

2008 ANNUAL REPORT

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE COORDINATING COUNCIL



Domestic Violence Coordinating Council

2008 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

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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. Carl C. Danberg
Commissioner
Department of Correction

Members

Honorable Joseph R. Biden, III
Delaware Attorney General

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

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

Hon. Chandlee Johnson Kuhn
Chief Judge of Family Court

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

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

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

Margaret Reyes
Member-At-Large

Hon. Liane M. Sorenson
Delaware State
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

Laura M. Giles
Planning Supervisor

Cindy M. Boehmer
Project Coordinator

Cheryl M. Cooper
Trainer/Educator

Kenzel Messick
Administrative Assistant

WHO WE ARE/WHAT WE DO

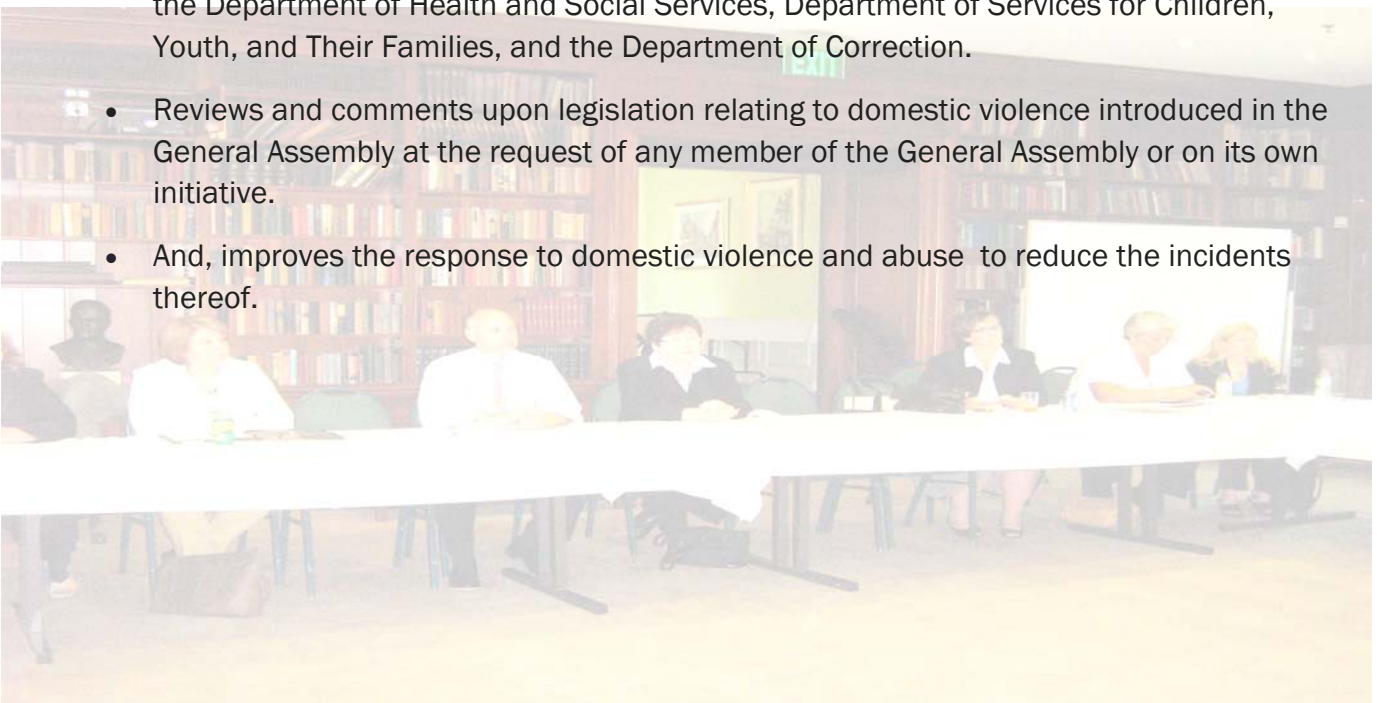
The mission of the Domestic Violence Coordinating Council is to reduce the incidence of domestic violence and abuse in all its forms.

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. Carl C. Danberg
Commissioner
Department of Correction

On behalf of the Domestic Violence Coordinating Council (DVCC), we present the 2008 Annual Report. As Chair of the Council, I would like to personally thank the Honorable Chandlee Johnson Kuhn for contributing her time and talent as Vice Chair and welcome the Honorable Carl C. Danberg as our new Vice Chair. We thank all of our Council members for their leadership and service and welcome our newest member, Margaret Reyes, of the Governor's Council on Hispanic Affairs.

The DVCC had another busy and productive year. We began our work on the issue of Children Witnessing Domestic Violence by joining with CHILD, Inc., to sponsor a one-day lecture event on the topic. Dr. Jeffrey L. Edleson, one of the world's leading authorities on children exposed to domestic violence, was the featured speaker and his presentation was highly rated by the 200 plus participants. In addition to our ongoing efforts, the Coordinating Council plans to spend the next three years focusing on this very important issue.

DVCC staff spent much of the winter months delivering pocket risk assessment notebooks to law enforcement agencies. The Pocket Notebook was developed to aid officers in conducting on scene risk assessments by listing the 21 Risk Assessment Questions and space for notes. With funding from a Violence Against Women Act (VAWA) Grant, 11,500 pocket-sized notebooks were printed. The DVCC staff delivered the Pocket Risk Assessment Notebooks to law enforcement agencies throughout the State and provided approximately thirty trainings to officers on the use of the pocket-sized Risk Assessment tool.

The DVCC was successful in passing several important pieces of legislation; among them, **SB 253** which enhances the harassment and stalking statutes, **HB 371** which adds the offenses of sexual abuse and sexual assault to the state crime victim compensation statute, and **HB 486** which adds a \$15 fee on to all certified copies of marriage licenses/certificates issued. The money raised will be used to fund domestic violence victim service programs. We would like to acknowledge the Sexual Assault Network of Delaware and the Victims' Rights Task Force for their contributions.

The Coordinating Council members and staff worked closely with the advocacy community, victim services, elected officials, law enforcement, schools, the Children's Department, the Department of Justice, the courts, corrections, treatment providers, and others to accomplish our goals during the past year. For the coming year our goal is a simple one: to continue to collaborate with our partners in working 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
Planning Supervisor



Kenzel V. Messick
Administrative Assistant



Cheryl Cooper
Trainer/Educator

It is our goal to improve Delaware's response to domestic violence, to better assist the innumerable victims, who suffer assaults and abuses everyday. Towards that end, the Domestic Violence Coordinating Council's Legislative Subcommittee introduced and supported several bills which were passed by the 144th General Assembly. Notable features of the new bills include:

House Bill #486 adds a \$15.00 fee on all certified copies of marriage license/certificates issued in Delaware. The money establishes a domestic violence fund to support domestic violence victim service programs in Delaware. This is in response to cuts in federal funding of the Violence Against Women Act.

Senate Bill #253 enhances the harassment and stalking statutes of the Delaware Code to better protect Delaware citizens. House Bill #371 amends the State's crime victim compensation statute by adding the offenses of sexual assault and sexual abuse and provides exceptions for the reinvestigation of cases involving child sexual abuse by an adult, waives the reporting requirements for cases involving children who were victims of sexual assault or abuse by an adult and mandates the establishment of streamlined procedures to allow for the provision of psychological services for victims who were minors at the time of the offense.

I would like to thank Senator Blevins, Representative Hudson and Senator Sorenson for their unwavering commitment to improving Delaware's response to domestic violence. I would also like to thank our many colleagues for coming to the table to guide and support our efforts to reduce domestic violence in Delaware.

A final thanks to the extremely talented, creative and hard working staff of the Domestic Violence Coordinating Council; Laura, Cindy, Cheryl and Kenzel, Great job!

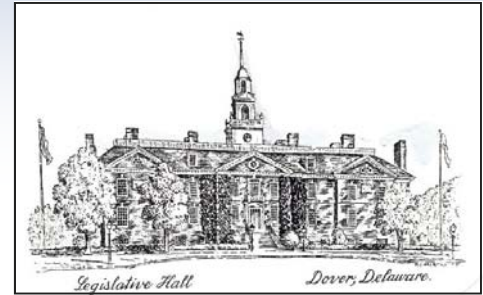
LEGISLATIVE UPDATES - STATE OF DELAWARE

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

Senate Bill (SB) 253 w/SA 1

AN ACT TO AMEND TITLE 11 OF THE DELAWARE CODE RELATING TO HARRASSMENT AND STALKING

This Act enhances the harassment and stalking statutes to better protect Delaware Citizens. Changes included the number of incidents required to be eligible for stalking and the penalty level.



Primary Sponsor: Senator Patricia M. Blevins

Date Passed: 6/30/2008

House Bill (HB) 486 w/HA 2, HA 3, HA 4

AN ACT TO AMEND TITLE 11 OF THE DELAWARE CODE RELATING TO MARRIAGE LICENSES

This legislation adds \$15 fee on to all certified copies of marriage license/certificates issued. The money raised will fund domestic violence programs.

Primary Sponsor: Representative Deborah Hudson

Date Passed: 7/1/2008

House Bill (HB) 371 w/HA 1, HA 1 to HA 1

AN ACT TO AMEND TITLE 11 OF THE DELAWARE CODE RELATING TO COMPENSATION FOR INNOCENT VICTIMS OF CRIME

This Act amends the State's crime victim compensation statute by adding the offenses of sexual assault and sexual abuse. This will allow for provisions of psychological services for adults who were child victims of sexual abuse or assaults.

Primary Sponsor: Representative Deborah Hudson

Date Passed: 6/26/2008

Senate Bill (SB) 192

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

This legislation makes a minor change to the composition of the Domestic Violence Coordinating Council to ensure that the advocacy community continues to have a strong representation on the Council.

Primary Sponsor: Senator Patricia M. Blevins

Date Passed: 4/17/2008

LEGISLATIVE UPDATES - STATE OF DELAWARE

Senate Bill (SB) 110

AN ACT TO AMEND TITLE 25 OF THE DELAWARE CODE RELATING TO RETALIATORY ACTS

This Act amends the Delaware Landlord-Tenant Code by ensuring that tenants who are domestic violence, sexual offense or stalking victims are protected from eviction when they seek services relating to their status as a victim.

Primary Sponsor: Senator Liane Sorenson

Date Passed: 6/21/2008

Senate Bill (SB) 251

AN ACT TO AMEND TITLE 11, CHAPTER 94 OF THE DELAWARE CODE RELATING TO THE VICTIMS' BILL OF RIGHTS

This legislation adds a new section to the Victims' Bill of Rights which states no law enforcement officer, prosecuting officer or other government official shall use a victim's refusal to submit to a polygraph examination or other truth telling device as a condition for proceeding or not proceeding with the investigation of an alleged sex offense against the victim.

Primary Sponsor: Senator Patricia Blevins

Date Passed: 6/24/2008

House Bill (HB) 424 w/HA 1

AN ACT TO AMEND TITLE 11 OF THE DELAWARE CODE REGARDING VOLUNTARY AND MANDATORY TESTING OF OFFENDERS CONVICTED OF CERTAIN SEX CRIMES

This Act amends Title 11 of the Delaware Code, Chapter 39, Subchapter 11 requiring the defendant to submit to HIV testing at the request of the victim if the defendant has compelled the victim to engage in sexual activity either through force or threat of force.

Primary Sponsor: Representative Deborah Hudson

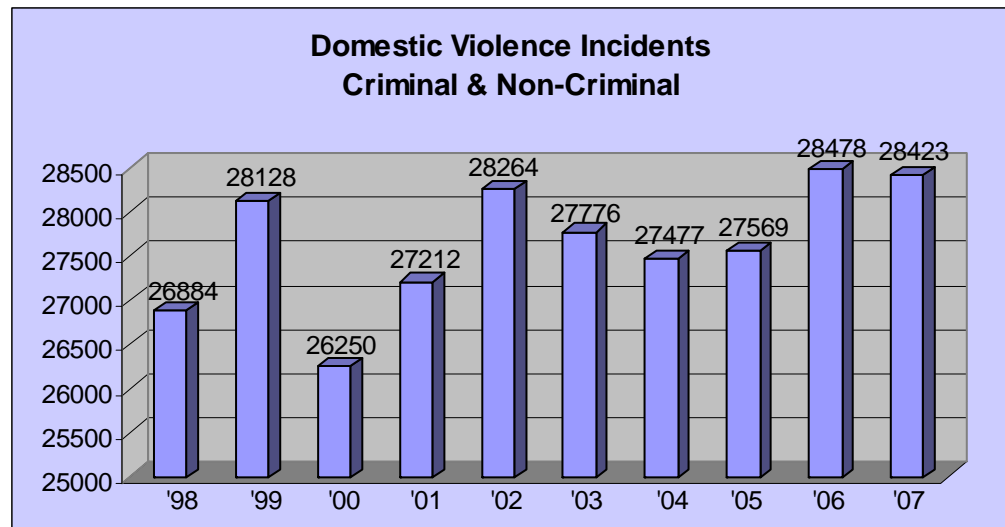
Date Passed: 7/1/2008



DOMESTIC VIOLENCE STATISTICS



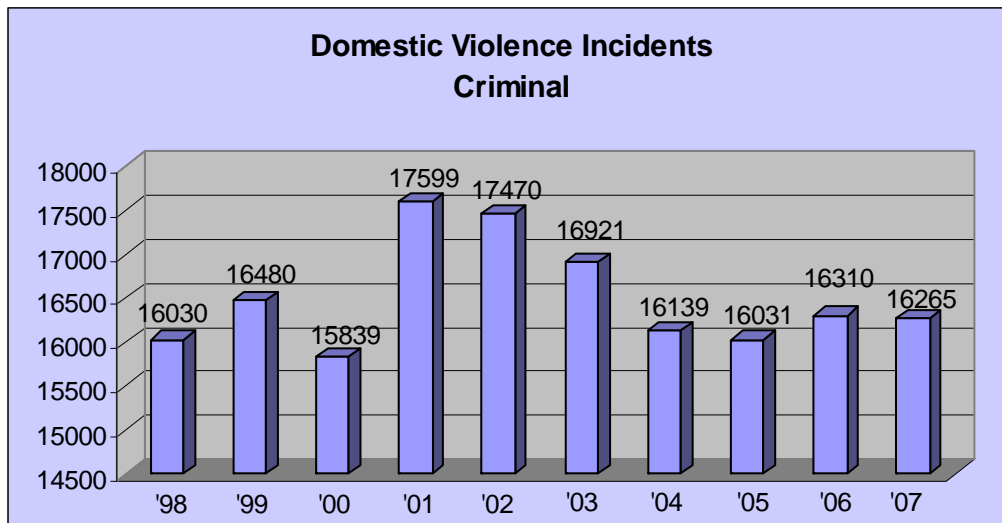
In calendar year 2007, as reported by the State Bureau of Identification, the total number of domestic violence incidents in Delaware was 28,423 (combined criminal and non-criminal). That is a .01% decrease over 2006 reported incidents, but a 5.7% increase over the number reported in 1998.



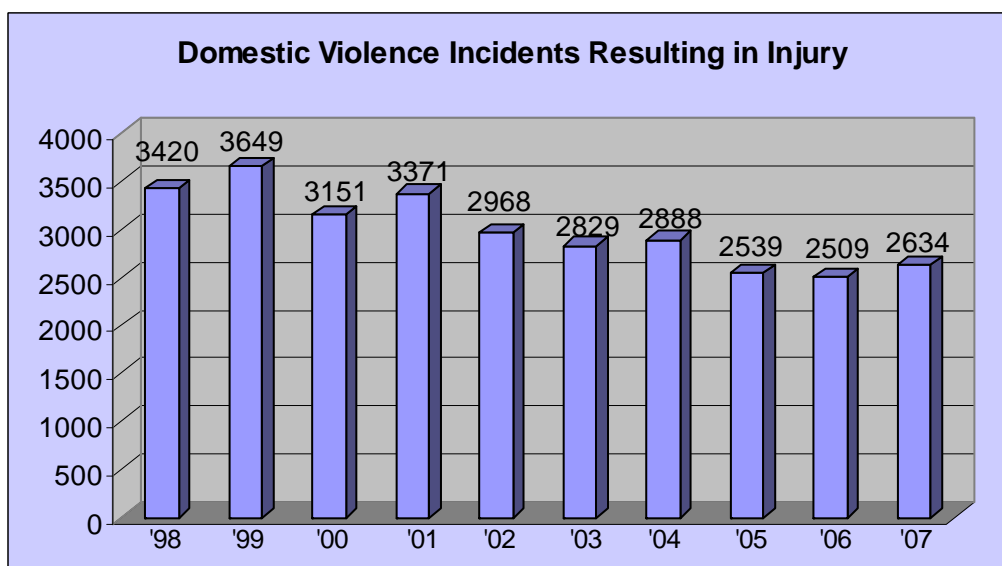
NOTE: Delaware has ten years of domestic violence statistics (1998 - 2007). A review of the statistics published by the State Bureau of Identification for calendar years 1998 through 2007 reveals some interesting information and trends.

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE STATISTICS

In calendar year 2007, the total number of domestic violence criminal incidents was 16,265. The total for 2007 reflects an decrease of 45 incidents from the 16,310 reported in 2006.

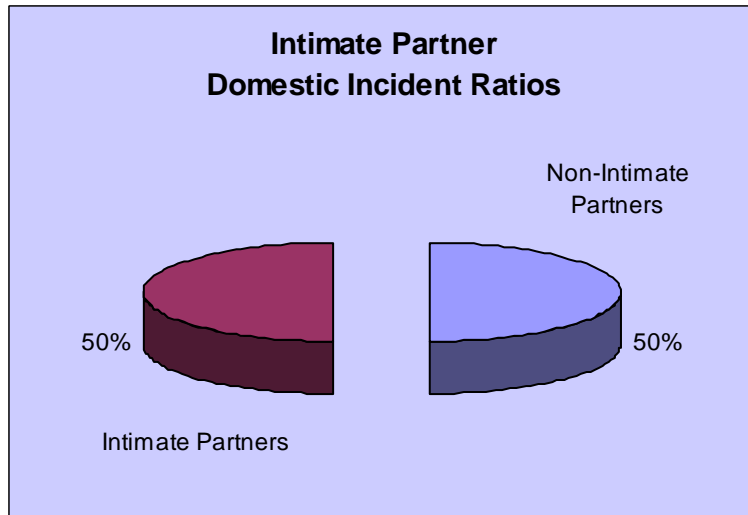


In 2007, out of the 16,265 criminal incidents, 16% resulted in injury.

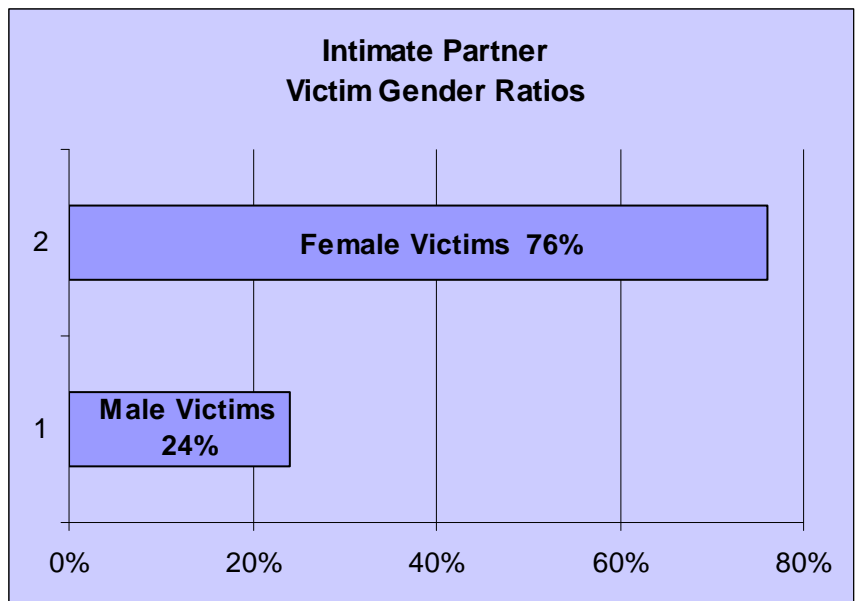


INTIMATE PARTNER STATISTICS

Intimate partner cases include current and former spouses and current and former dating couples. Intimate partners may be of the same gender. In calendar year 2007, as reported by the State Bureau of Identification, the total number of criminal domestic violence incidents involving "intimate partners" was 8,163. This number represents 50% of the total criminal domestic violence incidents.



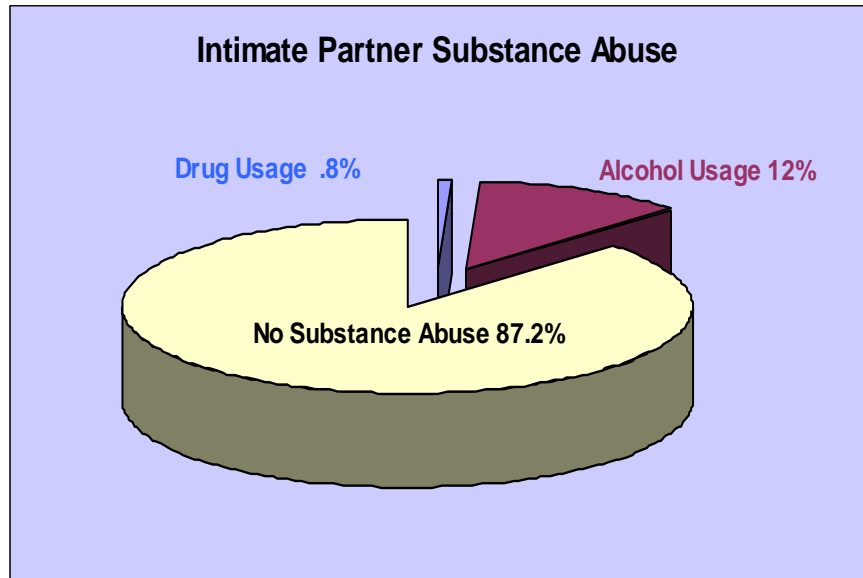
The ratios of reported victims of domestic violence incidents in the calendar year 2007 were 6,217 (76%) female and 1,977 (24%) male.



INTIMATE PARTNER STATISTICS

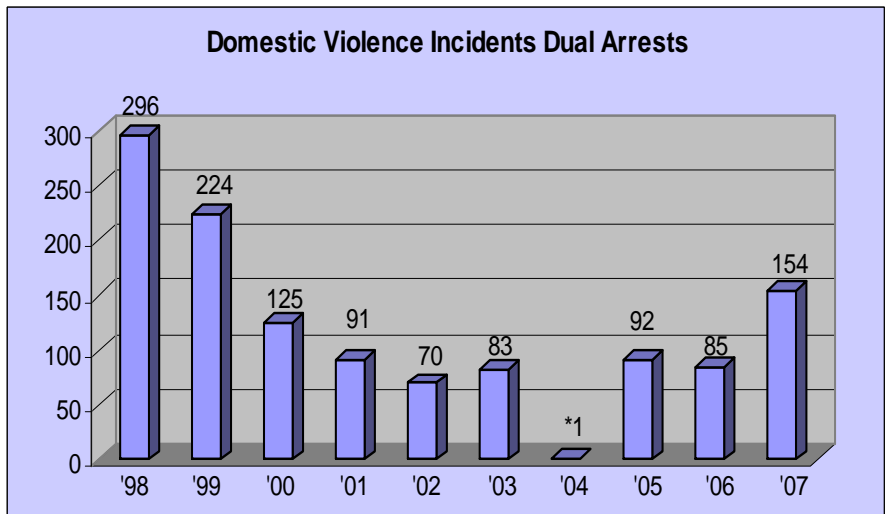
In 2007, there were 8,163 intimate partner domestic abuse incidents reported. Of those incidents, less than 13% were reported to have involved drugs or alcohol.

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



In 2007, there were 154 reported dual arrests. In the past five years, the average is 136. This is a vast increase from last year when there were 85 dual arrests.

**2004 data for this category was unavailable.*

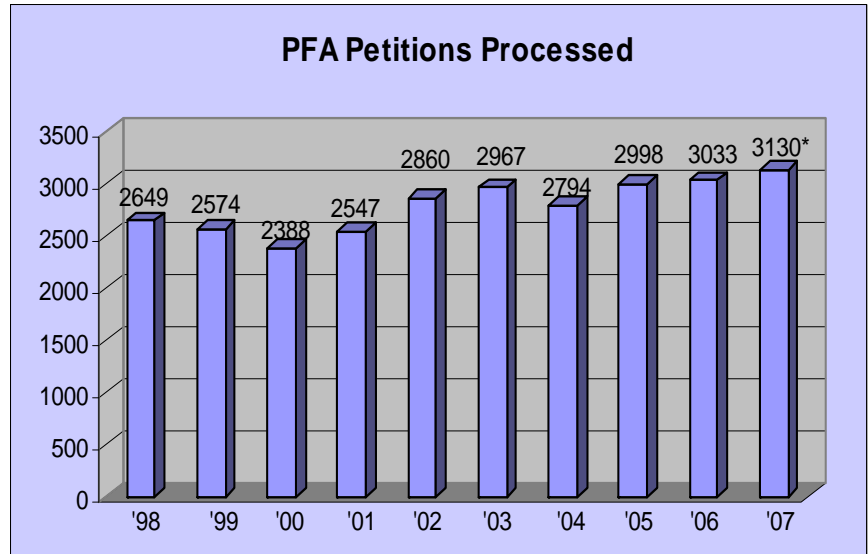


Dual arrest typically signifies a failure to identify the primary aggressor and may hold the victim accountable for the abuse.

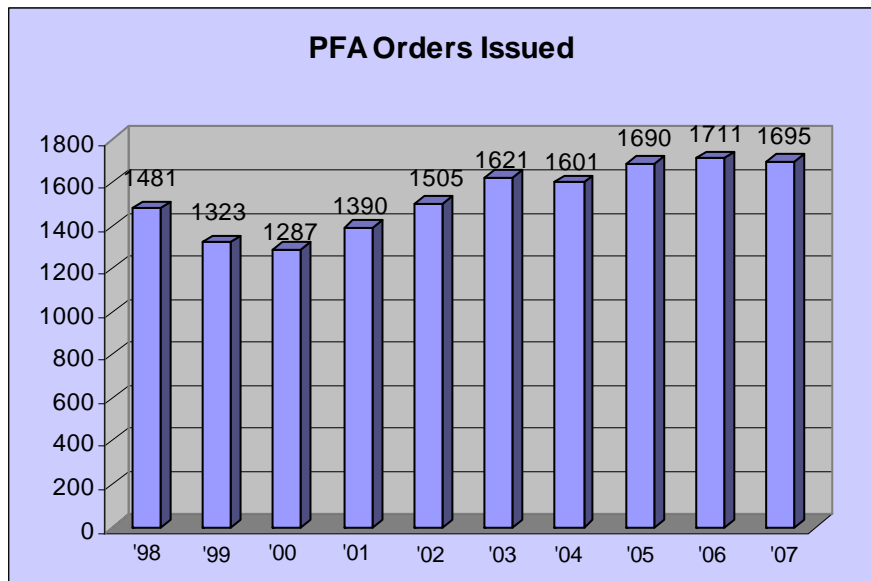
PROTECTION FROM ABUSE STATISTICS

Family Court processed 3,130 Protection From Abuse Petitions (PFA), Statewide in 2007.

**The 3,130 does not include the additional 552 Ex-Parte Orders (Temporary 10 Day Emergency Order) issued in 2007.*



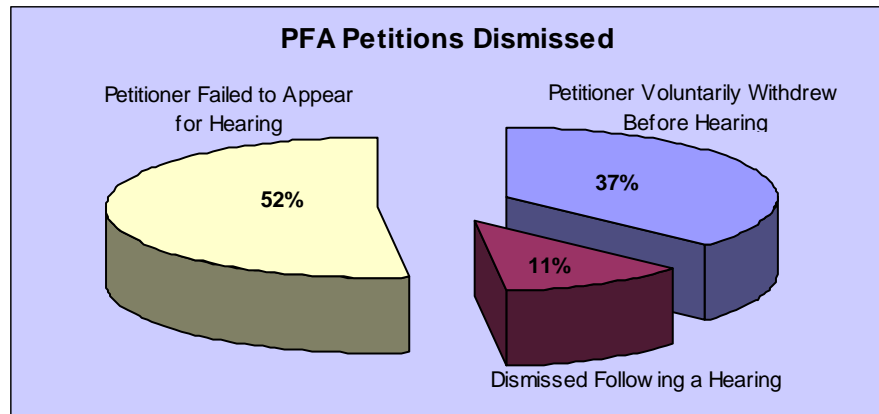
In 2007, there were 1,695 Final Protection From Abuse Orders issued Statewide. Protection Orders issued may provide the following relief for victims: no contact with the Petitioner, exclusive use of the home or possessions, temporary custody, child support or support for the Petitioner, payment of expenses, surrender of firearms, counseling, and other relief that may help to prevent future violence.



PROTECTION FROM ABUSE STATISTICS

Of the 3,130 petitions processed, 1,695 PFA Orders were issued. The remaining 1,435 petitions were dismissed. A Protection From Abuse petition dismissal can occur one of three ways -

- The petitioner fails to appear for the hearing (744),
- Petitioner voluntarily withdraws the petition before the hearing (534),
- Or, Dismissed following a hearing where abuse was not found by a preponderance of evidence (157).



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?

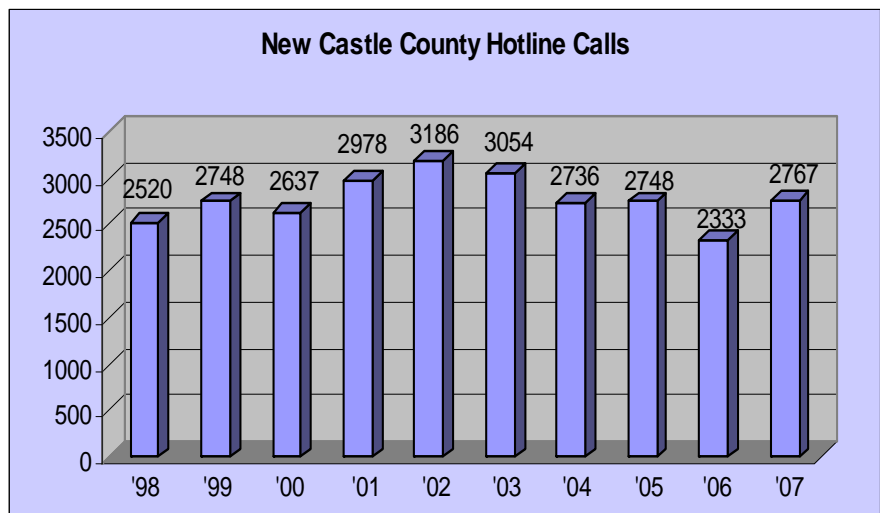
Spouses, ex-spouses, family members, persons of the opposite sex who lived together when the abuse occurred, and unmarried persons who have a child/children in common may file for an Order of Protection From Abuse. Also, the Division of Child Protective Services acting in the interest of a minor child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



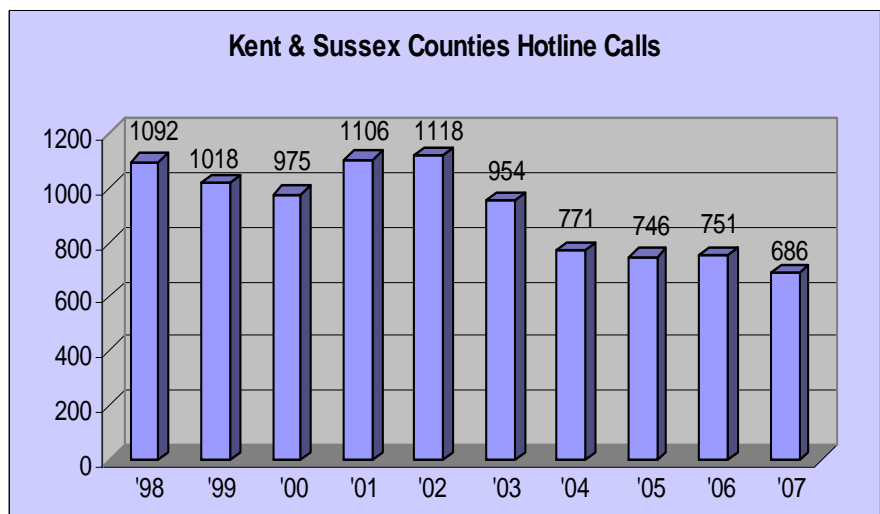
In 2007, Governor Ruth Ann Minner signed into law a bill amending the definition of parties considered protected under the State's domestic violence statute. This change reflects substantive relationships not previously included under the law, such as dating relationships and same sex relationships.

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE HOTLINE STATISTICS

In 2007, there were 2,767 calls to the domestic violence hotline in New Castle County. This is an increase of 434 calls from year 2006.

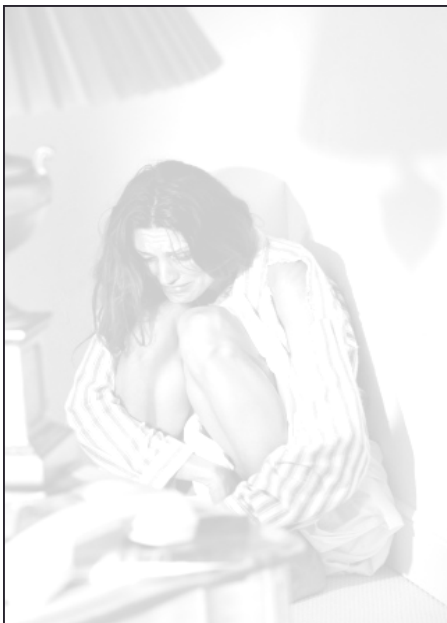
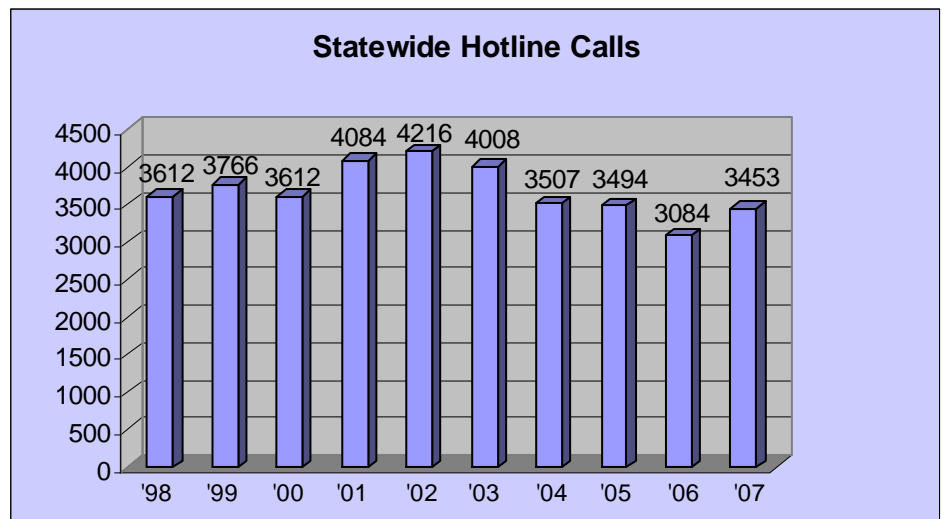


In 2007, there was a total of 686 calls to domestic violence hotlines in Kent and Sussex Counties. This is a decrease of 65 calls since year 2006.



DOMESTIC VIOLENCE HOTLINE STATISTICS

In 2007, there were 3,453 calls received by domestic violence hotlines, Statewide. The average number of hotline calls received since 1998 is 3,684.



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

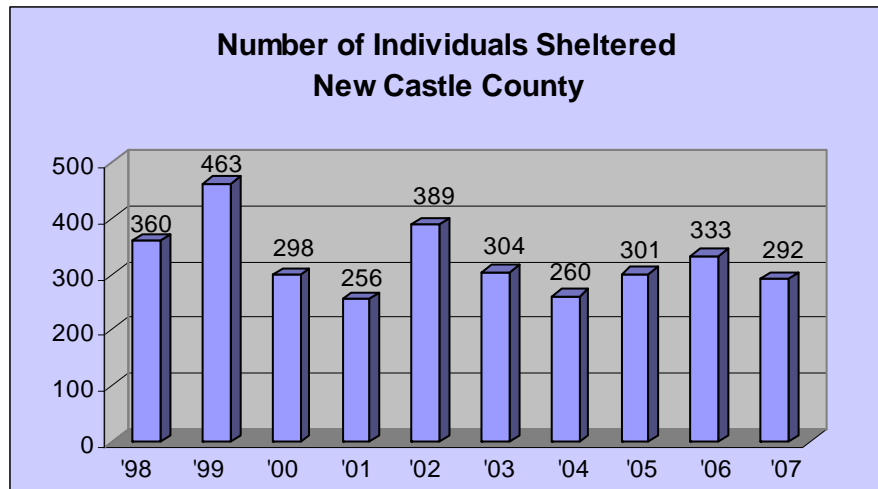
Northern Kent
302-678-3886

Kent and Sussex
302-422-8058

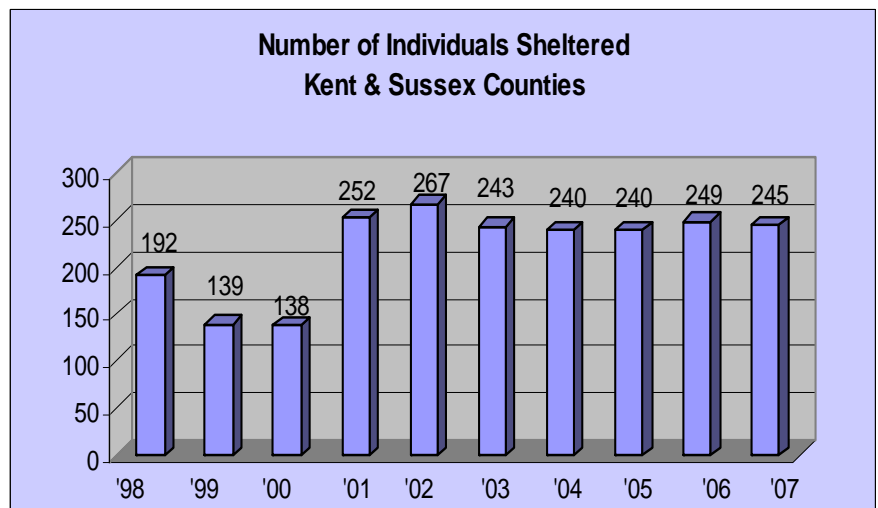
Spanish Speaking
302-745-9874

SHELTER STATISTICS

In New Castle County, 292 individuals were provided shelter in 2007. Of the 292 individuals provided shelter, 162 were women and 130 were children.

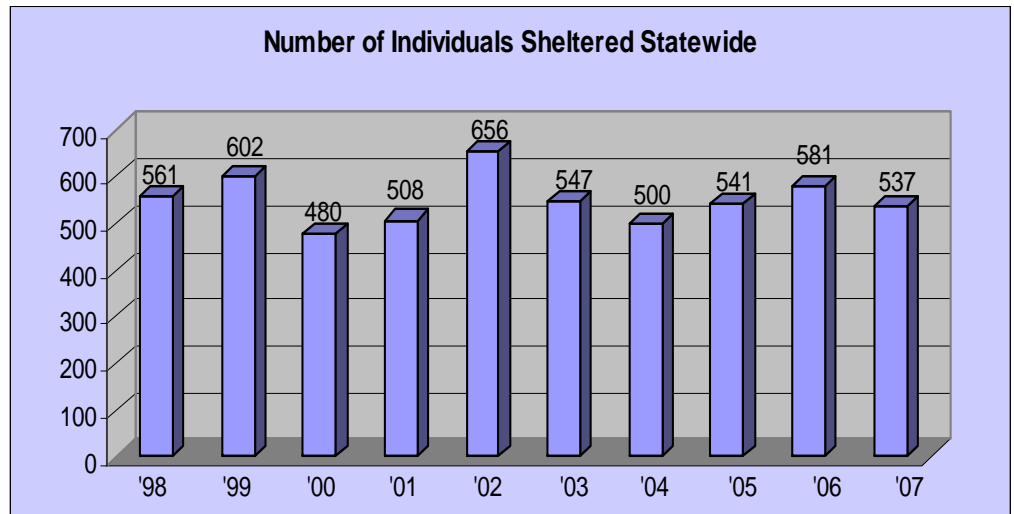


In Kent and Sussex Counties, the total number of individuals sheltered in 2007 was 245. Of the 245 provided shelter, 112 were women and 133 were children.



SHELTER STATISTICS

In 2007, 537 women and children received shelter services in Delaware. The average number of individuals sheltered in Delaware's domestic violence shelters since 1998 is 551.



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.

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE ADVOCACY PROGRAM STATISTICS



Domestic Violence Victim Advocacy Programs are located in Family Court in all three counties.

The Victim Advocacy Programs are part of CHILD, Inc.

Domestic Violence Advocacy Program Hours:

Monday thru Friday (except court holidays)

8:30 a.m.—4:30 p.m.

New Castle County

302-255-0420

Total Individuals Served: 561

Kent County

302-672-1075

Total Individuals Served: 417

Sussex County

302-856-5843

Total Individuals Served: 487

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. Services are provided in Family Court in all three counties.

PROGRAM STATISTICS



Family Visitation Centers

(Statewide Services)

Child, Inc. (Two Centers) - New Castle County

Visitation Centers:

Visitation Exchanges:	719
Group Visits:	801
Individual Supervised Visits:	<u>302</u>
Total	1,822

Turning Point (Three Centers) Kent & Sussex Counties

Visitation Centers:

Visitation Exchanges:	1,156
Group Visits:	484
Individual Supervised Visits:	<u>517</u>
Total	2,157

In collaboration with the State of Delaware and two private non-profit organizations, Family Visitation Centers help address custody and visitation issues in families with a history of domestic violence. Statewide, five Centers provide a safe, neutral setting for monitored exchange of children for off-site visitation or supervised on-site visitation.

PROGRAM STATISTICS



Department of Correction Probation and Parole Supervised Domestic Violence Offender Data

New Castle County Supervision

Number of DV Offenders: 740
Number of Probation Officers Assigned to DV Cases: 9
Probationer/Probation Officer Ratio: 82:1

Kent County Supervision

Number of DV Offenders: 346
Number of Probation Officers Assigned to DV Cases: 7
Probationer/Probation Officer Ratio: 49:1

Sussex County Supervision

Number of DV Offenders: 213
Number of Probation Officers Assigned to DV Cases: 4
Probationer/Probation Officer Ratio: 53:1

Probation & Parole has a specialized DV Unit in each county. Domestic violence cases are assigned to the DV Units based on criteria, including offenses, victim/offender relationships, and active PFA orders. The philosophy of the DV Unit is to hold the offender accountable and to maintain victim safety. In addition to specialized DV Probation Officers, each office has a Domestic Violence DV Victim Liaison.

DVCC SUBCOMMITTEES

Children and Domestic Violence

Chairs: Hon. Deborah Hudson and Hon. Cari DeSantis

Staff: Laura M. Giles

Criminal Justice Subcommittee

Chairs: Hon. Chandlee Johnson Kuhn, Hon. David B. Mitchell and Chief Jeffrey Horvath

Staff: Laura M. Giles

Immigration Subcommittee

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

Staff: Cynthia Boehmer

Legislative Drafting and Review

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

Staff: Bridget V. Poulle

Medical Subcommittee

Chairs: Dr. Matthew Hoffman

Staff: Cheryl M. Cooper

Public Awareness/Education Subcommittee

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

Staff: Cheryl M. Cooper and Cynthia Boehmer

Treatment Subcommittee

Chairs: Commissioner Carl C. Danberg, Hon. Lawrence M. Sullivan, and Patricia Tedford

Staff: Bridget V. Poulle

OTHER DVCC COMMITTEES AND CONTACT INFORMATION

Batterers' Intervention Certification Panel

Staff: Bridget V. Poulle and Cynthia Boehmer

Downstate Domestic Violence Committee

Staff: Cynthia Boehmer

Fatal Incident Review Team

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

Staff: Laura Giles

Law Enforcement Training Working Group

Staff: Cheryl Cooper and Laura Giles

2008 DVCC Staff Contact Information

Bridget V. Poulle
Executive Director
Bridget.Poulle@state.de.us
302-255-0406

Laura M. Giles
Planning Supervisor
Laura.Giles@state.de.us
302-255-0410

Cheryl M. Cooper
Trainer/Educator
Cheryl.Cooper@state.de.us
302-255-0408

Cynthia M. Boehmer
Project Coordinator
Cynthia.Boehmer@state.de.us
302-424-7238

Kenzel V. Messick
Administrative Assistant
Kenzel.Messick@state.de.us
302-255-0405

DVCC Subcommittee meetings are open to the public.
For further information, go to: www.dvcc.delaware.gov

YEAR IN REVIEW

Right: Senator Patricia Blevins, DVCC Chair, provides summary of the Stalking Bill to the State Senate.



Left: Christina Showalter, Chief Prosecutor, Kent County testifying before the State Senate on behalf of Stalking Bill (SB 57w/SA1).



The Stalking Bill enhanced the harassment & stalking statutes to include the number of incidents required to be eligible for stalking and raised the penalty level.



Above: Left to Right: Carol Post, Executive Director of the Delaware Coalition Against Domestic Violence; Assoc. Prof. Dana Harrington Conner, Widener School of Law, FIRT Co-Chair; Senator Patricia Blevins, DVCC Chair; and Hon. Vincent J. Poppiti, Ret. Chief Judge Family Court, FIRT Co-Chair.

YEAR IN REVIEW



Above: Commissioner Carl Danberg, DVCC Vice Chair and Senator Patricia Blevins, DVCC Chair at a Council Meeting.



Above: Representative Daniel Short; Representative Deborah Hudson; Governor Ruth Ann Minner; Pat Dailey Lewis, Director of Family Division, Attorney General's Office; Senator Patricia Blevins, DVCC Chair; and Bridget V. Poulle, DVCC Executive Director attending a bill signing ceremony for DV legislation passed in 2008.



Above: Bridget Poulle, DVCC Executive Director; Elaine Aviola, Victim Services, Recipient of DVCC's 1st Annual Outstanding Community Service Award; and Cindy Mercer, CHILD, Inc.

Right: Senator Patricia Blevins, Chair DVCC; Elaine Aviola, Recipient of DVCC Outstanding Community Service Award; and Lt. Governor John Carney.



Above: Delaware State Police Troop 3, Delivery of Risk Assessment Notebooks and Training.

YEAR IN REVIEW

Below Left to Right: DVCC Staff Members, Cynthia Boehmer and Cheryl Cooper at the DVCC training for Family Court Mediators and Intake Workers.



Above and Below: DVCC training for Family Court Mediators and Intake Workers.



Right: Domestic Violence Awareness Month Proclamation Signing: Commissioner Carl C. Danberg, DVCC; Chief Judge Chandlee Johnson Kuhn, Vice Chair, DVCC; Governor Ruth Ann Minner; Senator Patricia M. Blevins, DVCC Chair; and Sec'y David B. Mitchell, DVCC.



YEAR IN REVIEW

Right: Department of Education In-Service Day, "Teen Dating Violence" Training for School Wellness Center Professionals



Above: "In the Best Interest of the Child" Lecture Event.
(CHILD, Inc. & DVCC)



Above: DVCC Law Enforcement Training Working Group with conference speaker, Mike Coker. (seated in the middle of the front row)



Above: Family Court Training: Lesbian, Gay, Bi-Sexual, and Transgender "Intimate Partner Violence"

FATAL INCIDENT REVIEW TEAM

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 its 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 FIRT and then click on Reports.

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)	1-800-842-8461
Dover Police Department (Kent County)	302-736-7134
Georgetown Police Department/Sussex County	302-856-6613
New Castle County Police Department (New Castle County)	302-395-8117 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, ext.220
Kent County	302-674-7200
Sussex County	302-856-5243

Rape Crisis Hotline (New Castle County) 302-761-9100 or
1-800-262-9800

Bi-lingual Hotline 302-745-9874

For additional information, please contact:

Nat'l Teen Dating Abuse Helpline	1-866-331-9474
Nat'l Domestic Violence Hotline	1-800-799-7233
Child Abuse Hotline	1-800-292-9582
Legal Help Link	1-800-773-0606

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
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Kent and Sussex

Domestic Violence	302-422-8058
Rape Crisis	800-262-9800
Bi-lingual Hotline	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.delaware.gov