

Guided by Survivors' Voices



FCADV
Florida Coalition Against Domestic Violence

2016-17 Annual Report to the
Florida Legislature: 40th Anniversary Edition



The Florida Coalition Against Domestic Violence: 40 Years of Serving Survivors and their Children



"I appreciate the work of the Florida Coalition Against Domestic Violence, the Department of Children and Families, the Office of the Attorney General, and many other stakeholders in Florida are doing to support domestic violence survivors and their children. This year, I was proud to sign HB 1385 which increases penalties for domestic violence offenses. In addition, Florida is now at a 46-year crime low, and we will continue to provide families with the support and services they need."
Governor Rick Scott



"Holding domestic violence perpetrators accountable for their crimes is one of the highest priorities of my office and we are committed to working with the Florida Coalition Against Domestic Violence, Florida's 42 certified domestic violence centers, and our statewide law enforcement agencies and our great state attorneys to prevent, and ultimately end domestic violence in our state. It is imperative that we listen to the voices of survivors as we work towards this goal, to ensure that the strategies we implement are meeting their needs."
Attorney General Pam Bondi



"For the last 40 years, DCF has worked side by side with the Florida Coalition Against Domestic Violence to protect adult and child survivors of domestic violence. We value our partnerships in the community, including with the coalition, that provide essential services in the system of care to ensure the safety and healing of victims of domestic violence."
Secretary Mike Carroll, Department of Children and Families

Introduction

The Florida Coalition Against Domestic Violence and Florida’s 42 certified domestic violence centers are dedicated to ensuring that no person must endure the iniquity of domestic violence. For forty years we have worked together to provide shelter and services to survivors of domestic violence and their children.

In 1977, fourteen shelters formed a network to coordinate services and consolidate the establishment of policies to improve the lives of survivors across our state. Seven years later, that network was incorporated as the Florida Coalition Against Domestic Violence (FCADV). While the number of centers serving survivors and their children has increased, so has the breadth of services offered. Today, FCADV serves as the professional association for Florida’s certified domestic violence centers, with its core mission focused on ending violence through public awareness, quality service provision for survivors and their children, and policy development.

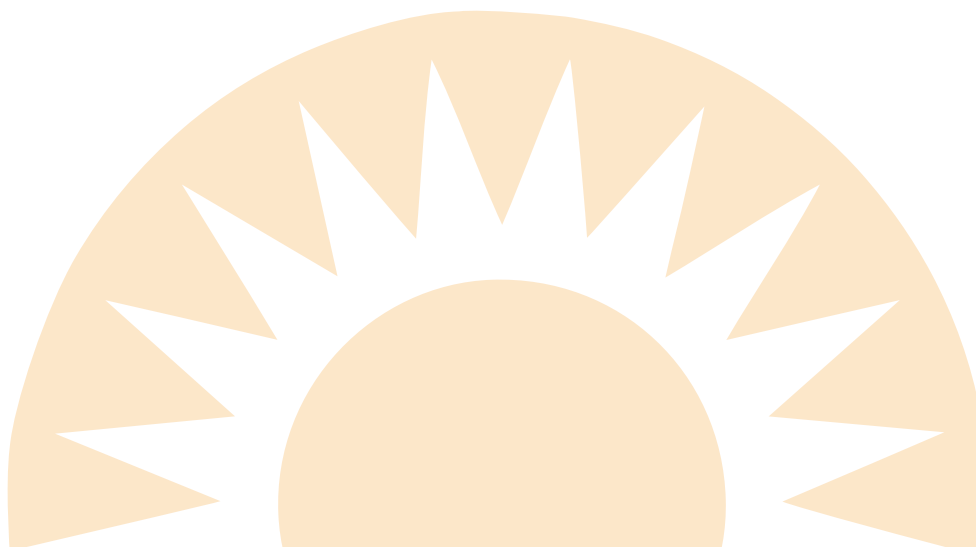
Over the last 40 years, FCADV and Florida’s certified domestic violence centers have served countless individuals through shelter, counseling, case management, child assessment, case-appropriate referrals, and a broad array of supplementary services.

To successfully dismantle the social construct that allows domestic violence to exist in our society, each community member must be fully committed and engaged in these efforts. Further, our elected leaders and public officials must consistently prioritize the needs of survivors and their children by ensuring policy recommendations are guided by survivors’ voices and include a focus on perpetrator accountability while simultaneously funding critical services. As a direct result of our state’s continued commitment to ending domestic violence, Florida is considered a national leader in creating cutting edge programming while ensuring the passage of strong domestic violence laws. Because Florida has taken a proactive approach during the past 40 years to address domestic violence, survivors and their children have emergency resources and perpetrators are held accountable for their behavior.

FCADV is thankful to each individual that has helped propel our state forward during the past 40 years to strengthen public policy efforts and increase safety for survivors and their children. With an eye on the next 40 years, FCADV is prepared to continue raising the bar on quality of services while strengthening accountability of perpetrators. Working together with you as our partner, we may indeed witness firsthand an end to domestic violence in Florida by 2057.

Florida law requires that FCADV create a statewide status report on domestic violence and distribute it to the Florida Legislature.¹ Information contained in this report includes the statistical data prescribed by statute, a description of many of the innovative services and programs available to survivors of domestic violence and their children, federal and state funding sources, and data collected from state and local domestic violence fatality review teams.

¹Pursuant to s. 39.904, Florida Statutes



The Florida Coalition Against Domestic Violence

FCADV is the private, nonprofit organization that serves as the statewide professional association for Florida's 42 certified domestic violence centers. In this role, FCADV provides leadership, advocacy, education, training, technical assistance, coordination, and support to certified domestic violence centers, their community partners, and other statewide professionals to improve services, practices, and policies related to domestic violence. FCADV is statutorily required to implement, evaluate, and fund the state's domestic violence services.² As such, FCADV conducts annual monitoring of certified domestic violence centers to ensure the provision of quality services and fiscal accountability. FCADV also serves as the primary voice for survivors of domestic violence and their children in the public policy arena.

The Florida Department of Children and Families

DCF serves as FCADV's primary partner to end domestic violence in Florida. To that end, DCF's primary responsibilities include oversight of funding, initial certification of newly formed domestic violence centers, and annual renewal of certifications for existing centers. As a result of the implementation of the Statewide Child Protection Investigation (CPI) Project, DCF and FCADV continue to work collaboratively to revise policy and training programs to address the complexities associated with the needs of families in the child welfare system experiencing domestic violence.

Domestic violence does not go away by looking away. It stops when we stand together. It stops when we say it must, and not just one of us, but all of us.



²Pursuant to s. 39.9035, Florida Statutes

At a Glance

What is Domestic Violence?

Domestic violence is a pattern of behaviors, violence, or threats of violence that one person uses to establish power and control over a current or former intimate partner. It is not a disagreement, a marital spat, or an anger management problem. Domestic violence is abusive, disrespectful, dangerous, and may include abuse that is physical, sexual, emotional, spiritual, or economic. The use of threats, intimidation, isolation, pet abuse, and using children as pawns are examples of the tactics batterers use to perpetrate domestic violence.

Domestic Violence Defined in Statute

Florida law defines domestic violence as any assault, aggravated assault, battery, aggravated battery, sexual assault, sexual battery, stalking, aggravated stalking, kidnapping, false imprisonment, or any criminal offense resulting in physical injury or death of one family or household member by another family or household member.³

Responding to Domestic Violence Saves Lives

Domestic Violence Crime in Florida⁴

January – December 2016

- Overall crime decreased by 2.8 percent, while reported domestic violence offenses only decreased by 1.9 percent
- 105,668 domestic violence offenses were reported to law enforcement
- 193 individuals died as a result of domestic violence homicide, representing approximately 17.4 percent of all homicides in Florida

Individuals Seeking Services

Fiscal Year 2016-17

- 14,394 individuals received emergency shelter at a certified domestic violence center
- Domestic violence survivors and their children spent 682,311 nights in emergency shelter
- Advocates received 84,457 hotline calls
- 145,327 safety plans were completed with survivors
- 37,025 women, children, and men received outreach services
- 5,212 requests for emergency shelter went unmet due to lack of capacity and resources

³Pursuant to s. 741.28, Florida Statutes

⁴Information from FDLE's 2016 Annual Uniform Crime Report: <http://www.fdle.state.fl.us/cms/FSAC/UCR/2016/CIFAnnual16.aspx>

Florida's Certified Domestic Violence Centers

Florida's 42 certified domestic violence centers are located throughout the state and are responsible for providing critical, life-saving emergency shelter, services, and programming to survivors and their children. In Florida, our centers are on the front lines of responding to domestic violence by providing a place of safety, security, healing, and empowerment to survivors of domestic violence and their children fleeing violent homes. Certified domestic violence centers are the only state-designated organizations responsible for the provision of a continuum of services to survivors, 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, as they begin to achieve safety and independence.

Certified domestic violence centers are statutorily required to provide specific services that include: information and referrals; counseling and case management; temporary emergency shelter; a 24-hour crisis hotline; training for law enforcement personnel; assessment and appropriate referral of residential children; and community educational training related to the incidence of domestic violence, the prevention of such violence, and the services available for persons engaged in or subject to domestic violence.⁵

During the 2016-17 fiscal year, certified centers provided 682,311 nights of life-saving emergency shelter to 14,394 women, children, and men. Many survivors fled violent homes with their children, who represented 46 percent of those served in emergency shelter. This past year, centers provided an additional 81,690 shelter nights to survivors and their children which represents a 14-percent increase from the previous year. In addition to the services required by Florida Statutes, a majority of our certified centers supplement their programs with important ancillary services, such as transportation, rent and utility assistance, transitional housing, legal and court advocacy, work skills and job-readiness training and placement, financial literacy, and other training and education programs.

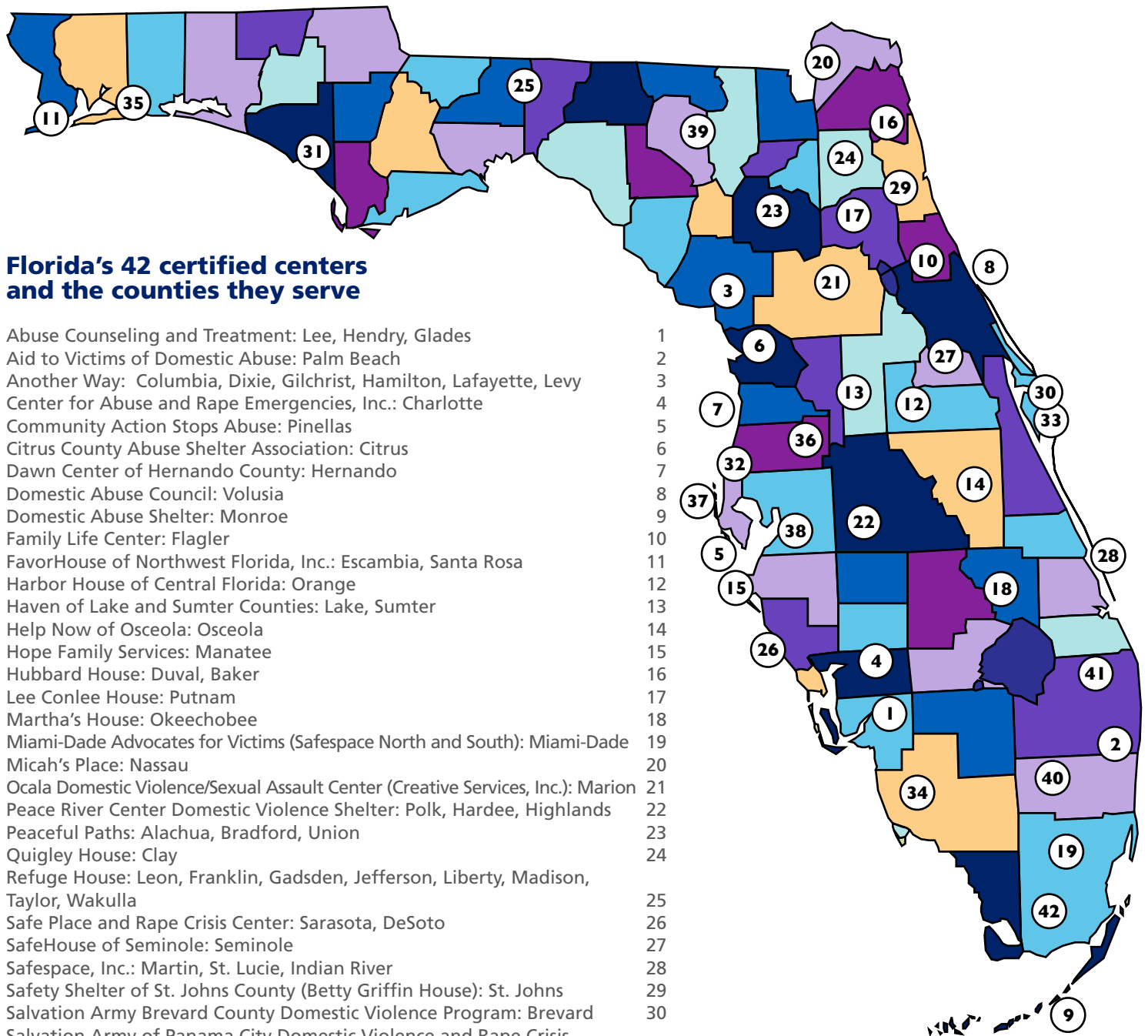
Certified domestic violence centers are the only state-designated organizations responsible for the provision of a continuum of services **24 hours a day, 7 days a week** for survivors as they begin to achieve safety and independence.

Advocates responded to domestic violence by:

-
- Completing 145,327 survivor-focused safety plans
-
- Providing 333,473 hours of counseling and advocacy
-
- Offering 335,255 direct service information and referrals to survivors, family members, and individuals seeking assistance
-
- Spending 92,195 hours facilitating child and youth-specific activities
-
- Providing youth-targeted community education to 87,861 participants
-
- Providing education and training programs to 40,365 adults

⁵Pursuant to s. 39.905, Florida Statutes

Map of centers



Florida's 42 certified centers and the counties they serve

- Abuse Counseling and Treatment: Lee, Hendry, Glades 1
- Aid to Victims of Domestic Abuse: Palm Beach 2
- Another Way: Columbia, Dixie, Gilchrist, Hamilton, Lafayette, Levy 3
- Center for Abuse and Rape Emergencies, Inc.: Charlotte 4
- Community Action Stops Abuse: Pinellas 5
- Citrus County Abuse Shelter Association: Citrus 6
- Dawn Center of Hernando County: Hernando 7
- Domestic Abuse Council: Volusia 8
- Domestic Abuse Shelter: Monroe 9
- Family Life Center: Flagler 10
- FavorHouse of Northwest Florida, Inc.: Escambia, Santa Rosa 11
- Harbor House of Central Florida: Orange 12
- Haven of Lake and Sumter Counties: Lake, Sumter 13
- Help Now of Osceola: Osceola 14
- Hope Family Services: Manatee 15
- Hubbard House: Duval, Baker 16
- Lee Conlee House: Putnam 17
- Martha's House: Okeechobee 18
- Miami-Dade Advocates for Victims (Safespace North and South): Miami-Dade 19
- Micah's Place: Nassau 20
- Ocala Domestic Violence/Sexual Assault Center (Creative Services, Inc.): Marion 21
- Peace River Center Domestic Violence Shelter: Polk, Hardee, Highlands 22
- Peaceful Paths: Alachua, Bradford, Union 23
- Quigley House: Clay 24
- Refuge House: Leon, Franklin, Gadsden, Jefferson, Liberty, Madison, Taylor, Wakulla 25
- Safe Place and Rape Crisis Center: Sarasota, DeSoto 26
- SafeHouse of Seminole: Seminole 27
- Safespace, Inc.: Martin, St. Lucie, Indian River 28
- Safety Shelter of St. Johns County (Betty Griffin House): St. Johns 29
- Salvation Army Brevard County Domestic Violence Program: Brevard 30
- Salvation Army of Panama City Domestic Violence and Rape Crisis Program: Bay, Calhoun, Gulf, Holmes, Jackson, Washington 31
- Salvation Army Domestic Violence Program of West Pasco: Pasco 32
- Serene Harbor: Brevard 33
- The Shelter for Abused Women and Children: Collier 34
- Shelter House: Okaloosa, Walton 35
- Sunrise Domestic and Sexual Violence Center: Pasco 36
- The Haven of RCS: Pinellas 37
- The Spring of Tampa Bay: Hillsborough 38
- Vivid Visions: Suwannee 39
- Women in Distress of Broward County: Broward 40
- YWCA of Palm Beach County: Palm Beach 41
- Victim Response, Inc. (The Lodge): Miami-Dade 42

Certified Center Services

In A Single Day⁶

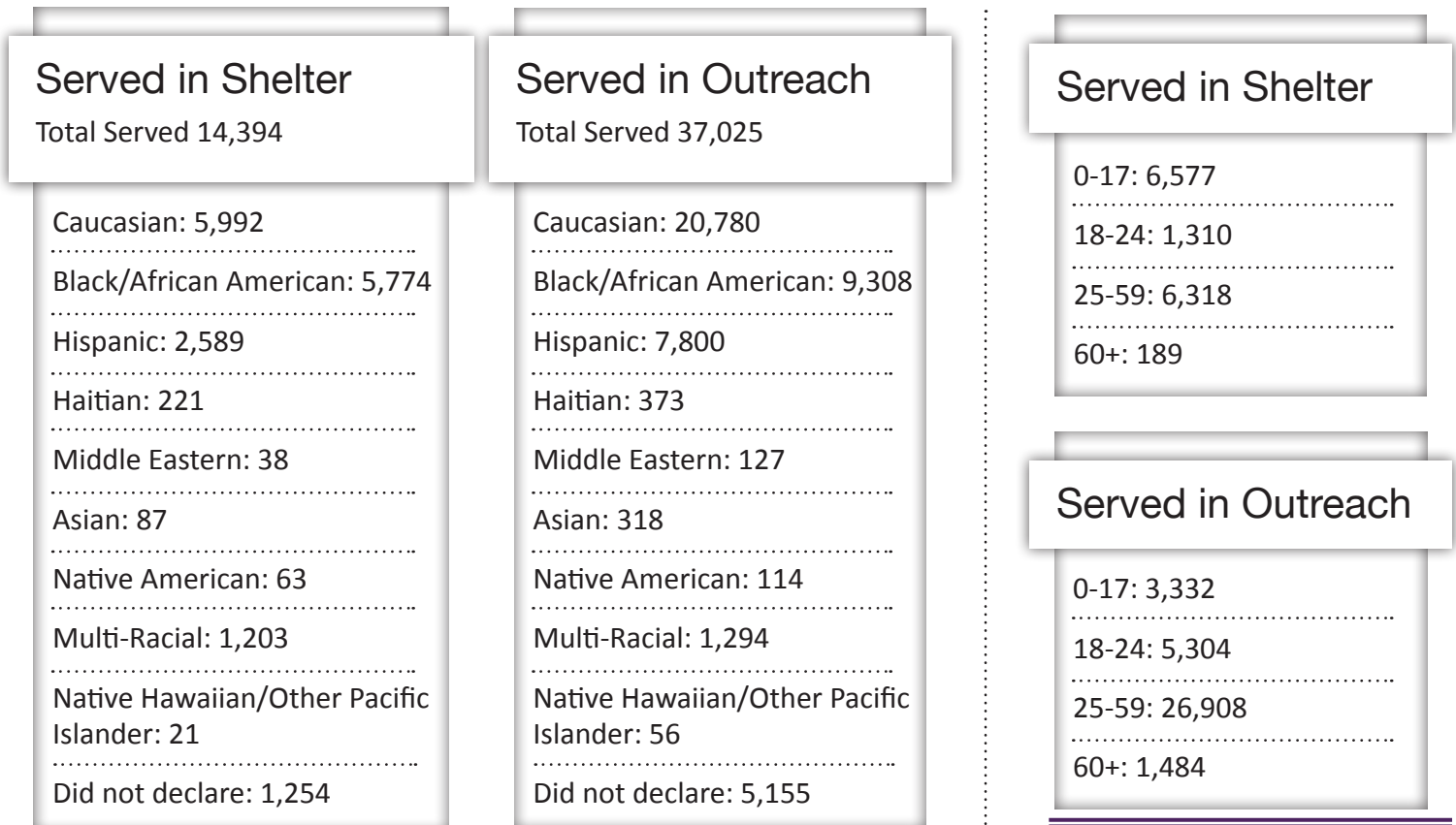
Received..... 600 hotline calls
 Sheltered 2,336 in emergency shelter or transitional housing
 Provided 980 adults and children with outreach services

In A Single Year

Received..... 109,997⁷ hotline calls
 Sheltered 14,394 in emergency shelter
 Provided 37,025 adults and children with outreach services

Individuals Served

Domestic violence does not discriminate and occurs regardless of ethnicity, age, religion, culture, or socioeconomic status. To respond appropriately to Florida’s unique and diverse population, Florida’s certified domestic violence centers provide culturally and linguistically appropriate services tailored to the specific needs of each individual and/or family seeking services. FCADV operates the Florida Domestic Violence Hotline, which provides trilingual emergency services and legal counsel to survivors. FCADV also provides access to interpreter language services for certified domestic violence centers to ensure a linguistically specific response to survivors.



*Race and ethnicity are separate categories for data collection purposes and thus the totals from the above lists are greater than the overall total of survivors served.

⁶<http://nnedv.org/downloads/Census/DVCounts2015/Florida.pdf>

⁷Includes calls received by the FCADV Florida Domestic Violence Hotline

Communities Responding to Domestic Violence

Florida's certified domestic violence centers have a long history of collaborating with community partners to create and implement important programming that efficiently and effectively responds to domestic violence. Our communities focus their efforts on increasing safety for survivors, strengthening perpetrator accountability, and enhancing and expanding prevention programs. The following are selected examples of the unique programs created by certified domestic violence centers and local partnering agencies for their communities.

Pasco County Prevention Innovations

Sunrise of Pasco County, one of Florida's certified domestic violence centers, has a comprehensive violence prevention program that includes a Youth Community Action Team (YCAT). The YCAT is comprised of young people that convene weekly in an effort to identify actions that will strengthen relationships and increase safety within the community. The group discusses dating violence prevention strategies and together implement evidence-informed action steps to mitigate domestic violence in Pasco County. Sunrise's internal Prevention Team, comprised of adults, fully supports the YCAT's activities. Together, the YCAT and the Prevention Team are making groundbreaking positive changes within their community.

The Sunrise Prevention Team conducts ongoing primary prevention training for staff and students in Pasco County elementary, middle, and high schools. The Prevention Team tailors their trainings to address the specific needs of each school. Sunrise also conducts domestic violence and violence prevention training at local colleges for nurses. To dismantle the social norms that contribute to violence, Sunrise focuses on strengthening community connectedness, which is an evidence-based protective factor in the prevention of violence.



Economic Empowerment in Polk, Hardee, and Highlands Counties

Peace River Center, a Florida certified domestic violence center, is responsible for service provision to domestic violence survivors and their children residing in Polk, Hardee, and Highlands Counties. The center has a comprehensive Economic Empowerment Program that consists of Financial Empowerment Workshops, financial and adult literacy programming, credit counseling, case management, crisis counseling, and safety planning to address the high prevalence of financial abuse of domestic violence survivors. Peace River Center conducts financial safety planning with all survivors while simultaneously addressing individual financial needs, such as accessing affordable housing, assistance with utilities, transportation, and clothing. The center's Economic Empowerment Advocate is certified to provide credit counseling services to survivors who may need individual assistance with obtaining credit, managing debt, and budget management.

As part of the Financial Empowerment Workshops, survivors participate in a series of weekly meetings to receive instruction on developing a plan toward self-sufficiency by establishing a small business or pursuing further education/vocation. Peace River Center assists participants with developing detailed plans that outline future goals, which provides survivors with the opportunity to obtain a micro-loan from Peace River Center to execute their plan. Survivors have access to exploring a variety of career options, receiving assistance with resume development, job searching and interview skills with the ultimate goal of gaining financial independence.

FCADV: Responding to domestic violence through programs, advocacy, and training

By viewing the provision of domestic violence services through a statewide lens, FCADV is uniquely positioned to advance a comprehensive, statewide approach that focuses on the development of innovative services, programs, and best practices to respond to the needs of survivors and their children.

In 2004, FCADV was statutorily designated by the Legislature as the administrator of state and federal funding earmarked for domestic violence services. As the administrator of these funds, FCADV subcontracts with Florida's 42 certified domestic violence centers, a multitude of law enforcement agencies, state prosecutors' offices, statewide associations, and community-based organizations dedicated to providing services and resources to survivors and their children while holding perpetrators accountable for their violence. FCADV ensures compliance with administrative, programmatic, and fiscal accountability requirements of each provider by engaging in a stringent monitoring process. This statewide role leads to efficient and effective coordination among agencies responding to domestic violence throughout Florida.

In addition to the programs and initiatives on the following pages, FCADV provides training, technical assistance, and education to certified domestic violence centers, collaborative community partners, agencies, and service providers throughout the state. Each year, thousands of hours of training and technical assistance are provided to these entities to strengthen knowledge, enhance standards, and build capacity to provide quality services to domestic violence survivors and their children. FCADV tailors each training to address the specific needs identified by the center and/or local community organization. More than 97 percent of participants in attendance at FCADV trainings reported they will utilize the concepts learned to enhance and expand their advocacy for families experiencing domestic violence.

The following FCADV programs and initiatives are highlighted as examples of signature programming designed to respond to domestic violence by focusing on the needs of survivors and their children while holding perpetrators accountable for their violent behavior. This is not an exhaustive compilation of all the resources, programs, and initiatives coordinated by the organization, but represents a snapshot of select activities. For additional information about FCADV's programs and services, please visit www.fcadv.org.

More than **97 percent** of participants in attendance at FCADV trainings reported they will utilize the concepts learned to enhance and expand their advocacy for families experiencing domestic violence.

During Fiscal Year 2016-2017, FCADV

- Responded to 8,222 technical assistance requests from domestic violence centers, collaborative partners, and other agencies
- Conducted 360 onsite technical assistance visits and trainings for certified domestic violence center staff and/or Board of Directors, collaborative partners, and other agencies
- Conducted 202 webinars/technical assistance calls
- Conducted 50 regional and statewide training events and/or conferences
- Conducted 26 listening and/or focus groups throughout the state to obtain input from survivors, advocates, and other service providers regarding the current needs, barriers, and trends impacting prevention and intervention of domestic violence.
- Administered and managed 219 contracts
- Conducted 86 monitoring visits and/or desk reviews

Guided by the Voice of Survivors

Survivor Listening Project

FCADV conducts the Annual Survivor Listening Project to hear firsthand about current survivor experiences throughout Florida. This project was instituted to ensure survivors' experiences and perspectives continue to guide programmatic standards and inform FCADV's support and prevention efforts. FCADV conducts listening groups with domestic violence survivors statewide to receive feedback about their most pressing needs and concerns regarding systemic response, and to learn about successful efforts. Survivor feedback informs FCADV's planning for the development of programming and policy priorities for the upcoming year.

FCADV and its statewide stakeholders periodically convene to identify current trends within systems that require attention to enhance the safety of domestic violence survivors and their children. FCADV partners with appropriate entities to develop innovative programming and policies to address the needs identified by survivors and partnering agencies. A broad variety of issues are discussed including: local system barriers that limit access to services; culturally and linguistically specific needs; and quality of services received. To date, the voices of more than 500 domestic violence survivors, representing all ages and ethnicities, living in rural, urban, and suburban communities across the state, have driven FCADV's funding, policy, and program recommendations.

During the past two fiscal years, FCADV garnered feedback from 195 survivors receiving services from 25 certified domestic violence centers representing a cross-section of rural and urban communities throughout the state. The majority of survivors reported positive experiences with shelter, hotline, and outreach services provided by certified domestic violence centers. Challenges reported by survivors included: access to affordable legal assistance; transportation; housing; and navigating systems that unnecessarily mandated the survivor, instead of the perpetrator, to inappropriate services. Securing input from survivors is critical to ensuring that resources and programming are prioritized to address the most pressing needs while removing the barriers that inhibit survivors from accessing safety for themselves and their children. FCADV continues to conduct the Survivor Listening Project to ensure survivors' voices remain at the forefront of Florida's efforts to eradicate violence in our state.

Families Experiencing Domestic Violence involved in the Child Welfare System

Select Program Successes

In Fiscal Year (FY) 2016-17, the CPI Projects collectively utilized a seamless system of wraparound services, which allowed 10,790 children, whose families were involved in the child welfare system, to remain in the home with the non-offending parent, representing a nine-percent increase from the previous fiscal year. During this time, co-located advocates:

- received and followed up on a total of 7,376 CPI Project referrals from child welfare professionals;
 - participated in 4,208 child welfare case staffings; and
 - provided 12,096 case consultation services to child welfare professionals.
-

Child Protection Investigation Project

Protecting children from the effects of domestic violence is a mutual priority of FCADV, DCF, and the Office of the Attorney General (OAG). “Intimate partner violence threatens child” is one of the most prevalent maltreatment offenses reported to the Statewide Florida Abuse Hotline. Recognizing that children in the foster care system often experience substandard life outcomes, FCADV, DCF, and OAG partnered to create this groundbreaking program designed to provide a coordinated community response for families experiencing the co-occurrence of domestic violence and child abuse by co-locating domestic violence advocates within CPI Units. These co-located advocates provide consultation to child welfare professionals, support and referral services to survivors, and coordination with community partners to develop strategies to improve collaboration and resolve barriers. This immediate intervention, sometimes within hours of a child abuse report, helps to stabilize the crisis and increase safety in the home. The ultimate goals of this statewide project are to bridge the gap between child welfare and domestic violence service providers to enhance family safety and to create permanency for children by focusing on keeping the child safe in the home with the non-offending parent, while increasing perpetrator accountability measures and strategies.

In 2009, the CPI Project was originally conceived and implemented with the creation of seven pilot sites. Four additional sites were added in 2011, three of which focused on providing linguistically and culturally specific services. In 2014, the Governor and Legislature provided \$2 million to expand the highly successful CPI Project. This appropriation allowed for expansion to 45 counties where a high volume of domestic violence-related child maltreatment removals occur. In 2015, the Legislature again prioritized survivor and child safety by allocating an additional \$2 million to expand the CPI Project to all 67 counties in Florida. The legislature maintained the current funding level during the 2016 and 2017 legislative sessions as a result of the tremendous success of the project.

FCADV also conducted 22 child welfare related trainings for 1,477 child welfare staff and other system partners. Ninety-four (94) percent of individuals participating in the CPI Project training reported increasing their knowledge regarding the overall safety and supportive needs of survivors and 93 percent of participants further indicated they would utilize the new information to enhance their work with survivors and their children.

As a result of these comprehensive services, the need for foster care services was significantly reduced and resulted in a potential cost savings of \$19,761,334.70 by keeping children out of the foster care system.

Perpetrator Accountability through Law Enforcement Partnerships

Law Enforcement Training Initiative

To increase perpetrator accountability in domestic violence cases, FCADV provides training and technical assistance on best practices in evidence collection and prosecution of domestic violence perpetrators to law enforcement, advocates, and prosecutors. Trainings also include establishing appropriate protocols for responding to domestic violence calls, maintaining the confidentiality of survivor information, and effectively assessing the risk for potential domestic violence homicides.

Law Enforcement Enhanced Response Program

Designed to provide domestic violence survivors and their children with protection and services while improving a community's capacity to hold batterers accountable, the Law Enforcement Enhanced Response program supports five Florida communities in enhancing their response to survivors of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, and stalking. This program challenges the community to listen, communicate, identify problems, and share ideas that will result in responses that ensure survivor safety and offender accountability. The goals of the program include assisting survivors and their children with accessing the protection and services necessary to live violence free while improving the community's capacity to hold offenders accountable.

Intimate Violence Enhanced Service Team (InVEST)

InVEST was created specifically to reduce and prevent domestic violence homicides. FCADV and OAG identified 11 communities with the highest rates of domestic violence homicides to implement this pilot program. InVEST utilizes a coordinated community response model designed to reduce the number of domestic violence homicides by increasing services for survivors identified in high-lethality domestic violence situations while increasing perpetrator accountability throughout the criminal justice process. Preventing domestic violence homicides requires a comprehensive, multifaceted, and community-based response in which law enforcement, other criminal justice partners, and domestic violence centers work together to hold perpetrators accountable and provide enhanced advocacy for survivors. The InVEST program includes members from law enforcement, domestic violence centers, child welfare agencies, courts, and other partners who utilize non-traditional approaches by identifying high risk cases and ensuring that all systems tailor their response to address the unique and diverse needs of each survivor.

InVEST partnerships implement batterer accountability measures and provide enhanced advocacy and safety for more than 3,000 survivors per year identified as high risk for being murdered by their intimate partner. Since the program's inception, no survivors participating in the InVEST program were murdered by the abuser. This is of particular note since participants entering the program are considered to be in the most dangerous and high-lethality domestic violence situations.

During the 2016-17 fiscal year, FCADV conducted training related to reducing intimate partner homicides for over 220 certified domestic violence center staff and allied partners. FCADV conducted 16 trainings related to the safety needs of survivors for approximately 630 participants from law enforcement agencies and allied partners. As a result:

- 100 percent of individuals who participated in the training related to reducing intimate partner homicide reported increasing their knowledge regarding the safety needs of survivors;
- 98 percent of the participants attending the law enforcement training reported increasing their knowledge regarding the safety needs of survivors; and
- 95 percent of individuals participating in the training related to reducing intimate partner homicide reported increasing their knowledge regarding strategies to employ for holding perpetrators accountable.



During the past fiscal year, law enforcement agencies participating in the InVEST and Law Enforcement Enhanced Response programs arrested **16,834** domestic violence perpetrators, while law enforcement agencies filed **19,022** arrests for prosecution with local state attorney offices.



Signature Program Expansions

Injunction for Protection Project

The most frequently sought advice from FCADV's Legal Hotline staff is for information regarding obtaining an injunction for protection and directions related to preparing for related court appearances. In addition, survivors regularly report to FCADV during annual listening groups that access to legal services remains one of their greatest unmet needs. During FY 2016-17, FCADV was awarded a Victims of Crime Act (VOCA) grant from OAG to fund Florida's certified domestic violence centers to hire attorneys to represent survivors of domestic, dating, and sexual violence and stalking when seeking civil injunctions for protection. Injunction for Protection (IFP) Project attorneys meet with survivors referred by partnering agencies, such as clerk and court staff, law enforcement, state attorneys, and other organizations, to determine whether filing for an injunction is a safe and appropriate legal action. IFP Project attorneys represent survivors from the temporary petition stage through the final injunction hearing, as well as in civil show cause hearings for injunction violations. The attorneys also represent survivors in other injunction-related proceedings that impact their safety, such as defending against a perpetrator's motion to dismiss a final injunction.

FCADV conducts site visits with the attorneys to address challenges, observes court proceedings, and provides legal research and individualized technical assistance to each of the centers and attorneys. During this inaugural year of the project, FCADV developed numerous written forms and protocols for the IFP Project to assist with project implementation and has provided over 1,000 units of electronic legal research and technical assistance to IFP Project attorneys. In April 2017, FCADV conducted a two-day continuing legal education (CLE) credit approved training conference for IFP attorneys and also developed informational brochures regarding the IFP Project for distribution in the respective communities.

Currently, there are 48 IFP Project attorneys providing services in 35 counties. The vast majority of survivors receiving injunction representation are victims of domestic violence. Since the implementation of the program in January 2017:

- IFP Project lawyers provided legal advice to 1,259 survivors
- IFP Project lawyers represented survivors in 1,614 injunction for protection and other injunction related hearings
- 1,490 survivors received information and referral services and 1,022 survivors received victim compensation/relocation information as a part of the program

Statewide Economic Empowerment Program

FCADV's Statewide Economic Empowerment Program was created to directly respond to financial control exercised by perpetrators. Lack of financial knowledge and resources is the number one indicator of whether a domestic violence victim will stay, leave, or return to an abusive relationship.⁸ Financial abuse occurs in 98 percent of all domestic violence cases.⁹ Survivors report that abusers utilize a multitude of economically-related tactics to gain and maintain power and control over them, such as creating large amounts of debt in joint accounts, withholding funds from the survivor or children to obtain basic needs such as food and medicine, prohibiting the survivor from working, and not allowing the survivor to access bank accounts.¹⁰ FCADV's Statewide Economic Empowerment Program includes a critical partnership with Allstate Florida, which provides funding to advance financial independence for survivors of domestic violence and their children by coordinating grants for two certified domestic violence centers to implement local economic empowerment projects.

⁸Jinseok Kim & Karen Gray, *Leave or Stay?: Battered Women's Decision After Intimate Partner Violence*, 23 *Journal of Interpersonal Violence* 1465, 1466 (2008) citing Deborah K. Anderson & Daniel G. Saunders, *Leaving an Abusive Partner: An Empirical Review of Predictors, the Process of Leaving, and the Psychological Well-being*, 4 *Trauma, Violence, & Abuse* 163 (2003); Ola W. Barnett, *Why Battered Women Do Not Leave: Part 1: External Inhibiting Factors Within Society*, 1 *Trauma, Violence, & Abuse* 343 (2000), as referenced at: https://www.allstatefoundation.org/domestic_violence_facts.html

⁹Chen, Tim. "How to Stop Domestic Financial Abuse - US News." *US News RSS*. U.S. News & World Report, 26 Apr. 11. Web. 06 Aug. 2014, as referenced at: https://www.allstatefoundation.org/domestic_violence_facts.html

¹⁰Additional information available at: <http://nnedv.org/resources/ejresources/about-financial-abuse.html>

“I feel empowered and can do anything I want with my life now!”

-Quote from a survivor about her experience with the Economic Empowerment Program

“I am grateful to the [IFP Project attorneys] and the staff of the [certified domestic violence center] for all of the professional assistance they provided and the kindness they showed me. I do not know how I would have been able to navigate through the legal system without their guidance and support.”

-Quote from a survivor served by the IFP Project

During the 2016-17 fiscal year, FCADV was awarded a second VOCA grant through OAG to expand its successful Economic Empowerment Program to 28 certified domestic violence centers in Florida. Grantees utilized The Allstate Foundation’s “Moving Ahead Through Financial Management” curriculum and program models from the national ProLiteracy organization to assist survivors with budgeting, investing, retirement planning, debt reduction, completing job readiness programs, gaining new employment, participating in microloans or microenterprises, and other financial literacy components based on each survivor’s unique situation and needs.

FCADV supported these programs by conducting site visits to each of the 28 local programs, held monthly small group learning exchange calls (35 total), 6 project-specific webinars, 3 regional trainings on Literacy Programming, 4 regional trainings on Survivors’ Housing Rights, and a training of trainers for the Allstate Moving Ahead Through Financial Management Curriculum. FCADV also developed Housing Rights and Credit Repair Resource Guides for survivors participating in the Economic Empowerment Program.

Overall, 100 percent of those individuals participating in FCADV’s Economic Empowerment trainings increased their knowledge of survivors’ financial safety needs. Since the expansion of the program in January 2017:

- 100 percent of participating certified domestic violence centers have incorporated financial safety planning into their centers’ safety planning procedures.
- 2,096 survivors of domestic violence participated in financial empowerment services utilizing the Allstate Moving Ahead Curriculum.
- 1,150 survivors participated in the certified domestic violence center’s Literacy Programs.
- Centers conducted 164 meetings with financial institutions or agencies that assist in developing programs related to microloans, microenterprises, matched savings accounts, and/or individual development accounts for survivors.
- 1,262 survivors received assistance with identifying and securing affordable housing and/or identifying and securing employment.
- Participating programs provided 4,498 units of information and referral services; 3,084 advocacy and accompaniment services; 3,277 emotional support and safety services; and 1,668 shelter and housing services.





Strong Families Domestic Violence Prevention Campaign

The Florida Legislature provided funding for the continued implementation of a Strong Families Domestic Violence Prevention Campaign. FCADV partners with Family First and their All Pro Dad fatherhood program to implement this educational campaign. The primary goal of the campaign is to engage men, primarily fathers, and their children with preventing domestic violence by creating strong families that promote safe and healthy relationships.

During FY 2016-17, FCADV and All Pro Dad partnered to create Public Service Announcements (PSAs) that focused on educating youth about healthy relationships, modeling positive relationship behaviors, creating boundaries, and responding appropriately to intimidation by others. Recognizing that young boys respond positively to messages delivered by athletes, the PSAs featured former Tampa Bay Buccaneers and Indianapolis Colts head coach Tony Dungy.

Another component of the campaign included partnering with the All Pro Dad Father & Kids Experience. This signature, sports-themed event provides fun, inspirational opportunities for fathers and their children to strengthen their relationships through interactive games and other hands-on experiences. This family-fun event provides the opportunity to educate participants about FCADV and Family First's common message regarding the importance of developing safe and healthy relationships.

Strong Families Campaign Outcomes

- 98 percent of survey respondents reported that because of the webpage or campaign-related events and resources, they were more likely to talk to their children about healthy relationships or domestic violence.
- 93 percent of survey respondents reported that after engaging with the campaign, they believed they now possess the knowledge, skills, and resources necessary to help their children have healthy relationships.
- 97 percent of survey respondents indicated their willingness to recommend the campaign events to a friend.
- All survey respondents that attended campaign events reported learning at least one new concept to become a better father.
- 98 percent of survey respondents reported that the campaign messaging increased the likelihood of talking with their children about healthy relationships or domestic violence.
- 73 percent of survey respondents indicated that the campaign materials helped them teach their kids to set personal boundaries.
- 93 percent of survey respondents reported that after having engaged with the campaign, they now possess the knowledge, skills, and resources to help their children have healthy relationships.
- 91 percent of survey respondents reported that the campaign messages had a strong and positive impact on their confidence that they can become a better father.

Responding to Crisis Calls

The Statewide Florida Domestic Violence Hotline

FCADV operates and manages the Statewide Florida Domestic Violence Hotline, which provides multilingual services 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. Hotline advocates provide support, advocacy, information, and referral services for survivors of domestic violence, their children, families, and friends residing in Florida's 67 counties. FCADV, in partnership with Florida Legal Services, Inc., administers the Statewide Domestic Violence Legal Hotline, which provides comprehensive legal advice, information, and referrals to survivors of domestic violence. During the 2016-17 fiscal year, the Florida Domestic Violence Hotline received 25,540 calls, 6,842 of which were answered by the legal hotline.

Callers to the Florida Domestic Violence Hotline primarily requested assistance related to receiving shelter, support services, information regarding the civil and criminal justice system, and economic empowerment services that help survivors gain financial independence. Survivors also requested legal information related to divorce and child custody issues, parenting rights, and interstate jurisdiction.

List of Additional FCADV Programs

In addition to the aforementioned programs, FCADV conducts 30 hours of Core Competency Training for newly hired advocates across the state multiple times each year as well as onsite trainings from FCADV's Effective Advocacy Training Series based on certified domestic violence center request. For more information, please visit <http://fcadv.org/training-technical-assistance>

- Rural Statewide Initiative
- Rural and Underserved Communities Program
- Linguistic and Culturally Specific Services Program
- Domestic Violence Accessibility Program
- Domestic Violence in Later Life Program
- Engaging Men and Boys Program
- Legal Clearinghouse Project
- Technology and Safety Program
- DELTA FOCUS Program
- Primary Prevention Initiative
- Community Collaborative Projects
- Healthy Advocate Initiative
- Database and Evaluation Programs
- Emergency Preparedness and Response Program
- Critical Incident Support Initiative
- Justice for Families Batterer Accountability Program
- Roaming Attorney Project
- Coordinated Community Response Program
- Legal Assistance for Victims Program
- Changing Lives: Economic Empowerment Program
- Domestic Violence Fatality Review Initiative
- Hotline Training Program
- Youth Engagement and Leadership Program



Domestic Violence Crime in Florida

The Florida Department of Law Enforcement (FDLE) publishes annual and semi-annual Uniform Crime Reports (UCRs) that serve as a reliable indicator of the number, rate, and types of crime and criminal activity known to and reported by the state's law enforcement agencies. In addition to overall crime statistics, domestic violence crimes and arrests are segregated in the UCR data by the respective crime categories.

The 2016 UCR¹² reflected that while overall crime decreased 2.8 percent, domestic violence crimes only decreased by 1.9 percent. While any decrease is positive, the report also reflected an increase of 11.8 percent in domestic violence aggravated stalking offenses. An increase in these crimes raises concern because stalking is a known precursor to domestic violence homicide. Tragically, there were 193 individuals that died as a result of domestic violence homicide, representing 17.4 percent of all homicides in Florida last year.

In 2016, law enforcement agencies reported a total 105,668 domestic violence offenses and arrested 63,193 individuals. Domestic violence crimes against spouses and cohabitants are overwhelmingly the most frequently reported relationship between perpetrators and victims. There were 10 counties in Florida that experienced increases of 10 percent or more in domestic violence incidences from the previous year. Overall, 34 of Florida's 67 counties reported increases in domestic violence crimes, 32 experienced decreases, and one remained constant. It should be noted that the data contained in the annual report and reflected in the UCR only represents domestic violence offenses reported to law enforcement agencies, and domestic violence is recognized as a significantly underreported crime. An estimated 27 percent of women and 13.5 percent of men who are physically assaulted and less than 20 percent of women who are raped by an intimate partner report these crimes to law enforcement.¹³



¹²Information from FDLE's 2016 Uniform Crime Report: http://www.fdle.state.fl.us/cms/FSAC/UCR/2016/cnty_annual16.aspx

¹³Tjaden, Patricia & Thoennes, Nancy. National Institute of Justice and the Centers of Disease Control and Prevention, "Extent, Nature and Consequences of Intimate Partner Violence: Findings from the National Violence Against Women Survey," (2000)

Headlines Around the State

The Lakeland Ledger

February 25, 2017

Police: Lake Gibson Middle assistant principal and teacher killed by Lakeland man. Assistant Principal Samara Routenberg, 39, and Lisa Dawn Fuillerat, 51, a sixth-grade math teacher, were shot and killed by Fuillerat's estranged husband, Vincente Fuillerat, 53, before he shot and killed himself, said the Hillsborough Sheriff's Office.

Channel 10 News Miami

September 26, 2016

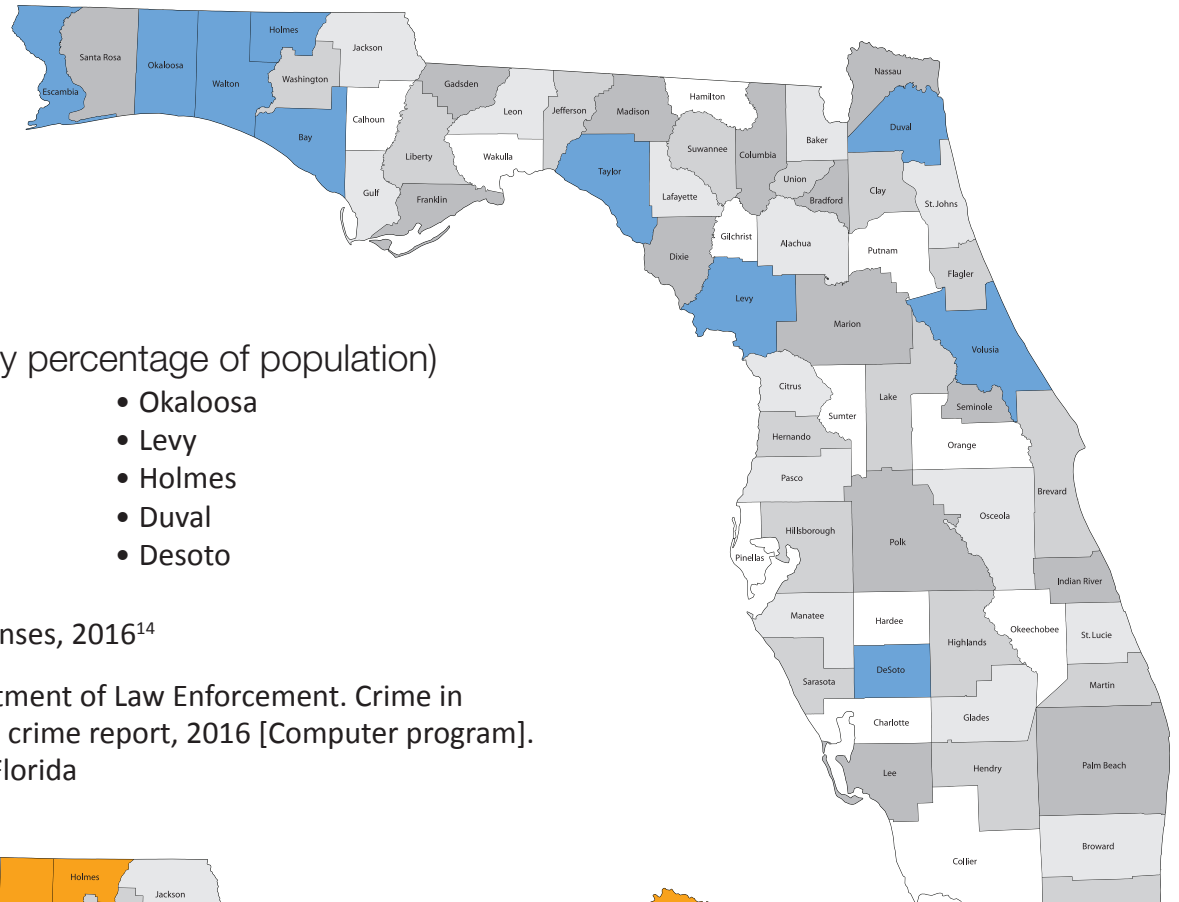
Mother of 6 shot 13 times outside home, police say

Shaqueenia Hana, 35 was shot about 13 times outside her home according to police. Witnesses said she was shot in front of her children, including the youngest, who is just 5 years old. Police called the incident a case of domestic violence, and said they have identified Terrell Jimmel Robinson, 30, as the gunman.

Associated Press

May 27, 2017

A 75-year-old man, Laurence Caufield, fatally shot himself while deputies were visiting his house to conduct a welfare check on his wife, and he left behind a hand-written suicide note saying he had buried her in the backyard, authorities in Florida said.

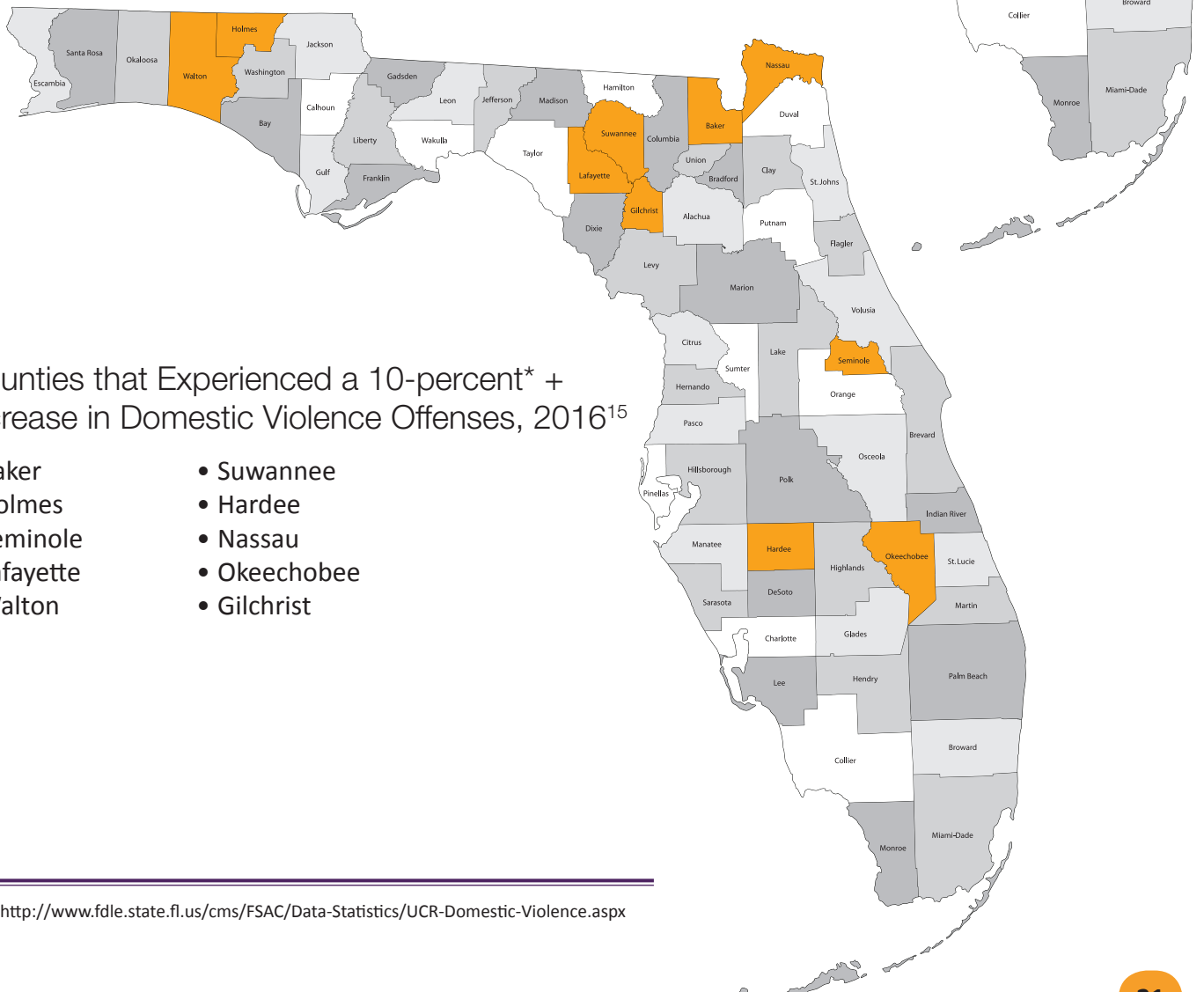


Top 10 Counties (by percentage of population)

- Taylor
- Escambia
- Volusia
- Walton
- Bay
- Okaloosa
- Levy
- Holmes
- Duval
- Desoto

Domestic Violence Offenses, 2016¹⁴

SOURCE: Florida Department of Law Enforcement. Crime in Florida, Florida uniform crime report, 2016 [Computer program]. Tallahassee, FL: FDLE. Florida

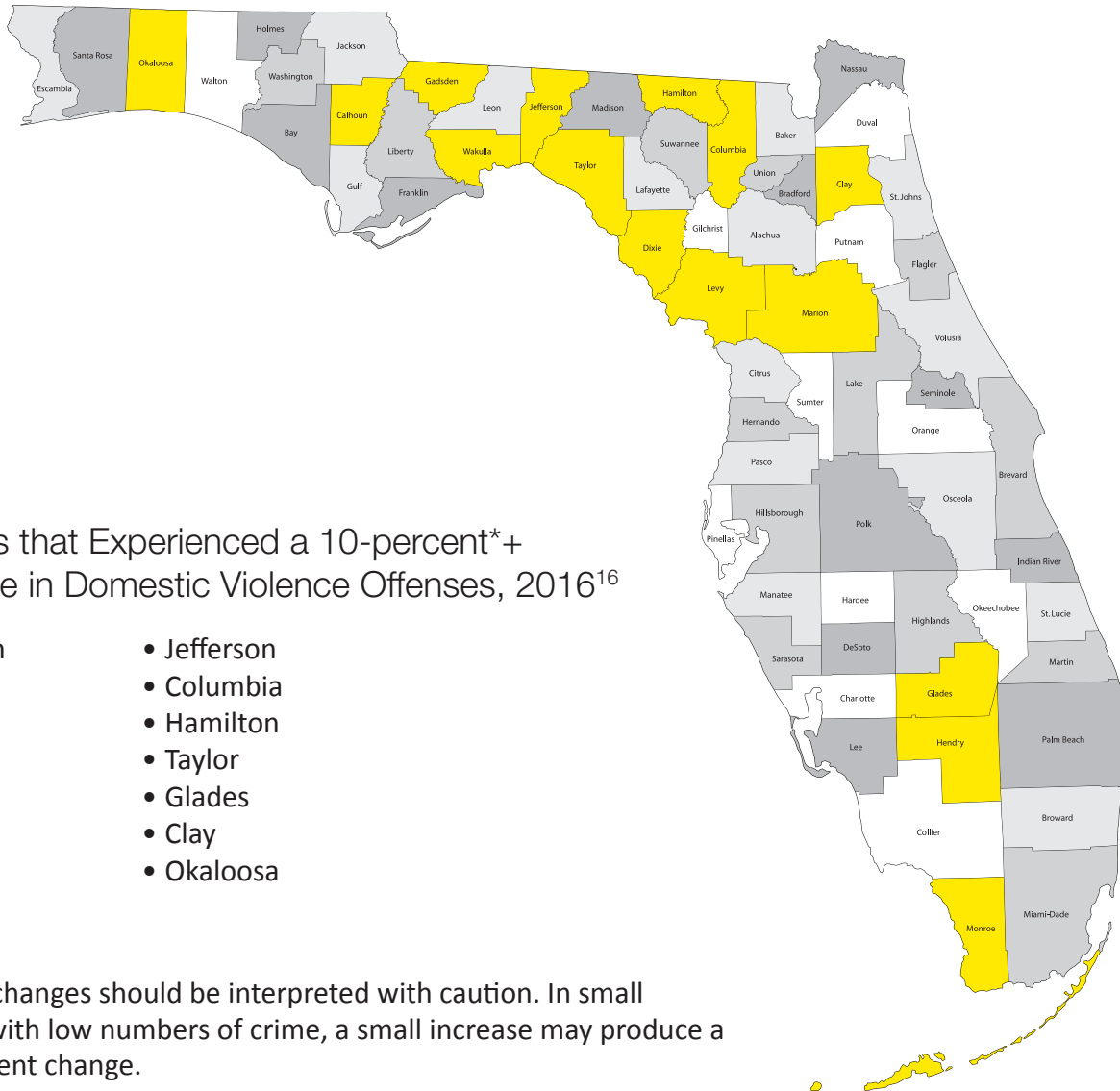


Counties that Experienced a 10-percent* + Increase in Domestic Violence Offenses, 2016¹⁵

- Baker
- Holmes
- Seminole
- Lafayette
- Walton
- Suwannee
- Hardee
- Nassau
- Okeechobee
- Gilchrist

¹⁴Retrieved from <http://www.fdle.state.fl.us/cms/FSAC/Data-Statistics/UCR-Domestic-Violence.aspx>

¹⁵Ibid

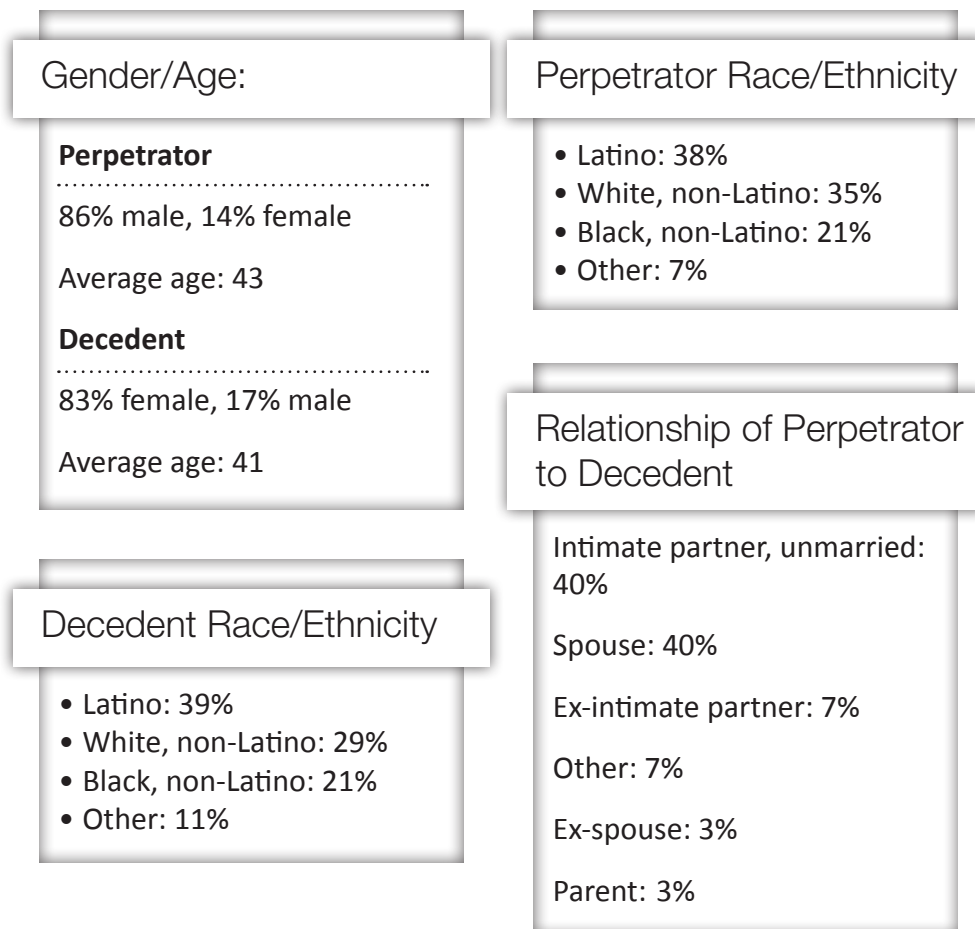


¹⁶Ibid

Domestic Violence Fatality Review Teams

Florida's commitment to responding to and preventing domestic violence is evidenced by the existence of a Statewide Domestic Violence Fatality Review Team and 25 active local teams, representing one of only nine states with both statewide and local teams. Since 2009, the Attorney General's Statewide Domestic Violence Fatality Review Team conducted comprehensive reviews of domestic violence fatalities with the goal of preventing domestic violence homicides. The team identifies gaps in the service delivery system and offers policy and practical recommendations to strengthen safety factors and reduce risk factors that contribute to these deaths. The statewide team is co-chaired by Attorney General Pam Bondi and FCADV, and is comprised of representatives from a variety of state and local entities that interact with survivors, their children, and perpetrators of domestic violence. Members represent the court system, probation, parole, law enforcement, faith-based organizations, certified domestic violence centers, legal providers, health care providers, and the defense bar.

During FY 2016-17, the statewide team produced the 2017 Faces of Fatality report that includes descriptive statistics of domestic violence homicides based on data collected by local fatality review teams. The deaths reviewed primarily occurred between 2010 and 2016. In total, local teams across the state submitted 30 reviews of fatal or near-fatal domestic violence homicides in Florida. The following represent highlights excerpted from the Faces of Fatality, Vol. VII.¹⁷



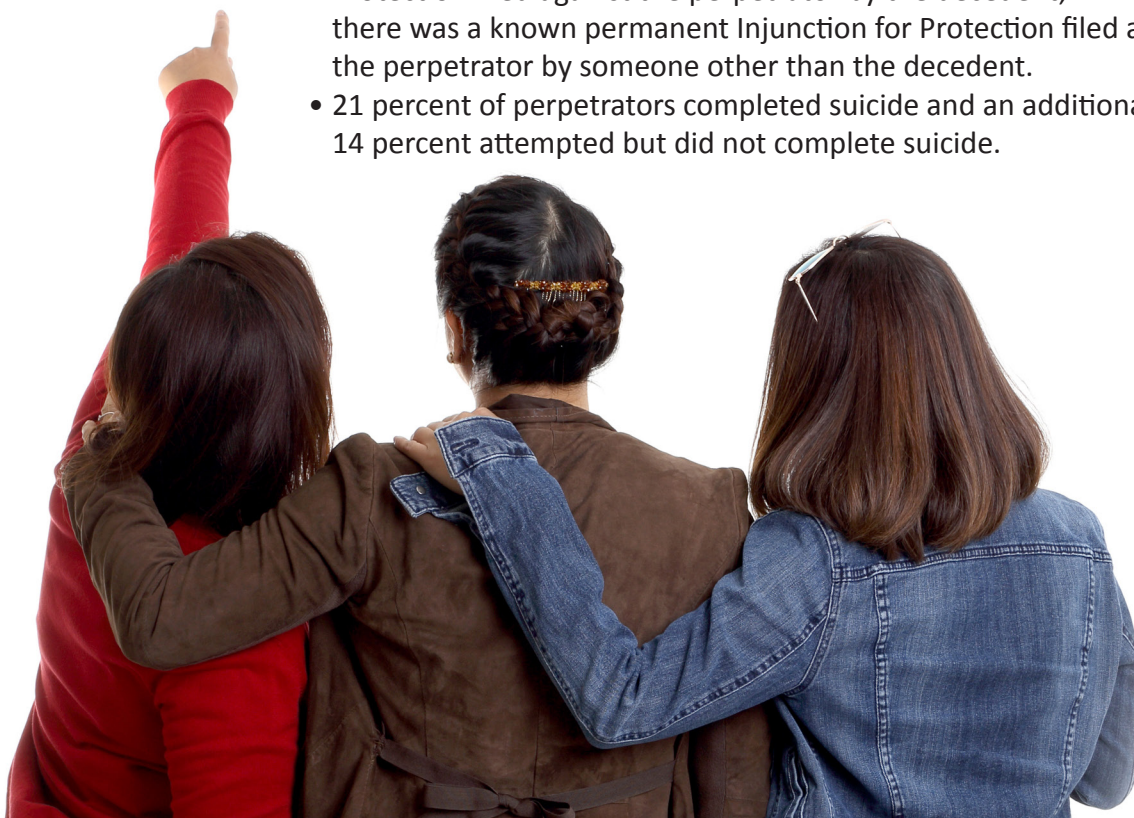
¹⁷For more information about the Statewide Domestic Violence Fatality Review Team: <http://fcadv.org/projects-programs/sdvftr>

“The work our domestic violence fatality review teams engage in is so important in understanding these tragic homicides and improving the safety of the citizens of Florida. These teams honor the lives that were lost by providing information that may help prevent future deaths. I am pleased to partner with the Florida Coalition Against Domestic Violence in co-chairing the Statewide Domestic Violence Fatality Review Team and commend our great law enforcement agencies, prosecutors, and team members who play such a critical role in the fight against domestic violence.”

Attorney General Pam Bondi

Key Findings

- 35 percent of perpetrators were unemployed at the time of the homicide.
- 55 percent of perpetrators were reported to have substance abuse histories.
- 28 percent of perpetrators were reported to have a professionally diagnosed mental health disorder.
- In 28 percent of fatalities, there was known prior stalking behavior on the part of the perpetrator.
- In 50 percent of fatalities, there was at least one of the following indicators present prior to the homicide: history of prior domestic violence, substance abuse, and/or non-domestic violence criminal history by the perpetrator.
- 62 percent of perpetrators were known by family or friends to carry or possess a weapon.
- 42 percent of decedents and perpetrators were separated at the time of the homicide and the average length of separation when known, was approximately 2.9 years.
- 31 percent of fatalities had known prior death threats made by the perpetrator towards the decedent, based on victim reporting.
- 57 percent of perpetrators had a known non-domestic violence-related criminal history.
- 55 percent of perpetrators had a known criminal history of domestic violence and in 31 percent of fatalities, there were known prior reports to the police by the decedent alleging domestic violence by the perpetrator.
- 66 percent of perpetrators had a known criminal history of any kind, domestic violence-related or otherwise, based on criminal records and narrative reports.
- In 52 percent of fatalities, family members reported knowing about prior incidents or prior threats of domestic violence on the part of the perpetrator.
- In 31 percent of fatalities, there was a known criminal order of no contact issued against the perpetrator.
- In 17 percent of fatalities, there was a known permanent Injunction for Protection filed against the perpetrator by the decedent; in 17 percent there was a known permanent Injunction for Protection filed against the perpetrator by someone other than the decedent.
- 21 percent of perpetrators completed suicide and an additional 14 percent attempted but did not complete suicide.



2017 Recommendations

- Law enforcement agencies should include the Florida Domestic Violence Hotline and information regarding certified domestic violence centers in the victim rights information distributed to all adult and juvenile victims of crime, particularly criminal mischief, property damage, trespassing or other lesser crimes, to ensure domestic violence survivors who are victims of these crimes receive information regarding the availability of life-saving domestic violence services. FCADV should partner with the Florida Department of Law Enforcement, Florida Sheriffs Association, and Florida Police Chiefs Association to create a card that contains the Florida Domestic Violence Hotline phone number and other relevant information that can be included with the general victim rights brochure for on-scene distribution by law enforcement. The inclusion of this information will help increase access to domestic violence resources for domestic violence survivors.
- FCADV, certified domestic violence centers, and other stakeholders, including law enforcement and community-based programs, should develop and distribute informational materials and/or conduct community outreach activities related to the dynamics and tactics of domestic violence, intervention strategies, and available resources for staff and residents representing the 55 and older population.
- In collaboration with partners such as the Department of Elder Affairs, OAG, the Division of Victim Services, and DCF, FCADV should create a training curriculum related to Intimate Partner Violence in Later Life for dispatchers, mental health professionals, physicians, law enforcement officers, victim advocates, first responders, and staff of 55 and older living communities. Training topics should focus on tactics of coercive control used by perpetrators of intimate partner violence in later life, signs of intimate partner violence, and the relationship between elder abuse and intimate partner homicide.



Responding To Domestic Violence through Government Funding Sources

Domestic Violence Trust Fund and General Revenue

The primary source of state funding for domestic violence emergency shelter, services, programs, and training is through the Domestic Violence Trust Fund (DVTF). These funds are distributed to Florida's 42 certified domestic violence centers to provide critical, life-saving programs and services to domestic violence survivors and their children. The DVTF receives funds from a portion of fees for both marriage license and dissolution of marriage, fines for domestic violence crime convictions, and any general revenue appropriated during the annual Legislative Session.

Domestic Violence Diversion Program, Temporary Assistance for Needy Families

Recognizing that survivors of domestic violence may need temporary economic assistance to escape a violent partner, federal and state legislators created the Domestic Violence Diversion Program. Florida's program is modeled on federal law and provides support services to survivors unable to temporarily participate in training or work requirements due to safety considerations or the residual effects of domestic violence.

Capital Improvement Grant Program

Legislation passed in 2000 created this first-in-the-nation program through which, pursuant to legislative appropriations, certified domestic violence centers may apply to DCF for a capital improvement grant to construct, repair, improve, or upgrade systems, facilities, or equipment.¹⁸

Family Violence Prevention and Services Act (FVPSA) Grant Program

FVPSA is the only federal funding dedicated specifically for domestic violence centers for the operation of emergency shelter and other critical services. The grant program also provides funding to State Coalitions for the provision of training and technical assistance to member programs to ensure quality of service provision to survivors and their children.

Violence Against Women Act (VAWA) Grant Program*

FCADV and DCF administer two grants provided by the federal Violence Against Women Act: an annual formula grant, STOP (Services, Training, Officers and Prosecution), and the discretionary Grants to Encourage Arrest. The STOP grant promotes a coordinated, multidisciplinary approach to enhancing advocacy and improving the criminal justice system's response to violent crimes against women. VAWA requires that funding is distributed to each respective discipline by percentages: 30 percent to victim services, 25 percent to law enforcement, 25 percent to prosecutors, 5 percent to courts, and 15 percent discretionary (Florida generally applies discretionary funds to victim services). Federal regulations require the funding to be allocated geographically based on identified needs and availability of resources.

Grants to Encourage Arrest

The Grants to Encourage Arrest are competitive nationally and designed to encourage governments to treat domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, and stalking as serious violations of criminal law that require a coordinated response from the entire criminal justice system. The program works to ensure the safety of domestic violence survivors and their children and to hold perpetrators accountable for their crimes.

¹⁸Pursuant to s. 39.9055, Florida Statutes

*The reauthorization of VAWA in 2013 resulted in a requirement that funding be redirected from all programming into specific program areas. Specifically, VAWA requires that 20 percent of funding is directed to sexual assault programs and services.

Responding To Domestic Violence Through Government Funding

Legend:

VAWA: Violence Against Women Act

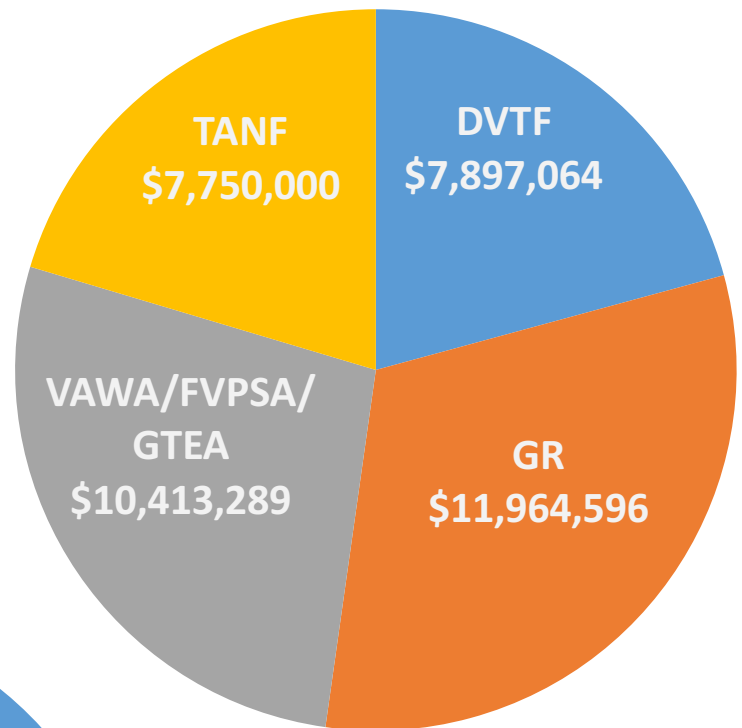
FVPSA: Family Violence Prevention and Services Act

GTEA: Grants to Encourage Arrest

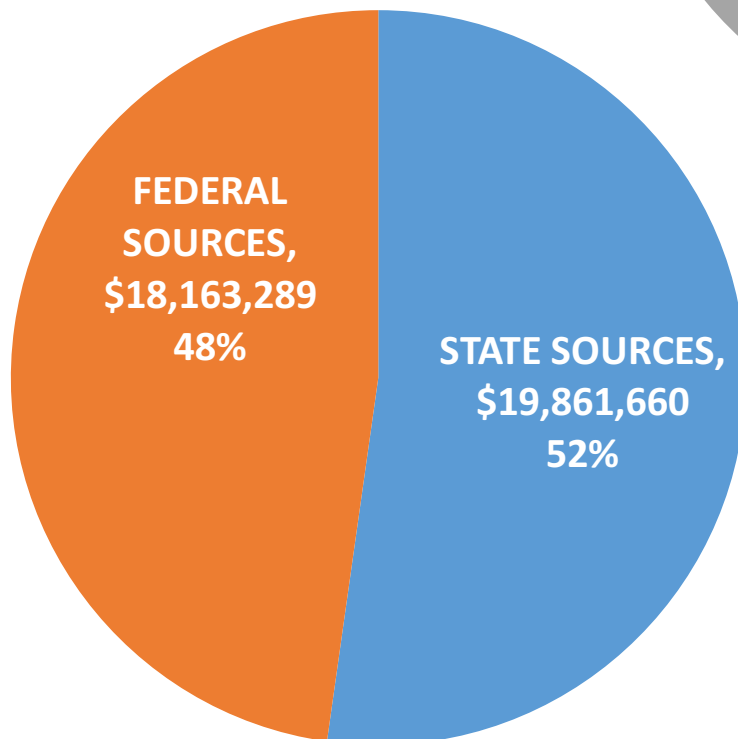
TANF: Temporary Assistance for Needy Families

DVTF: Domestic Violence Trust Fund

GR: General Revenue



TOTAL: \$38,024,949



TOTAL: \$38,024,949

“As we commemorate FCADV’s 40 year history of working towards ending domestic violence, we remember the many lives tragically lost as a result of this horrendous crime. Last year alone in Florida, 193 women, children, and men were killed as a result of domestic violence and thousands more suffered at the hands of someone who said they loved them. We can make a difference in the lives of survivors and their children by listening to, respecting, and responding to their individualized needs. Survivors of domestic violence are the experts in their own lives and their own relationships. We must ensure that foundational philosophy serves as the cornerstone of the strategies we implement while appropriately holding the perpetrator solely responsible for the violence. It is imperative that we work together to ensure every survivor’s request for help is met with non-judgmental understanding and a relentless determination to help them access safety. When we respond together in this way, we will save lives.”

Tiffany Carr, President/CEO

The Florida Coalition Against Domestic Violence



Sponsored by the Florida Coalition Against Domestic Violence
and the Florida Department of Children and Families.



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Florida Coalition Against Domestic Violence

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TDD

(800) 621-4202

Florida Relay

711

www.fcadv.org