

**Testimony of Unity House Domestic Violence Services
Karla Digirolamo, Chief Operating Officer**

**To the Joint Budget Hearing of the
Senate Finance Committee and
Assembly Ways and Means Committee
on Human Services**

February 10, 2010

In New York State, four women a week are killed as a result of domestic violence; a person is victimized by domestic violence every three minutes, 20 every hour, 432 each day and 157,680 every year. As these statistics demonstrate, domestic violence is a serious public health issue plaguing New York State. However, Governor Patterson's budget proposal seeks to eliminate state funding to domestic violence programs at a time when domestic incident reports and the number of victims seeking assistance are on the rise. The elimination of state funding to domestic violence programs disregards the seriousness of this issue, greatly undermines the significance of the services provided to victims by such programs, and most importantly, will diminish or eliminate assistance available to victims throughout the state. Unity House Domestic Violence Services understands that these are tough fiscal times, and recognizes that the Legislature faces a daunting task as they address New York's \$8.2 billion shortfall. But as you take to this task in the coming months, we ask you to find an alternative to the Governor's proposal to eliminate funding for the programs that serve some of our state's most vulnerable women.

Unity House Domestic Violence Services (UHDVS) has been in operation since 1971, and today, is the sole comprehensive provider of domestic violence services in Rensselaer County.

UHDVS consists of a confidentially located, 18 bed emergency shelter and a non-residential office located in downtown Troy. In 2009, UHDVS provided:

- emergency shelter and residential services to 98 women and their 63 children
- permanent and transitional housing to 84 victims and their children
- non-residential services (including, but not limited to, counseling, case management, advocacy, court accompaniment, free medical services, education assistance, employment and training services) to 713 victims
- free legal services to 163 victims
- and answered over 8,000 local and state hotline calls.

Since 2003, the number of domestic violence victims we serve annually has consistently increased. From 2008 to 2009 alone, we recorded a 26.7% increase in the number of victims accessing our domestic violence program. The Rensselaer County District Attorney's office tabulated over 4,000 domestic incident reports in our county last year, which was a 9% increase over 2008. These reported incidents resulted in 542 arrests.

At the same time that we take the necessary steps to accommodate the growing need in our county, we now face devastating funding cuts from the state. The Governor's FY 2010-11 proposed budget seeks to:

- eliminate the \$3M in TANF funding previously designated to non-residential domestic violence services
- eliminate state funding for Child Protective/Domestic Violence collaborations, leaving only federal funds for their support
- eliminate state funding for Title XX, leaving only federal and local dollars, resulting in an \$18M reduction for local programs
- eliminate General Fund dollars available to domestic violence programs.

The Governor's budget proposal would cripple the domestic violence service system in New York State, a system already overburdened and under-resourced. The budget as proposed would lead programs to close their doors and others to reduce staff, resulting in less money and fewer resources to serve a larger number of victims.

For Unity House, the Governor's budget would:

- eliminate the \$100,000 in TANF funds used for operations of the non-residential program
- eliminate two positions, our DSS Domestic Violence Liaison (DVL) and Legal Assistant, currently funded at \$50,000 through TANF funds
- eliminate our CPS Collaboration, currently funded at \$70,000 a year, which funds a full-time, co-located DVL, a .25 FTE Licensed Counselor, and two stipend Peer Counselor positions (filled by victims).

While it is unclear how substantial the implications would be to Unity House with regard to the Title XX reduction and elimination of General Fund allocations to programs, our estimates project a potential loss of \$220,000 to \$250,000 in state dollars, including a direct cut of 1.75 FTEs and the loss of even more staff as our program adapts to a smaller operating budget.

While a bad economy does not cause domestic violence, research shows that a down-turned economy can exacerbate it and can contribute to increases in frequency and severity. The current economic climate in our state and around the country leaves women at greater-risk and with fewer options. Women living in poverty face additional barriers when fleeing violence, as public assistance budgets cannot solely support the cost of living in our area and entry-level jobs are scarce. In 2009, more than 70% of the victims we served lived in poverty (of which 38% had no income to report).

During this time of fiscal crisis, domestic violence services become even more crucial for victims. UHDVS provides early intervention and comprehensive services to domestic violence

victims with the goal of increasing victim safety and decreasing the rate of recidivism. We offer victims support, safety planning, domestic violence education and counseling. We have a staff attorney, paralegal and a number of advocates within the family and criminal court systems who can offer legal consultation, representation, and support and insight into legal processes, which may be intimidating or seemingly impenetrable to victims trying to navigate systems alone. We can assist victims with securing entitlements and/or pursuing education, as well as employment and training services for work-eligible victims. We provide or locate emergency shelter, and offer a limited number of rent subsidies to pick up where public assistance leaves off. We also have outreach initiatives designed to get information about our services to victims living in the rural communities within our county.

Our CPS Collaboration, which is eliminated in the Governor's proposed budget, is an extremely important resource for families experiencing domestic violence and child abuse. The collaboration began in 2001, and is one of the largest collaborations in the state. Both agencies have worked hard over the years to develop and nurture this collaborative project aimed at improving casework practice and outcomes for families by increasing safety and reducing reoccurrence. The project is currently funded at just over \$70,000 a year. It funds a full-time Domestic Violence Liaison (who is co-located at our non-residential office and CPS), a half-time Licensed Counselor and provides stipends for Peer Counselors (who are women who have navigated through the CPS world as a victim of domestic violence and can offer emotional support and hope for a positive outcome to current victims with open CPS cases). UHDVS hosts a bi-monthly workgroup where staff and supervisors working on the project meet to discuss policy, protocol, best practices, and any issues or concerns.

Commissioner Randy Hall of Rensselaer County Department of Social Services recognizes the significance of this project and believes that the loss of this collaboration would result in a gap

in the invaluable services we provide to victims and their children. In 2009, CPS made 170 referrals to our DVL. The DVL provided advocacy on behalf of victims to CPS 150 times. She also referred 61 of the victims engaged in the project to other services available at Unity House, referred 60 victims to appropriate external services (such as the police, substance abuse treatment, etc.) and made 110 referrals to CPS. Of all the families working with the project, only 3 experienced removal of the children. This project works to keep children with the non-offending parent, and its success not only improves families' safety but also keeps children out of foster care.

Like numerous domestic violence programs throughout the state, UHDVS offers more to the community than direct service to victims. We have collaborations with numerous service providers and agencies within our community. These collaborations work toward prevention through a coordinated community response to domestic violence that aims to increase victim safety and to hold batterers accountable. Continued early intervention and prevention initiatives will save lives and provide long-term cost benefits to the state.

New York State has been a leader in the field of domestic violence, making great achievements on behalf of victims through policy and legislation. We urge the Legislature to take this opportunity, when domestic violence is on the rise and funding for services are threatened, to protect victims of domestic violence and their children by preserving funding for the crucial services provided by domestic violence programs. Such leadership will save lives, improve communities, and safeguard jobs in New York State.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify in opposition to the Governor's FY 2010-2011 budget proposal to eliminate state funding for domestic violence programs and for your continued commitment to victims.

I'm sure I speak for many when I say I don't know where I would be right now if I didn't have the Unity House program to turn to.

I grew up in an emotionally abusive environment and I was never given a chance by anyone to thrive in life. Everybody in my world felt better about themselves if I remained in a constant state of self-doubt and dependency on them. Any sign of independence on my part would always rock the boat, so as a result, I went on to have several unhealthy relationships, because that's all I knew. My most recent one was with the father of my two girls who are now 2 and 4. My daughters and I were in a very unhealthy environment, and I thought for sure we were confined to a life of abuse, depression, anxiety and misery. I blamed myself for everything that happened to me, and didn't feel I deserved a chance to change my situation.

The Unity House thought otherwise. With no judgment about my previous life decisions and where it had gotten me to that point, they accepted me into their housing program. For the first time in my life, someone believed in me, and that was all I needed to flourish in so many ways. Getting out of the control of my abusers, has given me the confidence to accomplish more than I ever thought possible. It has helped with my deep-rooted anxiety about money, and how I could possibly survive on my own financially, and with that weight off my shoulders, I feel like I could accomplish almost anything. It has given me the breathing room and sense of peace that all human beings deserve, and that makes single motherhood just a bit less stressful. It has given me the self-worth to realize that my children and I deserve so much more than the situation we were in. It has given me the self-respect to demand to be treated with respect from everyone. It has helped me deal with my strong feelings of self-doubt, by proving that I can make it on my own emotionally, without needing a man in my life. It has given me the self-confidence and motivation to attempt college again, and be successful this time around. I have developed self-love, which has motivated me to care for myself by eating right, exercising, going to counseling regularly, and making sure I get enough rest, to better care for my children and I. It has given my girls a more emotionally healthy mother and role model to look up to. It has given me the ability to trust, and to reach out for help in other ways, something that my previous lost faith in humankind would not have allowed. It has helped me set better boundaries in all relationships, which has undoubtedly spared my children and I a lot of unnecessary heartache. It has taught me that there is another way of living, other than a life of fear, anxiety and drama.

I feel so blessed every morning when I wake up and look around at all that I have, and I make sure to not take anything I have for granted. The feeling I get when I come home to my apartment at the end of the day, with no more worries about what drama might occur that night, is a feeling of calm that I never thought I would experience. I do still have anxiety, but not to the degree I had it when I was with my abuser. My anxiety previously had my upper body so physically tense that I lived in constant pain. I don't have that anymore. The Unity House thought I was worth taking a chance on, and I will forever be grateful to them for that. I will never forget what they have done for me. It was a rare opportunity, almost a miracle that I stumbled upon the program. It's a

program that saves lives, and in my case has saved three. We have been forever blessed, and everyone in an abusive situation should have the same chance to start over that we have been given.

February 5, 2010

To Whom It May Concern:

I am a 62 year old woman whose life was saved from the help and support from the Unity House Domestic Violence Program.

For 5 years I was traveling and living the RV life. However, the man that I was with became physically and emotionally abusive to me. It kept escalating due to his drinking. I knew I had to leave that situation.

When I decided to go in the RV, I had to dispose of all my material things such as furniture, small appliances, linens, dishes, pots and pans and all items that one would have in an apartment. When I had to leave the very dangerous living arrangement, I had several health issues that required life saving medications and I had no money. I showed up at Unity House with only my clothes, no place to live and medications that were running out. I did not know what was going to happen to me. I was totally lost, scared and alone. I had no one and I had nothing. I never thought I would ever be in that situation but I have learned....NEVER SAY NEVER.

With the help of a Grant that Unity House had, they helped me to get a small apartment. They guided me in the direction's I needed to go in order to get help with food, clothing, they got me some furniture and other things I needed to live in my apartment. They sent me to Social Services to get help with food, heat and medical. I felt horrible that I found myself at Social Services to get the help I needed because I had always worked. I was just so embarrassed but I knew I had to get their help. The funding stipulated that I had to seek counseling, which turned out to be a good thing for me. Domestic Violence is a horrible thing to deal with while you are living through it and after you remove yourself from it. It does take counseling for a person to understand how and why it happened and how to continue on with life and never have it happen again. I was going to counseling and getting the medical problems dealt with, and it all made me strong enough that I was able to appeal my Disability Claim. It took a long time for my hearing to get scheduled for the Disability Claim but I finally won my claim. As the time goes on, I get more independent due to the help and guidance from Unity House. I can not put into words that would explain to you how important it is that the Grants continue to be available for this wonderful organization!! **YOU can not afford to take the funding away from Unity House because you need their help with the huge problem of Domestic Violence!! You are not only saving one person from the violence but you are saving entire families. You need to keep in mind the grants save many lives.**

I see many women with children come to Unity House and with the grants, these women are able to secure safe places to live, they get help from Unity House to take their abusers to court, they are guided and counseled to change the directions in their lives and their children's lives. Not only are the women and or men of domestic violence being helped, but they are helping to end the cycle of abuse by teaching their children there is another way of living. They eventually secure decent jobs due to the opportunities to further their

educations because of the help from Unity House. People blossom with all the help that Unity House can do with the funding they receive!! **PLEASE DO NOT** take away the State Funding!!! **The funding save lives!!!!**

Unity House CHANGES and lifts up peoples lives! With out their help, I feel that I would not be alive today. I would never been able to get my medications, get the medical help I needed, I would have never gotten the counseling I needed to get strong, I would never have had a place to live or had been able to furnish an apartment with the basics. My life would have been over. I would have been on the streets. I am so very grateful that someone mentioned to me to go to Unity House and see if I could get some help. I never imagined in a million years, that I would be able to receive the help that I got through them. **They SAVED MY LIFE.** I am not exaggerating when I say that. It is the complete truth.

If the State Funding for Unity House is taken away, you will be doing a horrible thing. It will **NOT** save money for the government, **it will cost the government MORE money!** The reason I say this is that you will have more people on the streets, there will be more violence happening, there will be more people who will continue to live on welfare and continue with the domestic violence life. It will cost the police departments and the courts more money to deal with this issue. Unity House helps people get strong, healthy and educated. With this help, people live a more independent and productive life and stop the pattern of domestic violence in their families.

I have started paying forward. We all hear that phrase. I have gained so much from my experience Unity House, I now have the need to volunteer where and when I can to help others. My disabilities prevent me from doing many things but when I find the opportunity to help, even one person, I want to do it.

Unity House is able to take entire families and get them independent and off government services by offering them housing, education, legal advice. Unity House **MUST** receive the grants so that their wonderful work continues on to save and change people's lives. **Every single community needs to have the programs that Unity House has to help build a better community!**

I ask you to **PLEASE PLEASE DO NOT TAKE THE STATE FUNDING** away from **UNITY HOUSE!!** Domestic Violence is a **HUGE** problem to every community and every police department!! Why would you take away grants that help people that find themselves in domestic violence, when it is costing the police department and courts more and more every day!!!!????? It does not make sense!! These funding help control Domestic Violence so that it helps the police departments and courts save money!! **WAKE UP** and realize what you would do to so many families if you take away the life saving and life changing funding!!!!!! **These funds are educating families and the Police Departments and the Courts about Domestic Violence!! DO NOT take this away from the people who need it so much. You will be killing women/men who find themselves in a domestic violence life because they will not be able to get the help they need to leave that situation. Unity House gives the help so badly needed!!**

If you take away the state funding from Unity House, **you will have blood on your hands** because more people will die at the hands of their abusers, because there was no safe place for them to run to for the life changing help then so need.

I can not stress enough the importance of funding for Unity House. Please think long and hard.

February 8, 2010

To Whom It May Concern:

I would appreciate it if you would take some of your time to read this letter. I'm writing to you to let you know how much the programs at Unity House have helped me, and others like me. The programs at Unity House like the Domestic Violence group and all of the other support groups offered have helped me increase my sense of self-worth, and the love I have for myself as a person. The care and support that I continue to receive has helped me to create a better life, and not allow my past to affect my life today. I have witnessed a lot of positive changes in myself and in other group members, and many of us rely on the group to provide the support we need to change our situations. Without the programs at Unity House, many of us would not have received the help we needed.

Unity House has helped me to reach this point in my life; I am reunited with my family, I'm actively looking for work, and my children are happy. I am also happy because I have a new start. Given the help that I and countless other women have received, I ask that you reconsider your decision to cut programs at Unity House.

Sincerely,

Wilhemina Hicks



NEW YORK STATE OFFICE *for the* PREVENTION *of* DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

National Domestic Violence Data

These selected, recent, national statistics¹ related to domestic violence (DV) come mostly from government sources. All statistics are rounded to the nearest whole percent. 'DV' refers to violence by current and former spouses, dating partners and cohabiting partners.

Statistics related to the following topics are included:

- National Domestic Violence Statistics
- Intimate Partner Homicide
- Effects of Intimate Partner Violence
- Costs of Domestic Violence
- How Domestic Violence Affects Children
- Teen Dating Violence
- Reference Citations

National Domestic Violence Statistics

In 2005, about 1 in 320 households were affected by domestic violence (DV).²

On average between 2001 and 2005:

- DV represented 22% of nonfatal violent crimes against females age 12 or older, and 4% of nonfatal crimes against males.³
- Among females age 12 or older, those aged 20 to 24 were at the greatest risk of DV.⁴
- 96% of women experiencing DV were victimized by a man, 3% by another woman.
- 82% of men experiencing DV were victimized by women, about 16% by another man.⁵
- The annual *per capita* rate of DV was similar for black and white women and for Hispanic and non-Hispanic women and men, and higher for American Indian and Alaska Native women.⁶

Though the actual number of cases is impossible to estimate, Gay and Lesbian Anti-Violence Projects nationwide received 3,319 calls related to DV in 2007.⁷ Calls came from roughly equal numbers of men and women, and from twice as many transgender women as transgender men.

National Domestic Violence Data

In 2005, 30% of stalking victims were stalked by a current or former intimate partner.⁸

In the mid-1990s, 59% of female stalking victims and 30% of male victims were stalked by a current or former intimate partner. 81% of women stalked by an intimate partner were also physically assaulted and 31% were also sexually assaulted by the same partner.⁹

In the US every year, about 18,700 incidents of violence in the workplace are committed by a worker's current or former intimate partner.¹⁰

Intimate Partner Homicide

About 1/3 of female murder victims aged 12 or older are killed by an intimate partner, vs. roughly 3% of male victims.¹¹

In 2006, 1,836 women in the US were killed by men in single victim/single offender incidents. Where the victim/offender relationship was known, 60% were killed by an intimate partner, 57% of them with a firearm – usually a handgun.¹²

The risk of a woman being killed by an intimate is significantly increased when the abuser:

- Has access to a gun.
- Has made previous threats or assaults with a gun.
- Threatens murder.
- Forces sex.
- Attempts to strangle the victim.
- Is extremely jealous.
- Engages in physical violence of increasing severity and/or frequency.
- Abuses drugs or alcohol.¹³
 - In 2002, 2/3 of victims of IPV reported that alcohol was involved, compared to 31% of stranger victimizations.¹⁴
 - Over 80% of men who killed or abused a female partner were problem drinkers in the year before the incident. More than 2/3 of homicide and attempted homicide offenders were intoxicated at the time of the incident, compared to fewer than 1/4 of their victims. More than 1/4 of homicide offenders used both alcohol and drugs during the incident, compared to just under 6% of non-lethal partner abusers.¹⁵

The risk of homicide is also increased if:

- The victim has recently separated from the offender.
- There is a child in the home who is not biologically related to the offender.
- The offender stalks the victim.
- The victim is abused during pregnancy.
- The offender is unemployed.¹⁶

Effects of Intimate Partner Violence

On average, between 2001 and 2005, 5% of women experiencing IPV suffered serious injuries and 44% suffered minor injuries. Another 3% suffered sexual assault without other injuries.¹⁷

Women who were sexually assaulted by an intimate partner, compared to women who had been physically, but not sexually abused, suffered increased:

- Post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) symptoms,
- Pregnancies resulting from rape,
- Sexually transmitted diseases.
- Use of alcohol, illicit drugs (usually cocaine), or nicotine.
- Threatened or attempted suicide.¹⁸

Approximately 25% of homeless women are homeless mainly because of their experiences with violence.¹⁹ IPV was considered a primary cause of homelessness in nine of 25 cities surveyed.²⁰

How Domestic Violence Affects Children

From 2001 through 2005, children under age 12 resided in 38% of households in which there was DV against a woman, and 21% of households where the victim was male.²¹

More than 30 studies reveal a link between child maltreatment and adult DV, finding a 30% – 60% overlap, depending on the families studied.²²

Children exposed to DV experience problems like those of children who have been abused.

- Some experience trauma-related anxiety, depression, and low self-esteem.
- Others engage in externalizing behaviors, such as fighting, bullying, lying, cheating, and disobedience at home and at school.
- They are more likely than other children to have difficulty in relationships with others, and poor school performance.
- They learn attitudes leading to violent behavior, and are more likely to engage in violence in the community.²³
- Pre-school children suffered more often from bed-wetting, nightmares, post-traumatic stress symptoms, allergies, asthma, gastrointestinal problems, headaches and flu.²⁴
- Adolescents were more likely to attempt suicide, abuse drugs or alcohol, run away from home, engage in delinquent behavior or prostitution, and commit sexual assault crimes.²⁵

An abusive man's relationship to a child affects the child's well-being directly, not just by way of its negative impact on the mother.²⁶ Violence by a father or stepfather had a greater impact on children than violence by a partner of the mother who played a minimal role in the child's life.²⁷

The effects of DV may be buffered by the presence of protective adults within the family and outside it, including the child's mother, and by the child's own ways of coping.²⁸

Teen Dating Violence

In a survey of over four thousand high school students,

- Approximately 1 in 5 girls reported physical and/or sexual abuse by a dating partner, and sexual abuse was usually accompanied by physical abuse.
- Abuse was associated with increased risk of substance use, unhealthy weight control behaviors, sexual risk behaviors (e.g., early intercourse), and thinking about or attempting suicide.
- Girls who were abused by dating partners were also 4 to 6 times more likely than their peers to have been pregnant.²⁹

In a survey of 11- to 14-year-olds who had been in a relationship, 62% said they had friends who had been verbally abused (e.g., called names) by a boyfriend or girlfriend, and 20% of the 13- and 14-year-olds knew friends who had been kicked, hit, slapped, or punched by a boyfriend or girlfriend.³⁰

Women who bore children by age 21 were twice as likely to be victims of DV as women who did not. Men who fathered children by age 21 were more than three times as likely to be abusers as men who had not.³¹

Costs of Domestic Violence

The Centers for Disease Control estimates that:

- The cost of intimate partner rape, assault, and stalking exceeds \$5.8 billion each year.³²
- 33% of intimate partner rapes, 26% of assaults, and 43% of stalking incidents result in the victim's seeking mental health services, for an estimated total of 18.6 million mental health visits, at a cost of \$70 - \$80 per visit, of which victims themselves pay about 1/3, and private health insurers another third.
- The estimated medical and mental health care cost per IPV incident is about \$838 per rape, \$816 per assault, and \$294 per stalking incident.³³
- The annual workplace-related cost of IPV is \$727.8 million, including almost 8 million paid workdays lost and nearly \$0.9 billion in lost productivity.
- \$0.9 billion in lifetime earnings is lost by victims of intimate partner homicide.³⁴

Reference Citations

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⁶ Ibid. (2007 data are available at <http://www.ojp.usdoj.gov/bjs/abstract/cv07.htm>, but due to questions resulting from data collection changes since 2005, data from 2005 are reported here.)

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Criminal Justice Research Report

David A. Paterson
Governor

Denise E. O'Donnell
Deputy Secretary for Public Safety/
DCJS Commissioner

October 2009

Domestic Homicide in New York State, 2008

by Matthew Fetzer and Adriana Fernandez-Lanier

This report focuses on 2008 homicides¹ in New York in which the victim is reported to have had a domestic relationship with the offender. A domestic homicide involves the murder or non-negligent manslaughter² of an intimate partner, child, or other family member.

"Intimate partner" includes spouse, ex-spouse, common law, sexual partner or ex-partner, and same-sex partners. These relationships are considered "intimate partner" whether or not the victim and offender were living together at the time of the incident or previously lived together. "Child" includes a biological or adopted child, as well as a child who is killed by the intimate partner of his or her parent. "Other family member" includes parent, sibling or other family relationship.

The report presents a statistical account of domestic homicides based on the analysis of Supplementary Homicide Report (SHR) data. The SHR is submitted by law enforcement agencies to the Division of Criminal Justice Services (DCJS) as part of the State Uniform Crime Reporting Program (UCR). It collects information on every criminal homicide reported, including the relationship of the victim to the offender,

age, gender, and race and ethnicity of the victim and the offender.³ The SHR also captures information about the circumstances of the homicide as well as the type of weapon used.

Domestic homicide and its component relationship categories – intimate partner, child victim, and other family member – are compared in this report with all other homicides statewide and by region. Regional homicide data are presented for New York City and the rest of New York State. Descriptive statistics are presented for demographic characteristics of homicide victims, the circumstances surrounding the homicide, and the types of weapons used. Special attention is given to intimate partner homicide, the most frequent type of domestic homicide. In addition, relevant findings from the analysis of homicides involving child victims and other family member victims are presented.

Domestic homicide trends reported in 2008 are compared to those reported in 2007. Appendices are included that present counts of domestic homicide by county and region.

Major Findings

- Domestic homicide increased 7% in 2008 while other homicide increased 3%. (p. 9)
- Intimate partner homicides increased by 25% in 2008 with 91 reported. Counties outside New York City reported a 45% increase, with 45 intimate partner homicides reported. (p. 9)
- In 2008, 50% of females aged 16 and older who were victims of homicide were killed by an intimate partner. (p. 3)
- Child domestic homicides decreased by 31% in 2008, with 25 child homicides reported. The decrease was primarily due to fewer infant/newborn homicides outside of New York City. (p. 9)
- The number of male victims of intimate partner homicide increased from 14 in 2007 to 23 in 2008. (p. 11)
- Firearms were used in 24% of intimate partner homicides in 2008, a decrease from 2007 where 46% of intimate partner homicides involved a firearm. (p. 11)

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¹ Homicide is defined as "the willful killing of one human being by another." *Uniform Crime Reporting Handbook*.

² Murder and non-negligent manslaughter refer to crimes in New York State Penal Laws §125.15 through §125.27 and include: murder in the first and second degree, aggravated murder, aggravated manslaughter in the first and second degree, and manslaughter in the first and second degree.

³ NYC homicide data are drawn from the NYPD Shootings and Homicides database, which differs from the SHR but not in ways that substantially affect this analysis.

State and Regional Overview of Domestic Homicides

Table 1 presents statewide statistics on domestic homicide compared to all other homicides.⁴

**Table 1. Domestic Homicides and Other Homicides
by Type of Relationship: Statewide, 2008⁵**

Type of Relationship	Number	Percent of Total Homicides	Percent of Domestic Homicides
Domestic	147	17.7%	100.0%
Intimate Partner	91	11.0%	61.9%
Child	25	3.0%	17.0%
Other Family	31	3.7%	21.1%
All Others	683	82.3%	
Known	375	45.2%	—
Unknown	308	37.1%	
Total	830	100.0%	—

In 2008, 830 persons were victims of homicide. These homicides resulted from 805 incidents reported in New York State.

- Of all 830 homicide victims reported in 2008, 147 (17.7%) had a domestic relationship with the offender.
- There were 91 intimate partner homicides reported, representing 11.0% of all homicides statewide.
- A total of 25 domestic homicide victims were either the child of the offender or the child of the offender's intimate partner. These homicides represent 3.0% of all homicides reported in the state.
- There were 31 domestic homicides reported which involved an "other family" relationship. These incidents most frequently involved victims who were parents, grandparents, or siblings of the offender.
- There were six domestic incidents reported which involved multiple victims. Together these six incidents resulted in the homicide of 15 victims: three intimate partners, four children, four other family members and four non-domestic, known persons.

⁴ The "all others" type of homicide relationship includes categories for homicides in which the victim's relationship to the offender was known (e.g., friend, acquaintance, stranger, or otherwise known) and where the victim-offender relationship was unknown.

⁵ Homicide data reported as of August 2009.

Table 2 compares domestic and other homicide data for the regions of New York City and the rest of New York State. In 2008, 523 (63%) of the 830 reported homicides occurred in New York City, while the remaining 307 (37%) homicides occurred across the Rest of the State.

Table 2. Domestic Homicides and Other Homicides by Type of Relationship and Region, 2008 ^{6,7}

Type of Relationship	Homicides by Region					
	New York City			Rest of the State		
	Number	Percent of Total Homicides	Percent of Domestic Homicides	Number	Percent of Total Homicides	Percent of Domestic Homicides
Domestic Homicide	75	14.3%	100.0%	72	23.5%	100.0%
Intimate Partner	46	8.8%	61.3%	45	14.7%	62.5%
Child	13	2.5%	17.3%	12	3.9%	16.7%
Other Family	16	3.1%	21.3%	15	4.9%	20.8%
All Other Homicide	448	85.7%		235	76.5%	
Known	236	45.1%	—	139	45.3%	—
Unknown	212	40.5%		96	31.3%	
Total	523	100.0%	—	307	100.0%	—

- New York City reported 75 domestic homicides, accounting for 14.3% of all homicides in that region. In the Rest of the State, the 72 domestic homicides reported represented 23.5% of all homicides reported.
- Among domestic homicides in 2008, New York City and the Rest of the State had similar numbers of intimate partner, child, and other family victims.

In 2008, there were 830 victims of homicide, and 776 of these victims were aged 16 or older. Table 3 shows the percent of intimate partner homicide victims 16 and older by gender and region.

Table 3. Intimate Partner Homicides by Gender and Region, 2008

Gender	16 & Older		
	Intimate Partner Victims	All Homicide Victims	Percent Intimate Partner
Statewide			
Female	68	137	49.6%
Male	23	639	3.6%
New York City:			
Female	30	65	46.2%
Male	16	429	3.7%
Rest of the State:			
Female	38	72	52.8%
Male	7	210	3.3%

NOTE: Adults include only victims ages 16 and older.

- In 2008, 49.6% of females age 16 and older who were murdered were killed by intimate partners.
- Four percent of males 16 and older who were murdered were killed by an intimate partner in 2008.

⁶ For this report, intimate partners included spouse, ex-spouse, common law, boyfriend/girlfriend, and same-sex partner, whether or not the victim and offender were living together at the time of the homicide or had previously lived together. The NYPD defines intimate partners as couples who were living together or had previously lived together. NYPD statistics also include collateral victims of domestic homicide victims, while DCJS does not. As a result, the number of intimate partner homicides for 2008 reported here may be different than similar figures published by NYPD.

⁷ A county and regional distribution of domestic homicides in New York State can be found in Appendix A.

Demographics of Domestic Homicide Victims

Table 4 presents gender, race, ethnicity, and median age information for domestic homicide victims (intimate partner, child, other family) as well as for all other homicides in 2008. Reported victims of Hispanic ethnicity are also included in the race categories of either white, black or other in the table below. Descriptive statistics are reported for the entire state and broken down by region.

Table 4. Domestic Homicides and Other Homicides by Victim Demographics, 2008

Statewide										
Victim Demographics	Intimate Partner		Child		Other Family		Total Domestic		Total Others**	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Female	68	74.7%	10	40.0%	12	38.7%	90	61.2%	65	9.5%
Male	23	25.3%	15	60.0%	19	61.3%	57	38.8%	617	90.3%
White	57	62.6%	10	40.0%	19	61.3%	86	58.5%	205	30.0%
Black	29	31.9%	14	56.0%	12	38.7%	55	37.4%	450	65.9%
Other	5	5.5%	1	4.0%	0	0.0%	6	4.1%	28	4.1%
Hispanic†	19	20.9%	8	32.0%	0	0.0%	27	18.4%	159	23.3%
Median Age (<i>All Victims</i>)	37.0		1.0		49.0		29.0		28.0	
Female	37.0		3.0		52.0		29.0		39.0	
Male	37.0		<1		46.0		29.0		28.0	
Total Victims	91		25		31		147		683	
New York City										
Female	30	65.2%	3	23.1%	6	37.5%	39	52.0%	34	7.6%
Male	16	34.8%	10	76.9%	10	62.5%	36	48.0%	413	92.2%
White	21	45.7%	6	46.2%	4	25.0%	31	41.3%	116	25.9%
Black	22	47.8%	7	53.8%	12	75.0%	41	54.7%	309	69.0%
Other	3	6.5%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	3	4.0%	23	5.1%
Hispanic	15	32.6%	6	46.2%	0	0.0%	21	28.0%	118	26.3%
Median Age (<i>All Victims</i>)	32.0		<1		42.0		29.0		29.0	
Female	31.5		11.0		17.0		29.0		41.5	
Male	37.0		<1		47.5		29.0		28.0	
Total Victims	46		13		16		75		448	
Rest of the State										
Female	38	84.4%	7	58.3%	6	40.0%	51	70.8%	31	13.2%
Male	7	15.6%	5	41.7%	9	60.0%	21	29.2%	204	86.8%
White	36	80.0%	4	33.3%	15	100.0%	55	76.4%	89	37.9%
Black	7	15.6%	7	58.3%	0	0.0%	14	19.4%	141	60.0%
Other	2	4.4%	1	8.3%	0	0.0%	3	4.2%	5	2.1%
Hispanic	4	8.9%	2	16.7%	0	0.0%	6	8.3%	41	17.4%
Median Age (<i>All Victims</i>)	41.0		1.0		51.0		29.0		26.0	
Female	41.0		1.0		64.0		29.0		36.0	
Male	45.0		1.0		45.0		29.0		26.0	
Total Victims	45		12		15		72		235	

NOTE: There was one victim with a reported gender of "unknown" in New York City that is not shown in the table. This victim would fall under the "Total Others" column for both statewide and New York City counts.

† Hispanic origin (Hispanic or non-Hispanic) is reported separately from race and was only reported for 49% of all homicide victims in 2008, so the number of Hispanic victims may be under-reported.

Gender

- Females were more likely than males to be victims of intimate partner domestic homicides. Of the 91 intimate partner homicides statewide, 68 (74.7%) of the victims were female. In New York City, 65.2% of victims were female, while in the Rest of the State, 84.4% of victims were female.
- Females were less likely than males to be the victim of a non-domestic homicide. Females accounted for only 9.5% (65 of 683) of the other homicides.
- Statewide, males accounted for approximately 60% of child and other family victims of homicide.

Race

- Across the state, whites were victims of more domestic homicides than blacks, and blacks were victims of more non-domestic homicides than whites.
- Among domestic homicides, there were more black victims (54.7%) than white victims (41.3%) in New York City, and more white victims (76.4%) than black victims (19.4%) in the Rest of the State.⁸

Ethnicity

- Of the 147 domestic homicide victims across the state in 2008, 18.4% (27) were reported as Hispanic.

Age

- Intimate partner victims statewide had a median age of 37, but both male and female victims in New York City tended to be younger than male and female victims in the Rest of the State. In New York City, the median age was 32, and outside of New York City the median age was 41.
- Across the state, the median age for the 25 child victims was one year. However, in New York City, the median age for the three female child victims was 11 years of age; their ages were 3, 11, and 14. The seven infant victims in New York City were all male.
- Victims in the “other family” category had the highest median age. Male victims who were other family relations had a median age of 46, while females had a median age of 52.

⁸ Due to the racial composition of the Rest of the State, even though whites experienced more domestic homicides than blacks (55 versus 14), the domestic homicide rate for whites was actually lower than that for blacks (0.6 vs 1.6 homicides per 100,000 persons).

Table 5 presents domestic homicide victims according to the type of relationship and age group.

Table 5. Domestic Homicides by Victim Age Group, 2008

Statewide								
Age Group	Intimate Partner		Child		Other Family		Total	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Infant <1	—	—	9	36.0%	1	3.2%	10	6.8%
1 - 4	—	—	10	40.0%	1	3.2%	11	7.5%
5 - 15	—	—	6	24.0%	2	6.5%	8	5.4%
16 - 19	3	3.3%	—	—	3	9.7%	6	4.1%
20 - 29	23	25.3%	—	—	2	6.5%	25	17.0%
30 - 39	29	31.9%	—	—	4	12.9%	33	22.4%
40 - 49	22	24.2%	—	—	3	9.7%	25	17.0%
50 - 59	9	9.9%	—	—	7	22.6%	16	10.9%
60 & Older	5	5.5%	—	—	8	25.8%	13	8.8%
Total	91	100.0%	25	100.0%	31	100.0%	147	100.0%
New York City								
Infant <1	—	—	7	53.8%	1	6.3%	8	10.7%
1 - 4	—	—	3	23.1%	1	6.3%	4	5.3%
5 - 15	—	—	3	23.1%	0	0.0%	3	4.0%
16 - 19	1	2.2%	—	—	2	12.5%	3	4.0%
20 - 29	12	26.1%	—	—	2	12.5%	14	18.7%
30 - 39	22	47.8%	—	—	2	12.5%	24	32.0%
40 - 49	6	13.0%	—	—	2	12.5%	8	10.7%
50 - 59	3	6.5%	—	—	2	12.5%	5	6.7%
60 & Older	2	4.3%	—	—	4	25.0%	6	8.0%
Total	46	100.0%	13	100.0%	16	100.0%	75	100.0%
Rest of the State								
Infant <1	—	—	2	16.7%	0	0.0%	2	2.8%
1 - 4	—	—	7	58.3%	0	0.0%	7	9.7%
5 - 15	—	—	3	25.0%	2	13.3%	5	6.9%
16 - 19	2	4.4%	—	—	1	6.7%	3	4.2%
20 - 29	11	24.4%	—	—	0	0.0%	11	4.2%
30 - 39	7	15.6%	—	—	2	13.3%	9	11.1%
40 - 49	16	35.6%	—	—	1	6.7%	17	12.5%
50 - 59	6	13.3%	—	—	5	33.3%	11	38.9%
60 & Older	3	6.7%	—	—	4	26.7%	7	9.7%
Total	45	100.0%	12	100.0%	15	100.0%	72	100.0%

- A total of 31.9% of intimate partner victims were between the ages of 30 and 39; 40.0% of child victims were between the ages of 1 and 4; and, 25.8% of other family members were age 60 and older.
- Victims were younger within New York City as compared to the Rest of the State. In New York City, 73.9% of intimate partner victims were between 20 and 39 years old; in the Rest of the State, more than half (51.2%) of the victims were between 30 and 49 years old.
- Children ages four and under accounted for 76.0% of the child victims of domestic homicide.
- More than half (53.8%) of child victims in New York City were under one year of age; in the Rest of the State, 58.3% of the child victims were between the ages of one and four.

Circumstances of Domestic Homicide

Table 6 presents the circumstances surrounding domestic homicides in 2008 as reported by police. Circumstances include arguments, murder-suicide, other felony involved (e.g., arson, robbery, burglary), physical abuse/neglect, other, and unknown.⁹

Table 6. Domestic Homicides by Circumstance Reported, 2008

Circumstance	Statewide							
	Intimate Partner		Child		Other Family		Total	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Argument	75	82.4%	2	8.0%	24	77.4%	101	68.7%
Murder - Suicide [†]	4	4.4%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	4	2.7%
Other Felony Involved ^{††}	3	3.3%	0	0.0%	1	3.2%	4	2.7%
Abuse and/or Neglect	0	0.0%	17	68.0%	2	6.5%	19	12.9%
Other	8	8.8%	6	24.0%	4	12.9%	18	12.2%
Unknown	1	1.1%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	1	0.7%
Total	91	100.0%	25	100.0%	31	100.0%	147	100.0%
New York City								
Argument	46	100.0%	1	7.7%	14	87.5%	61	81.3%
Murder - Suicide [†]	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Other Felony Involved ^{††}	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
Abuse and/or Neglect	0	0.0%	12	92.3%	2	12.5%	14	18.7%
Other	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
Unknown	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
Total	46	100.0%	13	100.0%	16	100.0%	75	100.0%
Rest of the State								
Argument	29	64.4%	1	8.3%	10	66.7%	40	55.6%
Murder - Suicide [†]	4	8.9%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	4	5.6%
Other Felony Involved ^{††}	3	6.7%	0	0.0%	1	6.7%	4	5.6%
Abuse and/or Neglect	0	0.0%	5	41.7%	0	0.0%	5	6.9%
Other	8	17.8%	6	50.0%	4	26.7%	18	25.0%
Unknown	1	2.2%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	1	1.4%
Total	45	100.0%	12	100.0%	15	100.0%	72	100.0%

[†] Murder–Suicide homicide victims are not able to be identified from the homicide data submitted to DCJS by the NYPD.

^{††} “Other Felony Involved” refers to a homicide that occurred as a result of the commission of another felonious crime.

- Arguments accounted for the majority of intimate partner homicides in New York State (82.4%).
- In the Rest of the State, four murder–suicides were reported among intimate partner homicides.
- Abuse and/or neglect accounted for 68.0% of the child victims of domestic homicide in the state.
- Similar to intimate partner homicides, most of the other family homicides resulted from an argument (77.4%).

⁹ For the 2009 reporting year, DCJS replaced the broad categories of “domestic dispute” and “altercation” circumstances with four types of argument that describe circumstances where the argument was due to or involved 1) alcohol, 2) drugs, 3) money or property, or 4) some other reason. This modification will allow for more detailed analysis in the future.

Weapons Used in Domestic Homicide

Table 7 provides information on type of weapons used by relationship statewide and by region. Weapons include: firearms (handguns, rifles, shotguns, other firearms); knives, cutting instruments, or blunt objects; personal weapons (hands, feet, teeth); and miscellaneous weapons (motor vehicle, fire, poison).

Table 7. Domestic Homicide by Type of Weapon Used, 2008

Statewide								
Weapons Used	Intimate Partner		Child		Other Family		Total	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Firearm	22	24.2%	1	4.0%	11	35.5%	34	23.1%
Knives/Cutting/Blunt Instruments	51	56.0%	7	28.0%	8	25.8%	66	44.9%
Personal Weapons (hands, feet, teeth) [†]	7	7.7%	7	28.0%	3	9.7%	17	11.6%
Miscellaneous Weapons	6	6.6%	0	0.0%	6	19.4%	12	8.2%
Not Reported/Unknown	5	5.5%	10	40.0%	3	9.7%	18	12.2%
Total	91	100.0%	25	100.0%	31	100.0%	147	100.0%
New York City								
Firearm	9	19.6%	0	0.0%	4	25.0%	13	17.3%
Knives/Cutting/Blunt Instruments	30	65.2%	3	23.1%	7	43.8%	40	53.3%
Personal Weapons (hands, feet, teeth) [†]	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Miscellaneous Weapons	2	4.3%	0	0.0%	2	12.5%	4	5.3%
Not Reported/Unknown	5	10.9%	10	76.9%	3	18.8%	18	24.0%
Total	46	100.0%	13	100.0%	16	100.0%	75	100.0%
Rest of the State								
Firearm	13	28.9%	1	8.3%	7	46.7%	21	29.2%
Knives/Cutting/Blunt Instruments	21	46.7%	4	33.3%	1	6.7%	26	36.1%
Personal Weapons (hands, feet, teeth) [†]	7	15.6%	7	58.3%	3	20.0%	17	23.6%
Miscellaneous Weapons	4	8.9%	0	0.0%	4	26.7%	8	11.1%
Not Reported/Unknown	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
Total	45	100.0%	12	100.0%	15	100.0%	72	100.0%

[†]The NYPD does not have a weapon classification that identifies the use of personal weapons in the commission of a homicide.

- Most intimate partner homicides (56.0%) involved the use of knives, cutting instruments, or blunt objects; an additional 24.2% involved a firearm.
- Firearms accounted for 35.5% of domestic homicides involving other family relations.
- The use of a firearm was more prevalent in the Rest of the State than in New York City for all domestic homicides. In the Rest of the State, police reported that 28.9% of intimate partner homicides and 46.7% of other family homicides involved a firearm. In comparison, in New York City, firearms were used in 19.6% of intimate partner homicides and 25.0% of other family homicides.

Comparison of Domestic Homicide: 2007 - 2008

This report is the second in a series of annual reports on domestic homicide in New York State. The first report, *Domestic Homicide in New York State, 2007*, is available at www.criminaljustice.state.ny.us under the publications link. Homicide data for 2008 was compared to data reported in 2007. The following section highlights some noteworthy differences in domestic homicide from 2007 to 2008.

Differences in Domestic and Non-Domestic Homicide

Table 8 shows homicides reported in 2008 as compared to 2007 by type of relationship and region.

Table 8. Comparison of Domestic and Non-Domestic Homicides: Statewide, 2007-2008

Type of Relationship	Statewide				Homicides by Region					
	2007	2008	Difference	Percent Change	New York City			Rest of the State		
					2007	2008	Percent Change	2007	2008	Percent Change
Domestic Homicide	137	147	10	7.3%	73	75	2.7%	64	72	12.5%
Intimate Partner	73	91	18	24.7%	42	46	9.5%	31	45	45.2%
Child	36	25	-11	-30.6%	17	13	-23.5%	19	12	-36.8%
Other Family	28	31	3	10.7%	14	16	14.3%	14	15	7.1%
All Other Homicide	666	683	17	2.6%	423	448	5.9%	243	235	-3.3%
Known	302	375	73	24.2%	185	236	27.6%	117	139	18.8%
Unknown	364	308	-56	-15.4%	238	212	-10.9%	126	96	-23.8%
Total	803	830	27	3.4%	496	523	5.4%	307	307	0.0%

NOTE: In prior publications, 800 homicides were reported for 2007. Three additional homicides were reported to DCJS prior to the publication of this report.

- Statewide, between 2007 and 2008 domestic homicides increased by 7.3% and non-domestic homicides increased by 2.6%.
- Intimate partner homicide increased by 24.7% in 2008 as compared to 2007 (from 73 to 91 victims). Table 8 shows that most of this increase was due to an increase in the Rest of the State. In 2008, 45 intimate partner homicides were reported in the Rest of the State, a 45.2% increase over the 31 reported in 2007. In New York City, intimate partner homicides increased by 9.5%, from 42 to 46.
- Domestic child homicides decreased by 30.6%, from 36 victims reported in 2007 to 25 victims in 2008. Decreases were reported throughout the state. New York City reported 13 victims in 2008, compared to 17 in 2007. The Rest of the State reported 12 victims in 2008, as compared to 19 in 2007.
- Other family domestic homicides did not change substantially. Statewide, there were three more other family homicides in 2008, 31 compared to 28. In New York City, 16 other family homicides were reported in 2008, compared to 14 in 2007. In 2008, the Rest of the State reported 15 other family homicides, compared to 14 reported in 2007.
- Appendix B shows reported domestic homicides in 2008 as compared to 2007 by county. Counties which reported increases include: Erie (0 in 2007, 3 in 2008); Genesee (0 in 2007, 2 in 2008); Nassau (2 in 2007, 6 in 2008); Niagara (0 in 2007, 2 in 2008); Suffolk (5 in 2007, 8 in 2008); Westchester (2 in 2007, 4 in 2008).

Differences in Domestic Child Homicide Victims

Police reported a 30.6% decrease of domestic child victims in 2008 as compared to 2007. To provide more detail about this difference, child victim age groups are presented and compared across regions of the state.

Table 9. Comparison of Child Victims of Domestic Homicide: New York State, 2007-2008

Statewide				
Age Group	2007 Homicides	2008 Homicides	Difference	Percent Change
Infant/Newborn	21	9	-12	-57.1%
1 to 4	12	10	-2	-16.7%
5 to 9	1	2	1	100.0%
10 to 12	1	2	1	100.0%
13 to 15	1	2	1	100.0%
Total	36	25	-11	-30.6%
New York City				
Infant/Newborn	10	7	-3	-30.0%
1 to 4	5	3	-2	-40.0%
5 to 9	1	0	-1	-100.0%
10 to 12	0	2	2	—
13 to 15	1	1	0	0.0%
Total	17	13	-4	-23.5%
Rest of the State				
Infant/Newborn	11	2	-9	-81.8%
1 to 4	7	7	0	0.0%
5 to 9	0	2	2	—
10 to 12	1	0	-1	-100.0%
13 to 15	0	1	1	—
Total	19	12	-7	-36.8%

- The statewide decrease in child domestic homicides is primarily due to a substantial decrease in the number of infant and newborn victims. The number of domestic victims less than one year of age decreased by 57.1%, from 21 to 9 victims.
- New York City reported a 30.0% decrease in infant/newborn domestic homicides, with 7 reported in 2008 compared to 10 in 2007. In contrast, the Rest of the State reported a 81.8% decrease in infant/newborn homicides. In 2008, the Rest of the State reported only two infant/newborn homicides compared to 11 in 2007.
- Changes in the number of reported child homicide victims were also noted among the other age groups, but the differences were not substantial.

Differences in Gender of Intimate Partner Homicide Victims

Table 10 shows the difference in the gender of intimate partner victims by region in 2008 as compared to 2007.

Table 10. Comparison of Intimate Partner Homicides by Gender and Region, 2007-2008

Gender	IP Homicides		Difference	Percent Change
	2007	2008		
Statewide	73	91	18	24.7%
Female	59	68	9	15.3%
Male	14	23	9	64.3%
New York City:	42	46	4	9.5%
Female	34	30	-4	-11.8%
Male	8	16	8	100.0%
Rest of the State:	31	45	14	45.2%
Female	25	38	13	52.0%
Male	6	7	1	16.7%

- Statewide, the number of both female and male intimate partner homicide victims each increased by nine homicides.
- In New York City, the number of female victims decreased by four, from 34 to 30, and the number of male victims doubled from 8 to 16.
- In the Rest of the State, the number of female victims increased by 13, from 25 to 38, and the number of male victims increased by one.

Differences in Type of Weapon Used In Intimate Partner Homicides

Table 11 shows differences in the type of weapon used in intimate partner homicides between 2007 and 2008.

Table 11. Comparison of Intimate Partner Homicides by Weapon Used: Statewide, 2007-2008

Weapons Used	2007		2008		Difference	Percent Change
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent		
Firearm	33	45.8%	22	24.2%	-11	-33.3%
Knives/Cutting/Blunt Instruments	22	30.6%	51	56.0%	29	131.8%
Personal Weapons (hands, feet, teeth)	3	2.8%	7	7.7%	4	133.3%
Miscellaneous Weapons	6	5.6%	6	6.6%	0	0.0%
Not Reported/Unknown	9	15.3%	5	5.5%	-4	-44.4%
Total	73	100.0%	91	100.0%	18	24.7%

- The number and proportion of intimate partner homicides involving firearms decreased substantially from 2007 to 2008. In 2008, knives, cutting instruments, or blunt objects were the most prevalent weapon used.
- In 2007, firearms were the most prevalent type of weapon used in intimate partner homicides.

Appendix A: Domestic and Total Homicides by Region and County, 2008

County	Domestic Homicides						All Homicides	
	Intimate Partner		Child		Other Family		Total	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
New York City								
Bronx	16	17.6%	3	12.0%	3	9.7%	132	15.9%
Kings	14	15.4%	5	20.0%	8	25.8%	213	25.7%
New York	6	6.6%	0	0.0%	2	6.5%	67	8.1%
Queens	9	9.9%	3	12.0%	3	9.7%	90	10.8%
Richmond	1	1.1%	2	8.0%	0	0.0%	21	2.5%
Subtotal	46	50.5%	13	52.0%	16	51.6%	523	63.0%
Rest of State								
Albany	0	0.0%	1	4.0%	0	0.0%	10	1.2%
Broome	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	1	3.2%	2	0.2%
Cattaraugus	0	0.0%	1	4.0%	0	0.0%	1	0.1%
Chautauqua	1	1.1%	0	0.0%	2	6.5%	6	0.7%
Chemung	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	4	0.5%
Chenango	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	2	0.2%
Clinton	1	1.1%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	1	0.1%
Columbia	1	1.1%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	2	0.2%
Cortland	1	1.1%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	1	0.1%
Dutchess	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	5	0.6%
Erie	3	3.3%	1	4.0%	1	3.2%	39	4.7%
Fulton	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	1	0.1%
Genesee	2	2.2%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	2	0.2%
Greene	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	1	0.1%
Monroe	5	5.5%	2	8.0%	0	0.0%	48	5.8%
Montgomery	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	1	0.1%
Nassau	6	6.6%	3	12.0%	0	0.0%	28	3.4%
Niagara	2	2.2%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	5	0.6%
Oneida	1	1.1%	0	0.0%	2	6.5%	8	1.0%
Onondaga	1	1.1%	1	4.0%	2	6.5%	27	3.3%
Orange	1	1.1%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	13	1.6%
Orleans	1	1.1%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	1	0.1%
Oswego	0	0.0%	1	4.0%	1	3.2%	3	0.4%
Putnam	1	1.1%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	2	0.2%
Rensselaer	1	1.1%	1	4.0%	0	0.0%	5	0.6%
Rockland	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	2	0.2%
Schenectady	2	2.2%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	9	1.1%
Suffolk	8	8.8%	0	0.0%	3	9.7%	39	4.7%
Sullivan	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	3	0.4%
Tompkins	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	1	3.2%	2	0.2%
Ulster	2	2.2%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	5	0.6%
Wayne	1	1.1%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	1	0.1%
Westchester	4	4.4%	1	4.0%	2	6.5%	27	3.3%
Multiple County†	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	1	0.1%
Subtotal	45	49.5%	12	48.0%	15	48.4%	307	37.0%
Grand Total	91	100.0%	25	100.0%	31	100.0%	830	100.0%

† "Multiple County" represents agencies that have jurisdiction over more than one county; in this case it represents the New York State Park Police.

NOTE: Counties with zero domestic homicides reported for 2008 are excluded from this table.

Appendix B: Domestic Homicide Victims by Region and County, 2007 - 2008

	All Domestic		Intimate Partner		Child		Other Family	
	2007	2008	2007	2008	2007	2008	2007	2008
New York City								
Bronx	16	22	9	16	4	3	3	3
Kings	25	27	16	14	5	5	4	8
New York	5	8	2	6	1	0	2	2
Queens	20	15	11	9	4	3	5	3
Richmond	7	3	4	1	3	2	0	0
Subtotal	73	75	42	46	17	13	14	16
Rest of State								
Albany	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	0
Broome	2	1	0	0	2	0	0	1
Cattaraugus	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	0
Chautauqua	0	3	0	1	0	0	0	2
Chemung	2	0	0	0	2	0	0	0
Chenango	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	0
Clinton	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	0
Columbia	1	1	0	1	0	0	1	0
Cortland	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	0
Dutchess	2	0	0	0	1	0	1	0
Erie	3	5	0	3	0	1	3	1
Franklin	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	0
Genesee	0	2	0	2	0	0	0	0
Herkimer	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0
Jefferson	2	0	1	0	1	0	0	0
Madison	2	0	2	0	0	0	0	0
Monroe	7	7	6	5	0	2	1	0
Montgomery	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0
Nassau	4	9	2	6	0	3	2	0
Niagara	1	2	0	2	1	0	0	0
Oneida	2	3	1	1	1	0	0	2
Onondaga	7	4	3	1	1	1	3	2
Ontario	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	0
Orange	3	1	1	1	2	0	0	0
Orleans	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	0
Oswego	1	2	1	0	0	1	0	1
Putnam	3	1	2	1	1	0	0	0
Rensselaer	1	2	0	1	0	1	1	0
Schenectady	0	2	0	2	0	0	0	0
Steuben	2	0	0	0	2	0	0	0
Suffolk	7	11	5	8	1	0	1	3
Tompkins	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	1
Ulster	2	2	2	2	0	0	0	0
Warren	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	0
Wayne	1	1	1	1	0	0	0	0
Westchester	3	7	2	4	1	1	0	2
Subtotal	64	72	31	45	19	12	14	15
Grand Total	137	147	73	91	36	25	28	31

NOTE: Counties with zero domestic homicides reported for 2007 and 2008 are excluded from this table.



New York State
Office of
Children & Family
Services

The Domestic Violence Prevention Act

2008 Annual Report to the Governor and Legislature



**State of
New York**

*David A. Paterson, Governor
Gladys Carrión, Esq., Commissioner*

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Introduction

At this time of prudent fiscal management, the continued funding of domestic violence programs is a necessary and wise expense both to improve the lives of victims and to help us defray the larger costs of intimate partner violence to society. According to the United Nations¹, the most common form of violence experienced by women worldwide is physical violence inflicted by an intimate partner. Intimate partner rape, physical assault, and stalking can result in physical injury, psychological trauma and sometimes death. To this pain, suffering, and decreased quality of life, add the costs of medical and mental health care services, lost productivity from paid work, and the loss of lifetime earnings from victims of homicide. A report from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention² estimates these costs to be \$5.8 billion yearly (\$8.3³ billion when updated to 2003 dollars), and this is considered to be an under-representation of these expenses. Take into further consideration that this estimate excludes expenses associated with criminal justice services, and it is obvious that domestic violence has not only long-term impacts on survivors and their children, but is also a significant societal burden.

In addition, domestic violence can affect the development of children growing up in violent households. Research has shown that between 30%-60% of all child welfare cases involve domestic violence. This finding points to the critical need for services for victims and their children. If not appropriately identified and addressed, domestic violence can impact outcomes and lead to reoccurrence of child abuse/maltreatment. It is anticipated that collaborations between domestic violence providers and other service agencies will lead to better use of resources and safer outcomes for victims and their families.

With the growing understanding and identification of domestic violence in our communities comes a responsibility to build better networks to combat this criminal behavior and more fully attend to the immediate safety concerns and longer term needs of its victims. These networks, at their best, incorporate the cooperation of the law enforcement, judicial, medical, social services, and faith-based communities, among others.

Background

Recognizing the need for specialized services for victims of domestic violence and their children, the New York State Domestic Violence Prevention Act became law in 1987. This law mandated the establishment and funding of residential and non-residential domestic violence programs for victims of domestic violence and their children. These programs provide services for victims of domestic violence and their children regardless of financial eligibility, race, ethnicity, religious beliefs, physical or mental disabilities, gender or age.

¹ Lederer, Edith M. "UN chief launches global campaign to end violence against women." AP DataStream. 26 Feb. 2008. Online posting. 3 Mar. 2008. <law-resourcelink-list@listserv.buffalo.edu>.

² National Center for Injury Prevention and Control. Costs of Intimate Partner Violence Against Women in the United States. Atlanta (GA): Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, 2003.

³ "Violence Prevention: Intimate Partner Violence: Consequences: Costs to Society." Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. 28 Oct. 2008. 13 Mar. 2009 <<http://www.cdc.gov/ViolencePrevention/intimatepartnerviolence/consequences.html>>.

As a result of the Domestic Violence Prevention Act, the following sets of regulations were created to promote standards of quality for the establishment and maintenance of residential and non-residential programs serving victims of domestic violence and their children:

- Parts 452-455 of 18 NYCRR establish standards for the operation of residential programs for victims of domestic violence.
- Part 462 of 18 NYCRR establishes the standards for non-residential services to victims of domestic violence.
- Part 408 of 18 NYCRR establishes per diem rates and social services district responsibility for financial and contractual arrangements with providers of residential services to victims of domestic violence.

National Snapshot of 2008 Domestic Violence Statistics

The following national figures were drawn from a 24 hour census⁴ which took place on September 17, 2008. 1553 out of 2000 programs participated. On this one day:

- 60,799 victims received services.
- 30,433 adults and children found safety in emergency shelters or transitional housing.
- 30,366 adults and children received non-residential services, including individual counseling, legal advocacy, and children's support groups.
- 21,683 hotline calls were answered.
- 8,927 requests for services were unmet.

New York State's Response

New York State's comprehensive response to domestic violence crosses an array of state and local agencies. In collaboration with these agencies, the primary ongoing responsibilities of the New York State Office of Children and Family Services (OCFS) in relation to the statewide domestic violence system are:

- Licensing residential programs for victims of domestic violence;
- Overseeing the county planning process as it relates to the approval of non-residential domestic violence services programs;

⁴ "Domestic Violence Counts 2008: A 24-hour Census of Domestic Violence Shelter and Services across the United States." National Network to End Domestic Violence. 11 Feb. 2009. 13 Mar. 2009.
<http://nnedv.org/docs/Census/DVCounts2008/DVCounts08_NatlSummary_BW.pdf>.

- Establishing the per diem rate of reimbursement for each approved residential program on an annual basis;
- Administering the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) non-residential domestic violence funds to the social services districts and the Federal Family Violence Prevention and Services Act (FFVPSA) funds to approved residential and non-residential domestic violence providers;
- Providing Title XX financial reimbursement to social services districts for residential and non-residential domestic violence services; and
- Monitoring and providing technical assistance to social services districts and approved residential and non-residential programs for victims of domestic violence.

Additional Activities During 2008

In addition to these ongoing responsibilities, during 2008, OCFS collaborated on several additional domestic violence related activities including:

- Coordinating implementation of the CPS/DV co-location model and the Child and Family Services Review (CFSR) Program Improvement Plan strategy to improve safety outcomes for families impacted by both domestic violence and child abuse/maltreatment. An advisory group of representatives from the court, domestic violence and child abuse fields has created draft guidelines for domestic violence programs to collaborate with child protective services to improve outcomes for families impacted by both child abuse and domestic violence.
- Co-facilitating the Domestic Violence Regulatory Workgroup, with the Office for the Prevention of Domestic Violence and the Office for Temporary and Disability Assistance. The workgroup includes domestic violence program and local social service district representatives, the intent of which is to review and recommend changes to the Domestic Violence regulations which have existed unchanged for approximately 20 years.
- Providing a series of iLinc training sessions to agencies receiving FFVPSA funds. The focus of the training sessions was the implementation of a data collection process in New York State for outcome measure information required by the FFVPSA administration. This data, now being collected in New York State as well as nationally, will be aggregated to document the impact of FFVPSA funded programs.
- Coordinating the first OCFS "Purple Day" on October 20, 2008 in celebration of National Domestic Violence Awareness Month. All employees were encouraged to support domestic violence awareness by wearing purple to work, and staff from the Domestic Violence Unit manned display tables, answering questions and disseminating literature.
- Participating in the Office of the Prevention of Domestic Violence (OPDV) Advisory Council and the data, prevention and funding subcommittees.

- Supported three fatherhood regional forums provided by the New York State Office for the Prevention of Domestic Violence for local department of social services staff across the state.
- Assisted Healthy Families New York in developing domestic violence guidelines for their programs.
- Participated in the development of a supervised visitation protocol for domestic violence involved families. Partners in this included: New York State Coalition Against Domestic Violence, The NYS Office for the Prevention of Domestic Violence, The NY Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children, and Oswego County Opportunities.

Annual Report

The Domestic Violence Prevention Act requires an annual report to the Governor and Legislature regarding implementation of the act. OCFS collects data from all approved domestic violence providers, which is aggregated on an annual basis for report purposes. The web-based Domestic Violence Information System (DVIS) continues to be in development. The DVIS addresses all of the required domestic violence reporting functions under the OCFS purview and is accessible to all New York State approved domestic violence providers. The DVIS data collection system was used to create this 2008 Domestic Violence Prevention Act Annual Report.

This report is the compilation of data for calendar year 2008, collected as of February 27, 2009. Good faith efforts were made to have the information represented be as complete and accurate as possible. For comparison purposes, in some tables 2007 data is also presented.

Statewide Domestic Violence Prevention and Services Statistics

Three categories of programs are included in the Domestic Violence Prevention Act:

- *Non-Residential Programs for Victims of Domestic Violence* – not-for-profit organizations or public agencies providing telephone hotline assistance, information, referral, counseling, advocacy, community education and outreach services. Seventy percent (70%) of the population served by each program must be victims of domestic violence.
- *Residential Programs for Victims of Domestic Violence* – as defined below, and
- *Transitional Housing Programs* – programs which are not defined in the regulations, but that have emerged to address the longer-term housing and service needs of victims of domestic violence after leaving emergency residential programs.

The Domestic Violence Program Regulations (18 NYCRR Parts 452-455) define four types of Residential Programs for Victims of Domestic Violence:

- *Domestic Violence Shelters* - congregate facilities of ten beds or more for victims of domestic violence and their children only;

- *Domestic Violence Programs* - similar to shelters except that up to thirty percent (30%) of the residents may be other than victims of domestic violence;
- *Safe Dwellings* - self contained units of nine beds or less for domestic violence victims and their children only; and
- *Safe Home Networks* - clusters of private homes providing emergency services and shelter to victims of domestic violence coordinated by a not-for-profit organization.

OCFS is responsible for approving residential programs for victims of domestic violence. As of December 2008, there were 160 residential programs approved by OCFS in New York State, with a total of 2,930 beds. (Refer to **Appendix A**, page 15, for a complete listing of OCFS approved facilities broken down by type and region.)

The statewide bed capacity has increased by 23 beds since 2007. This is a net change resulting from the openings and closings of safe dwellings and shelters*. Seventy-two percent (72%) of the emergency shelter beds in the state are in New York City. Except for Hamilton, Schuyler, and Seneca counties, all social services districts have at least one residential program. Counties that do not have a residential domestic violence program are required to provide these services pursuant to contracts with domestic violence providers in adjacent counties.

* See pages 9 and 10 for details of programs opened and closed in 2008.

Reporting requirements of the Domestic Violence Prevention Act, as numbered 1-11, are outlined below:

1. The number of persons estimated to have been assisted in programs covered by this article

- Over 15,300 adults and children received domestic violence residential services in 2008.
- Over 42,400 adults and children received domestic violence non-residential services in 2008.
- Approximately 1,060 adults and children entered domestic violence transitional housing in 2008.

Table I: Program Admissions

Program Admissions						
	Residential		Non-Residential		Transitional	
	2007	2008	2007	2008	2007	2008
Adults	6,928	6,974	30,098	32,384	354	407
Children	8,164	8,422	10,725	10,086	557	660
Total	15,092	15,396	40,823	42,470	911	1,067

The total number of persons admitted to a residential program shows an increase of 304 persons from 2007 to 2008, whereas non-residential "admissions" show a more substantial increase of 1,647. In keeping with this trend, Transitional Housing admissions also show an increase, 911 in 2007 to 1067 in 2008. (For more details on Transitional Housing Program admissions, refer to **Appendix B**, page 17.)

2. The amount of public and private funds for approved programs by service type

Annually, OCFS is responsible for establishing the daily rate of reimbursement (per diem rate) for each residential program. Local districts contract with residential programs at the established per diem rate (see Appendix C, page 18 for per diem rates). Per diem rates are reimbursed through public assistance funding streams and are paid to providers by the social services districts based on a person's public assistance eligibility. Where a resident is not eligible for public assistance reimbursement, Title XX funds may be available. If a district has exhausted its Title XX funds, state and local funds are available. The primary funding source for non-residential programs is through individually negotiated contracts with the social services district using Title XX funds.

On an annual basis, OCFS collects comprehensive financial information from all approved residential programs. Financial information is not collected from non-residential programs that are not associated with a residential program. Due to the established time frames for the submittal of cost reports by providers for rate setting purposes, the financial information presented in the annual report is lagged by one year. As a result, the financial data contained in this annual report is the most current information available reported by domestic violence providers for fiscal periods ending in 2007.

Table II: Total Residential and Non-Residential Program Revenues

Total Residential and Non-Residential Program Revenues (2007) (All figures in US Dollars)		
	Residential Programs	Non-Residential Programs
Government Revenue	\$66,245,617	\$37,248,505
Private Revenue	\$5,060,921	\$10,069,495
Total	\$71,306,538	\$47,318,000

The aggregate revenues shown in Table II are based on the financial reports submitted by residential service providers for 2007. Revenues from government sources include per diems and government grants (typically from OCFS, the New York State Division of Criminal Justice Services, New York

State Crime Victims Board, and federal grants allocated by social services districts). Residential revenues steadily increased from nearly \$67 million in 2006 to over \$71 million in 2007. Non-residential revenues decreased from over \$51 million in 2006 to over \$47 million in 2007. Sources of private revenue include the United Way, private donations, interest income and miscellaneous grants.

3. The amount of funds used for administration and staffing of such programs

Table III: Total Residential and Non-Residential Program Expenses

Total Residential and Non-Residential Program Expenses (2007) (All figures in US Dollars)		
	Residential Programs	Non-Residential Programs
Personnel Expenses	\$45,558,044	\$34,315,218
Non-Personnel Expenses	\$28,142,867	\$15,265,500
Total	\$73,700,911	\$49,580,718

The aggregate expenditures shown in Table III (with the breakout of personnel and non-personnel expenditures) are based on the financial reports submitted by residential service providers for 2007. The personnel expenditures (or expenditures for administration and staffing) include direct services staff, executive and supervisory staff, as well as other staff providing support functions. Non-personnel costs are also reflected in the amounts shown and typically include rent, mortgage, travel, printing and postage, supplies, equipment, telephone, utility and other variable maintenance costs. Agencies with operating deficits are handled via an agency's general fund or fund balance.

4. The occupancy rate and length of stay by residential program

Table IV: Occupancy Rates

Formula used to calculate occupancy rates:
 $\text{Bed Nights Utilized} \div (\text{Licensed Capacity} \times \text{Days in Year})$

Average Occupancy Rates*			
New York City		2007	2008
Domestic Violence Shelters		83%	90%
Safe Dwellings		69%	80%
Rest of State			
Domestic Violence Programs		50%**	51%**
Domestic Violence Shelters		81%	77%
Safe Dwellings		33%	40%

*Safe Home Network occupancy rates are excluded because the total number of safe homes available per program varies on a daily basis.

** Domestic violence programs can shelter up to 30% non-domestic violence victims. The numbers as presented reflect only domestic violence victims sheltered and do not reflect the overall occupancy rate for the programs.

Table V: Average Length of Stay

Average Length of Stay (in bednights)			
New York City		2007	2008
Domestic Violence Shelters		73	78
Safe Dwellings		78	82
Safe Home Networks		35	0*
Rest of State			
Domestic Violence Programs		19	21
Domestic Violence Shelters		33	33
Safe Dwellings		23	25
Safe Home Networks		9	20

* Figure based on one home which was licensed but not active in 2008.

Table IV and Table V display the average annual occupancy rates and average lengths of stay by program type in New York City as compared to the rest of New York State for the calendar years 2007 and 2008. In accordance with program regulations, the length of stay policy can be individually determined through contractual arrangements between the district and provider. However, the length of stay reimbursement cannot exceed 90 days with up to one 45-day extension under certain limited circumstances.

The tables show that, overall, the occupancy rates and lengths of stay have shown a slight increase from 2007 to 2008, indicating that families are staying longer in shelter. However, Safe Home Networks in New York City seem to show a dwindling of usage.

5. The name and description of new programs developed by service type

Five beds were added to the Rochester Region with the addition of a safe dwelling operated by the Victim Resource Center of the Finger Lakes, Inc. In Dutchess County (Spring Valley Region), the opening of a new domestic violence shelter, House of Faith, added 14 beds. New York City approved a new non-residential service provider, Federation Employment and Guidance Services (FEGS) Health and Human Services System. In addition, two domestic violence shelters were added in the New York City Region, New Vista for Families with a capacity of 15 and Dove House at Volunteers of America with a capacity of 40.

6. The name and description of programs in danger of closing that received funds and the status of such programs

There are no programs currently identified in this category.

7. The name and description of programs that closed during the reporting year and the reason for such closure

Nan's Place of Chenango County Catholic Charities, was temporarily closed for renovations from the end of November 2008 through the end of December 2008. They have reopened and are now operating at full capacity.

New York Asian Women's Center in Manhattan reported a shifting of clientele from shelter to shelter as renovations were completed. Andy's House was temporarily opened for this purpose. For the first six months of 2008, clients from Rose House were sheltered in Andy's House. For the last six months of 2008, clients from Phoenix House were sheltered in Andy's House. By the end of 2008, Andy's House was again closed.

The City of New York Human Resources Administration reports that their New Day Shelters had a significant number of units which required extensive maintenance and repair throughout 2008. They estimated that, overall, about 25% of the beds were out of commission throughout the year.

HELP Social Services in New York City reported this year that their safe dwelling, HELP Haven, closed at the end of October 2007 due to leasing considerations.

The New York City Safe Horizons' Safe Dwelling Program reconfigured their 35 dwellings into 34, while maintaining a bed count of 166.

Due to financial considerations, New York Association for New Americans, Inc. in New York City has ceased to provide non-residential services. Clients were transitioned to the Federation Employment and Guidance Services Health and Human Services System starting in October of 2008.

Family Counseling Services of Suffolk County has opted to shift their service focus away from the provision of domestic violence services. Non-residential services to domestic violence clientele were discontinued as of March 20, 2008.

And, lastly, as of June 3, 2008, the Project S.A.F.E. safe dwelling of Community Services for the Developmentally Disabled, Inc. in Erie County has discontinued providing domestic violence services. They, too, are shifting their focus to serve other than domestic violence clientele.

8. The number of individuals who requested and received transitional housing services and the effect of providing such services to victims and their families

Inadequate housing options, coupled with the continued need for support services beyond the emergency shelter stay, have led to the development of transitional housing programs. Transitional housing programs are not regulated or monitored by OCFS, but have emerged as an informal alternative to the longer term needs of domestic violence victims. Appendix B, page 17, lists each of the transitional housing programs known to OCFS, the capacity of each, the number of adults and children admitted during the report period, and the destination of residents upon departure. Because only new admissions are reported, these numbers do not reflect the total number of families served during the year.

9. The name and description of programs that received technical assistance and the effect of such assistance

Technical assistance is provided through a variety of sources to all residential and non-residential domestic violence programs. OCFS staff provides on-site monitoring and technical assistance in program and policy development, as well as in licensing, financial and contract issues. OCFS often collaborates with staff from the New York State Office of Temporary and Disability Assistance to assist with reimbursement and local district responsibility issues. Also, OCFS contracts with the Office for the Prevention of Domestic Violence (OPDV) to provide training and technical assistance to local districts and providers.

10. A schedule showing the approved daily rates of reimbursement payable to residential programs for victims of domestic violence pursuant to Section 131-u of the Social Services Law

In accordance with the Domestic Violence Prevention Act, OCFS is responsible for establishing the daily rate of reimbursement for Residential Programs for Victims of Domestic Violence licensed by OCFS. Flat rates are established based upon regulatory requirements, program type, and size, with differential rates for programs operating in New York City versus those programs operating in counties outside of New York City. The flat rates for individual programs are then adjusted downward

to recapture any surpluses of government revenue reported by the agency for that program in the prior period. Appendix C lists the individual rates by program. Rates for all programs in Appendix C represent the most recent rates established by OCFS.

11. The number of persons estimated to have been denied shelter and/or services and reasons for denial

- Over 11,100 adults and 12,800 children were denied shelter in 2008 with the most common reason cited as “no beds available”.

Table VI: Total Denials

2008 Total Denials		
	Adults	Children
New York City	5,670	6,976
Rest of State	5,494	5,879
Totals	11,164	12,855

Table VII: Denial Reasons

Denial Reasons	Number of Times a Denial Reason Was Used*					Total	Percentage of Whole
	NYC		Upstate				
	Adults	Children	Adults	Children			
Facility at capacity (no beds available)	1,029	1,133	2,858	2,928	7,948	32.62%	
Family too large (insufficient # of beds)	164	385	1,055	1,917	3,521	14.45%	
Facility not equipped to address substance abuse/alcohol abuse needs	44	23	200	85	352	1.44%	
Likely to interfere with health & safety of others	56	93	140	84	373	1.53%	
Refuse to cooperate w/program rules/policy	480	635	155	113	1,383	5.68%	
Unsafe location for family	1,960	2,273	185	226	4,644	19.06%	
Family reached permissible stay limit	9	11	11	5	36	0.15%	
Mental health issues	36	23	249	89	397	1.63%	
Need 24 hour staffed shelter	28	17	172	129	346	1.42%	
Previous resident who broke rules	17	16	100	64	197	0.81%	
Victim under the age of 16	1	2	11	7	21	0.09%	
Other	1,855	2,374	545	373	5,147	21.12%	

*More than one denial reason is possible per family unit.

This denial data includes data collected from individual programs and the New York City hotline.

Since 2007, there was an increase of 724 people denied shelter in New York City. The rest of the state saw an increase of 2,816 in the number of denials in 2008. Statewide, denials increased by 3,540 (1,614 adults and 1,926 children) from 2007 to 2008.

Please note: This data does not take into account duplicate requests where a victim was denied by more than one residential program and/or denied by one program and accepted by another. Some portion of the increase in denials reported for 2008 as compared to last year may be due to DVIS improvements which increase the likelihood of data submission.

Over one-fifth of the reasons for denial were listed as "Other". Reasons submitted in this category include "No Show," "Out of County," and "Not in Imminent Danger."

Non-residential program denial information is not collected because information and referral is a core service requirement of a non-residential program. Transitional housing programs are also excluded because housing requests are typically based upon the availability of a bed.

Domestic Violence and Prevention Services Programs

Federal Family Violence Prevention and Services Act (FFVPSA) Funds

OCFS is responsible for administering FFVPSA funds on an annual basis. In response to provider fiscal viability concerns, each year FFVPSA funds are administered equally to all approved residential and non-residential domestic violence providers in New York State. In 2008, each of the 95 applicants was eligible to receive an award of up to \$36,956. Based on the application submitted, contracts were developed for the period of March 31, 2008, to March 30, 2009. These funds are used for general operating expenses, health and safety improvements, and/or program enhancements.

Child Protective/Domestic Violence Collaborative Projects

There is increasing evidence that where domestic violence exists in a family, there is high probability that child abuse is also occurring. This has been documented in recent studies that report the existence of domestic violence in 30%-60% of child welfare cases. For over ten years, OCFS has been assisting communities to forge collaborative efforts between child protective and domestic violence service providers.

Recognizing the seriousness of this issue, in 2006, OCFS added CPS/DV Practice Collaboration to its Federal Child and Family Services Review Program Improvement Plan (PIP). The purpose of this PIP strategy is to improve joint case practice, thereby increasing safety and reducing recurrence. As previously mentioned, an advisory group has created draft guidelines for domestic violence programs to collaborate with child protective services to improve outcomes for families impacted by both child abuse and domestic violence.

Currently there are thirteen projects across New York State focused on assisting families experiencing violence in the home. In each of the thirteen funded projects, a domestic violence advocate is co-located at the Child Protective Services (CPS) office and typically provides case consultation, participates in home visits and cross training, and works jointly with case workers to develop safety plans with victims of domestic violence and their children. DV and CPS staff also participate in a workgroup to case conference and to develop and modify joint case practice protocols as needed. Protocols in each county typically include screening tools and joint casework practice guidelines. As a result of these projects, CPS workers are better able to identify domestic violence and are referring families for appropriate interventions. DV workers are learning more about CPS mandates and responsibilities and how to intervene in child abuse cases. Workers in both arenas report improved relationships which have resulted in improved safety and self-sufficiency plans for families experiencing both child abuse and domestic violence. The anticipated outcome is to

ultimately prevent further child abuse and out-of-home placements. In 2008, approximately 1400 families received specialized CPS/DV services as a result of these projects.

In 2008, five CPS/DV contracts were renewed and received a total of \$274,000 in FFVPSA funds. The following are the funded agencies:

- Liberty Resources, Inc. (Madison County)
- My Sister's Place (Westchester County)
- Nassau County Coalition Against Domestic Violence (Nassau County)
- Vera House Inc., Syracuse, NY (Onondaga County)
- Victims Information Bureau of Suffolk, Inc. (Suffolk County)

Eight additional CPS/DV Collaborative projects continued in 2008, using state Community Based Prevention funding. The following agencies were able to continue their programs:

- Alternatives for Battered Women, Inc. (Monroe County)
- Equinox, Inc. (Albany County)
- Unity House of Troy (Rensselaer County)
- Catholic Charities of Montgomery/Fulton Counties
- Rockland Family Shelter (Rockland County)
- Salvation Army of Jamestown (Chautauqua County)
- S.O.S. Shelter (Broome County)
- YWCA of Niagara County

Appendices



Appendix A: Approved Residential Programs for Victims of Domestic Violence by Region and Counties Served

COUNTIES BY REGIONAL OFFICE	PROGRAM TYPE	# OF PROGRAMS	# BEDS
ALBANY ALBANY, CLINTON, COLUMBIA, DELAWARE, ESSEX, FRANKLIN, FULTON, GREENE, HAMILTON, MONTGOMERY, OTSEGO, RENSSELAER, SARATOGA, SCHENECTADY, SCHOHARIE, WARREN, WASHINGTON	DV Program DV Shelter Safe Dwelling	0 5 11	0 93 95
SUBTOTAL		16	188
BUFFALO ALLEGANY, CATTARAUGUS, CHAUTAUQUA, ERIE, GENESEE, NIAGARA, ORLEANS, WYOMING	DV Program DV Shelter Safe Dwelling	2 1 6	28 36 47
SUBTOTAL		9	111
NEW YORK CITY BRONX, KINGS, NEW YORK, QUEENS, RICHMOND	DV Program DV Shelter* Safe Dwelling*	0 29 70	0 1,730 392
SUBTOTAL		99	2,122
ROCHESTER CHEMUNG, LIVINGSTON, MONROE, ONTARIO, SCHUYLER, SENECA, STEUBEN, WAYNE, YATES	DV Program DV Shelter Safe Dwelling	1 3 1	12 67 9
SUBTOTAL		5	88
SPRING VALLEY REGIONAL OFFICE DUTCHESS, NASSAU, ORANGE, PUTNAM, ROCKLAND, SUFFOLK, SULLIVAN, ULSTER, WESTCHESTER	DV Program DV Shelter Safe Dwelling	1 13 1	19 202 9
SUBTOTAL		15	230
SYRACUSE BROOME, CAYUGA, CHENANGO, CORTLAND, HERKIMER, JEFFERSON, LEWIS, MADISON, ONEIDA, ONONDAGA, OSWEGO, ST. LAWRENCE, TIOGA, TOMPKINS	DV Program DV Shelter Safe Dwelling	4 1 11	81 20 90
SUBTOTAL		16	191

*As NYC data is reported in a congregate form, the number of NYC DV Shelters and Safe Dwellings was determined by a manual count of operating certificates.

STATEWIDE TOTALS

PROGRAM TYPE	# OF SITES	# OF BEDS
DV PROGRAM	8	140
DV SHELTER	52	2,148
SAFE DWELLING	100	642
NON-RESIDENTIAL	87	NA
TOTALS	247	2,930

SAFE HOME NETWORKS BY REGION

REGION	SAFE HOME NETWORKS	HOMES
ALBANY	0	0
BUFFALO	1	5
NEW YORK CITY	1	3
ROCHESTER	1	6
SPRING VALLEY	0	0
SYRACUSE	2	22
SAFE HOME NETWORK TOTALS	5	36

Note: Domestic Violence Agencies licensed to operate Safe Home Networks may oversee many safe homes. The bed capacities of these networks are not reported to OCFS because they are comprised of a number of licensed private residences whose availability can change for any given date.

Appendix B: Transitional Housing Program Admissions and Discharges

Destination Codes:

- A. Living independently in home, abuser vacated
- B. Living independently in new location
- C. Living with family or friends
- D. Returned to batterer
- E. To another emergency DV residential program
- F. To Homeless shelter
- G. To another transitional housing program
- H. Other
- I. Destination Unknown

Appendix B. Transitional Housing Program Admissions and Discharges														
January 01, 2008 - December 31, 2008														
Agency	County	Total Bed Capacity	Admissions		Destination of Families Upon Discharge (Destination Codes)									
			Adult	Child	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	
Brighter Tomorrows, Inc.	Suffolk	26	3	6		1								
Catholic Charities of Chemung/Schuylar	Schuylar	3	9	10		3	2	3						
Grace Smith House, Inc.	Dutchess	15	4	5		1	1							
HELP Social Services Corporation	New York City	181	81	167	1	57	2	1	3	13			2	7
Jewish Board of Family & Children's Services, Inc.	New York City	56	40	70		21	3			6	1			9
Palladia, Inc.	New York City	60	40	57		18	5			11				3
Safe Horizon, Inc.	Kings	55	61	93		48	6			6				1
Sanctuary for Families, Inc.	New York City	141	116	167		50	18		2	20	2	5		14
Unity House of Troy, Inc.	Rensselaer	12	13	12		1							4	1
Urban Resource Institute	New York	117	40	73		23	4			4			1	8

Appendix C. Current Approved Domestic Violence Service Providers by County

County/Agency (Addresses listed are business addresses and do NOT represent actual domestic violence shelter locations)	Program Type	Per Diem Rate	Occupancy Rate	Average Length of Stay
ALBANY				
Equinox, Inc 95 Central Avenue Albany, NY 12206 Business Phone:(518)434-6135	DV Shelter	\$84.40	88.47%	33
	Non-Residential	NA	NA	NA
Homeless & Travelers Aid Society 138 Central Avenue Albany, NY 12206 Business Phone:(518)463-2124	Non-Residential	NA	NA	NA
ALLEGANY				
ACCORD Corporation, Inc. 84 Schuyler Street – Box 573 Belmont, NY 14813-0573 Business Phone:(585)268-7605	Safe Dwelling	\$81.29	4.05%	8
	Non-Residential	NA	NA	NA
BROOME				
SOS Shelter, Inc. P.O. Box 393 Endicott, NY 13761 Business Phone:(607)748-7453	DV Shelter	\$99.68	52.76%	14
	Non-Residential	NA	NA	NA
CATTARAUGUS				
Cattaraugus Community Action, Inc. P.O. Box 308 Salamanca, NY 14779 Business Phone:(716)945-1041	Safe Dwelling	\$73.74	33.03%	17
	Non-Residential	NA	NA	NA
CAYUGA				
Cayuga/Seneca Community Action Agency, Inc. 65 State Street Auburn, NY 13021 Business Phone:(315)283-2030	Safe Dwelling	\$73.74	22.80%	22
	Non-Residential	NA	NA	NA
CHAUTAUQUA				
Salvation Army of Jamestown, The 83 South Main Street - P.O. Box 368 Jamestown, NY 14702-0368 Business Phone:(716)661-3894	DV Program	\$99.68	74.61%	21
	Non-Residential	NA	NA	NA

County/Agency (Addresses listed are business addresses and do NOT represent actual domestic violence shelter locations)	Program Type	Per Diem Rate	Occupancy Rate	Average Length of Stay
CHEMUNG				
Salvation Army of Elmira-Safehouse P.O. Box 293 Elmira, NY 14902-0293 Business Phone:(607)732-0314	DV Shelter	\$99.68	22.81%	14
	Non-Residential	NA	NA	NA
CHENANGO				
Chenango County Catholic Charities 3 O'Hara Drive Norwich, NY 13815 Business Phone:(607)334-8244	Safe Dwelling	\$76.14	43.87%	26
	Non-Residential	NA	NA	NA
CLINTON				
Behavioral Health Services North, Inc. 22 US Oval, Suite 218 Plattsburgh, NY 12901 Business Phone:(518)563-6904	Safe Dwelling	\$73.74	39.04%	42
	Non-Residential	NA	NA	NA
COLUMBIA				
Community Action of Greene County, Inc. 53 South Jefferson Avenue Catskill, NY 12414 Business Phone:(518)943-9205	DV Shelter	\$95.23	46.38%	17
	Non-Residential	NA	NA	NA
CORTLAND				
YWCA of Cortland, New York, Inc. 14 Clayton Avenue Cortland, NY 13045 Business Phone:(607)753-3639	Safe Dwelling	\$73.74	35.28%	17
	Non-Residential	NA	NA	NA
DELAWARE				
Delaware Opportunities, Inc. 35430 State Highway 10 Hamden, NY 13782 Business Phone:(607)746-1720	Safe Dwelling	\$73.74	4.04%	15
	Non-Residential	NA	NA	NA
DUTCHESS				
Family Services, Inc. 29 North Hamilton Street Poughkeepsie, NY 12601 Business Phone:(845)485-5550	Non-Residential	NA	NA	NA

County/Agency (Addresses listed are business addresses and do NOT represent actual domestic violence shelter locations)	Program Type	Per Diem Rate	Occupancy Rate	Average Length of Stay
Grace Smith House, Inc. P.O. Box 5205 Poughkeepsie, NY 12602-5205 Business Phone:(845)471-3038	DV Shelter	\$99.68	75.53%	34
	DV Shelter	\$99.68	65.44%	30
	Non-Residential	NA	NA	NA
House of Faith Ministry, Inc. P.O. Box 1326 Wappinger Falls, NY 12590 Business Phone: (845)765-0293 <i>Opened 6/24/2008.</i>	DV Shelter	\$99.68	76.74%	47
ERIE				
Child & Family Services of Erie County P.O. Box 451 – Edicott Station Buffalo, NY 14205 Business Phone:(716)884-6000	DV Shelter	\$70.36	80.42%	27
	Safe Home Network	\$40.49	NA	NA
	Non-Residential	NA	NA	NA
Community Services for the Developmentally Disabled, Inc. 452 Delaware Avenue Buffalo, NY 14202-1515 Business Phone:(716)877-1111 <i>Closed 6/3/2008.</i>	Safe Dwelling	\$105.00	48.74%	193
Erie County District Attorneys Office 1600 Rath Building/95 Franklin Street Buffalo, NY 14202 Business Phone:(716)858-8500	Non-Residential	NA	NA	NA
Erie County Sheriffs Office One Sheriff's Drive Buffalo, NY 14127 Business Phone:(716)667-5259	Non-Residential	NA	NA	NA
Family Justice Center of Erie County, Inc. 237 Main Street, Suite 1400 Buffalo, NY 14203 Business Phone:(716)558-5261	Non-Residential	NA	NA	NA
Hispanos Unidos de Buffalo, Inc. 254 Virginia Street Buffalo, NY 14201 Business Phone:(716)856-7110	Non-Residential	NA	NA	NA
Suicide Prevention & Crisis Services, Inc. 2969 Main Street Buffalo, NY 14214-1003 Business Phone:(716)834-2310	Non-Residential	NA	NA	NA

County/Agency (Addresses listed are business addresses and do NOT represent actual domestic violence shelter locations)	Program Type	Per Diem Rate	Occupancy Rate	Average Length of Stay
ESSEX				
Behavioral Health Services North, Inc. PO Box 97, Westport, NY 12993 Business Phone:(518)563-6904	Safe Dwelling	\$83.48	4.48%	6
	Non-Residential	NA	NA	NA
FRANKLIN				
Community Action Agency of Franklin County, Inc. 343 West Main Street Malone, NY 12953 Business Phone:(518)483-1261	Safe Dwelling	\$81.29	26.56%	20
	Safe Dwelling	\$81.29	28.69%	23
	Non-Residential	NA	NA	NA
FULTON				
Family Counseling Center of Fulton County, Inc., The 11-21 Broadway Gloversville, NY 12078 Business Phone:(518)725-4310	Safe Dwelling	\$81.29	53.95%	20
	Non-Residential	NA	NA	NA
GENESEE				
YWCA of Genesee County 301 North Street Batavia, NY 14020 Business Phone:(585)343-5808	Safe Dwelling	\$81.29	42.23%	26
	Non-Residential	NA	NA	NA
GREENE				
Community Action of Greene County, Inc. 53 South Jefferson Avenue Catskill, NY 12414 Business Phone:(518)943-9205	DV Shelter	\$99.68	46.42%	22
	Non-Residential	NA	NA	NA
HAMILTON				
Hamilton County Department of Social Services P.O. Box 725 Indian Lake, NY 12842 Business Phone:(518)648-6131	Non-Residential	NA	NA	NA

County/Agency (Addresses listed are business addresses and do NOT represent actual domestic violence shelter locations)	Program Type	Per Diem Rate	Occupancy Rate	Average Length of Stay
HERKIMER				
Catholic Charities of Herkimer County 61 West Street Ilion, NY 13357 Business Phone:(315)894-1860	Safe Dwelling	\$81.29	32.15%	31
	Non-Residential	NA	NA	NA
JEFFERSON				
Victims Assistance Center of Jefferson County, Inc. 120 Arcade Street – TV Bldg, LL Watertown, NY 13601 Business Phone:(315)782-1823	DV Program	\$91.88	26.80%	18
	Non-Residential	NA	NA	NA
LEWIS				
Lewis County Opportunities, Inc. 8265 State Route 812 Lowville, NY 13367 Business Phone:(315)376-8202	Safe Dwelling	\$73.74	5.98%	8
	Non-Residential	NA	NA	NA
LIVINGSTON				
Chances & Changes, Inc. P.O. Box 326 Geneseo, NY 14454 Business Phone:(585)658-3940	DV Program	\$99.68	43.12%	19
	Non-Residential	NA	NA	NA
MADISON				
Liberty Resources, Inc. 1065 James Street, Suite 200 Syracuse, NY 13203 Business Phone:(315)363-0048	Safe Dwelling	\$73.74	32.51%	28
	Non-Residential	NA	NA	NA
MONROE				
Alternatives for Battered Women, Inc. P.O. Box 39601 Rochester, NY 14604 Business Phone:(585)232-5200	DV Shelter	\$83.48	95.54%	29
	Non-Residential	NA	NA	NA
Lifespan of Greater Rochester, Inc. 1900 South Clinton Avenue Rochester, NY 14618 Business Phone:(585)244-8400	Non-Residential	NA	NA	NA

County/Agency (Addresses listed are business addresses and do NOT represent actual domestic violence shelter locations)	Program Type	Per Diem Rate	Occupancy Rate	Average Length of Stay
MONTGOMERY				
Catholic Charities of Montgomery County 1 Kimball Street Amsterdam, NY 12010 Business Phone:(518)842-3489	Safe Dwelling	\$81.29	44.60%	20
	Non-Residential	NA	NA	NA
NASSAU				
Circulo de la Hispanidad, Inc. 26 West Park Avenue Long Beach, NY 11561 Business Phone:(516)431-1135	Non-Residential	NA	NA	NA
Nassau County Coalition Against Domestic Violence, Inc. 250 Fulton Avenue, 3 rd Floor Mezz West Hempstead, NY 11550-3917 Business Phone:(516)572-0700	DV Shelter	\$99.68	82.53%	45
	Non-Residential	NA	NA	NA
NEW YORK CITY <i>Data provided by the City of New York Human Resources Administration. Some of this data is reported in congregate form.</i>				
Allen Women's Resource Center, Ltd. P.O. Box 340316 Jamaica, NY 11434-0316 Business Phone:(718)739-6200	DV Shelter	\$116.03	95.05%	82
Barrier Free Living, Inc. 270 East Second Street New York, NY 10009-7815 Business Phone:(212)677-6668	Non-Residential	NA	NA	NA
Center for the Elimination of Violence in the Family, Inc. 25 Chapel Street - Suite 904 Brooklyn, NY 11201 Business Phone:(718)254-9134	DV Shelter	\$95.13	88.55%	78
	DV Shelter	\$89.63	98.11%	99
	DV Shelter	\$89.63	98.73%	79
City of New York Human Resources Administration 180 Water Street, 24th Floor New York, NY 10038 Business Phone:(212)331-4535	DV Shelters (2)	NA	86.0%	47
Dwa Fanm P.O. Box 23505 Brooklyn, NY 11202 Business Phone:(718)230-4027	Safe Dwelling	\$84.24	89.34%	76
Edwin Gould Services for Children & Families 40 Rector Street, 12th Floor New York, NY 10006 Business Phone:(212)315-7600	Non-Residential	NA	NA	NA

County/Agency (Addresses listed are business addresses and do NOT represent actual domestic violence shelter locations)	Program Type	Per Diem Rate	Occupancy Rate	Average Length of Stay
Federation Employment and Guidance Services, Inc. 315 Hudson Street, 9th Floor New York, NY 10013 Business Phone: (212)366-8444 <i>Opened 10/1/2008.</i>	Non-Residential	NA	NA	NA
Food First Family Project, Inc. 165 Conover Street Brooklyn, NY 11231 Business Phone:(718)287-2657	DV Shelter	\$89.63	95.68%	60
Freedom House for People with Disabilities, Inc. 270 East Second Street New York, NY 10009-7815 Business Phone:(212)677-6668	DV Shelter	\$89.63	91.79%	71
Good Shepherd Services P.O. Box 150429 Brooklyn, NY 11215 Business Phone:(718)788-6947	DV Shelter	\$110.53	89.51%	85
HELP Social Services Corporation 5 Hanover Place, 17th Floor New York, NY 10004 Business Phone:(718)922-7980	DV Shelter	\$88.25	83.55%	84
	Non-Residential	NA	NA	NA
Henry Street Settlement 265 Henry Street New York, NY 10002-4899 Business Phone:(212)475-6400	DV Shelter	\$89.63	85.27%	78
Jewish Board of Family & Children's Services, Inc. 120 West 57th Street New York, NY 10019 Business Phone:(212)262-7655	DV Shelter	\$89.63	99.10%	117
	DV Shelter	\$86.43	98.31%	83
	Safe Dwellings (17)	\$78.21	70.69%	78
	Non-Residential	NA	NA	NA
New Vista for Families 177 Lindenwood Road Staten Island, NY 10308 Business Phone: (718)984-6842 <i>Opened 12/8/2008.</i>	DV Shelter	\$110.53	NA	NA

County/Agency (Addresses listed are business addresses and do NOT represent actual domestic violence shelter locations)	Program Type	Per Diem Rate	Occupancy Rate	Average Length of Stay
New York Asian Women's Center, Inc. 39 Bowery, PMB 375 New York, NY 10002 Business Phone:(212)732-5230 <i>See page 9 regarding information about openings and closings.</i>	DV Shelter	\$110.53	58.58%	79
	DV Shelter	\$110.53	74.73%	95
	DV Shelter	\$110.53	NA	NA
	Safe Home Network	\$74.78	NA	NA
	Non- Residential	NA	NA	NA
New York Association for New Americans, Inc. 2 Washington Street New York, NY 10004 Business Phone:(212)425-5051 <i>Closed 9/30/2008.</i>	Non- Residential	NA	NA	NA
New York City Gay & Lesbian Anti-Violence Project 240 West 35th St, Suite 200 New York, NY 10001 Business Phone: (212)714-1184	Non- Residential	NA	NA	NA
Ohel Children's Home & Family Services 4510 16th Avenue Brooklyn, NY 11204 Business Phone:(718)851-6300	Safe Dwellings (3)	\$84.24	70.36%	212
Palladia, Inc. 2006-2016 Madison Avenue New York, NY 10035 Business Phone:(212)979-8800	DV Shelter	\$84.64	90.67%	62
Queens Legal Services Corporation 8900 Sutphin Boulevard, Suite 206 Jamaica, NY 11435 Business Phone:(718)657-8611	Non- Residential	NA	NA	NA
Safe Horizon, Inc. 2 Lafayette Street, 3rd Floor New York, NY 10007 Business Phone:(718)834-6688 <i>Operating Certificate issued 5/25/08 lists 34 dwellings. One dwelling closed.</i>	DV Shelter	\$89.63	77.71%	53
	DV Shelter	\$89.63	86.58%	81
	DV Shelter	\$89.63	91.80%	66
	DV Shelter	\$89.63	91.98%	82
	DV Shelter	\$89.63	89.36%	86
	DV Shelter	\$89.63	91.76%	70
	Safe Dwellings (35)	\$84.24	82.12%	80
	Non- Residential	NA	NA	NA

County/Agency (Addresses listed are business addresses and do NOT represent actual domestic violence shelter locations)	Program Type	Per Diem Rate	Occupancy Rate	Average Length of Stay
Sanctuary for Families, Inc. P.O. Box 1406-Wall Street Station New York, NY 10268-1406 Business Phone:(212)349-6009	DV Shelter	\$110.53	90.07%	89
	Safe Dwelling	\$84.24	91.86%	72
	Safe Dwelling	\$84.24	78.16%	68
	Safe Dwelling	\$84.24	97.81%	77
	Non-Residential	NA	NA	NA
Seamens Society for Children & Families 50 Bay Street Staten Island, NY 10301 Business Phone:(888)837-6687	Non-Residential	NA	NA	NA
Urban Justice Center 666 Broadway, 10th Floor New York, NY 10012 Business Phone:(646)602-5600	Non-Residential	NA	NA	NA
Urban Resource Institute 22 Chapel Street Brooklyn, NY 11201 Business Phone:(718)260-2932	DV Shelter	\$89.63	98.09%	97
	DV Shelter	\$89.63	96.71%	101
	DV Shelter	\$89.63	96.52%	96
Violence Intervention Program, Inc. P.O. Box 1161-Triborough Station New York, NY 10035 Business Phone:(212)410-9080	Safe Dwellings (8)	\$84.24	72.32%	102
	Non-Residential	NA	NA	NA
Volunteers of America -- Greater New York, Inc. 340 West 85th Street New York, NY 10024 Business Phone:(212)873-2600 <i>Dove House Shelter opened 6/24/2008.</i>	DV Shelter	\$89.63	94.88%	86
	DV Shelter	\$89.63	100.18%	95
	Safe Dwellings (4)	\$84.24	92.42%	72
NIAGARA				
Family & Children's Service of Niagara, Inc. 826 Chilton Avenue Niagara Falls, NY 14301 Business Phone:(716)285-6984	DV Program	\$99.68	20.56%	18
	Non-Residential	NA	NA	NA

County/Agency (Addresses listed are business addresses and do NOT represent actual domestic violence shelter locations)	Program Type	Per Diem Rate	Occupancy Rate	Average Length of Stay
YWCA of Niagara, Inc. 32 Cottage Street Lockport, NY 14094-3661 Business Phone:(716)433-6714	Safe Dwelling	\$81.29	46.60%	14
	Non-Residential	NA	NA	NA
YWCA of the Tonawandas & Niagara Frontier 49 Tremont Street North Tonawanda, NY 14120 Business Phone:(716)692-5580	Non-Residential	NA	NA	NA
ONEIDA				
YWCA of the Mohawk Valley 1000 Cornelia Street Utica, NY 13502-4684 Business Phone:(315)732-2159	DV Program	\$99.68	61.15%	42
	Safe Dwelling	\$81.29	59.65%	45
	Non-Residential	NA	NA	NA
ONONDAGA				
Salvation Army of Syracuse 677 South Salina Street Syracuse, NY 13202 Business Phone:(315)475-1688	Non-Residential	NA	NA	NA
Spanish Action League of Onondaga County, Inc. 700 Oswego Street Syracuse, NY 13204 Business Phone:(315)475-6153	Non-Residential	NA	NA	NA
Vera House, Inc. 6181 Thompson Road, Suite 100 Syracuse, NY 13206 Business Phone:(315)425-0818	DV Program	\$94.28	83.91%	22
	Safe Dwelling	\$81.29	62.02%	20
	Non-Residential	NA	NA	NA
ONTARIO				
Family Counseling Service of the Finger Lakes, Inc. 671 South Exchange Street Geneva, NY 14456 Business Phone:(315)789-2613	Safe Home Network	\$32.94	NA	NA
	Non-Residential	NA	NA	NA
ORANGE				
Orange County Safe Homes Project, Inc. P.O. Box 649 Newburgh, NY 12551-0649 Business Phone:(845)562-5365	DV Shelter	\$94.38	69.65%	50
	Non-Residential	NA	NA	NA

County/Agency (Addresses listed are business addresses and do NOT represent actual domestic violence shelter locations)	Program Type	Per Diem Rate	Occupancy Rate	Average Length of Stay
ORLEANS				
Orleans County Department of Social Services 14016 Route 31 West Albion, NY 14411-9365 Business Phone:(585)589-3159	Non-Residential	NA	NA	NA
PathStone Corporation 400 East Avenue Rochester, NY 14607 Business Phone:(585)340-3300 <i>Formerly known as Rural Opportunities, Inc.</i>	Safe Dwelling	\$81.29	29.93%	25
OSWEGO				
Oswego County Opportunities, Inc. 239 Oneida Street Fulton, NY 13069 Business Phone:(315)342-1544	DV Program	\$99.68	13.75%	9
	Non-Residential	NA	NA	NA
OTSEGO				
Opportunities for Otsego, Inc. 3 West Broadway Oneonta, NY 13820 Business Phone:(607)433-8038	Safe Dwelling	\$81.29	55.34%	28
	Non-Residential	NA	NA	NA
PUTNAM				
Putnam/Northern Westchester Women's Resource Center, Inc. 935 South Lake Blvd., Suite #2 Mahopac, NY 10541 Business Phone:(845)628-9284	DV Shelter	\$99.68	85.37%	55
	Non-Residential	NA	NA	NA
RENSSELAER				
Unity House of Troy, Inc. 33 Second Street Troy, NY 12180-3960 Business Phone:(518)274-2607	DV Shelter	\$99.68	92.18%	39
	Non-Residential	NA	NA	NA
ROCKLAND				
Rockland Family Shelter, Inc. 9 Johnsons Lane New City, NY 10956 Business Phone:(845)634-3391	DV Shelter	\$99.68	76.43%	42
	Non-Residential	NA	NA	NA

County/Agency (Addresses listed are business addresses and do NOT represent actual domestic violence shelter locations)	Program Type	Per Diem Rate	Occupancy Rate	Average Length of Stay
SARATOGA				
Domestic Violence and Rape Crisis Services of Saratoga County 480 Broadway, LL20 Saratoga Springs, NY 12866 Business Phone:(518)583-0280	Safe Dwelling	\$81.29	80.45%	31
	Non-Residential	NA	NA	NA
Mechanicville Area Community Services Center P.O. Box 30, 6 South Main Street Mechanicville, NY 12118 Business Phone:(518)664-8322	Non-Residential	NA	NA	NA
SCHENECTADY				
YWCA of Schenectady 44 Washington Avenue Schenectady, NY 12305-1799 Business Phone:(518)374-3394	DV Shelter	\$99.68	80.57%	17
	Non-Residential	NA	NA	NA
SCHOHARIE				
Catholic Charities of Schoharie County 489 West Main Street Cobleskill, NY 12043 Business Phone:(518)234-3581	Safe Dwelling	\$81.29	50.36%	32
	Non-Residential	NA	NA	NA
SCHUYLER				
Catholic Charities of Chemung/Schuyler 607 North Franklin Street Watkins Glen, NY 14891 Business Phone:(607)535-2050	Non-Residential	NA	NA	NA
SENECA				
Seneca County Community Counseling Center 31 Thurber Drive Waterloo, NY 13165 Business Phone:(315)568-6859	Non-Residential	NA	NA	NA
ST. LAWRENCE				
St. Lawrence Valley Renewal House for Victims of Family Violence, Inc. 3 Chapel Street Canton, NY 13617 Business Phone:(315)379-9845	Safe Dwelling	\$73.74	29.75%	14
	Safe Home Network	\$32.94	NA	NA
	Non-Residential	NA	NA	NA

County/Agency (Addresses listed are business addresses and do NOT represent actual domestic violence shelter locations)	Program Type	Per Diem Rate	Occupancy Rate	Average Length of Stay
STEUBEN				
Steuben Churchpeople Against Poverty, Inc., dba Arbor Development P.O. Box 31 Bath, NY 14810-0031 Business Phone:(607)776-7664	DV Shelter	\$99.68	60.07%	25
	Non-Residential	NA	NA	NA
SUFFOLK				
Brighter Tomorrows, Inc. P.O. Box 706 Shirley, NY 11967 Business Phone:(631)395-3116	DV Program	\$99.68	69.80%	22
	Non-Residential	NA	NA	NA
Family Counseling Services Main Street-The Beineke Bldg., P.O. Box 1348 Westhampton Beach, NY 11978 Business Phone:(631)288-1954 <i>Closed 3/30/08.</i>	Non-Residential	NA	NA	NA
Retreat, Inc., The 13 Good Friend Drive East Hampton, NY 11937- Business Phone:(631)329-4398	DV Shelter	\$99.68	90.32%	58
	Non-Residential	NA	NA	NA
Suffolk County Coalition Against Domestic Violence, Inc. P.O. Box 1269 Bay Shore, NY 11706-0537 Business Phone:(631)666-7181	DV Shelter	\$99.68	94.07%	43
	Non-Residential	NA	NA	NA
Victims Information Bureau of Suffolk, Inc. P.O. Box 428 Holbrook, NY 11741 Business Phone:(631)360-3730	Non-Residential	NA	NA	NA
SULLIVAN				
Community Action Commission to Help the Economy, Inc. (C.A.C.H.E.) 63-65 South Main Street Liberty, NY 12754 Business Phone:(845)292-5825	Safe Dwelling	\$73.74	31.51%	51
	Non-Residential	NA	NA	NA
TIOGA				
A New Hope Center, Inc. 20 Church Street Owego, NY 13827 Business Phone:(607)687-6887	Safe Dwelling	\$73.74	64.72%	25
	Safe Home Network	\$32.94	NA	NA
	Non-Residential	NA	NA	NA

County/Agency (Addresses listed are business addresses and do NOT represent actual domestic violence shelter locations)	Program Type	Per Diem Rate	Occupancy Rate	Average Length of Stay
TOMPKINS				
Advocacy Center of Tompkins County P.O. Box 164 Ithaca, NY 14851-0164 Business Phone:(607)277-3203	Safe Dwelling	\$81.29	37.61%	26
	Non-Residential	NA	NA	NA
ULSTER				
Family of Woodstock, Inc. P.O. Box 3516 - 39 John Street Kingston, NY 12402 Business Phone:(845)679-2485	DV Shelter	\$99.68	52.67%	30
	Non-Residential	NA	NA	NA
WARREN/WASHINGTON				
Catholic Charities of Saratoga, Warren & Washington Counties 142 Regent Street Saratoga Springs, NY 12866 Business Phone:(518)793-9496	Safe Dwelling	\$81.29	80.57%	55
	Non-Residential	NA	NA	NA
WAYNE				
Victim Resource Center of the Finger Lakes, Inc. 132 Harrison Street Newark, NY 14513 Business Phone:(315)331-1171 <i>VRC Safe Dwelling opened 1/3/2008.</i>	Safe Dwelling	\$73.74	62.23%	28
	Safe Dwelling	\$73.74	45.28%	46
	Non-Residential	NA	NA	NA
WESTCHESTER				
My Sisters Place 1 Water Street White Plains, NY 10601 Business Phone:(914)683-1333	DV Shelter	\$94.38	91.68%	94
	DV Shelter	\$94.38	94.60%	99
Northern Westchester Shelter, Inc., The P.O. Box 203 – 39 Washington Avenue Pleasantville, NY 10570 Business Phone:(914)747-0828	DV Shelter	\$99.68	100.68%	59
Westchester County Office for Women 112 East Post Road, Room 110 B White Plains, NY 10601 Business Phone:(914)995-5972	Non-Residential	NA	NA	NA

County/Agency (Addresses listed are business addresses and do NOT represent actual domestic violence shelter locations)	Program Type	Per Diem Rate	Occupancy Rate	Average Length of Stay
WYOMING				
Wyoming County Department of Social Services 466 North Main Street Warsaw, NY 14569 Business Phone:(585)786-8900	Non-Residential	NA	NA	NA
YATES				
Family Counseling Service of the Finger Lakes, Inc. 671 South Exchange Street Geneva, NY 14456 Business Phone:(315)789-2613	Non-Residential	NA	NA	NA
Rape and Abuse Crisis Service of the Finger Lakes, Inc. P.O. Box 624 Penn Yan, NY 14527 Business Phone:(315)536-9654	Non-Residential	NA	NA	NA

Domestic Violence Resources:

For a listing of NYS Approved Domestic Violence Service Providers by county, visit the OCFS website at:

www.ocfs.state.ny.us

NYS Domestic and Sexual Violence Hotline

1-800-942-6906

TTY: 1-800-818-0656

Spanish language 1-800-942-6908

Spanish language TTY: 1-800-780-7660

In NYC: 1-800-621-HOPE (4673) or dial 311

TTY: 1-866-604-5350

24-Hour Prevention and Parent Helpline: 1-800-342-7472

For information about this report or its contents contact:

Pamela Jobin, OCFS DV Program Manager

pamela.jobin@ocfs.state.ny.us

(518) 474-4787

Purple

**It can be a color of hope and renewal
...like spring flowers after a long, hard winter.**

It can be the color of mountains in the setting sun.

**It can also be the color of a bruise.
One that is almost ready to go away, but yet still lingers enough
so that you have the memory of the blow that caused it.**

**As we finish up the last weeks
of Domestic Violence Awareness Month,
let us remember...
that everyone of us in purple clothes today represent
the people who suffer in silence and don't wear their purple quite
so openly.
They cover their purple with makeup, clothes, and sunglasses so
only they get to see the color.**

**Let us remember....
That, as we wear purple today and become more aware of the way
domestic violence destroys people and families,
we can make a difference and work harder to prevent these violent
acts.**

**And, if we do a good enough job, one day
everyone will only recognize the color purple
as a color of hope and renewal and, simple but regal, beauty.**

**By Beth DeVito
For OCFS Domestic Violence Awareness
Wear Purple Day 2008**



THE IMPACT OF THE ECONOMY ON DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

Although an economic downturn itself does not cause domestic violence, it can exacerbate the factors that contribute to domestic violence and reduce victims' ability to flee.

- Domestic violence is more than three times as likely to occur when couples are experiencing high levels of financial strain as when they are experiencing low levels of financial strain.¹
- Women whose male partners experienced two or more periods of unemployment over a 5-year study were almost three times as likely to be victims of intimate violence as were women whose partners were in stable jobs.²
- Victims frequently report economic needs: In one study, 93% of victims requested help with economic issues and 61% needed three or more of the five kinds of economic help.³
- Seventy-three percent of shelters attributed the rise in abuse to "financial issues." "Stress" and "job loss" (61% and 49%, respectively) were also frequently cited as causing the increase in victims seeking shelter.⁴
- Three out of four domestic violence shelters report an increase in women seeking assistance from abuse since September 2008.⁵
- The region with the largest reported increase in women seeking help as a result of domestic violence was the South (78%) followed by the Midwest (74%), the Northeast (72%), and the West (71%).⁶

"The economic climate may give batterers additional leverage when using emotional and financial abuse to control their partners." – Massachusetts advocate

Domestic Violence Counts 08: A 24-hour census of domestic violence shelters and services across the United States. The National Network to End Domestic Violence (Feb. 2009).

These circumstances create an increase in demand for services, just as emergency domestic violence service providers are struggling with fewer resources.

- According to the National Center for Victims of Crime, 92% of victim service providers have seen an increased demand in the last year, but 84% reported that cutbacks in funding were directly affecting their work.⁷
- In a 2008 survey, domestic violence service providers cited "not enough funding" as the number one reason they were unable to serve victims on the survey day.⁸

¹ Michael L. Benson & Greer Litton Fox, Department of Justice, NCJ 193434, *Economic Distress, Community Context and Intimate Violence: An Application and Extension of Social Disorganization Theory, Final Report* (2002).

² Michael L. Benson and Greer Litton Fox. *When Violence Hits Home: How Economics and Neighborhood Play a Role, Research in Brief*. NCJ 205004, September 2004, Research in Brief.

³ Lyon, E., Lane, S. (2009). *Meeting Survivors' Needs: A Multi-State Study of Domestic Violence Shelter Experiences*. National Resource Center on Domestic Violence and UConn School of Social Work.

⁴ *Mary Kay's Truth About Abuse*. Mary Kay Inc. (May 12, 2009).

⁵ *Mary Kay's Truth About Abuse*. Mary Kay Inc. (May 12, 2009).

⁶ *Mary Kay's Truth About Abuse*. Mary Kay Inc. (May 12, 2009).

⁷ National Center for Victims of Crime. *Crime and the Economy*. 2009

⁸ *Domestic Violence Counts 08: A 24-hour census of domestic violence shelters and services across the United States*. The National Network to End Domestic Violence (Feb. 2009).



NEW YORK STATE DOMESTIC VIOLENCE DASHBOARD PROJECT 2008 DATA

Introduction From the Executive Director

We are pleased to introduce you to the New York State Domestic Violence Dashboard for 2008. For the second year, we have tried to paint a picture of both the prevalence of domestic violence, and the strength of New York State's response to it, based on available information. By collecting this cross-system data, we are improving our ability to measure the totality of the domestic violence challenge in our state, and encouraging a holistic analysis of our response.

As was the case last year, the source agency for data referenced in each statement is indicated at the end of the sentence; published source material is footnoted. All statistics cited represent statewide data for the 2008 calendar year unless otherwise indicated. We cite to New York City data when statewide data is not available. The criteria for inclusion in this document were that the figures be comparable across systems; that the data refer to "intimate partner violence" (IPV), not broader domestic violence, which can also include other familial violence; that the data be relevant; and that it be as precise as possible.

With two years of data, the Dashboard is just the beginning of our efforts to track changes over time. Although two years cannot yet identify real trends, the data suggests that New York, like many other places, has shown an increase in indicators of domestic violence. Between 2007 and 2008, we saw an increase in: the number of intimate partner homicides; calls to domestic violence hotlines; individual claims for reimbursement by domestic violence and sexual assault victims; public assistance applicants disclosing current danger due to domestic violence; and temporary orders of protection issued. While we cannot responsibly draw broad conclusions from these numbers, they certainly confirm the lived experience of everyone in the field that the circumstances for victims seem to be getting more severe. Now more than ever we need our systems to work together to address the multiple needs facing victims.

Last year's Dashboard introduction gave a full explanation of the systems from which the data on domestic violence is captured, including an explanation of terminology. We only have a few additional points to add this year. The full explanation of the orders of protection data was explained in some detail last year: this year we added a data point regarding orders of protections issued under the new Expanded Access to Family Court legislation. That new law, which was enacted in July, 2008, now enables two individuals in an intimate relationship – such as a dating relationship without children – to petition the family court for an order of protection. OPDV is engaged in an project to evaluate the impact of this new law (visit our website soon for more information).

Finally, we know that data is only part of the story and does not capture all of the work being done by domestic violence service providers, the law enforcement community, and local government, all of which assist victims of domestic violence to get and stay safe every day. The Dashboard reflects the past year, while our programs represent the future. I invite you to subscribe to the Quarterly OPDV Bulletin and e-alerts for ongoing updates regarding the broad efforts being undertaken at the state level to prevent and respond to domestic violence. In June, those efforts and more will be summarized in our second NYS Domestic Violence Annual Report.

Amy Barasch

Executive Director, NYS Office for the Prevention of Domestic Violence

The Domestic Violence Dashboard Project is a product of the New York State Domestic Violence Advisory Council.

The goals of the Advisory Council are to:

Make recommendations regarding strategies for the prevention of domestic violence.

Assist in the development of appropriate policies and priorities for effective intervention, public education and advocacy.

Facilitate and assure communication and coordination efforts among state agencies and between different levels of government, state, federal, and municipal, for the prevention of domestic violence.



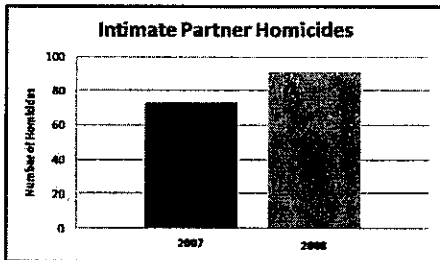


NEW YORK STATE DOMESTIC VIOLENCE DASHBOARD PROJECT 2008 DATA

PUBLIC SAFETY

Homicides¹

91 intimate partner homicides were reported in 2008, an increase of 25% from 2007. Counties outside New York City reported a 45% increase, with 45 intimate partner homicides reported. (DCJS)



Intimate partner homicides represented 11% of all homicides statewide in 2008, up from 9% in 2007. (DCJS)

In 2008, 50% of females aged 16 and older who were victims of homicide were killed by an intimate partner. Four percent (4%) of male homicide victims were killed by an intimate partner. (DCJS)

Law Enforcement

In 2008, there were 86,805 assaults reported by police agencies outside of New York City, representing 11% of overall crime. (DCJS)

Twenty percent (20%) of the total assaults outside of New York City were committed by intimate partners in 2008 (for a total of 17,777 assaults by intimate partners). (DCJS)

In 80% of the intimate partner assaults outside of New York City, the victims were female. (DCJS)

In 2008, 9,942 law enforcement officers and other criminal justice professionals were trained on responding to domestic violence. (OPDV, DCJS, DPCA, NYSP, NYPD)

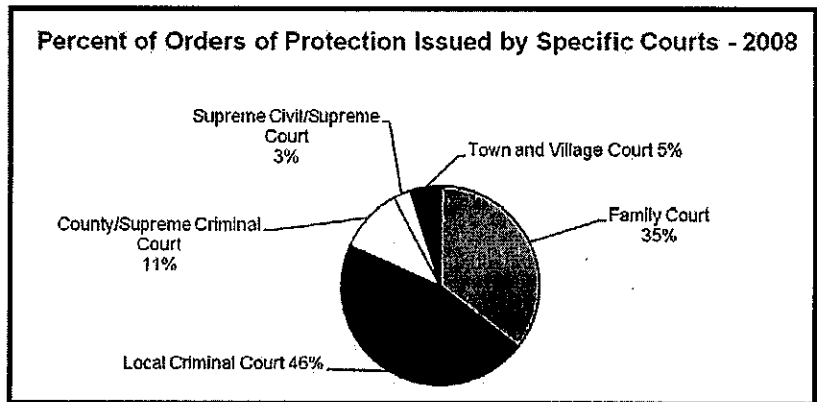
¹ Homicide numbers: DCJS report, "Domestic Homicide in New York State, 2008" by Matthew Felzer and Adriana Fernandez-Lanier. Published 10/09.

Courts

The 31 Domestic Violence Courts in New York handled over 31,000 cases.² (OCA)

In 2008, the 41 Integrated Domestic Violence (IDV) Courts handled over 17,100 cases and served approximately 3,000 families, a 5% increase from 2007. (OCA)

New York State courts issued a total of 220,719 orders of protection, of which 172,290 were required³ to be recorded in the UCS' Domestic Violence Registry. (OCA)



Orders of Protection in UCS' Domestic Violence Registry with an Issue Date 1/1/07 - 12/31/08 (Required)				
	Temporary		Final	
	2007	2008	2007	2008
Family Court Statewide	46,757	49,446	11,731	11,708
Local Criminal Court Statewide	63,166	67,518	11,773	12,041
County/Supreme Criminal Court Statewide	13,188	14,526	3,768	3,625
Supreme Civil/Supreme Court Statewide	3,364	3,196	1,725	1,667
Town and Village Court Statewide	6,906	6,606	1,953	1,957
Total	133,381	141,292	30,950	30,998

There was a 6% increase in temporary orders of protection issued from 2007 to 2008, but no substantial change in final orders of protection issued between 2007 and 2008. (OCA)

11% of the family offense dockets filed between July 23, 2008 and December 31, 2008 fell under the new "intimate relationship" definition of the Family Court Expanded Access Law. (OCA)

² In 2007, data was collected from 23 of the 31 Domestic Violence Courts. In 2008, data was collected from 29 of these courts.

³ Under Executive Law § 221 many orders of protection (OPs) are required to be listed in the statewide order of protection registry (support, paternity, custody and visitation, guardianship, and OP cases in family court, and domestic violence cases from criminal court). Most of those protect an individual against their intimate partner, but some may protect a child against a parent or other guardian.

PUBLIC HEALTH & WELFARE

Health Care

Slightly more than 4,000 women were treated in NYC emergency departments for injuries resulting from intimate partner violence. (DOHMH 2007)

More than 900 men were treated in NYC emergency departments for injuries resulting from intimate partner violence. (DOHMH 2007)

Public Assistance

In 2008, the number of applicants for public assistance who indicated danger due to domestic violence was 17,863, a 20% increase from 2007. (OTDA)

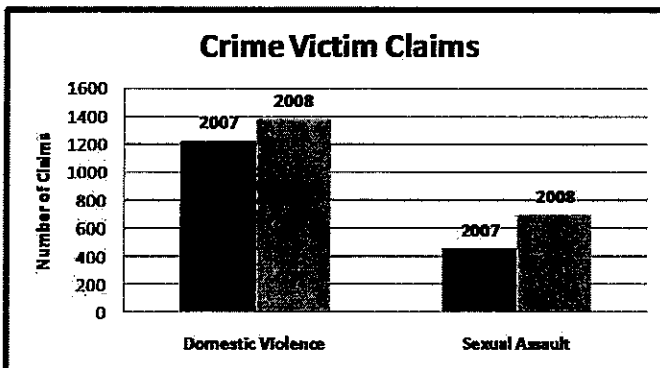
In 2008, Family Violence Option waivers were granted to 10,064 applicants under the Temporary Assistance Program, a 17% increase from 2007. (OTDA)

Statewide there are over 100 Domestic Violence Liaisons (DVLs). Over 550 DVLs and other public assistance workers were trained on domestic violence in 2008. (OPDV, OTDA)

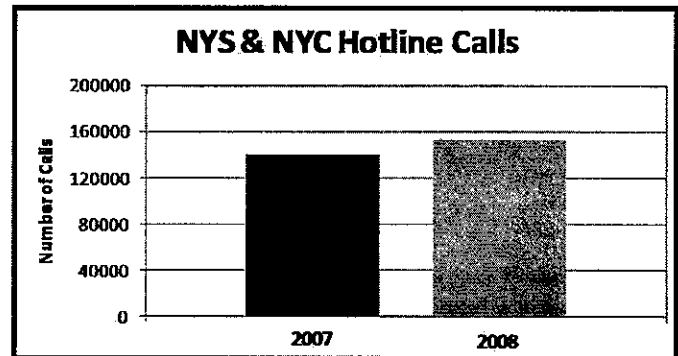
Domestic Violence Services

Domestic violence and sexual assault victims received services at 286 programs including general advocacy programs and domestic violence-specific programs. Services included crime victim assistance, information, referral, counseling, advocacy, and community education and outreach services. (DCJS, OCFS, CVB)

Crime victim claims for financial reimbursement increased from 2007 to 2008; claims from domestic violence victims increased by 12%, and sexual assault claims increased by 51%. (CVB)



In 2008, New York State's two Domestic and Sexual Violence Hotlines received over 18,000 calls, while NYC's Domestic Violence hotline received approximately 135,000 calls, for a total of 153,000 calls, a 9% increase from 2007. (OPDV, Safe Horizon)



In addition, the 96 local domestic violence hotlines received nearly 177,000 calls, from March 2008 to March 2009. (OCFS)

Domestic Violence Shelter Services¹

There are 160 certified shelter programs in the state with a total capacity of 2,930 beds, 10 transitional housing programs with 541 beds, and 5 safe home networks with 36 safe homes. (OCFS)

More than half of the people served in emergency shelters in New York State in 2008 were children, with 6,974 adults and 8,422 children housed. (OCFS)

Teen Dating Violence

16,861 calls from teens were received by the City's Domestic Violence Hotline. (Safe Horizon 2007)

In New York State, 12.1% of high school students surveyed report that they were hit, slapped or physically hurt on purpose by their boyfriend or girlfriend during the previous 12 months.² (CDC 2007)

New York State high school students surveyed indicate that 8.6% were physically forced to have sexual intercourse when they did not want to.³ (CDC 2007)

Three teens between the ages of 16 and 19 were killed by their intimate partners in 2008. (DCJS)

¹ NYS Office of Children and Family Services, *The Domestic Violence Prevention Act 2008 Annual Report*.

² Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, *Youth Risk Behavior Surveillance System (YRBSS), 2007 data*. The YRBSS is a self-administered survey on a range of risk behaviors.

³ *Id.*

**Testimony of Unity House Domestic Violence Services
Karla Digirolamo, Chief Operating Officer**

**To the Joint Budget Hearing of the
Senate Finance Committee and
Assembly Ways and Means Committee
on Human Services**

February 10, 2010

In New York State, four women a week are killed as a result of domestic violence; a person is victimized by domestic violence every three minutes, 20 every hour, 432 each day and 157,680 every year. As these statistics demonstrate, domestic violence is a serious public health issue plaguing New York State. However, Governor Patterson's budget proposal seeks to eliminate state funding to domestic violence programs at a time when domestic incident reports and the number of victims seeking assistance are on the rise. The elimination of state funding to domestic violence programs disregards the seriousness of this issue, greatly undermines the significance of the services provided to victims by such programs, and most importantly, will diminish or eliminate assistance available to victims throughout the state. Unity House Domestic Violence Services understands that these are tough fiscal times, and recognizes that the Legislature faces a daunting task as they address New York's \$8.2 billion shortfall. But as you take to this task in the coming months, we ask you to find an alternative to the Governor's proposal to eliminate funding for the programs that serve some of our state's most vulnerable women.

Unity House Domestic Violence Services (UHDVS) has been in operation since 1971, and today, is the sole comprehensive provider of domestic violence services in Rensselaer County.

UHDVS consists of a confidentially located, 18 bed emergency shelter and a non-residential office located in downtown Troy. In 2009, UHDVS provided:

- emergency shelter and residential services to 98 women and their 63 children
- permanent and transitional housing to 84 victims and their children
- non-residential services (including, but not limited to, counseling, case management, advocacy, court accompaniment, free medical services, education assistance, employment and training services) to 713 victims
- free legal services to 163 victims
- and answered over 8,000 local and state hotline calls.

Since 2003, the number of domestic violence victims we serve annually has consistently increased. From 2008 to 2009 alone, we recorded a 26.7% increase in the number of victims accessing our domestic violence program. The Rensselaer County District Attorney's office tabulated over 4,000 domestic incident reports in our county last year, which was a 9% increase over 2008. These reported incidents resulted in 542 arrests.

At the same time that we take the necessary steps to accommodate the growing need in our county, we now face devastating funding cuts from the state. The Governor's FY 2010-11 proposed budget seeks to:

- eliminate the \$3M in TANF funding previously designated to non-residential domestic violence services
- eliminate state funding for Child Protective/Domestic Violence collaborations, leaving only federal funds for their support
- eliminate state funding for Title XX, leaving only federal and local dollars, resulting in an \$18M reduction for local programs
- eliminate General Fund dollars available to domestic violence programs.

The Governor's budget proposal would cripple the domestic violence service system in New York State, a system already overburdened and under-resourced. The budget as proposed would lead programs to close their doors and others to reduce staff, resulting in less money and fewer resources to serve a larger number of victims.

For Unity House, the Governor's budget would:

- eliminate the \$100,000 in TANF funds used for operations of the non-residential program
- eliminate two positions, our DSS Domestic Violence Liaison (DVL) and Legal Assistant, currently funded at \$50,000 through TANF funds
- eliminate our CPS Collaboration, currently funded at \$70,000 a year, which funds a full-time, co-located DVL, a .25 FTE Licensed Counselor, and two stipend Peer Counselor positions (filled by victims).

While it is unclear how substantial the implications would be to Unity House with regard to the Title XX reduction and elimination of General Fund allocations to programs, our estimates project a potential loss of \$220,000 to \$250,000 in state dollars, including a direct cut of 1.75 FTEs and the loss of even more staff as our program adapts to a smaller operating budget.

While a bad economy does not cause domestic violence, research shows that a down-turned economy can exacerbate it and can contribute to increases in frequency and severity. The current economic climate in our state and around the country leaves women at greater-risk and with fewer options. Women living in poverty face additional barriers when fleeing violence, as public assistance budgets cannot solely support the cost of living in our area and entry-level jobs are scarce. In 2009, more than 70% of the victims we served lived in poverty (of which 38% had no income to report).

During this time of fiscal crisis, domestic violence services become even more crucial for victims. UHDVS provides early intervention and comprehensive services to domestic violence

victims with the goal of increasing victim safety and decreasing the rate of recidivism. We offer victims support, safety planning, domestic violence education and counseling. We have a staff attorney, paralegal and a number of advocates within the family and criminal court systems who can offer legal consultation, representation, and support and insight into legal processes, which may be intimidating or seemingly impenetrable to victims trying to navigate systems alone. We can assist victims with securing entitlements and/or pursuing education, as well as employment and training services for work-eligible victims. We provide or locate emergency shelter, and offer a limited number of rent subsidies to pick up where public assistance leaves off. We also have outreach initiatives designed to get information about our services to victims living in the rural communities within our county.

Our CPS Collaboration, which is eliminated in the Governor's proposed budget, is an extremely important resource for families experiencing domestic violence and child abuse. The collaboration began in 2001, and is one of the largest collaborations in the state. Both agencies have worked hard over the years to develop and nurture this collaborative project aimed at improving casework practice and outcomes for families by increasing safety and reducing reoccurrence. The project is currently funded at just over \$70,000 a year. It funds a full-time Domestic Violence Liaison (who is co-located at our non-residential office and CPS), a half-time Licensed Counselor and provides stipends for Peer Counselors (who are women who have navigated through the CPS world as a victim of domestic violence and can offer emotional support and hope for a positive outcome to current victims with open CPS cases). UHDVS hosts a bi-monthly workgroup where staff and supervisors working on the project meet to discuss policy, protocol, best practices, and any issues or concerns.

Commissioner Randy Hall of Rensselaer County Department of Social Services recognizes the significance of this project and believes that the loss of this collaboration would result in a gap

in the invaluable services we provide to victims and their children. In 2009, CPS made 170 referrals to our DVL. The DVL provided advocacy on behalf of victims to CPS 150 times. She also referred 61 of the victims engaged in the project to other services available at Unity House, referred 60 victims to appropriate external services (such as the police, substance abuse treatment, etc.) and made 110 referrals to CPS. Of all the families working with the project, only 3 experienced removal of the children. This project works to keep children with the non-offending parent, and its success not only improves families' safety but also keeps children out of foster care.

Like numerous domestic violence programs throughout the state, UHDVS offers more to the community than direct service to victims. We have collaborations with numerous service providers and agencies within our community. These collaborations work toward prevention through a coordinated community response to domestic violence that aims to increase victim safety and to hold batterers accountable. Continued early intervention and prevention initiatives will save lives and provide long-term cost benefits to the state.

New York State has been a leader in the field of domestic violence, making great achievements on behalf of victims through policy and legislation. We urge the Legislature to take this opportunity, when domestic violence is on the rise and funding for services are threatened, to protect victims of domestic violence and their children by preserving funding for the crucial services provided by domestic violence programs. Such leadership will save lives, improve communities, and safeguard jobs in New York State.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify in opposition to the Governor's FY 2010-2011 budget proposal to eliminate state funding for domestic violence programs and for your continued commitment to victims.