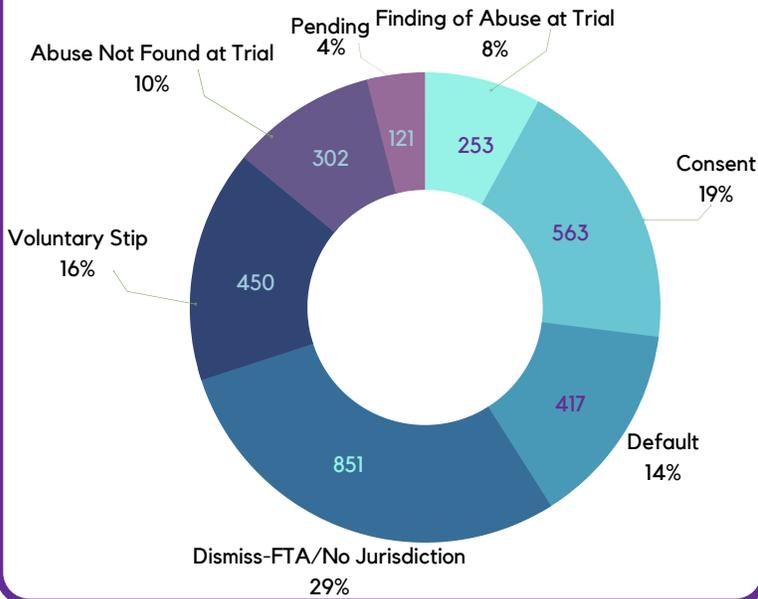
1. The Petitioner failed to appear for the hearing; or,
2. The Petitioner voluntarily withdrew the petition before the hearing; or,
3. Abuse was not found by a preponderance of evidence following a hearing.

Family Court processed **2,947** petitions statewide during FY2020. Of those petitions filed, **1,223** orders were issued and **1,603** petitions were dismissed.

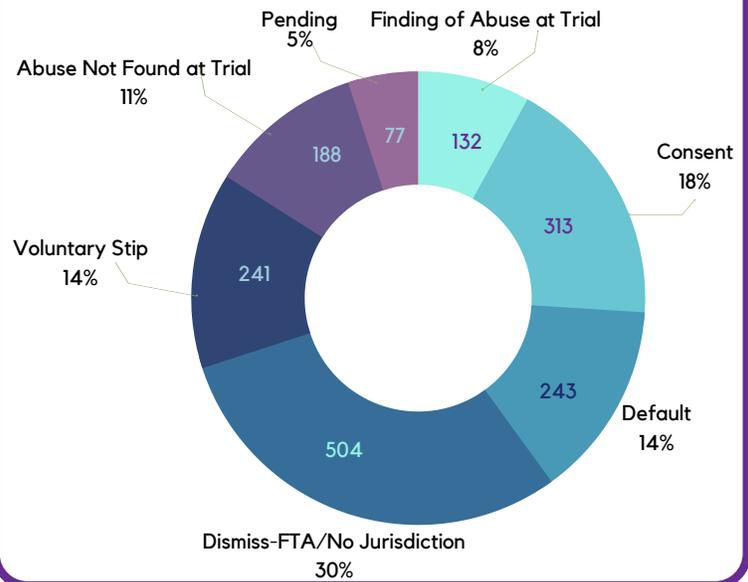


STATEWIDE PFA OUTCOMES

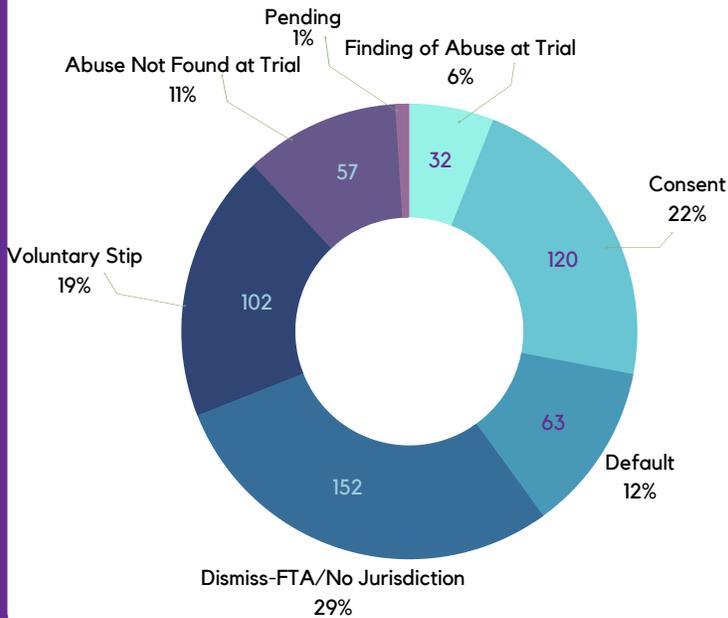
FY2020 Statewide PFA Outcomes



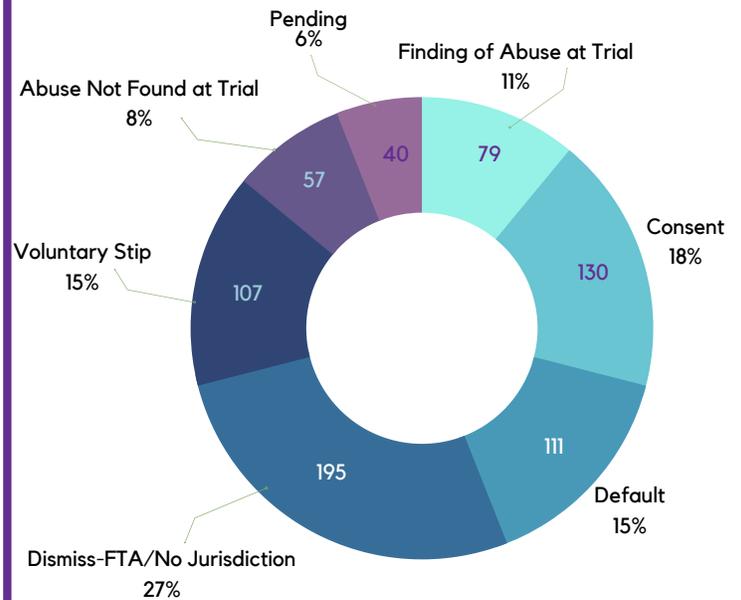
FY2020 New Castle County PFA Outcomes



FY2020 Sussex County PFA Outcomes



FY2020 Kent County PFA Outcomes



Year in Review

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE HOTLINE STATISTICS

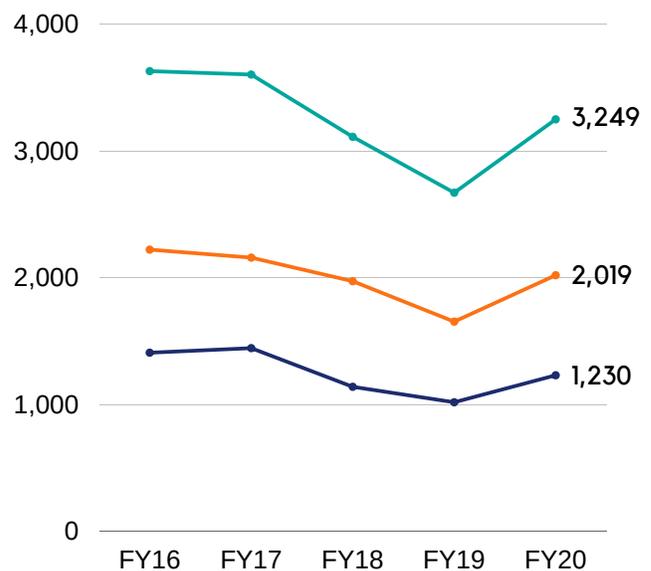
The Domestic Violence Hotlines are an important resource available to victims of domestic violence in Delaware. The hotlines, which are available in all three counties, are confidential and available 24 hours a day/7 days a week. Hotlines are staffed by trained professionals who assist in safety planning, 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 FY2020, there were a total of **3,249** calls received by the Domestic Violence Hotlines statewide.

Over a five year span, the average number of calls declined, then sharply increased in FY2020.

In FY2020, there were **2,019** calls to the Domestic Violence Hotline in New Castle County and **1,230** calls to the Domestic Violence Hotline in Kent and Sussex Counties.

Number of Hotline Calls by Year



Hotline Calls by County per Year

	FY16	FY17	FY18	FY19	FY20
Statewide	3,629	3,602	3,111	2,670	3,249
New Castle County	2,221	2,158	1,972	1,653	2,019
Kent and Sussex Counties	1,408	1,444	1,139	1,017	1,230

Year in Review

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE SHELTER STATISTICS

Two agencies, CHILD, Inc. and People's Place, offer shelter and transitional housing in confidential locations throughout Delaware. When needed to address safety, male victims are provided emergency shelter in hotels. In addition to providing emergency shelter in trauma-informed settings, domestic violence shelters offer safety planning, case management, advocacy, counseling, child care, job assistance and more.



760 individuals were sheltered statewide in FY2020.



13
Males



411
Females



336
Children



357 individuals were sheltered in New Castle County.



7
Males



212
Females



138
Children



403 individuals were sheltered in Kent and Sussex Counties.



6
Males



199
Females



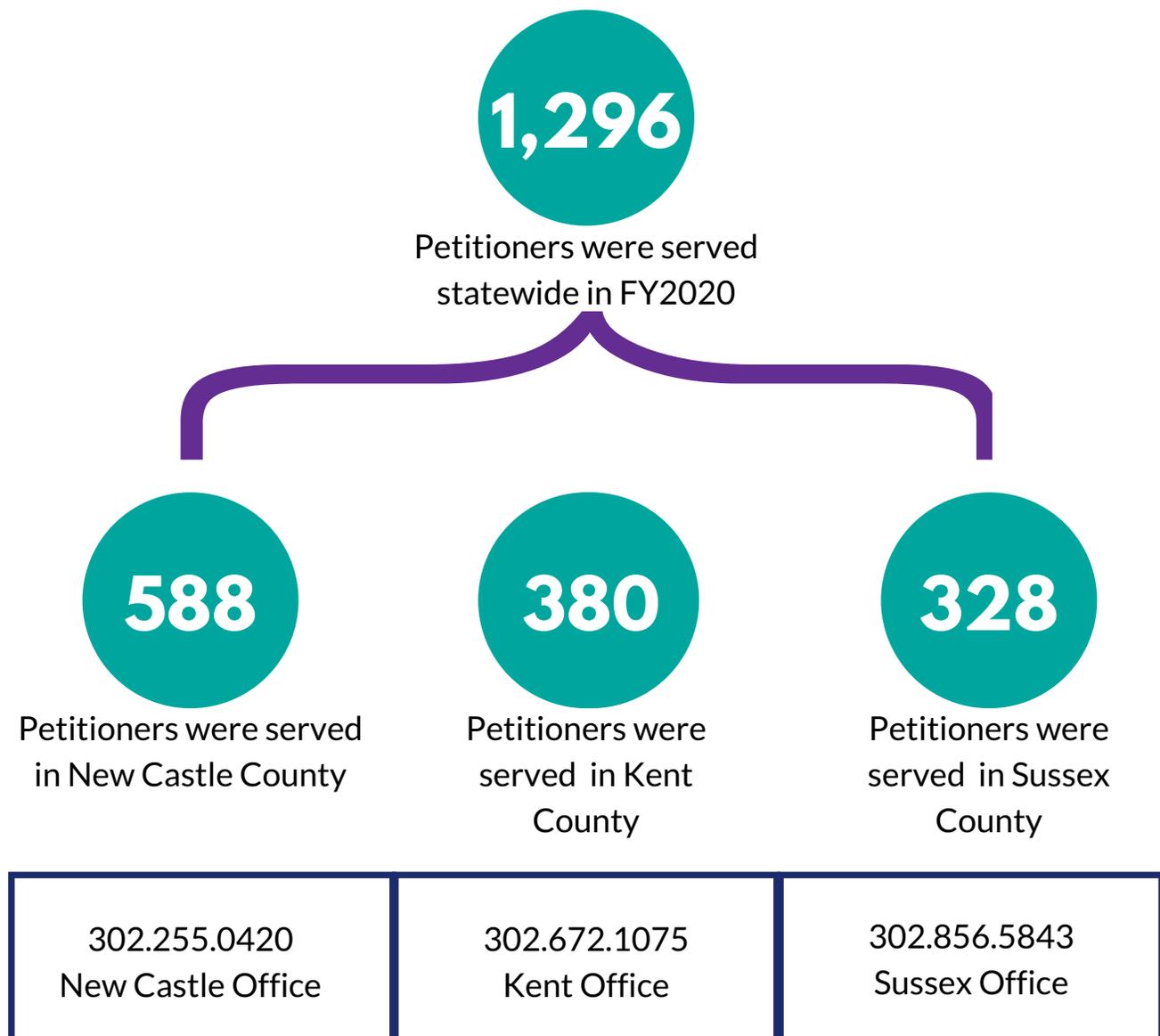
198
Children

COVID-19 RESPONSE: It is important to note, both agencies received funding to provide emergency shelter to victims and their children in motels during the final quarter of Fiscal Year 2020 (April-June). This was necessary due to the health and safety precautions required during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Year in Review

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE 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. CHLD, Inc. is the statewide provider of these services with an advocate located at the Family Court in each county. The program assists victims with safety planning, answering questions about the court process, filing petitions and providing a supportive presence at court hearings.



LEGAL SERVICES FOR VICTIMS

In FY2020, Community Legal Aid Society, (CLASI) provided advice and representation in **855** cases for victims of domestic violence statewide.

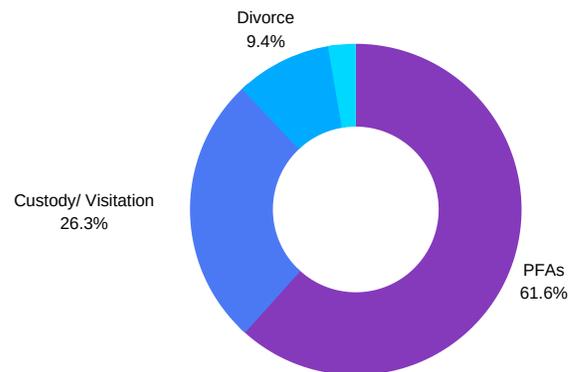
Of the **855** cases, **527** were PFA cases, **225** were custody/visitation cases, **80** were divorce cases, and **23** involved other issues.

CLASI's success rate in representing survivors in PFA filings was **60%**. A case without CLASI counsel was **46%** more likely to be denied a PFA.

Delaware Volunteer Legal Services (DVLS) provides free representation primarily in New Castle county to victims of domestic violence. In FY2020, pro bono and staff attorneys provided advice, brief services and representation to **264 victims** through the PFA Pro Bono Program in obtaining protection orders. Pro bono attorneys also represented **88 other clients** with PFA matters, custody/visitation and divorce matters. In-house staff attorneys provided representation, advice or brief services on **394 additional PFA, custody and divorce matters**.

The Delaware Civil Clinic (DCC) at Widener University Delaware Law School 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 client legal matters and legal research, under the close supervision by the program's director and a staff attorney. In the Fall of 2019 interns provided legal advice, assistance, research and referrals to survivors of domestic violence seeking civil orders of protection from abuse, child custody and/or visitation, as well as other community resources for a total of **1,097 hours of legal research and services**.

Types of Cases Assisted by CLASI in FY2020



VICTIMS' COMPENSATION AND ASSISTANCE PROGRAM (VCAP)

Victims of domestic violence may suffer financial stress as devastating as their physical injuries and emotional trauma. Every state has a crime victim compensation program that can provide substantial financial assistance to crime victims and their families. Delaware's Victims Compensation Assistance Program (VCAP), through the Department of Justice, is the agency to provide such relief.

The purpose of VCAP is to alleviate some of the financial burdens faced by victims—those that are directly related to the specific offense—by providing compensation for certain pecuniary losses. Compensation may be available for the payment of medical and dental expenses, mental health counseling, prescription medication and eyeglasses, loss of earnings, loss of support, temporary housing and moving and relocation costs.

During FY2020 VCAP rendered a total of **2,508 payments** to, or on behalf of, victims of crime. Those payments totaled **\$2,091,787.94**. Of those payments **\$626,240.64 (30%)** were for victims of domestic violence.

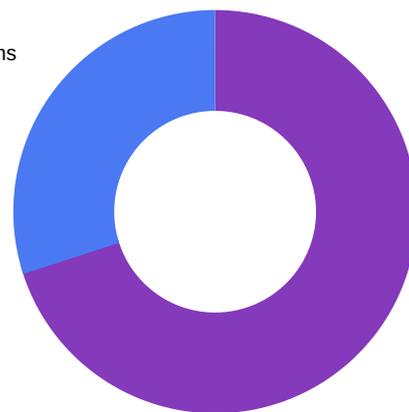
For more information about Delaware's VCAP, please visit:

<https://attorneygeneral.delaware.gov/vcap/>.

For more information about the Crime Victims Fund that was established by the Victims of Crime Act (VOCA), please visit the U.S. Department of Justice, Office of Justice Programs, Office for Victims of Crime (OVC): <https://www.ovc.gov/about/victimsfund.html>

FY2020 VCAP Claims

Domestic Violence Claims
30%



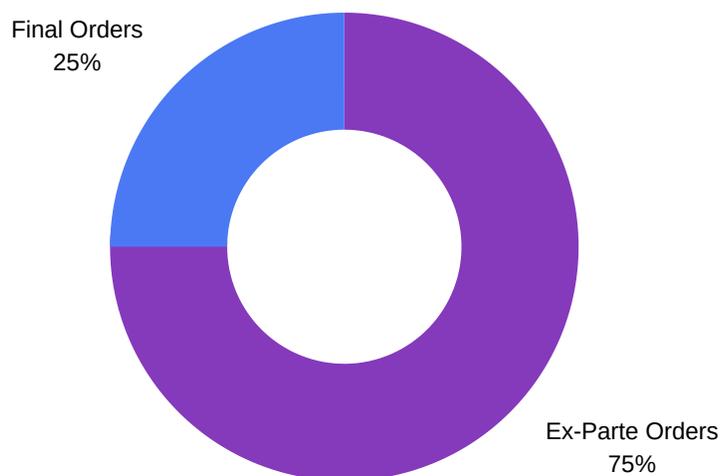
All Other Claims
70%

VICTIMS' INFORMATION AND NOTIFICATION EVERYDAY

VINE AND VINE PROTECTION ORDER (VPO)

Victim notification in cases involving domestic violence can be critical to a survivor's ability to make well-informed decisions regarding their safety. The Delaware Criminal Justice Information System (DELJIS) operates the Delaware VINE (Victim Information and Notification Everyday) System. VINE is an automated service that lets victims and survivors track offender's custody status or court case. The VINE Protective Order (VPO), is a free and confidential service that allows petitioners to register for notification when a protective order (Ex-Parte or Final) has been served by law enforcement. VPO also provides advance notice when the protective order is about to expire.

Victims are not automatically registered for VPO upon issuance of a protective order. It is the victim's choice to register for this service. Knowing when the order has been served helps victims create safety plans and take additional precautions to protect themselves.



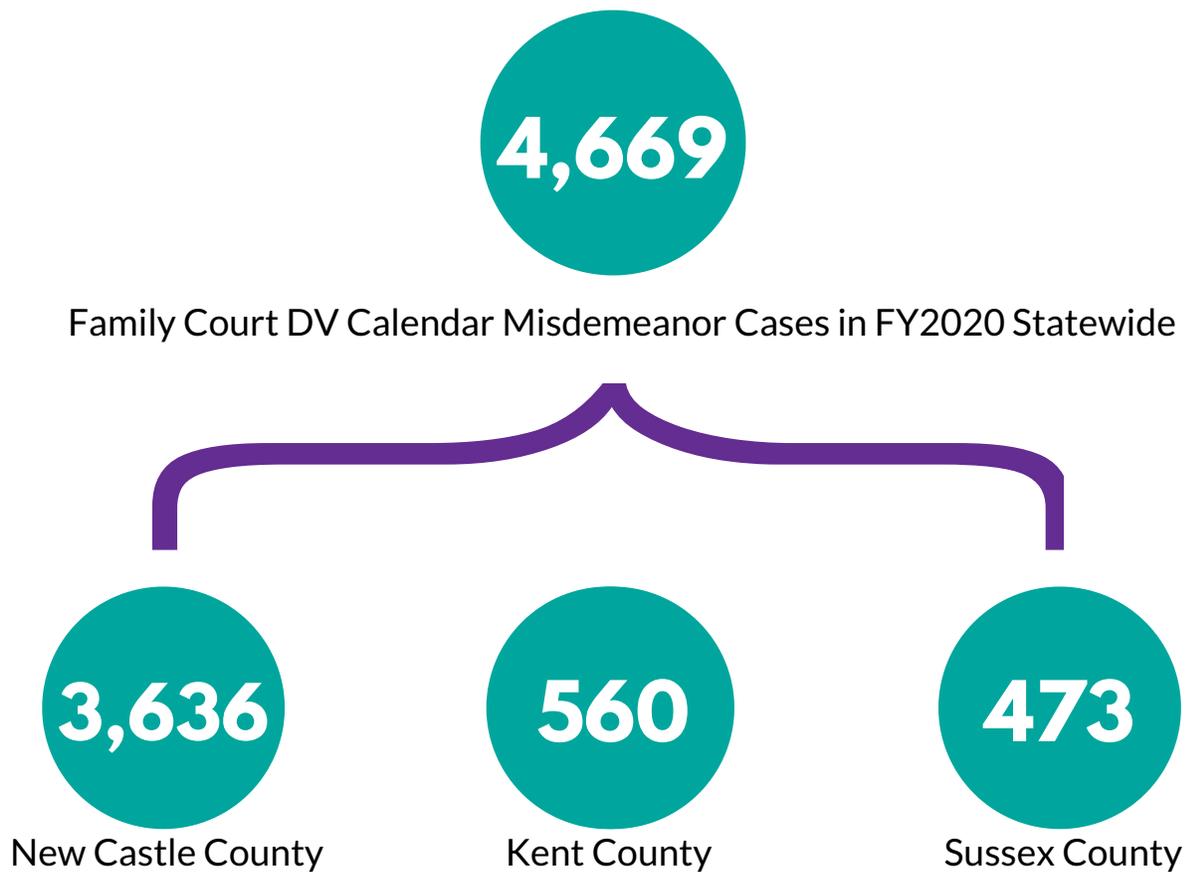
For FY2020, of those registered, the VINE VPO program made **68** successful notifications related to protective orders. **Fifty-one** notifications were related to Ex-Parte Orders, and **17** of those notifications were related to Final Orders.

For more information about Delaware's VPO, please visit:
<https://deljjs.delaware.gov/vines.shtml>

DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE UNIT

The Domestic Violence Unit is a part of the Criminal Division of the Department of Justice. The Criminal Division is responsible for the prosecution of criminal cases throughout the State. Its mission is to represent the State in criminal cases, and in so doing safeguard the human rights of victims and their families. This responsibility includes the preparation and presentation of criminal cases before the Superior Court, the Court of Common Pleas, Family Court, and in some matters before the Justice of the Peace Courts. The FY2020 Family Court domestic violence misdemeanor statistics capture a small part of the work of this unit.



ADDRESS CONFIDENTIALITY PROGRAM (ACP)

The Address Confidentiality Program (ACP) provides participants with a legal substitute address and a confidential mail-forwarding system. Survivors use the substitute address when they create or change public records. For example, participants can (and should) place the substitute address on their driver's license or state ID. Participant mail goes to the substitute address and is routed to the ACP. The ACP then forwards participant mail to their actual address.

The Address Confidentiality Program started enrolling victims in 2011. By FY2020 there were **19** primary victims of domestic violence and **26** co-participants enrolled in the program for a total of 45 active program participants. A co-participant is a member of the same household as the primary victim.

For more information about the Delaware Address Confidentiality Program, please contact the Delaware Department of Justice Victim/ Witness Assistance Program at one of three locations throughout the state:

<p>New Castle County</p> <p>820 N. French St Wilmington, DE 19801 800.870.1790</p>	<p>Kent County</p> <p>102 W. Water St Dover, DE 19904 800.870.1790</p>	<p>Sussex County</p> <p>114 E. Market St Georgetown, DE 19947 800.870.1790</p>
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FAMILY VISITATION CENTER PROGRAM STATISTICS

Family Visitation Centers provide safe, supervised visits between visiting parents and their children, 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.

Family Visitation Centers provide a continuum of services designed to help address custody and visitation issues in families with a history of domestic violence and abuse. Each Center provides a safe, structured and nurturing environment where children can maintain or re-establish a relationship with a non-custodial parent. The Centers are equipped with age appropriate toys, games, and crafts. Trained staff support parents in engaging children in activities and positive interactions.

- On-Site Individually Supervised Visitation: 100% continuous supervision by trained staff is provided for one family in a separate room.
- On-Site Group Supervised Visitation: Trained staff monitor up to two unrelated families within one room.
- Monitored Exchanges Off-Site Visits: Facilitation of monitored exchanges ensures regular off-site visitation without adults having contact. Child can be exchanged on-site for both, the pick-up for the visit and drop-off for return.

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 CHILC, Inc. and Family Visitation Centers at People's Place II. The Centers in Delaware are located at Child, Inc. (Main Office), the Hudson State Service Center, the Dover Center, the Milford State Service Center, the Adams State Service Center, and Safe Haven.

FAMILY VISITATION CENTER PROGRAM STATISTICS

Services Provided by Family Visitation Centers in FY2020

	CHILD, Inc New Castle County	People's Place Kent and Sussex County	Total Statewide
Visitation Exchanges	310	1,237	1,547
Group Visits	329	895	1,224
Individual Supervised Visits	587	550	1,137
Children Served	198	211	409
Visiting Parents Served	140	181	321
Non-Visiting Parents Served	140	176	316
Total Parents Served	280	357	637

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 FY2020, DFS received 21,581 reports alleging child abuse or neglect. Of those, 7,501 (35%) were accepted for investigation. Of those reports accepted for investigation, 1,442 (19%) also alleged domestic violence. Of those reports accepted for investigation, 673 (8%) also identified domestic violence at the conclusion of the investigation (all finding types). A total of 645 investigations were substantiated and 178 (28%) of the substantiated cases stated that domestic violence was reported during the investigation risk assessment.

21,581

Total Reports to DFS in FY2020

7,501

Reports Accepted for Investigation

1,442

Reports Accepted for Investigation that also alleged domestic violence.

178

The number of substantiated cases that stated domestic violence was reported during the investigation risk assessment

The Domestic Violence Liaison Program is a partnership of the Department of Services for Children, Youth and their Families (DSCYF), DFS, CHILD, Inc. and the SAFE Program of People's Place II, Inc. Implemented in 2002, the domestic violence advocates from CHILD, Inc. and the SAFE Program have been co-located at DFS offices. The domestic violence liaisons provide on-site case consultation, safety planning, support and supportive counseling, home visits, information and referral, and advocacy for the non-offending parents and their children.

135

Victims Served by DFS Liaisons in New Castle County

61

Victims Served by DFS Liaisons in Kent and Sussex Counties

Year in Review

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 inter-generational 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.



96

Total people served by Helping Children Heal program at CHILD, Inc.

40 Children/ Adolescents Served

56 Parents/ Caretakers Served



83

Total people served by Turning Point program at People's Place.

49 Children/ Adolescents Served

34 Parents/ Caretakers Served

TREATMENT PROGRAM STATISTICS

In FY2020, 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 Family Advocacy Center at Dover Air Force.

	Catholic Charities		CHILD, Inc		Turning Point Peoples Place II		
	Male	Female	Male	Female		Male	Female
Probation Evaluated	23	0*	112	27	Kent	83	9
					Sussex	78	8
With PFA Order Evaluated	12	0	84	14	Kent	15	1
					Sussex	15	1
Self-Referrals	0	0	7	0	Kent	5	0
					Sussex	3	1
Court-Ordered	1	0	126	12	Kent	9	1
					Sussex	9	3
Participated in Group Intervention	36	0	232	49	Kent	121	14
					Sussex	135	17
Completed Group Intervention	28	0	97	37	Kent	79	9
					Sussex	67	10
Total Number Served	28**	0	353***	73	Kent	138****	26
					Sussex	130****	29

*Catholic Charities did not have any female participants in the Batterers' Intervention. Additionally, they did not accept any new clients after November 2019.

NOTE: 2020 data was not available for the Family Advocacy Center at Dover Air Force Base.

**The number of people served includes the total number of clients that attended orientation.

***The number of people served includes those who attended orientation, had an evaluation, intake or completed the program.

****The number of people served includes the number of people who were evaluated and or attended at least one treatment

Year in Review

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 a liaison between victims and probation officers and provide guidance through the criminal justice system once an offender is placed on community supervision.

621

Domestic violence offenders were supervised in New Castle County.

11 Probation Officers Assigned to DV Cases

56:1 Probationer/ Probation Officer Ratio

300 Number of Victims Served by Victim Service Agents

247

Domestic violence offenders were supervised in Kent County.

6* Probation Officers Assigned to DV Cases

41:1 Probationer/ Probation Officer Ratio

132 Number of Victims Served by Victim Service Agents

**Reduced to 5 Probation Officers in April of 2020*

305

Domestic violence offenders were supervised in Sussex County.

15 Probation Officers Assigned to DV Cases

20:1 Probationer/ Probation Officer Ratio

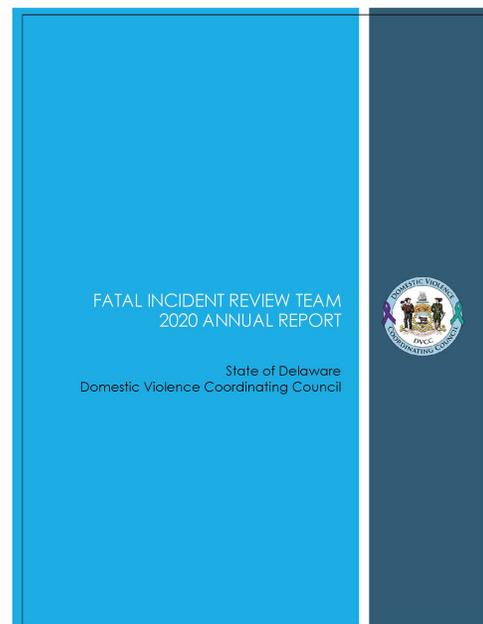
36** Number of Victims Served by Victim Service Agents

***The Victim Service Agent began on March 16, 2020*

FATAL INCIDENT REVIEW TEAM REPORT

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 victim and/or 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.

The supplemental 2020 Fatal Incident Review Team (FIRT) Annual Report is available online at the DVCC website (<https://dvcc.delaware.gov/>). This report provides a summary of the Review Team's activities and accomplishments over the last year; statistical data for the domestic violence fatalities that occurred in calendar year 2019; and information and recommendations from the death and near-death cases reviewed by FIRT in 2019.



Staff Information:

Natasha Smith
302.255.0408
Natasha.Smith@Delaware.gov

Chairs:

Hon. Jan Jurden, President Judge, Superior Court
Professor Dana Harrington Conner, At-Large Member
Hon. Vincent Poppiti, At-Large Member

SURVIVOR STORY

The following story contains subject matter that some readers may find disturbing and violent, including graphic depictions of violence and sexual assault. Reader discretion is advised. The names in the survivor story have been changed to protect the identity of those involved. This story is shared with permission.

College student Lara awoke during her sleep to find that her dating partner, Mike, was raping her. They had been out that night and when they returned to Lara's residence, Mike asked if he could stay over. Lara told him he could, however she was exhausted and was going right to bed. She was not interested in having sex or doing anything intimate with him.

She woke up a few hours later and he was raping her. It took her a minute to fully awaken and he stopped after he ejaculated and then searched her body with a flashlight to make sure it was on the outside of her body. She asked him "Did you just rape me?" and his response was "Yes, I can't help myself, I did it."

Mike left and Lara was shocked. She told one of her roommates that day and ended up reporting to the campus sexual assault hotline. She decided to also report to the local police department and met with the detective there. The following day after her interview with the detective she also met with the victim services coordinator at the police department. Due to Lara's status as a college student and Mike also being a student at the same college, Lara was advised of her options moving forward with resources and reporting also to the college.

The Victim Service Specialist at the police department and advocate at the college worked together to inform Lara of her options. As this was a sexual assault case by her dating partner, she was eligible for a PFA. Due to the process of sexual assault investigations, there was not a No Contact order in effect as all sexual assault investigations must get approval from the AG's office to charge. Lara was referred to the Domestic Violence Advocacy Program (DVAP) at the courthouse to help her fill in her petition and file it for an ex-parte order. The DVAP worked with the police based advocate to gather materials for the hearing and to also subpoena the officer for the hearing. Additionally, when Lara was granted an ex-parte order, she brought it to the police department so that the detective on the case could then serve it to Mike directly, which he did.

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During the same time frame, Lara did decide to report to the college what had happened and participate in the Title IX process. The college advocate and police advocate worked with her to prepare and accompanied her to the meetings with the Title IX boards. At first, he was suspended, however Lara was not satisfied with that and exercised her right to appeal the decision. Again, the police and college advocate went with Lara to the appeal board hearing and the result was that he was expelled from the college.

At the PFA hearing, Mike refused to consent to the PFA. Lara wanted him to consent to a 5 year term on a PFA due to their similar areas of study and that they would both likely be in post graduate schools as well, possibly in the same city. Due to Mike refusing to consent, there was a hearing and Lara was granted a lifetime PFA. Lara had the support of the college advocate, police advocate, DVAP, not to mention family and friends. The Commissioner found that Mike had abused her. Additionally, the DVAP had coordinated a Delaware Volunteer Legal services attorney to represent Lara in this hearing.

On the criminal track of the case, two weeks after the incident was reported the Department of Justice did approve an arrest for Rape 2nd Degree. The detective and police advocate were able to make the warm referral to the Deputy Attorney General and victim advocate at the Attorney General's office who would help Lara through the criminal justice process.

The criminal case did result in a plea and Mike being sentenced. Lara had with her the support of the advocates from police, college, and Attorney General's office, as well as family and friends. Once Mike was under supervision of the Department of Correction, Lara was referred to the victim services coordinator there to be up to date on his sentence and supervision.

Lara touched many systems and many people were involved in working with her, but were able to coordinate to serve her as best as possible to ensure her safety and protection.

RESOURCES AND INFO

If you are in danger, please call 911.

HOTLINE NUMBERS

DV Hotline, New Castle County
302.762.6110

DV Hotline, New Castle County
Bilingual/ Espanol
302.672.6110

DV Hotline, Kent and Sussex
Counties
302.422.8058

Abriendo Puertas/ Bilingual DV
Hotline, Kent and Sussex Counties
302.745.9874

Contact Lifeline
1.800.262.9800

Sexual Assault Response Center
at YWCA Delaware
1.800.773.8570

National DV Helpline
1.800.799.7233

National Sexual Assault Helpline
1.800.656.4673

National Suicide Hotline
1.800.273.8255

CAPITOL POLICE

Domestic Violence
Intervention Program (VIP)

150 Martin Luther King, Jr. Blvd
PO Box 1401
Dover, DE 19901

<http://capitolpd.delaware.gov>

DVCC INFO

DVCC Main Office
Leonard L. Williams Justice Center
500 N. King Street, Suite 700
Wilmington, DE 19801

DVCC Kent & Sussex Office
Milford State Service Center
13 South Front St, Suite 105
Milford, DE 19963

Phone: 302.255.0405
Fax: 302.255.2236

<http://dvcc.delaware.gov>

RESOURCES AND INFO

You are not alone...

- Domestic violence is NOT just violence leading to physical injuries. It is a pattern of abusive behavior used to gain control over another person that can include: threats, emotional, sexual or economic abuse; intimidation; deprivation; social isolation or repeated battering and injury.
- Over time the violence usually becomes more frequent and more severe. It does not go away without intervention.
- Children can be devastated by domestic violence. They are hurt by seeing or hearing the violence and they are more likely to be the victims of violence if you are being abused.
- Although you do not have control over your partner's violence, you DO have a choice about how to respond to him/her and how to best get yourself and your children to safety.

Safety Tips

To increase your safety and the safety of your children:

- Have important numbers accessible to you and your children (i.e. 911, family members, etc.).
- Ask a neighbor to be aware of suspicious activity in your home.
- Plan an escape route in case of an emergency and practice the plan with your children.
- Think in advance of where you may be able to go with your children in a hurry.
- Leave extra money, car keys, clothing and copies of documents with someone you trust.
- Call a Domestic Violence Hotline for assistance in planning.
- If you are in danger, please try to use a safer computer that someone abusive does not have direct or remote access to. Use a safe computer.

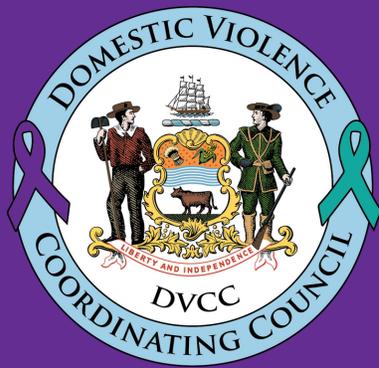
RESOURCES AND INFO

Safety Tips

If you leave the relationship:

- Obtain a Protection From Abuse (PFA) Order and keep a copy with you AT ALL TIMES. Keep extra copies in your car, at school, work and/or with someone you trust. **Remember—leaving your batterer is a very dangerous time.**
- Notify all childcare providers if your partner has been restricted from seeing the children in addition to who has permission to pick up your children.
- Change the locks and make sure all outside lights are working.
- Have your calls screened at work and use an answering machine to screen your calls at home.
- Avoid places where your partner knows you will be (grocery stores, banks, etc.).
- When you feel down and ready to return to the relationship, call a domestic violence support group

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www.dvcc.delaware.gov