



**DOMESTIC VIOLENCE ANNUAL REPORT**

**January 2025**

## Executive Summary

The mission of the Department of Children and Families (Department) is to work in partnership with local communities to protect the vulnerable, promote strong and economically self-sufficient families, and advance personal and family recovery and resiliency. The Department's strong focus on creating a culture of intentional collaboration and integration has postured all programs to improve effectiveness that allows individuals and families to emerge stronger. This includes building a system of accountability, transparency, and alignment within the Department and among providers to maximize moments of impact with those served. Combined with the renewed focus on culture, program effectiveness, and accountability, the Department has significantly enhanced relationships with providers and will continue to develop innovative initiatives to better support statewide domestic violence projects and drive positive outcomes for survivors.

The Office of Domestic Violence (ODV) operates as the central clearinghouse and administrator of state and federal funding initiatives for prevention and intervention of domestic violence. These duties include the monitoring and funding of Florida's certified domestic violence centers, as authorized in section 39.903, Florida Statutes (F.S.). The operation of prevention and intervention services are achieved through multi-disciplinary coordination and focus on the improvement of the criminal justice system's response to domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, and stalking crimes.

This year's annual legislative report provides an update of ODV's array of services, trends, and achievements for the Fiscal Year (FY) 2023-2024. As a part of the Office of Community Services (OCS), the ODV has been working diligently to enhance family safety by providing domestic violence-informed services and addressing intergenerational and systemic trauma.

### 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, and 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 also examples of 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<sup>1</sup>.

---

<sup>1</sup> Section 741.28, F.S.

## Identifying Trends to Inform Domestic Violence Responses

### Domestic Violence Crimes in Florida

Domestic violence incidences in Florida are identified through several means. Often, victims of domestic violence, or friends and family on their behalf, seek support through community-based advocacy services such as certified domestic violence centers and other providers. Law enforcement are often the first responders to violence in the home, and in many cases are the first to assist. Florida's child welfare program completes investigations into family violence occurrences when children are injured or have witnessed the violence. Despite the robust system Florida has in place, many cases of domestic violence go unreported. As a result, the true number of victims and domestic violence related crimes are difficult to determine.

The last Florida Department of Law Enforcement Uniform Crime Report was released for 2020. The 2020 crime statistics are as follows:

January – December 2020<sup>2</sup>

- Overall crime in Florida decreased by 14.1%, while reported domestic violence offenses increased by 1.16%.
- 106,515 domestic violence offenses were reported to law enforcement.
- 217 individuals died because of domestic violence homicide, representing approximately 20% of all homicides in Florida.
- Law enforcement made 63,217 arrests for domestic violence related crimes.
- The top ten counties with the most reported domestic violence offenses (by percentage of the population) were Levy, Dixie, Marion, Taylor, DeSoto, Hardee, Duval, Pasco, Leon, and Holmes Counties.

### The Statewide Domestic Violence Hotline

Operated and managed by the Florida Domestic Violence Collaborative, (FLDVC), Florida's Statewide Domestic Violence Hotline provides 24/7 multilingual supportive services, advocacy and information, and referral services for survivors of domestic violence, their children, families, and friends residing in Florida's 67 counties.

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 FY 2023-2024, the Florida Domestic Violence Hotline received 14,950 calls, in which 2,794 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.

---

<sup>2</sup> Information from FDLE's 2020 Annual Uniform Crime Report:

[https://www.fdle.state.fl.us/FSAC/Documents/Annual/Domestic-Violence/DV\\_Jurisdiction\\_Offenses\\_2020-\(3\).aspx](https://www.fdle.state.fl.us/FSAC/Documents/Annual/Domestic-Violence/DV_Jurisdiction_Offenses_2020-(3).aspx)

## Florida's Certified Domestic Violence Centers

In FY 2023-2024, there were 41 certified domestic violence centers serving Florida's 67 counties and responsible for providing critical, life-saving emergency shelter, services, and programming to survivors and their children. In Florida, centers are on the front lines of responding to domestic violence by providing a place of safety, security, 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 self-efficacy. 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<sup>3</sup>.

During FY 2023-2024, certified centers provided 603,577 nights of emergency shelter to 12,543 women, men, and children. Many survivors fled violent homes with their children, representing 47% of those served in emergency shelters. In addition to the services required by the Florida Statutes, many of the Department's 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. Collectively, Florida certified domestic violence centers provided the following services:

- 12,543 individuals received emergency shelter at a certified domestic violence center
- 75,746 crisis hotline calls
- 30,723 individuals received outreach services
- 224,384 safety plans were completed with survivors
- 24,605 service management goal plans were completed with survivors
- 398,829 direct service information and referrals to survivors, family members, and individuals seeking services
- 199,396 hours of supportive counseling and advocacy
- 54,103 hours facilitating child and youth-specific activities
- 43,672 adult individuals attended training and education events
- 68,012 youth attended & youth targeted community education

In FY 2023-2024, increased funding for certified domestic violence centers improved safety planning services and professional training. As a result, the demand for other services at certified centers decreased, as survivors accessed safe and effective services through community partners, thereby enhancing systems responses to domestic violence and other forms of violence.

---

<sup>3</sup> Pursuant to s. 39.905, F.S.

## Enhancing Services for Survivors and Promoting Family Safety

### **Statewide Training and Technical Assistance for Certified Domestic Violence Centers and Stakeholders**

During FY 2023-2024, training, technical assistance, and education was provided to certified domestic violence centers, collaborative community partners, agencies, and service providers throughout the state. Training and technical assistance were provided to these entities to strengthen knowledge, enhance standards, and build capacity to provide quality services to domestic violence survivors and their children. Each training was created to address the specific needs identified by the center and/or local community organization. Training and technical assistance was provided by FLDVC in which 99 trainings and webinars, and 2,742 technical assistance visits and calls were provided to community partners, agencies, and service providers throughout the state. In the second and third quarters, FPEDV provided 7 units of training, totaling 7 hours, to 28 individuals. In the fourth quarter, they hosted 11 connection calls and provided 41 hours of technical assistance.

### **Child Protection Investigation (CPI) Project**

Intimate Partner Violence (IPV) is abuse or aggression that occurs in a romantic relationship. Intimate partner refers to both current and former spouses and dating partners, as well as those who have children in common. Family Violence Threatens Child and related IPV maltreatments continue to be among the most frequently reported maltreatments to the Statewide Florida Abuse Hotline. Thus, the Department and the Office of the Attorney General (OAG) worked together with domestic violence field experts from 2004–2008 to create a groundbreaking program focused on creating permanency for children by focusing on keeping the child safe in the home with the non-offending parent, forming the CPI Project.

The primary goal of the statewide CPI Project is to enhance family safety and create permanency for children by focusing on keeping the child safe in the home with the non-offending caregiver while increasing perpetrator accountability. The co-located advocates' domestic violence expertise serves to increase the capacity of child welfare professionals through survivor engagement, development of individualized safety plans, and enhancement of survivor protective capacities. Advocates' expertise in this area assists child welfare professionals in partnering with survivors by building on the protective factors of the non-offending parent. They also assist child welfare professionals in identifying the perpetrators' pattern of coercive and controlling behaviors, gathering information to identify and address batterer-generated risks, and assessing the impact of the batterer's behavior on the children.

The continued success of the collaboration created through the CPI Project has shown promise in meeting the Department's goals to enhance family permanency, support the customer journey and promote positive long-term outcomes. In FY 2023-2024, the CPI project collectively utilized a seamless system of wraparound services, which allowed 20,815 children, whose families were involved in the child welfare system, to remain in the home with the non-offending parent. During this time, co-located advocates:

- Received and followed up on a total of 12,103 CPI Project referrals from child welfare professionals.
- Participated in 9,056 child welfare case staffings.
- Provided 19,809 case consultation services to child welfare professionals.
- Provided 55,574 services to child welfare involved survivors referred to local certified domestic violence centers. Services included shelter and housing, criminal and civil justice system assistance, personal advocacy and accompaniment, emotional support, and safety services, as well as assistance with the state's Victim Compensation application and information and referrals.
- Provided 576 trainings to local child welfare partners and center advocates on topics including, but not limited to, the dynamics of domestic violence, the intersection of domestic violence and child abuse, batterer accountability, and safety planning.

### **Law Enforcement: Intimate Violence Enhanced Service Team (InVEST) and Enhanced Response**

In FY 2023-2024, ten law enforcement agencies received Services for Training, Officers, and Prosecution (STOP), funding for Law Enforcement Enhanced Response projects, which encourage local law enforcement agencies and their community partners to treat domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, and stalking as serious violations of criminal law requiring the coordinated involvement of the entire criminal justice system. Within this Coordinated Community Response (CCR) approach, grantees participate in community assessments that identify problems, listen, communicate, and share ideas to enhance responses that ensure survivor safety and offender accountability. STOP funding allowed for the expansion of the InVEST Project to fund at least one detective within law enforcement agencies to collaborate with certified domestic violence centers to reduce domestic violence homicides.

### **Batterer Accountability Project**

In 2023, five certified domestic violence centers were awarded STOP funds to enhance victim safety through batterer accountability measures. Each project funds a Batterer Accountability Specialist (BAS) who serves as a single point of contact, unifying courts, and system of care providers, and increases coordinated collaboration to enhance accountability for batterers when there is involvement in the child welfare system. The BAS also increases the safety of victims and children by ensuring child welfare partnering agencies develop dependency case plans that hold batterers accountable in ways that promote safety and compliance with orders and enabling the courts' ability to closely monitor batterers' compliance with dependency case plans and other court orders to prevent the reoccurrence of violence.

Each of the five providers executed Memorandums of Understanding (MOUs) with local child welfare agencies, including child protective investigations, community-based care (CBC) case management providers, and law enforcement agencies. Three of the five also included the local State Attorney's Office. In 2023, these BASs monitored 203 cases for batterers' compliance with dependency case plans, which often include successful completion of a Batterers' Intervention Program, and other court orders to prevent the reoccurrence of violence; 202 of the 203

successfully held batterers accountable. Successful accountability included monitoring batterers' behaviors in case plans, referrals to Batterer Intervention Programs, working with State Attorney's Offices to prosecute IPV cases, and providing services to survivors.

## **Prosecution**

In FY 2023-2024, eight state attorneys' offices received STOP funding to assist prosecutors and victim advocates in providing a comprehensive approach to supporting victims and holding offenders accountable. State attorneys' offices prosecuted domestic violence and sex crimes and assisted victims through the criminal justice process.

The Department also partners the Florida Prosecuting Attorneys Association (FPAA), a statewide, non-profit corporation created to serve the needs of prosecutors whose members are the 20 elected State Attorneys and over 2,000 Assistant State Attorneys, to provide training and technical assistance on emerging issues related to the STOP purpose areas. With STOP funding, FPAA maintains specialized staff to function as a central clearinghouse of information for Florida's prosecutors and coordinates vital training opportunities throughout the state. In 2023, FPAA trained 142 multidisciplinary partners (including law enforcement officers, prosecutors, and victim advocates) on domestic violence issues, sex crimes, human trafficking, domestic violence trial advocacy, inter-disciplinary coordination with law enforcement, and resources to ensure survivor safety, with an exceptional average competency score of 97.7%. Each participant was provided training materials and encouraged to share with co-workers and other community partners. Recorded webinars and seminars are available online, resulting in additional professionals benefiting from the training.

## **Courts**

The Office of the State Courts Administrator (OSCA) updated the 2023 Florida Domestic Violence Bench Book<sup>4</sup>. This reference guide was created for judges who are on the domestic violence bench, or who may be expected to review filed petitions for protection against domestic violence, sexual violence, dating violence, repeat violence, or stalking. The bench book provides information on every step of the injunction process, complete with flowcharts and checklists designed to provide at-a-glance illumination of the procedures the judge must follow to comply with Florida law. It also contains a legal civil outline, evidence outline, and criminal domestic violence outline, each complete with case law and statutory authority.

The OSCA also completed two separate regional trainings for judges that featured presentations by national experts from the National Judicial Institute on Domestic Violence. Topics included Effective Accountability in Domestic Violence Cases, Immigration and Domestic Violence, and Responding to Child-Related Proceedings Involving Domestic Violence. A separate training was held for domestic violence case managers that featured presentations on best practices, disabilities and the courts, collaborative communication between stakeholders, the intersection between sexual violence and human trafficking, and the weaponization of technology in domestic violence cases.

---

<sup>4</sup>[domestic-violence-benchbook.pdf \(flcourts.gov\)](https://www.flcourts.gov/domestic-violence-benchbook.pdf)

## **Victim Services**

The Violence Against Women Act (VAWA) provides funding for victim services in cases of domestic violence, sexual violence, dating violence, and stalking. Victim service funds are directed in numerous ways to address all four VAWA crime areas and support statewide efforts by providing resources, advocacy, training, technical assistance, outreach services, hospital and court accompaniment, and emergency shelter services. During SFY 2023-2024, Florida provided training and technical assistance to certified domestic violence centers, collaborative community partners, agencies, and service providers throughout the state to strengthen knowledge, enhance standards, and build capacity to provide quality services to victims.

The Florida Council Against Sexual Violence (FCASV) was also funded to develop material guidance and provide technical assistance on properly managing requests for forensic examinations when the survivor evidences either a diminished or total lack of capacity to consent; assist certified rape crisis centers in properly responding to subpoenas for records containing privileged information; facilitate monthly drop-in discussions and technical assistance meetings with rape crisis program directors; conduct webinars for rape crisis centers; and administer and monitor funding for prosecutors, law enforcement agencies, and rape crisis center personnel. Additionally, FCASV provided training to law enforcement and prosecutors on trauma-informed sexual assault investigations; certified law enforcement trainers on effective delivery of the Trauma-informed Investigations training curriculum; certified rape crisis center Executive Directors and Program Directors on Managing Change, Program Evaluation, and Board Governance/Management; and qualified health care professionals on forensic examination performance and evidence collection, packaging and documentation (40-hour SANE training), and advanced Sexual Assault Nurse Examiner (SANE) training on updated medical forensic examination and diminished consent guidance.

FCASV entered subcontracts with certified rape crisis programs to provide direct services and improve the overall response to and for sexual assault survivors. M.U.J.E.R., Inc. used STOP funds to provide culturally and linguistically appropriate services to and for survivors of sexual violence in south Miami-Dade County. Gulf Coast Sexual Assault Program's (GCSAP) contract supported the provision of services in four counties previously served by other programs. In its first month of providing sexual assault services in Okaloosa and Walton counties, GCSAP served more sexual assault survivors than the previous provider had in twelve (12) months. FCASV also entered a subcontract with Betty Griffin Center (BGH), Inc., a sexual assault, and domestic violence service provider, to enable BGH to enhance its sexual assault services in St. Johns County. Project HELP, Inc., based in Naples, FL, received STOP funds to provide services to migrant farmworkers in surrounding rural areas.

## **Improving Criminal Justice Response (ICJR) Project**

Victims of domestic violence, sexual violence, and stalking rely on Florida's 20 judicial circuits for protection and justice. The Office of the State's Court Administrator (OSCA) works to ensure that judges and court staff are well equipped to recognize and accommodate the individualized needs of victims in each unique case by continually offering training and technical assistance. As part of these efforts, OSCA has secured Office on Violence Against Women funds to contract with the



Department, Florida State University's Institute for Family Violence Studies, and the Citrus County Abuse Shelter Association, Inc. (CASA) to develop trainings, maintaining a statewide protection order database, and to implement a homicide reduction resource center to improve judicial response and court protocols for handling intimate partner violence cases. The project began during FY 2022-2023 and will continue through September 2024.

In collaboration with Citrus CASA, the Department presented the second and third of a six-part series offered to professionals within the criminal justice system focused on the relationship between high risk factors and intimate partner violence. The second training focused on assessing and responding to domestic violence strangulation cases. In the interactive, introductory training, attendees received tangible skills and knowledge for community coordinated responses to strangulation cases and implementing and interpreting results from the risk assessment tool for offender accountability and survivor recovery. The third training focused on stalking, its prevalence, best practices of making separate charging decisions for stalking offenses that co-occur with other offenses and assessing for stalking within the context of intimate partner violence. The goal of the training and subsequent trainings within this series is to ensure criminal justice professionals are well-equipped with the knowledge to effectively identify coercive control and assess risk factors within their various disciplines that perpetuate violence to ensure perpetrator accountability and survivor safety.

In FY 2023-2024, the development and finalization of the Law Enforcement Strangulation bench card was presented to OSCA. In March of 2024, the Department hosted a one-and-a-half-day online institute for judges, court staff, law enforcement, child welfare professionals, and domestic violence advocates. Presenters included state and national experts on topics such as multi-cultural responses, cybersecurity, stalking, sexual violence, and the prevention of intimate partner homicides. Through the information and training provided, attendees were able to describe the relationship between stalking, cyberstalking, strangulation, sexual violence, and risk indicators for intimate partner homicide.

### **Domestic Violence Faith & Community Based Initiative**

The ODV developed and launched SafeSpace, a Domestic Violence Faith and Community Based Initiative. Faith-based communities are an integral part of a community's response and prevention of domestic violence. These partners not only provide support for their community; they also facilitate optimal opportunities for impact across the lifespan from youth and kids' programs, marital and partner groups, and groups for individuals to address a variety of life challenges.

The Department is committed to connecting individuals in crisis with these pillars of resiliency to best support survivors, perpetrators, and their families as they seek safety. The SafeSpace Initiative was developed with social ecological strategies in mind, from engagement with survivors or perpetrators individually or together, to building relationships within the community, as well as impact to societal structures, so that faith leaders can make significant change in the prevalence of violence. The SafeSpace initiative was developed on a three-tiered approach to engagement including training and technical assistance, Domestic Violence Individual Designations and Sanctuary Designations including community connections to domestic violence resources. The

Department officially launched the Designation Curriculum in October of 2023 and trained 24 faith leaders from faith institutions and faith-based community services from the greater Tampa Bay Area. In February 2024, 15 faith leaders from the Tallahassee area received the Designation Curriculum. Ongoing technical assistance and support is provided by the domestic violence team and input on program adjustments have been received from the initial cohorts to develop the 2024-2025 training plan.

**Prevention Initiative**

Aligned with the Department’s priorities, the ODV seeks to reduce incidences of domestic violence by moving upstream to optimize early moments of impact. Primary and secondary prevention initiatives seek to obviate perpetration and victimization by addressing risk and protective factors across the socioecological model. By utilizing evidence-based strategies statewide and locally, conditions are being created to make violence less likely to be perpetrated such as health relationships education, parenting workshops, and other widespread prevention efforts.

At the local level, providers have prioritized youth leadership and community partnerships within the community response to violence prevention and intervention and developed programming to support change. Certified Domestic Violence Centers are funded to develop, implement, and evaluate prevention strategies that incorporate planning with Community Action Teams, conducting local trainings, and meeting with key stakeholders. Each center develops its own unique strategic plan, based on the needs of the local community, centered on the elements of enhancing partnerships and engaging with people within their communities.

FY 2023-2024 was the second year the ODV implemented a reporting tool for providers to report on their prevention initiatives and activities, including youth engagement, community action, social change, and capacity building.

**Community Engagement Activities Statewide**

<b>Youth Engagement</b>	Number of Events	2,993
	Number of Attendees	89,525
<b>Community Action</b>	Number of Events	2,674
	Number of Attendees	75,689
<b>Violence Prevention and Intervention Response</b>	Number of Events	1,793
	Number of Attendees	123,461
<b>Capacity Building</b>	Number of Events	1,265
	Number of Attendees	46,545

**Florida Partnership to End Domestic Violence**

In 2020, the Florida Partnership to End Domestic Violence (FPEDV) formed to support domestic violence centers and in September 2022, the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), Administration for Children and Families, designated FPEDV as Florida’s new state domestic violence coalition. In FY 2022-2023, the Department began administering FPEDV’s proviso contract awarded by the legislature. The FPEDV receives state funding to leverage federal

funds awarded to federally recognized state coalitions to enable FPEDV to coordinate statewide service improvements and provide essential technical assistance and training for Florida's 41 certified domestic violence centers and their staff.

In FY 2023-2024 FPEDV has increased its staffing to include a Chief Programs Officer, and two specialized programs positions to expand their membership to provide training and technical assistance to certified domestic violence programs and statewide domestic violence providers. FPEDV expanded their website to include the training calendar and make trainings more accessible to statewide providers. At the conclusion of FY 2023-2024, FPEDV enhanced its statewide relationships with elected officials. This effort included national advocacy in Washington D.C., where representatives met with legislators to discuss solutions to VOCA funding reductions. FPEDV's CEO, Amanda Price, was elected as Vice President of the Lethality Assessment Workgroup as part of the recently passed Gabby Petito Act (SB 610 – 2024). FPEDV has also been diligently working on the statewide needs assessment as required by FVPSA.

### **Florida Domestic Violence Collaborative (FLDVC)**

The Florida Domestic Violence Collaborative (FLDVC), was awarded funding through a competitive Invitation to Negotiate to deliver comprehensive management of services for the Department's domestic violence program including training and technical assistance to certified domestic violence centers and community partners to improve intervention and prevention strategies in addressing domestic violence, legal services through designated projects, as well as implementing 24-hour crisis hotline call center operations of the Florida Domestic Violence Hotline.

### **Statewide Domestic Violence Fatality Review Team**

The mission of the Statewide Domestic Violence Fatality Review Team is to identify statewide trends, systemic gaps, and potential solutions that increase safety and justice for survivors and their children, hold perpetrators accountable for their violence through coordinated community response efforts, and prevent the likelihood of domestic violence fatalities in the future. The statewide and local fatality review teams operate based on sections 741.316 and 741.3165, F.S., and create a timeline of events leading up to the fatal incident to examine agency/system involvement and coordination to craft recommendations for improved future responses. All teams comply with Florida statutory mandates to maintain confidentiality and public records exemptions when reviewing fatality-related information. These statutory mandates ensure that team members may freely discuss the circumstances and issues relating to the fatalities.

An innovative way to view the provision of services is through a lens that integrates awareness of high-risk indicators for lethality and primary and secondary prevention strategies. Utilizing knowledge about coercive control and recognizing the presence of high risk-indicators for lethality can shift how the Department responds to the needs of the people it serves by increasing perpetrator accountability and safety measures for survivors and their children. Every interaction or moment of impact with families presents an opportunity to provide trauma-informed, culturally responsive, and accessible services that ultimately could help prevent future homicides.

## Federal and State Funding

### **Domestic Violence Trust Fund (DVTF) and General Revenue**

The primary source of state funding for domestic violence emergency shelters, services, programs, and training is from state general revenue. The amount allocated to local centers was \$13,079,183. These funds are distributed to Florida's 41 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 licenses and filing for dissolution of marriage, and fines for domestic violence crime convictions. As a separate project, the Department administered funds for the Child Protection Investigation Project to create programming to address the complexities associated with the needs of families in the child welfare system experiencing domestic violence. The amount allocated to local centers was \$3,950,061. In addition, the Department was allocated \$500,000 to support the Florida Partnership to End Domestic Violence, the new federally designated state domestic violence coalition.

### **Domestic Violence Diversion Program**

Recognizing that survivors of domestic violence may need temporary economic assistance to escape a violent partner, federal and state lawmakers 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. The amount allocated to local centers was \$7,858,234.

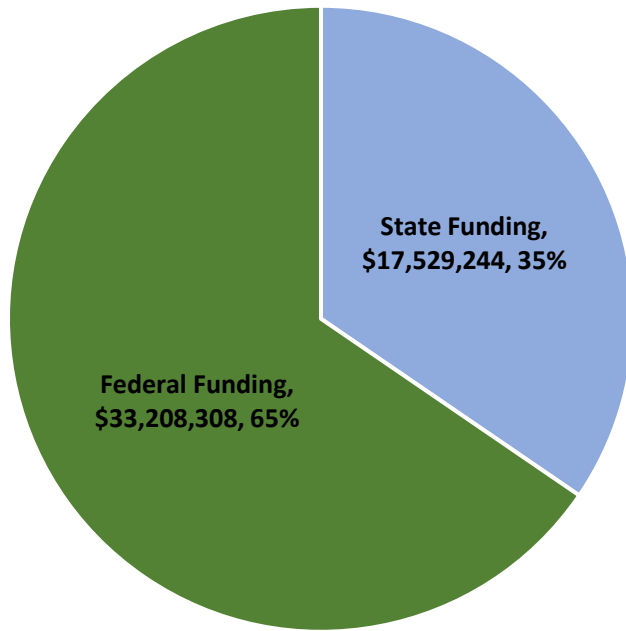
### **Family Violence Prevention and Services Act (FVPSA) Grant Program**

FVPSA is the only federal funding dedicated specifically for domestic violence centers for the operation of emergency shelter and other critical services. The amount allocated to local centers was \$18,428,079 (\$9,628,275 from FVPSA and \$8,799,804 from FVPSA American Rescue Plan). 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. The FVPSA American Rescue Plan (ARP) is a supplemental grant award that provides states, tribes, and local domestic violence and sexual assault programs with flexible funding for shelter, temporary housing, and supportive services.

### **Violence Against Women Act (VAWA) Grant Program**

The Department administered an annual formula grant, VAWA STOP provided by the United States Department of Justice Office on Violence Against Women. The amount allocated to local providers was \$6,922,490.00. The STOP grant promotes a coordinated, multidisciplinary approach to enhancing advocacy and improving the criminal justice system's response to violent crimes against women. Federal regulations require the funding to be allocated geographically based on identified needs and availability of resources.

### Current Funding Sources

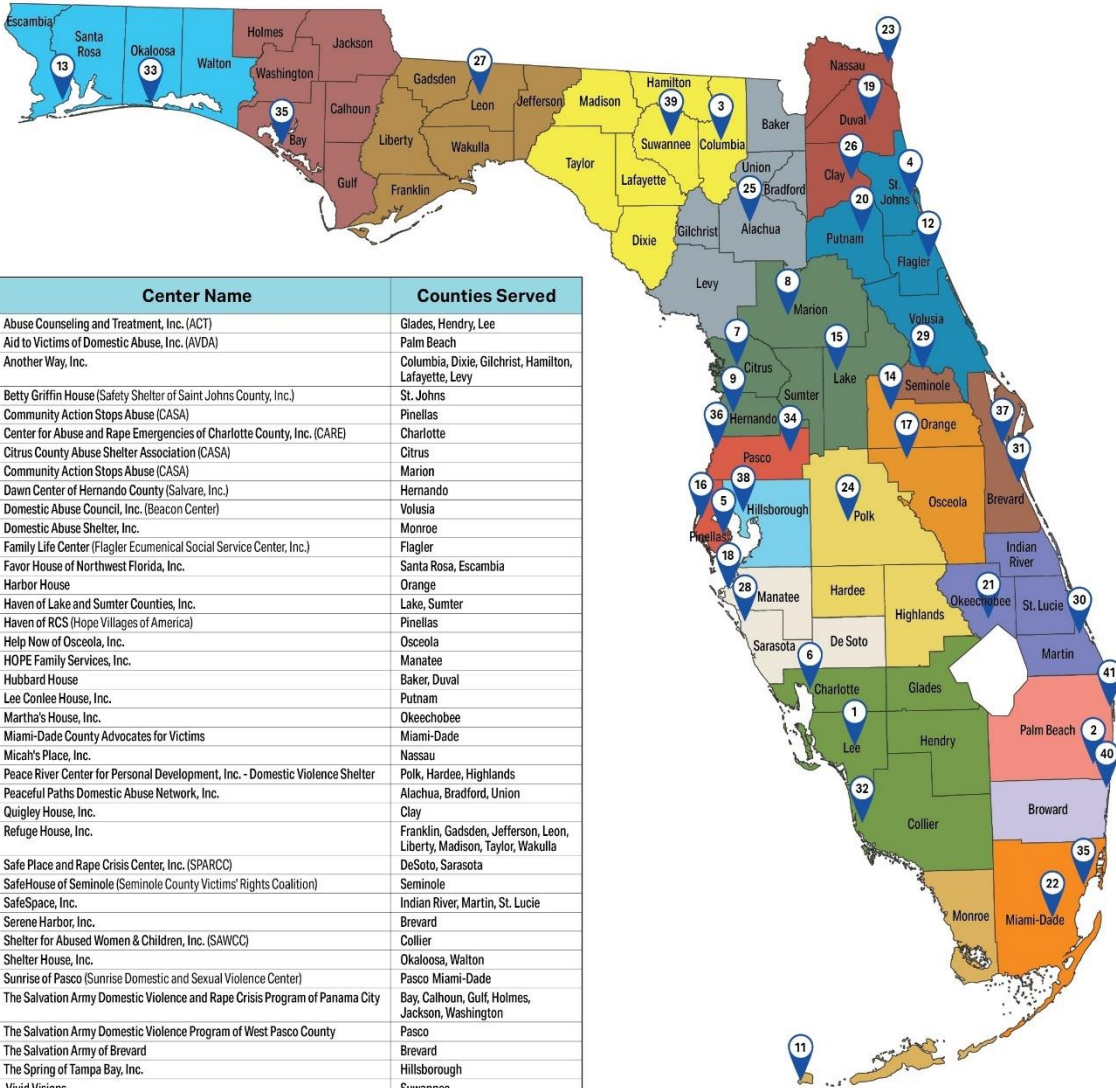


# Appendix A

## Florida Certified Domestic Violence Centers



# Domestic Violence Centers



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

Information current as of September 2024

## Appendix B

### Florida Fatality Review Team Data

The figures in this report present an overview of cases selected by the fatality review teams of fatal or near-fatal domestic violence incidents across the State of Florida. The teams reviewed the deaths in 2023.

It is important to note that the existing research related to known risk factors is based on cases of intimate partner femicide, which are male perpetrated homicides of their female partners. Therefore, information on the breakdown of known risk factors contains data related to 14 deaths that teams identified as resulting from intimate partner homicide.

#### Description of Findings

The descriptive statistics in this report are based on information that local teams obtained from reviewing domestic violence homicides in their communities. The reviews may include both intimate partner homicides and other domestic violence-related deaths. When possible, the data points are based on information collected from 14 reviews submitted by local teams. In some instances, however, statistics are based on different totals. This is either due to non-applicability or to missing information for any given review. Therefore, the totals may not always equal the total sum of 100. Additionally, one review that is included in the basic demographics is left out of the fatality analysis due to the fatality being determined to have been in self-defense. The total number of cases used to calculate each statistic is provided in parentheses.

#### Decedent Demographics

##### Decedent Gender:

Female	86% (N=12)
Male	14% (N=2)

- Decedent Average Age: 40 (min: 22, max: 61)(N=13)
  - On average, perpetrators were 5 years older than decedents.

Decedent Race	Number	Percent
White/Caucasian	10	72%
Black/African American	2	14%
Multi-racial	1	7%
Asian	1	7%
Total	14	100%

Decedent Ethnicity	Number	Percent
Non-Hispanic/Non-Latino	8	57%
Hispanic/Latino	4	29%

Other	1	7%
Not provided/unknown	1	7%
Total	14	100%

**Perpetrator Demographics**

**Perpetrator Gender:**

Male	86% (N=12)
Female	14% (N=2)

- Perpetrator Average Age: 45.5 (median: 46.5, min: 26, max: 56)(N=14)

**Perpetrator to Decedent Gender:**

Male perpetrator/ female decedent	79% (N=11)
Male perpetrator/ male decedent	7% (N=1)
Female perpetrator/ female decedent	7% (N=1)
Female perpetrator/ male decedent	7% (N=1)
Total	100% (N=14)

Perpetrator Race	Number	Percent
White/Caucasian	9	64%
Black/African American	3	22%
Multi-racial	1	7%
Asian	1	7%
Total	14	100%

Perpetrator Ethnicity	Number	Percent
Non-Hispanic/Non-Latino	6	43%
Hispanic/Latino	6	43%
Not provided/unknown	2	14%
Total	14	100%



## **Perpetrator Characteristics**

### **Mental Health**

- 31% (4 of 13) of perpetrators were thought to have a mental health condition and/or received mental health treatment (based on various sources, e.g., police records, court documents and personal narratives from self, family members or friends).

### **Suicidality**

- 46% (6 of 13) of perpetrators died by suicide and an additional 8% percent (1 of 13) attempted but did not die by suicide.
- None (0 of 13) of the perpetrators were known to have made threats of suicide prior to the fatality.

### **Substance Abuse**

- 69% (9 of 13) of perpetrators had a history of substance abuse (based on various sources, e.g., police records, court documents, and personal narratives from family members, or friends).

### **Possession of Weapons**

- 23% (3 of 13) of perpetrators were known to carry or possess a weapon in such a way that it was used as a means of power and control.

## **Criminal and Domestic Violence History**

### **Criminal History**

- 69% (9 of 13) of perpetrators had a known history of domestic violence against the decedent based on criminal records and narrative reports.
- 46% (6 of 13) of perpetrators had a known history of domestic violence toward other survivors/victims.
- 69% (9 of 13) of perpetrators had a known non-domestic violence related criminal history.

### **Criminal Charges**

- 15% (2 of 13) of perpetrators had a known criminal order of no contact issued against them.
- 77% (10 of 13) of family members reported knowing about prior incidents or prior threats of domestic violence by the perpetrator toward the decedent.
- 62% (8 of 13) of perpetrators were arrested for the homicide/attempted homicide of the decedent/survivor\*
  - \*The total number does not include homicides in which the perpetrator died by suicide.

### **Stalking and Orders of Protection**

- 15% (2 of 13) of perpetrators exhibited alleged stalking behavior as defined by section 784.08, F.S.
- 23% (3 of 13) of perpetrators exhibited alleged stalking behavior that did not meet the statutory requirements of section 748.08, F.S.

- 31% (4 of 13) of perpetrators had a known criminal order of no-contact for any domestic violence cases issued against them.
- 8% (1 of 13) of perpetrators had a known civil order of protection filed against them by the decedent.
  - When an injunction was filed, 100% (1 of 1) of perpetrators had a permanent injunction issued against them by the court.
- 15% (2 of 13) of perpetrators had a known petition for a civil order of protection filed against them by an individual other than the decedent.
- No perpetrators (0 of 13) had evidence of an arrest connected to a violation of an injunction for protection by the decedent.

### Threats

- 23% (3 of 13) of perpetrators made death threats to the decedent prior to the fatality.
- None (0 of 27) of the perpetrators were known to have previously attempted to kill the decedent prior to the fatality.

### Characteristics of the Fatality

- 62% (8 of 13) of decedents expressed an intention to leave the perpetrator.
- 31% (4 of 13) of decedents and perpetrators were in the process of ending the relationship at the time of the fatality.
- 15% (2 of 13) of decedent and perpetrators were known to have ended (i.e., they were separated or divorced). Out of the two decedents and perpetrators that ended the relationship, one ended between six months to a year, and one ended a year to less than 2 years.
- At the time of the fatality, 31% (4 of 13) of decedents were known to be in a new relationship.
- At the time of the fatality, 15% (2 of 13) of perpetrators were known to be in a new relationship.

<b>Manner of Death (or attempt)</b>	<b>Number</b>	<b>Percent</b>
Homicide-gunshot	10	72%
Homicide-stabbing	1	7%
Other (not specified in data)	1	7%
Homicide-strangulation	1	7%
Attempted homicide-gunshot	1	7%
<b>Total</b>	14	100%

Relationship Type	Number	Percent
Intimate partner (unmarried)	8	57%
Spouse	4	29%
Former intimate partner (unmarried)	2	14%
<b>Total</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>100%</b>

Relationship Length	Number	Percent
20 years or more	2	15%
10 years to less than 20 years	1	8%
5 years to less than 10 years	1	8%
1 year to less than 5 years	76	53%
6 months to less than 1 year	1	8%
Unknown	1	8%
<b>Total</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>100%</b>

## **Impact on Children**

### **Children in the Home**

- 62% (8 of 13) of decedents had children living in the home.
- When children were living in the decedent's home, the breakdown is as follows:
  - 63% of households with children had one child (4 of 8).
  - 13% of households with children had two children (1 of 8).
  - 25% of households with children had 3 children (2 of 8).

### **Relationship to Children**

- 100% (8 of 8) of decedents were known to be the parent to at least one of these children.

### **Children as Witnesses**

- There were known surviving minor children who witnessed or were present in 63% (5 of 8) of the fatalities where there were known children reported.
- 8% (1 of 13) of decedents were known to be pregnant at the time of the fatality.
  - The length of the pregnancy was five months, and the perpetrator was not the father.

### **Impact on Children**

- 75% of reviews including placements involved children placed in the home of relatives of the decedent or perpetrator (based on various sources, e.g., police records, court documents, personal narratives from family members or friends). 63% (5 of 8) of those placed with relatives were placed with a relative of the decedent.
- Out of six reviews reporting child placement, 33% were placed with the Department (2 of 6).
- Out of the eight reviews involving children:
  - 13% (1 of 8) involved allegations of child abuse filed against the perpetrator.

- In the only review involving child abuse allegations filed against the perpetrator, 100% (1 of 1) of the allegations were founded.
- 13% (1 of 8) involved allegations of child abuse filed against the decedent.
  - In the only review involving child abuse allegations filed against the decedent, 100% (1 of 1) of the allegations were unfounded.