
Dallas Domestic Violence Task Force

Annual Summary Report: 2016-2017

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Introduction

For 30 years the City of Dallas Domestic Violence Task Force has served the community by combatting domestic violence and raising awareness about this public health and safety issue. Comprised of elected officials and representatives of law enforcement, courts, and corrections, as well as members of advocacy, religious, media, and volunteer organizations, the Task Force has established itself as the clear voice of community safety concerns and activism. The *Annual Summary Report: 2016-2017* builds on the first two reports by providing updates and trend information on the activities and membership of partners in the Task Force, all in an effort to show Dallas's systemic response to the threat of domestic violence.

The City of Dallas Domestic Violence Task Force was created in 1987 to investigate and monitor the city's response to domestic violence. Representatives from the Dallas Police Department (DPD) and family violence-advocacy organizations, including The Family Place, Genesis Women's Shelter & Support, Mosaic Family Services, Salvation Army, and Hope's Door participate on the Task Force. Other key partners come from the local criminal justice system, government, and social services, and include the City of Dallas Office of the Mayor and City Council, Dallas County district attorney's office, and City of Dallas Attorney's office, county and district court judges, and shelter placement and transportation providers. Although the Task Force was instructed to meet for only 2 years at its inception, the group quickly realized the impact of their coordinated efforts on helping victims. Strong working relationships have been formed within the group, which has been meeting quarterly since 1986. The Task Force's general meetings are open to the public.

In addition, the Executive Committee, composed of a small number of partners, meets monthly to discuss detailed metrics and guide city policy. Recently, the Task Force has received renewed attention, especially in the form of its annual report, under the leadership of Dallas Mayor Mike Rawlings. Following the brutal murder of Karen Cox Smith in 2013, Mayor Rawlings launched the Men Against Abuse Campaign and appointed Council Member Jennifer Gates to chair the Domestic Violence Task Force, thereby mobilizing the community to do more to address domestic violence.

Council Member Gates was charged with gathering metrics to highlight community and government efforts in raising awareness. Toward this end, in 2014 she invited Dr. Denise Paquette Boots (associate professor of criminology and senior research fellow at the Institute for Urban Policy Research at the University of Texas at Dallas) to join the Executive Committee and general Task Force and spearhead its data collection. Accordingly, Dr. Boots met with these partners over an 18-month period to ensure reliability and rigor in this collection of measures, as these agencies and organizations have voluntarily contributed significant efforts and manpower to inform the inaugural report, which was released in the fall of 2015. While the inaugural report was written without external funding, the 2015-16 report was funded by local donors in Dallas and greatly expanded the metrics reported.

This report builds on those of the previous 2 years, administering similar surveys for both general Task Force and Executive Committee partners. Furthermore, it includes updated and expanded metrics from

local government agencies, particularly law enforcement and judicial partners. As with previous annual reports, the reporting period is June 1, 2016, through May 31, 2017. This 1-year time period allows the research team to gather metrics and present these data in a report in the month of October, which is National Domestic Violence Awareness month. Together, these data present a cumulative picture of the systemic response to domestic violence in the community and offer a preliminary glimpse into the year-over-year changes that would drive policy and criminal justice issues moving forward.

A General Overview of the Systemic Response to Domestic Violence

In June of 2017, all attendees of the general Domestic Violence Task Force meetings were invited by email to participate in a brief electronic survey about their organizations and levels of involvement. In all, 64 invitations were distributed to individual email addresses. Of those, 47 started the survey, and 43 completed it, yielding a 68% response rate and a 91% completion rate, an increase compared to last year's response rate of 82%. These response rates are outstanding considering that all attendees of general Task Force meetings were invited to return the survey, regardless of whether they had attended once or were regular participants. One should note that even if a person, either an individual or an organizational representative, attended one meeting over the 1-year period, he or she received an email invitation. This strategy creates a larger sample to include in the solicitation (and potentially more beneficial information across a wide range of participants). However, it also means that some of these invitations may not be accepted because the recipient is not a vested member of the general Task Force, reducing the response rate. Therefore, caution is warranted in interpreting the response rates overall or the variance, as they may change each year, depending on Task Force meeting attendance.

About the Survey

The survey asked respondents for information about themselves, their organizations (if applicable), and their involvement in the Dallas Domestic Violence Task Force. Those who indicated they represented the interests of an organization, such as a nonprofit or government agency, were asked about their organizations' employment, characteristics, mission, and purpose. Respondents whose organizations provided shelter services were asked about shelter capacity. As with any survey instrument, respondents were free to answer all, some, or none of the questions. This caused the total sample size to vary across tables and figures. To maintain integrity, missing data were not imputed, and no entries were changed from the original.

This year's survey, like in the previous 2 years, represents an attempt to integrate responses across both the general membership and the metric-reporting Task Force members. These metric-reporting Task Force members serve on the Executive Committee, meet as a separate group, and attend the general Task Force meetings. They have each agreed to provide detailed monthly performance metrics on domestic violence-related functions within their agencies. Combined with the general items asked of all members, the resulting data set comprises 3,112 variables. This number presents a substantial increase from last year's survey, which included 2,569 variables. A key goal of each successive annual report is to expand variables of interest related to the systemic domestic violence response in Dallas. Again, these variables provide a comprehensive overview regarding the scope and scale of domestic violence in the city of Dallas. The sheer magnitude of this data set and the complexities surrounding the interpretation of the measures, however, produced a considerable share of difficulties as measures were combined across partners for a succinct presentation within this report. Institute staff spent roughly 200 hours cleaning and coding the data to produce the results contained in this report and hundreds more hours planning, executing, interpreting, and writing the analyses contained herein.

Survey Findings

A total of 26 different organizations and 2 individuals (without organizational affiliation) responded to the demographic portion of the survey. One organization represented a for-profit entity, and one was a higher education / research institution. The remaining organizations were nonprofits, offices of elected officials, and government agencies. Figure 1 depicts the types of organization the respondents represented. As in previous years, nonprofits were the most common type of responding organization. Their representation has grown steadily, now representing exactly one half of all responding organizations. Unlike previous years, this year saw no faith-based organizations among the respondents, as well as a decline in both elected representatives and administrative government agencies.

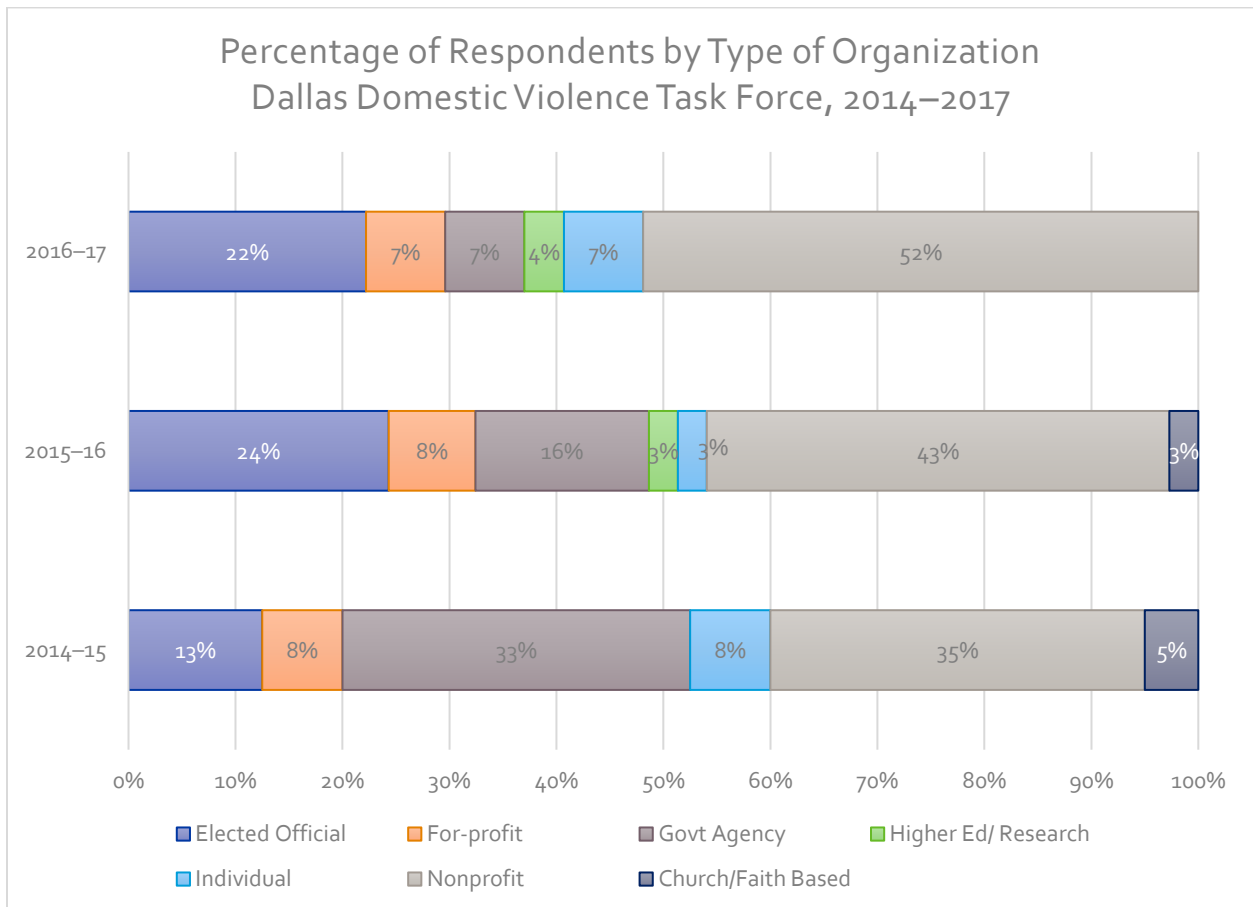


Figure 1. Percentage of Respondents by Type of Organization, Dallas Domestic Violence Task Force, 2016–17

The tenure of participation for individual respondents (not the organization they represented) also resembled that of last year. Table 1 shows that one half of those who answered were members of the Dallas Domestic Violence Task Force for less than 2 years. The other half range from 3 years to over a decade on the Task Force; this was 18 percentage points higher than in the 2016 report.

Table 1. Cross-Tabulation of Organization Type of Member Tenure, Dallas Domestic Violence Task Force, 2016–17

	Elected Official	For-profit	Non-profit	Government Agency	Higher Education/ Research	Individual	Total
Less Than One Year	1 17%	0	1 10%	1 50%	0	0	3 13%
1–2 Years	2 33%	0	3 30%	1 50%	1 100%	1 50%	8 35%
3–4 Years	3 50%	1 50%	2 20%	0	0	1 50%	7 30%
5–9 Years	0	0	2 20%	0	0	0	2 9%
10 or More Years	0	1 50%	2 20%	0	0	0	3 13%
Total	6	2	10	2	1	2	23

The organizational tenure on the Task Force is comparable to the personal tenure this year. As described in Table 2, one half of the organizations that participated were on the Task Force 4 years or fewer, while 45% were involved 5 or more years. Last year, over 75% of the organizations had a tenure below 4 years.

Table 2. Cross-tabulation of Organization Type by Organization Tenure, Dallas Domestic Violence Task Force, 2016–17

	Elected Official	For-profit	Nonprofit	Total
Less Than One Year	0	0	2 14%	2 12%
1–2 Years	0	0	4 29%	4 23%
3–4 Years	0	0	2 14%	2 12%
5–9 Years	1 100%	0	4 29%	5 29%
10 or More Years	0	1 50%	2 14%	3 18%
Not Applicable	0	1 50%	0	1 6%
Total	1	2	14	17

As depicted in Figure 2, roughly one half of the organizations answering the survey employed fewer than 100 employees; a quarter of the organizations employed between 100 and 250, and one fifth employed over 250 employees. The figure also narrows the focus to only those employees who worked in areas of domestic violence. Nearly two thirds of the respondent organizations had fewer than 50 employees solely dedicated to working on domestic violence-related projects.

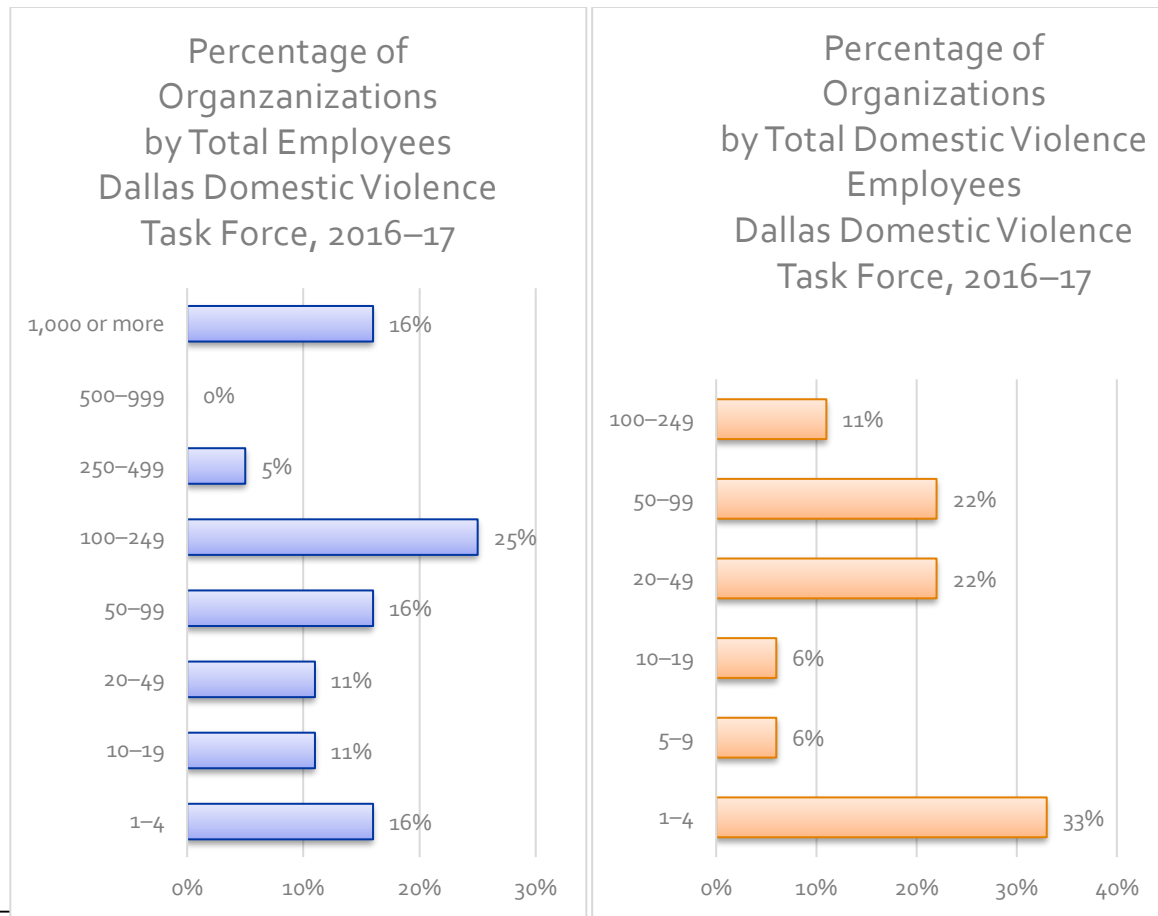


Figure 2. Percentage of Organizations by Total Employees and Number of Employees Focusing on Domestic Violence, Dallas Domestic Violence Task Force, 2016-17

Services Provided by Agencies

Figure 3 depicts the variety of services provided by those surveyed and the change in the proportion of organizations providing each type of service. Law enforcement grew slightly in representation of the organizations that responded when comparing this year to the last, moving from 10% to 13%. Victim service and advocacy continued to have the largest number of organizational respondent representation, with a 20% increase compared to last year; 63% of respondents identified this service as a main function of their respective organizations. Other services provided by significant numbers of organizations include public education and outreach at 38%, emergency shelter and transitional housing support at 29%, legal representation and prosecution at 25%, and victim transportation at 21%. Two new service categories were added this year in response to previous feedback from partners. For the 2016-17 reporting year, 21% of partners indicated involvement in battering intervention and prevention programs, and 8% offered job training and educational support.

Percentage of Organizations Providing Specific Services Dallas Domestic Violence Task Force, 2016–17

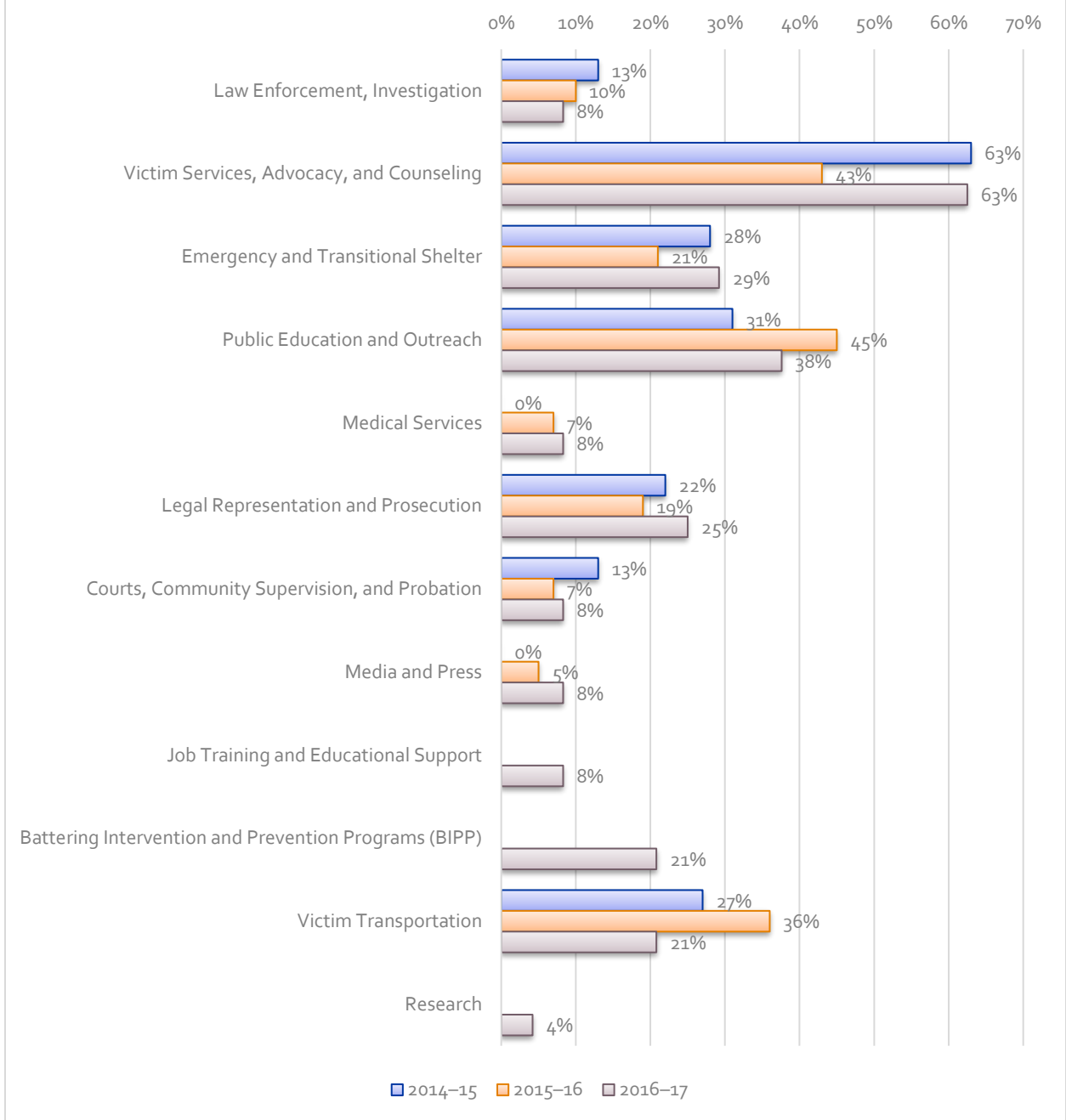


Figure 3. Percentage of Organizations Providing Specific Services, Dallas Domestic Violence Task Force, 2016–17

Figure 4 further illustrates the variety of transportation services provided among agencies that do so. With the exception of private car services, all modes of transportation experienced an increase over last year. The proportion of organizations providing bus or rail transit nearly doubled (27% to 50%), while the proportion of agencies that provide air travel almost tripled from 7% to 20%.

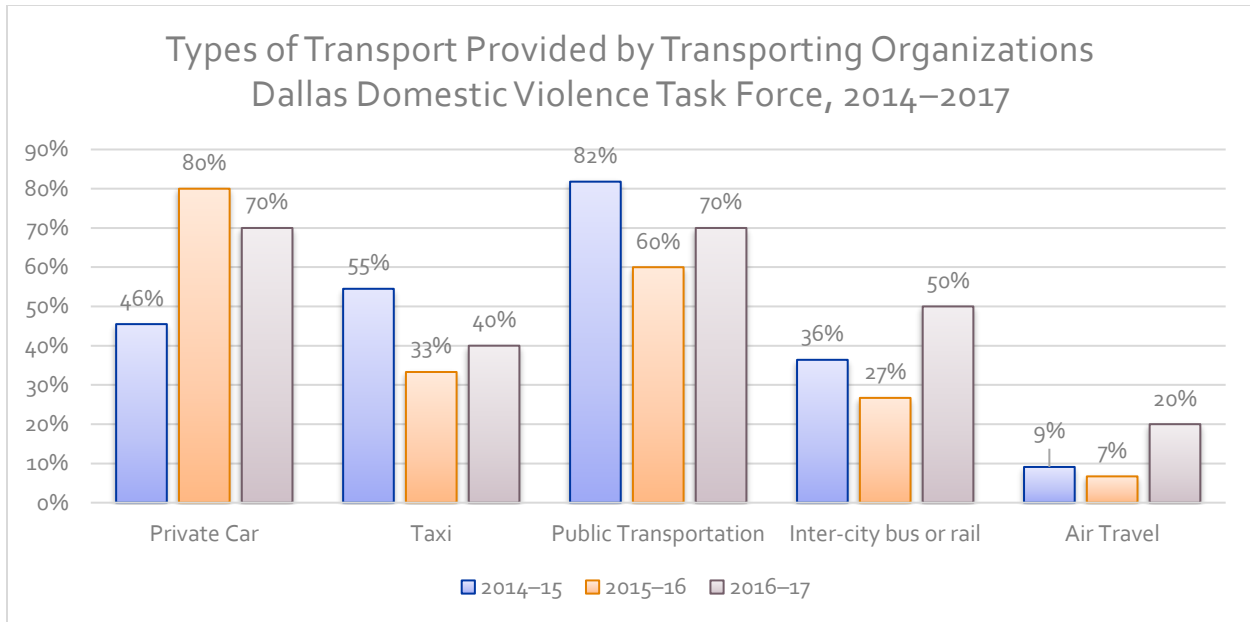


Figure 4. Types of Transport Provided by Transporting Organizations, Dallas Domestic Violence Task Force, 2014-2017

Qualitative data from these partners provide further insights into specifics regarding how these shelter support and referral partners offer critical assistance to victims fleeing their abusers and seeking safety. For example, the shelter support and referral provider Families for Freedom continues to expand its services for clients and now offers three broad types of transportation options for victims seeking safety outside Dallas or the State of Texas. First, in October of 2016, Families for Freedom received a grant from the Verizon North Texas Communities Giving Foundation to expand its services to survivors of intimate partner violence. With this award, Families for Freedom offers fuel cards to victims for gas purchases when leaving their abuser in their own vehicle. Since launching this program last year, 24 adult victims and 26 children have benefited from this service. While most clients are female, one male also sought assistance and was aided by the program. Clients receive as much fuel as needed to relocate to safety in a new state. In 2017, a domestic violence shelter or police referral became a new requirement for this service to mitigate fraud or misuse.

As a second option, Families for Freedom began providing bus tickets for adult and child shelter victims who were nondisabled and capable of travel via bus (when driving by car was not an option) through its Ticket to Ride program. Since this service began in October of 2016, 47 adults and 16 children have been serviced and found safe haven by leaving the immediate area. Of these clients, four traveled by bus to available shelter outside Texas. While most of the population served were females, two clients were male, and one was transgender. Most of these clients traveled on Greyhound, but others received free transport via Megabus tickets and Amtrak tickets, depending on cost-effective pricing and availability. This is a significant transportation cost to bear, as this nonprofit receives no discounts from these transportation companies for tickets purchased.

Last, Families for Freedom continued its primary service of providing car and van rides to victims of domestic violence. Over the 1-year period, the organization helped 27 adult female victims and 34 children reach safe haven outside Texas, with most of these victims departing directly from a DFW-area domestic violence shelter. In October of 2016, they revised their policy to provide multistate car/van rides only to victims with children, with a disability, and victims with pets.

Client Diversity

The 2015–16 survey asked respondents to identify survey changes and/or additional variables that would be helpful to them in providing assistance or bettering their response to domestic violence in the community. Task Force partners in last year’s report suggested that a collection of demographic information about the clients they serve would help them better understand the larger needs of the client population in Dallas. In response, this year’s survey featured this set of new questions regarding a range of client demographic characteristics, from race and educational achievement to immigration status and homelessness status. The results are expressed as average percentages from the 17 organizations that responded and are aggregated across all respondents. Figure 5 presents a summary of these demographic characteristics. About one fifth of the average agency’s clients were White; nearly a third were Black, and slightly less (28%) were of Hispanic or Latino origin. Asians, Native Americans, and Pacific Islanders made up less than 10% of the average agency’s clients. Nearly 60% of clients spoke English as a primary language, though a quarter named Spanish as their dominant language.

Almost one half (42%) of clients seen by the average agency had not completed the equivalent of a high school education, while only 3% of clients seen by the average agency possessed a graduate degree. Nearly all those seeking services from the average agency were below the age of 54, and over half were younger than 34.

Nearly 60% of the clients seen by partners lived in poverty, while less than 15% of clients seen by agencies in Dallas earned above 200% of the poverty line. Over a quarter of the clients served were living the United States as immigrants (e.g., undocumented, asylum seekers, or refugees), and over a third were presently homeless.

While these new demographic variables are a welcomed addition to this year’s report, Task Force partners might consider adding other variables for future iterations of the annual report. For example, there have been numerous discussions about underserved populations and challenges in delivering services to victims who are drug users, who have special needs, who have custody of older male children, and LGBTQ victims. Additional measures regarding those victims served within these populations would be quite valuable by providing concrete numbers to direct resources and discussions among partners about how to address these needs. These types of data requests would need to be balanced with the considerable amount of time and effort for data collection that shelter partners would be asked to take on, however. There have also been concerns expressed about sharing sensitive data regarding human subjects and safeguards that would need to be in place to ensure that privacy for these victims would be maintained and that all data would be properly de-identified. These are complex issues that will require additional discussions with partners involved before any commitments may be made toward future reporting.

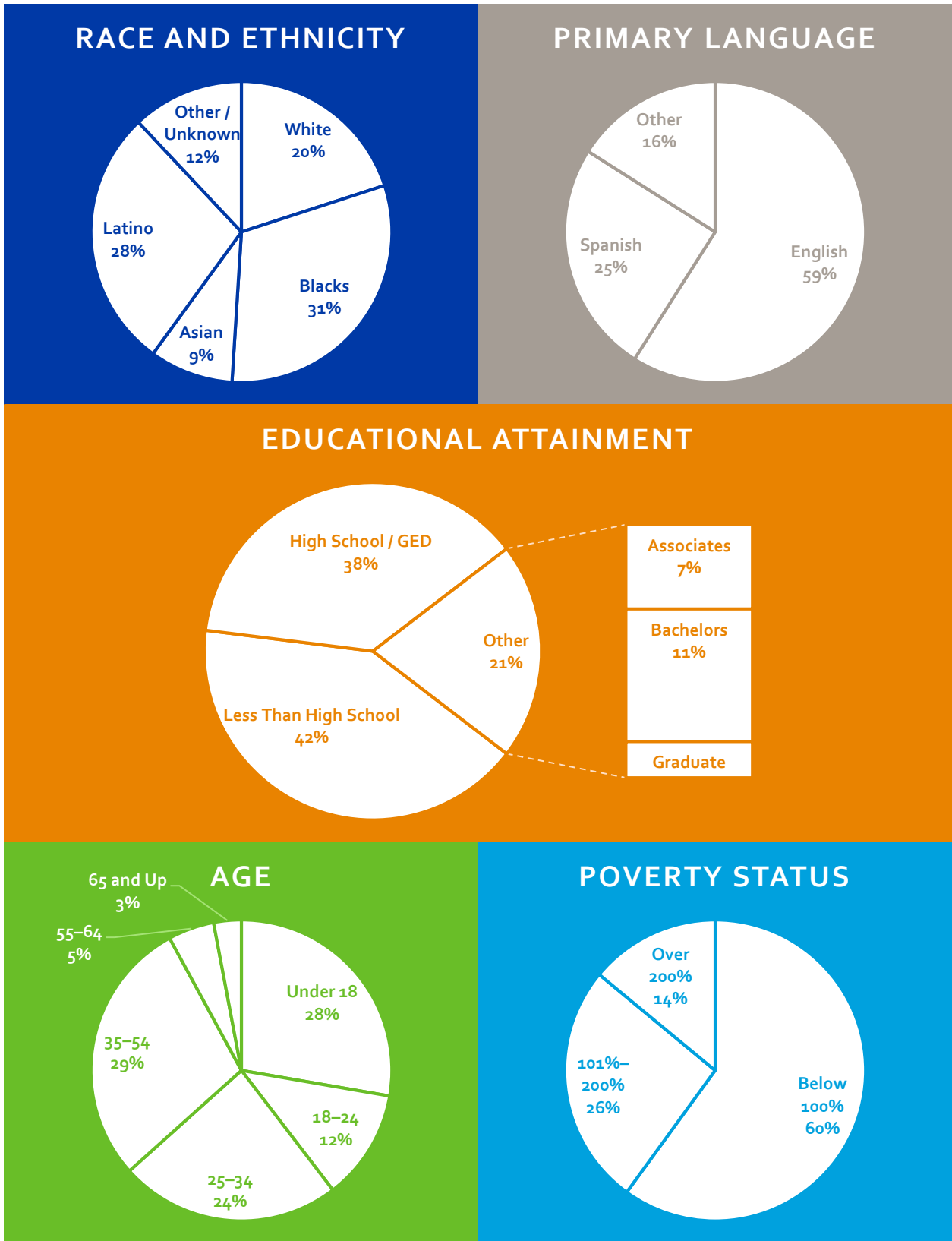


Figure 5. Distribution of Clients by Demographic Characteristics, Dallas Domestic Violence Task Force, 2016–17

Training and Education Provided

Respondents to last year’s survey also expressed an interest in better understanding the volume of outreach training and education that service providers delivered within the community. Within this new section of this year’s report 13 respondents answered questions about the training and education they provided. Combined, these agencies conducted 548 individual training sessions (more than 45 per month), and they reached a combined 14,748 people, an average of more than 40 each day. These impressive numbers suggest that Task Force partners are providing a high level of outreach services to victims of domestic violence as well as using considerable efforts and resources to educate people regarding the causes, consequences, and signs of domestic violence. Such efforts are essential to the community in battling the myths that persist regarding intimate partner violence as a whole, increasing outreach to vulnerable populations, and encouraging support for victims within their neighborhoods, places of faith, schools, and workplaces.

Reported Shelter Capacities

All Task Force members who reported providing shelter services provided details about their shelter capacity for both on- and off-site shelters. *On-site shelter* refers to the capacity to house victims of domestic violence within the facility itself. In essence, reporting organizations own and manage the facilities that provide on-site shelter. *Off-site shelters* make use of facilities not controlled by the serving organization. For the majority of the reporting organizations, off-site capacity refers to motel or hotel rooms that the organization reserved and paid for as needed.

Capacity can further be broken down into emergency shelters and transitional housing. An *emergency shelter* is defined here as one that provides victims of domestic violence with immediate and short-term shelter directly after an incident has occurred. *Transitional housing* is defined as service that provides long-term housing assistance to clients, as well as subsidized housing and services to rebuild clients’ lives after leaving an abusive relationship. Table 3 presents the data reported for the current year.

Table 3. Number of Rooms and Beds by Shelter Type, Location, and Victim Demographic, Dallas Domestic Violence Task Force, 2016–17

	On-Site				Off-Site			
	Emergency		Transitional		Emergency		Transitional	
	Rooms	Beds	Rooms	Beds	Rooms	Beds	Rooms	Beds
Women & Children	83	383	99	225	4	147	0	0
Men & Children	7	8	5	10	22	24	0	0
Total	90	391	98	265	26	171	0	0

The data displayed in Table 3 represent an aggregation of all five shelters that responded to the general survey distributed to the Task Force this year in the greater Dallas area. These are the four Executive Committee shelter partners; Genesis Women’s Shelter & Support, Mosaic Family Services, The Salvation Army, and The Family Place; and general Task Force member Hope’s Door. It should be noted that Hope’s Door merged with New Beginnings Center in 2016; therefore, the numbers presented here by Hope’s Door are for the total capacity based on the merger. In 2015–16, these partners reported individual numbers. This merger was implemented to produce a more financially stable organization, create a streamlined management team and infrastructure, and offer a unified and stronger voice in the community. Perhaps most importantly, the combined merger allowed these nonprofit shelter partners to reduce their administrative operating rate from 19% to 12%. They used this cost reduction to provide

more services to victims and increase outreach within the community. The shelters are located in Garland and Plano. While they are not within Dallas’ city limits, the close proximity of cities and shared goals of victim safety highlight how the Task Force works effectively as a coordinated community response team to share resources, support each other’s efforts, and work toward placing victims across a broad geographical area within the Dallas-Fort Worth metropolitan area.

The shelters reported a total emergency capacity (for on- and off-site locations) of 116 rooms and 562 beds for victims. Within this total of emergency housing, partners identified 87 total rooms and 530 beds dedicated for women and children, and 29 rooms and 32 beds for men and children. The combined total of on- and off-site transitional housing has capacities of 98 rooms and 265 beds, with 93 rooms and 255 beds dedicated to women and children, and five rooms and 10 beds for men and children.

The 2015–16 survey marked the beginning of a more complex collection of capacity data, rendering data collected from prior years incomparable. In the first annual report in 2015–16, none of the shelters provided transitional accommodations for men and children on site. This changed in 2016–17 when some shelters did provide on-site rooms and beds for men and children. Of particular note is that on-site transitional housing for women and children increased from 69 rooms in 2015–16 to 99 rooms in 2016–17, representing a 43% increase. Off-site transitional housing capacity for women and children decreased in 2016-17, dropping from seven beds and seven rooms to no rooms or beds. The change in off-site transitional housing for women and children could be a result of the increase in on-site transitional housing options, alleviating the need for off-site capacity. There is a clear need for more rooms and beds for domestic violence victims across the area.

Shelter Support and Referral Services

Another valuable service is provided by non-shelter organizations that specialize in finding shelter space for victims. Data related to these services are provided in Table 4.

Table 4. Number of Victims Placed and Not Placed by Shelter Type and Client Demographic, Dallas Domestic Violence Task Force, 2016–17

	Placed		Not Placed	
	Emergency	Transitional	Emergency	Transitional
Women	51	0	3	0
Children	42	0	5	0
Men	0	0	1	0
Total	93	0	9	0

The three organizations reporting this year are International Rescue Committee, Heart House, and Families to Freedom. Combined, they located emergency shelter for 51 women and 42 children, but they did not place any male victims. These agencies were not able to find shelter for all who sought it: Nine victims were unserved due to a lack of space or availability. These numbers are significantly lower than last year’s figures from shelter support and referral partners, which showed a combined total of 625 unplaced victims who sought emergency and transitional placement but were unable to find shelter at that time.

As one Task Force partner from last year did not respond with 2016–17 data, these figures are believed not to portray the level of need or a solid estimate of the number of unserved and unplaced victims in Dallas. Variation is expected across years since reporting is voluntary and respondents change annually.

Each additional partner's data provides another piece of the puzzle regarding need versus demand for both emergency and transitional housing space. There has been frequent discussion, for example, in Task Force meetings regarding the need for shelters and more victim services in southern Dallas, where many victims seeking support live in poverty and have limited financial and social supports to flee their abusers. Shelter referral and placement partners on the Task Force work in these areas, and these numbers of unserved victims are not reflected in this year's report versus the 2015–16 report. It is hoped that in coming years the Task Force will be able to increase the response rate and have all partners in Dallas provide data, but it is understood that this can be a significant challenge for nonprofit partners with already limited resources and time when they are working on behalf of victims at the same time data collection is requested.

Additionally, for each year of reporting, readers should use caution in adding the total number of unserved victims across various sections of the report. The metrics do not reflect unique victims, and it is unclear if these victims were able to find placement at a later time or in a different geographic area. This report does not track any identifying information on adult or child victims to protect their identity and confidentiality, so it is not possible to know the full extent of double counting across sources or areas of the report. While reporting year-over-year data is important, the change in organizations that provided detailed quantitative metrics does not necessarily allow for cross-comparisons between the 2 years.

Restrictions to Service

For a variety of reasons, some organizations place restrictions on the types of clients they will accept for service. Some organizations face limits imposed by their use of federal funding, while others enforce restrictions on client acceptance due to private funding, their internal bylaws or board oversight requirements, or potential liabilities to minimize risk to populations they serve. Concern for victims' safety and the ability (or inability at times) to address the needs in specific subpopulations frequently drives restrictions. These restrictions affect not only the shelters; they also influence the shelter referral service organizations that are assisting with victim placement.

For shelter referral organizations, partners reported that key barriers to victim placement included having an older male child or custody of a large number of minor children. Other barriers to placement are lack of English fluency, having a pet, criminal history restrictions, being disabled or having special needs, and taking prescription medication not allowed by the shelter.

All replying shelters reported having some restrictions on the clients they assist, and most of the restrictions are similar to those reported by the referral agencies. These included restrictions for victims who have active drug use or drug dependency, though fewer shelters have this restriction than last year. Consistent with 2015–16, shelters also reported having older children as a restriction. In addition, two shelters reported gender as a restriction, specifically, not being able to house male victims. At least one shelter reported restrictions for serious medical conditions, severe physical or emotional disabilities, and lack of translation services.

Three shelters have reported metrics on transitional housing restrictions. All three shelters stated active drug use or dependence is a restriction for transitional housing. As with the previous year, at least one shelter is unable to serve victims with older children, and at least one shelter reported an inability to serve male victims. One shelter has restrictions on serving victims with serious mental health issues. Likewise, one shelter reported having restrictions on serving victims with serious medical problems or conditions.

In last year's report, a key barrier that was raised for shelter referral organizations and the shelters themselves was the inability to share real-time shelter availability for victims across these partners. Since the release of last year's report, shelter organizations have created and launched a Google Docs system to do just that. Shelters now are able to help place victims at other facilities outside their own and relay this information to shelter referral and placement organizations and police in real time. These efforts show the importance of sharing resources and working collaboratively, as they significantly impact promptly getting victims to safe haven when they are in the most need.

Additional barriers to placement exist depending on the unique circumstances of the victims involved. At times victims are traveling long distances to seek shelter throughout North Texas and across the state, and shelters may be unable to "reserve" a room or beds. Other times shelters may be able to accept only "imminent threat" victims, such as at peak times, or have geographic restrictions on placement of victims from outside the area, making emergency shelter and transitional housing even more challenging to find. Another issue that might create a barrier for victim placement is the need for dog or cat kennel space. Many victims are unwilling to leave their pets behind when fleeing an abuser. Some shelters cannot accommodate animals and/or do not have the space or staff for their care, thus creating a painful dilemma for victims at their time of greatest need.

An additional issue raised by shelter partners concerned immigration status and new federal policy initiatives surrounding the deportation of undocumented residents (this will be discussed in more detail at the end of this report in the policy and future recommendation section). It should also be noted that the restrictions discussed here do not reflect the total number of shelter and referral partners participating on the Task Force; therefore, other restrictions may exist that are not cited here.

A Detailed Analysis of Agency Metrics

Lead researcher Dr. Denise Paquette Boots continues to meet quarterly with Executive Committee partners on the Task Force. Dr. Boots and her colleague Dr. Timothy Bray also meet with general Task Force partners at each open meeting. Together, these researchers oversee the creation of each year's annual survey that is administered via email to all Task Force partners. Feedback from these general and Executive Committee meetings is integrated into new iterations of the survey each year to bring new information and illuminate policy issues that are identified to be of interest. A wide variety of metrics on police, courts, and victim services has been collected over the past 3 years. The survey features two main sections: a general portion already presented and the current section relaying detailed metrics from Executive Committee partners on the Task Force. These Executive Committee members agreed to provide monthly data across a large number of key variables, thereby permitting a more detailed inspection of monthly trends. Shelters, DPD, the Dallas County District Attorney, the Dallas City Attorney, Dallas courts, and City of Dallas elected officials provided data for this year's report.

Shelters

The shelter metrics in this section provide detailed monthly information from four nonprofit organizations in Dallas that serve on the Executive Committee: Genesis Women's Shelter & Support, Mosaic Family Services, The Salvation Army, and The Family Place. The majority of the population assisted by the four shelters were women and children, a demographic group that historically tends to have higher needs for shelter (National Coalition Against Domestic Violence, 2016). Note that only four shelter partners are reporting here, rather than the five that reported data for the general survey portion of this report. Therefore, these metrics cannot necessarily be combined or compared to the

general Task Force metrics presented earlier. Just as in previous annual reports, the detailed metrics from these four shelter agencies include: (a) reported capacity in rooms and beds, (b) number unserved due to lack of space, (c) average monthly capacity, (d) average nightly emergency population, and (e) average nightly transitional population.

Reported Capacity in Rooms and Beds

Table 5, like Table 3, reports the combined capacity total from the Executive Committee Task Force shelter members. On-site again refers to the capacity available to house domestic violence victims within a facility that is owned, operated, and managed by the organization itself. Off-site is the capacity available in shelter arrangements outside an agency’s ownership or control, typically hotel or motel rooms that an organization books when it is at capacity on its own property. As in the general Task Force section on rooms and beds, capacity can further be broken down into emergency shelters and transitional housing. An emergency shelter is defined here as one that provides victims of domestic violence with immediate and short-term shelter directly after an incident has occurred. A transitional housing is defined as one that provides long-term housing assistance to clients, as well as subsidized housing and services to rebuild clients’ lives after leaving an abusive relationship.

Table 5. Number of Beds and Rooms by Shelter Type and Victim Demographic, Dallas Domestic Violence Task Force, 2016–17

	On-Site				Off-Site			
	Emergency		Transitional		Emergency		Transitional	
	Rooms	Beds	Rooms	Beds	Rooms	Beds	Rooms	Beds
Women & Children	51	217	58	203	4	4	0	0
Men & Children	1	2	5	10	4	6	0	0
Total	52	219	63	213	8	10	0	0

For the reporting period between June 1, 2016, and May 31, 2017, the total emergency capacity for both on- and off-site was 60 rooms with 229 beds. Of these emergency shelter assets, 55 rooms and 221 beds were dedicated to female victims and their children, with another 5 rooms and 8 beds for men and children. The four shelters also reported a total of 63 rooms and 219 beds for transitional housing, including both on- and off-site. These transitional totals included 58 rooms and 203 beds for women and children and five rooms and 10 beds for men and children.

In last year’s report, the Executive Committee shelter partners reported dedicated rooms and beds for male victims and their children in only off-site emergency shelters. Men and children had rooms and beds available in both on- and off-site emergency shelters as well as on-site transitional housing in 2016–17. No shelter partners reported capacity for adult male victims or their children in off-site transitional housing this report cycle. A significant increase in services appears when comparing transitional housing numbers between 2015–16 and 2016–17. Specifically, on-site transitional housing for women and children increased from 163 beds in 2015–16 to 203 beds in 2016–17, or a 25% increase. In 2016–17, no female victims were housed in off-site transitional housing. In the coming year, the level of service for adult male victims and their children will be dramatically impacted due to the opening of a new shelter by The Family Place. On May 8, 2017, The Family Place opened the first shelter for male victims of domestic violence in Texas. With 20 beds, it offers on-site emergency housing for men and their children of any age. This shelter space was made possible through federal grant funding, and fills an important gap that has been identified in previous annual reports regarding male victims. At the

time that data were collected, The Family Place also planned to open a new shelter for females and children in August of 2017.

Unserviced Due to Lack of Space

Figure 6 presents the data on the monthly number of victims seeking shelter who were unserved. From June 2016 through May 2017, the Executive Committee shelter partners turned away a total of 7,950 women, children, and men due to a lack of space. This represents a 22% decrease from the previous reporting period, which saw 10,154 clients unserved due to space, but slightly higher than the 7,567 reported in 2014–15. The month of May 2017 saw the highest monthly number of victims unserved at 866, a number well above the 2016-2017 monthly average of 663. The month-to-month trends have remained largely consistent over the years, although the 2016-17 numbers were much lower from July through November than 2015-2016 and the 3 years converged from December to May.

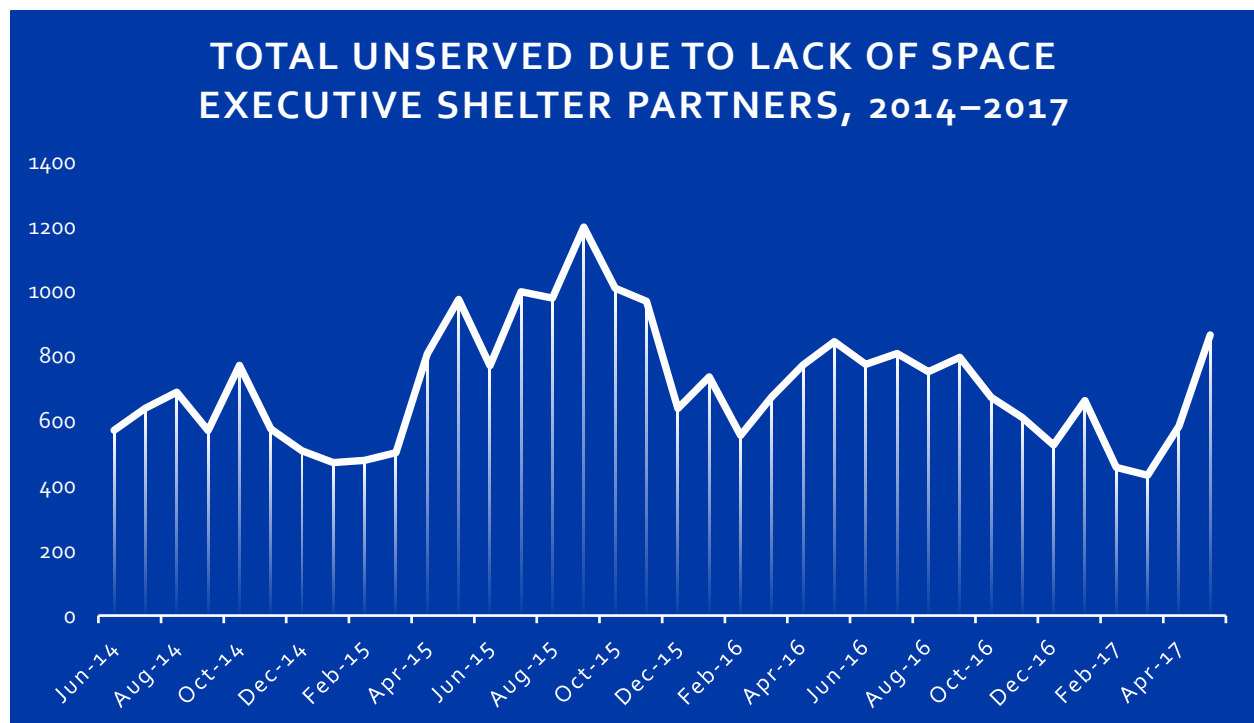


Figure 6. Total Unserviced Due to Lack of Space, Executive Shelter Partners, Dallas Domestic Violence Task Force Executive Committee Shelter Partners, 2014–2017

While the numbers for total unserved victims due to lack of space were lower in the 2016–17 reporting cycle, the reasons behind this decrease or the sustainability of this trend in the number of victims unserved are unknown at this time. Taken at face value when considering the rising population of Dallas, it seems highly unlikely that demand would be decreasing by such a large percentage for emergency shelter or transitional housing. This departure from previous years may be the result of an expansion in facility sizes, thereby allowing for more victim services, and thus decreasing the number of victims turned away. Since there is no identifying information reported for the victims, it is not possible to know if some of the numbers have been duplicated. For instance, if the same victim was turned away at multiple sites, each site would report the person as unserved and inflate the unserved number count. This issue was a cited concern in previous published reports that urged caution in interpreting the numbers presented. With that being said, shelter providers noted that the number of potential

duplicates is likely smaller this reporting year. This explanation holds merit since these providers successfully launched a new web-enabled application via Google Docs that enables real-time sharing of available rooms and beds across multiple shelter sites and locations throughout Dallas. As one of shelter partner so aptly stated in the qualitative comments, “with one call, the victim is directed to a program with openings, reducing the number of times she has to call [from] shelter to shelter. Overall, it is reasonable to assume that this might decrease the number of callers turned away due to lack of space.” Other shelter partners stated that they spent significant funds this last year on placing at-risk victims in hotels.

It is also possible that some outside factors such as policies regarding undocumented status might be impacting the number of victims seeking shelter or receiving information on available services because they are reluctant to call police for help. While partners were not asked to report data and could not have anticipated the changes in immigration law and enforcement this past year, multiple partners have reported anecdotally that current clients who are undocumented are more fearful to engage in community services or reach out to law enforcement or medical personnel as needed.

This metric regarding the number of victims left unserved is a vital piece of the picture of domestic violence victim needs for services, yet it is important to remember that some victims do not seek shelter (Kim & Gray, 2008). Victims might not seek emergency shelter for a number of reasons: their abuser leaves, they have a safe place to stay with friends or family, or they leave the area and find shelter somewhere else. Some victims also opt to stay with their abusers because they feel they have no viable options, are too terrified to leave, or are overwhelmed with issues such as joint custody of children or family pressures to stay in an abusive environment. These are just a few reasons that victims might not seek shelter from a nonprofit. The complexities of the decision to leave an abusive relationship are well documented in both empirical research and the clinical realities of shelters that provide support and outreach services for victims as they heal. To that end, the nonresidential components of the shelter providers’ programs are critical in addressing the needs of domestic violence victims. To help address this need, The Salvation Army applied for and received funding to expand their nonresidential counseling and legal advocacy services to survivors of domestic violence.

Average Monthly Capacity

Figure 7 depicts the average monthly facility capacity for the four reporting shelters. Overall, the 2016–17 reporting period experienced an average capacity utilization of 97%, representing a small increase from the previous reporting period. From November 2016 through May 2017, the shelters remained closer to full capacity than in the previous 2 years. Shelter providers had the highest capacity for 2016–17 in May (where all reported at or over capacity levels), whereas in the previous reporting year, the highest capacity for shelters was in September. For all years, shelter capacity remains close to 100% in November and December. In totality, the demand continues to exceed the capacity of beds and rooms available; this is evidenced by the number of unserved victims who could not find placement, as discussed in the previous section. Shelter and support partners have voiced repeatedly that they need more funding to meet both short- and long-term housing and safety needs of victims in Dallas. The metrics each year provide further support for these claims with concrete numbers across key partners in the community.

These data demonstrate the persistent and ongoing high demand for rooms and beds for all shelters. Yet there are critical subtleties regarding the interpretation of data across the various shelter partners. For example, although these numbers provide insight into capacity, differing shelter policies related to how victims are housed create challenges for interpretation. For instance, in some shelters multiple

female victims are housed in one room that contains multiple beds, while other shelters do not house multiple single victims in the same room due to privacy concerns. As a result, a single woman may occupy one room and one bed, and a woman and her two children occupy one room but three beds. This in turn complicates an interpretation of shelter capacity and exploration of barriers to service. Hence, this room-to-bed ratio may create the impression that a shelter was operating at a lower capacity. In addition, the space and housing vary from shelter to shelter, as do the policies related to allocation of rooms and beds.

Family composition can also affect bed utilization. For instance, the presence of a male child over the age of 10 may affect how families are housed. If a shelter typically houses multiple families in a bedroom when demand requires, the presence of a male child over 10 prevents this, therefore limiting maximum bed utilization. Until the establishment of an all-male emergency shelter by The Family Place in May of 2017, male victims both with and without children had few opportunities to find shelter in Dallas County because the majority of shelter providers designate adult females and their children as their primary populations. In addition, mixing adult females and their children with male victims (with or without children) is impossible due to safety concerns. Thus, providers such as The Family Place must often seek an off-site location to provide long-term transitional housing for male victims. While considerable strides have been made since the inception of writing these annual reports, providing shelter for all populations continues to be a critical issue among the Executive Committee partners. Continued funding to help address the needs of all populations is warranted. Hence, the current room-to-bed ratio presented may create the impression that a shelter was operating at a lower capacity due to the demographics and needs of the victims it was servicing at that time.

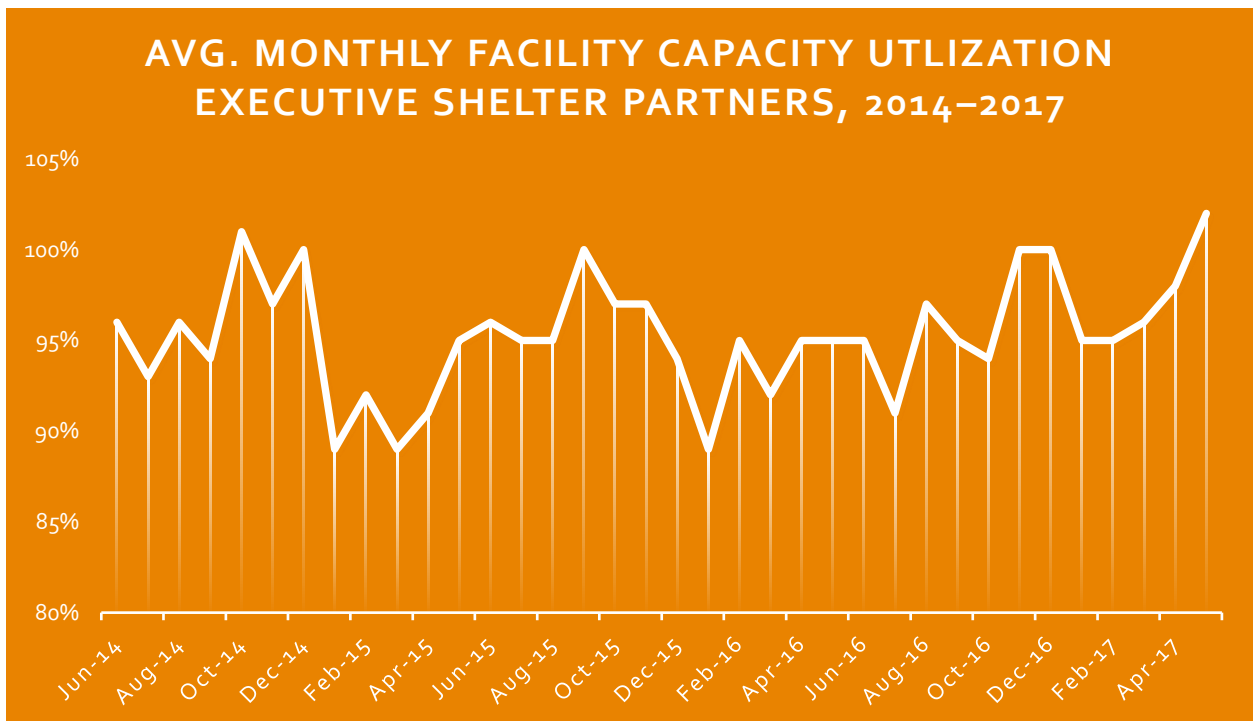


Figure 7. Average Monthly Facility Capacity Utilization, Executive Shelter Partners, Dallas Domestic Violence Task Force Executive Committee Shelter Members, 2014-2017

Average Nightly Emergency Population

Figure 8 presents the average nightly emergency shelter populations, both on- and off-site, from the four Executive Committee reporting shelters. The average monthly number of victims in emergency shelters was 246 in the 2016–17 reporting cycle. This represented a robust 37% increase from the previous year by an average of 67 additional victims per month (with 179 victims in emergency shelters monthly), and an increase of 94 more victims placed in emergency shelters per month (or 61%) compared to 2014–15. It should be noted that beds can turn over many times within a monthly period, so it is possible that more clients could be served in a month than the shelter partners show as the available bed count.

Although the present reporting cycle runs from June 1, 2016, through May 31, 2017, one should note that at the time these data were collected over the summer of 2017, The Family Place was about to open a new 50,000-square-foot facility called Ann Moody Place. In the next annual reporting year, this new facility will add 47 new beds for adult women and their children along with 10 kennels for dogs and 5 kennels for cats. Additional outreach and administrative offices will also be in this larger facility. The Family Place also opened a dedicated emergency shelter for adult male victims of domestic violence and their children at the end of the yearly reporting cycle in May of 2017. A significant rise in the number of victims' services and capacity reported for the coming year with these new facilities opening in Dallas is anticipated.

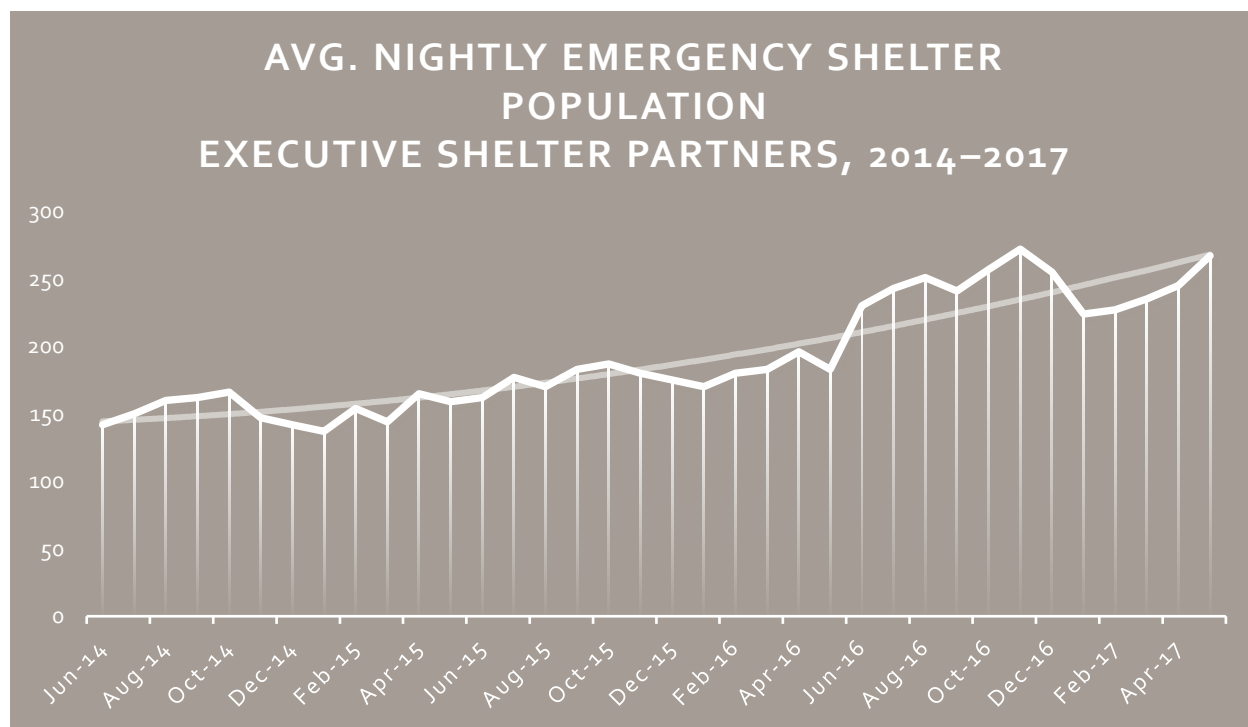


Figure 8. Average Nightly Emergency Shelter Population, Executive Shelter Partners, Dallas Domestic Violence Task Force Executive Committee Shelter Members, 2014–2017

Average Nightly Transitional Populations

In addition to providing emergency shelter for victims, several shelters also provided transitional housing services. These transitional services included long-term housing, job training, financial education, and counseling support for victims, all aimed at helping them to reenter their normal lives

and preventing homelessness. These victims in transitional housings have varied needs depending on their circumstances. As a result of the control and social isolation their abusers exert over them, many victims are unable to form social ties or work outside of the home prior to seeking safe haven (Kim & Gray, 2008). Moreover, many clients in transitional housing are still in grave danger. In some cases, the abuser has not been arrested, and in others, the victim and abuser are still engaged in active criminal or civil legal cases. Both these scenarios present a serious danger to the victim. As a result of these factors, sufficient long-term transitional housing is a critical component of care and healing for victims to build healthy lives. Victims who receive transitional housing services are frequently long-term clients or patients, with services provided from several months to years, depending on the unique needs of the victim and the capacity of the shelter provider. Figure 9 presents the average nightly transitional population for the four shelters. The average monthly number of victims in transitional housing for the current reporting period was 162. This represents a decrease from the previous reporting year by an average of 17 victims a month, or a 10% decrease. Although this year's data indicated a decrease from the previous reporting year, this average still represents an increase from the 2014–15 reporting cycle of an average of 26 victims (or 19%).

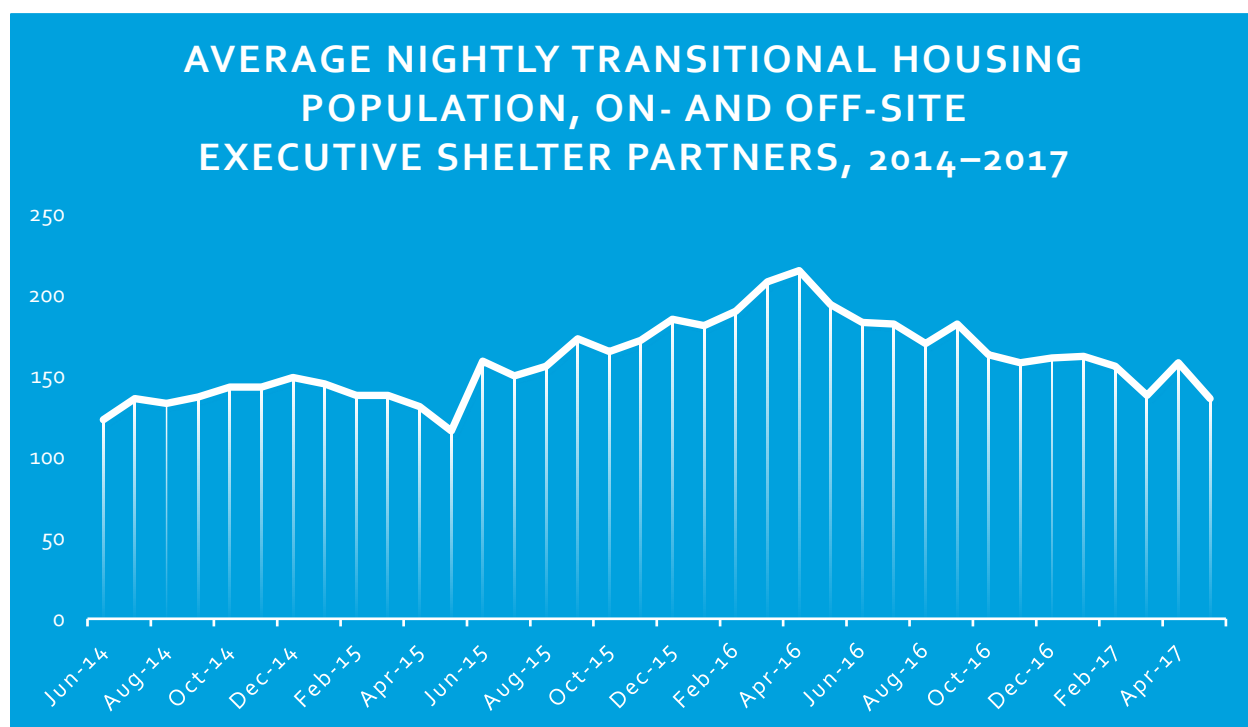


Figure 9. Average Nightly Transitional Housing Population, Executive Shelter Partners, Dallas Domestic Violence Task Force Executive Committee Shelter Partners, 2014–2017

Dallas County shelter partners play an invaluable role in combatting domestic violence for adult and child victims, thereby contributing to the health and success of the greater Dallas community. Continuing funding for these nonprofits combined with the high level of cooperation among partners on the Task Force enables these organizations to leverage precious resources in their efforts to stop domestic violence. The ongoing need for more resources to provide transitional housing space and long-term outreach support was highlighted several times throughout the survey by Executive Committee shelter partners as an area of critical focus.

Programmatic Advances Among Executive Committee Shelter and Outreach Providers

In October of 2016, The Salvation Army expanded their services for domestic violence victims with funding received from the Criminal Justice Division of the Texas governor's office through its Victims of Crime Act funding. Expansions focused on growing their services in nonresidential counseling and legal advocacy for survivors of domestic violence.

The Family Place received similar block grant money from the Council of Governments and Office of the Attorney General. In May of 2017, it opened the first emergency shelter for male victims of domestic violence in Texas, with 20 dedicated beds for men and children. It is another example of the progressive response to domestic violence that Dallas partners continue to make. This shelter space fills an important gap that has been identified in previous annual reports. At the time that these data were collected in the summer of 2017, The Family Place was scheduled to open a 50,000-square-foot facility in August of 2017—the Ann Moody Place—which includes shelter and kennel space, administrative offices, and outreach support.

Other significant events for the Executive Committee shelter and outreach partners included Genesis Women's Shelter & Support hosting the 12th Annual Conference on Crimes Against Women, held in Dallas in May of 2017. This 4-day conference offered over 146 speakers, 111 workshops, 12 case studies, 5 computer labs, 4 interactive workshops, and 2 evening film screenings. As one of the premier conferences for practitioners who work in law enforcement, advocacy, legal, and medical fields related to violence against women, over 2,000 registrants from all 50 states, the U.S. Virgin Islands, Canada, Asia, and Europe attended the conference. In addition, Genesis expanded their advocacy services in their nonresidential location in Dallas. These outreach services ensure that those survivors who are not wanting or ready for counseling are still able to receive the same exceptional level of service focused on their current issues. Two on-site advocates and a director of advocacy make up these outreach services. Survivors can call the hotline and be connected with an advocate to build a safety plan, receive crisis intervention, and address current basic needs (e.g., housing, financial, food), as well as gain access to employment services and applications for childcare. Additionally, these victims receive legal advocacy and referrals to legal resources, including the Genesis legal department, for further information and representation. These advocates are also at work within the community to ensure that they have the most up-to-date information about other agencies and service providers and to create change within the systems that clients navigate on a daily basis. They do it all for the purpose of better assisting survivors in overcoming barriers to a life free from abuse.

In summary, each of the shelter partners on the Task Force serves critical needs within the community regarding outreach and support services for clients who may never be offered housing or shelter. For these victims, these services are part of their lifeline to recovery. Genesis Executive Director Jan Langbein aptly described the benefits of these outreach services:

While it is true that it may seem like there is no substitute in a moment of crisis for safe confidential shelter, it is not the only answer. It can't be, or else all domestic violence agencies would be doing is running emergency shelters. Advocating alongside the victim through nonresidential advocacy services and providing a strong hotline response and safety planning to those in immediate crisis can help a victim to consider all of their options for safety when shelter is not immediately available. Because these services are more scalable than a shelter and have a much larger footprint, it is important for the community to also have a thorough understanding of these services and their role in the domestic violence community response.

Police Response

Domestic Violence Offenses, Arrests, and Case Filings

Over the past 3 years, DPD has provided detailed metrics to the Domestic Violence Task Force and been an invaluable member of the Executive Committee and general Task Force. For the 2016–17 reporting cycle, DPD gave detailed monthly metrics to the research team and regular updates to Task Force members throughout the year on the following items: (a) numbers of reported offenses determined to be domestic violence related; (b) domestic violence arrests, with a breakdown between misdemeanor and felony offenses; (c) family violence cases filed; (d) protective order violation offenses; and (e) family violence and intimate partner murders. DPD also provided retrospective data for variables of interest about the victims, offenders, and case-specific variables regarding all 3 years of intimate partner murders since the inception of the annual reports in June 2014 through May 2017. This is a significant new contribution to this year's report and is presented in the section on intimate homicides.

Since 2015, DPD has experienced significant organizational and leadership changes that have had a profound impact on the Domestic Violence Unit. Former DPD Chief David Brown announced his retirement effective October 22, 2016, which ended a 33-year career of service within the department. As this report was being written in September of 2017 (and after the reporting year had commenced in May of 2017 for this cycle), U. Renee Hall began her tenure as the 29th chief of police. Over the last 2 years, the Domestic Violence Unit has experienced a great deal of turnover with its command staff and detectives assigned within the unit. Four commanders have led the unit in this time frame, including Lieutenant Cecilia Hinojo, Lieutenant Pamela Starr, and Lieutenant Kylee Hawks all assuming leadership of the unit in the last year's reporting cycle. Lieutenant Hawks was the current commander at the end of May 2017.

Throughout this reporting cycle, the Domestic Violence Unit lost a large number of personnel through retirements, transfers, special assignments to other divisions, and the death of a detective. At the end of May 2017, the unit had only 23 case filing detectives, and they carried a caseload average of 45 cases per month. One detective was assigned 65 cases in the month of May. At the writing of this report, they were authorized to fill the vacancies and anticipated hiring several detectives and a couple of sergeants. The Domestic Violence Unit also had a detective on special assignment in the Personnel Division who was anticipated to return in August of 2017. In addition, in the fall of 2017, they anticipate the return of the officer who is assigned all Class C misdemeanor assault offenses. He was placed on special assignment as a 9-1-1 call-taker on March 30, 2017. With these changes in effect as of fall of 2017, the unit commander expects the unit to be fully or nearly fully staffed. As of June 2017, the unit had a lieutenant, 2 sergeants, 26 detectives, 2 caseworkers, 1 office assistant, a research specialist, and an investigative support specialist on staff. In the late summer of 2017, the Domestic Violence Unit anticipated adding a high-risk victim coordinator on a state-funded grant via The Family Place. This coordinator will specialize in identifying high-risk victims and providing them special support. A limited duty police officer is expected to return to the unit in the fall of 2017.

As shown in Figure 10, over the past 3 years, the number of reported offenses determined to be related to domestic violence have gradually increased. Between June 1, 2016, and May 31, 2017, alone, DPD determined 15,566 calls were domestic violence related, which represented a roughly 3% increase from the 15,124 calls reported in the previous reporting year. This metric included all calls received regardless of assignment to a specific unit, such as the Domestic Violence Unit. These calls include Class C misdemeanors and miscellaneous incident reports, which are calls involving domestic violence but that do not result in a domestic violence incident report. Note that calls to 9-1-1 may not be immediately

classified as domestic violence related, as there are many offense codes that can have a domestic violence origin and require further examination. For instance, a 9-1-1 report of people fighting might later be determined to be domestic in origin. Likewise, a 9-1-1 report of a loud noise disturbance may, upon further investigation, be found a domestic violence complaint. Figure 10 depicts the relative consistency in the month-to-month trend over the past 3 years. In June of 2016, there were 1,477 calls reported to be domestic violence related, accounting for the highest monthly total across all three reporting periods.

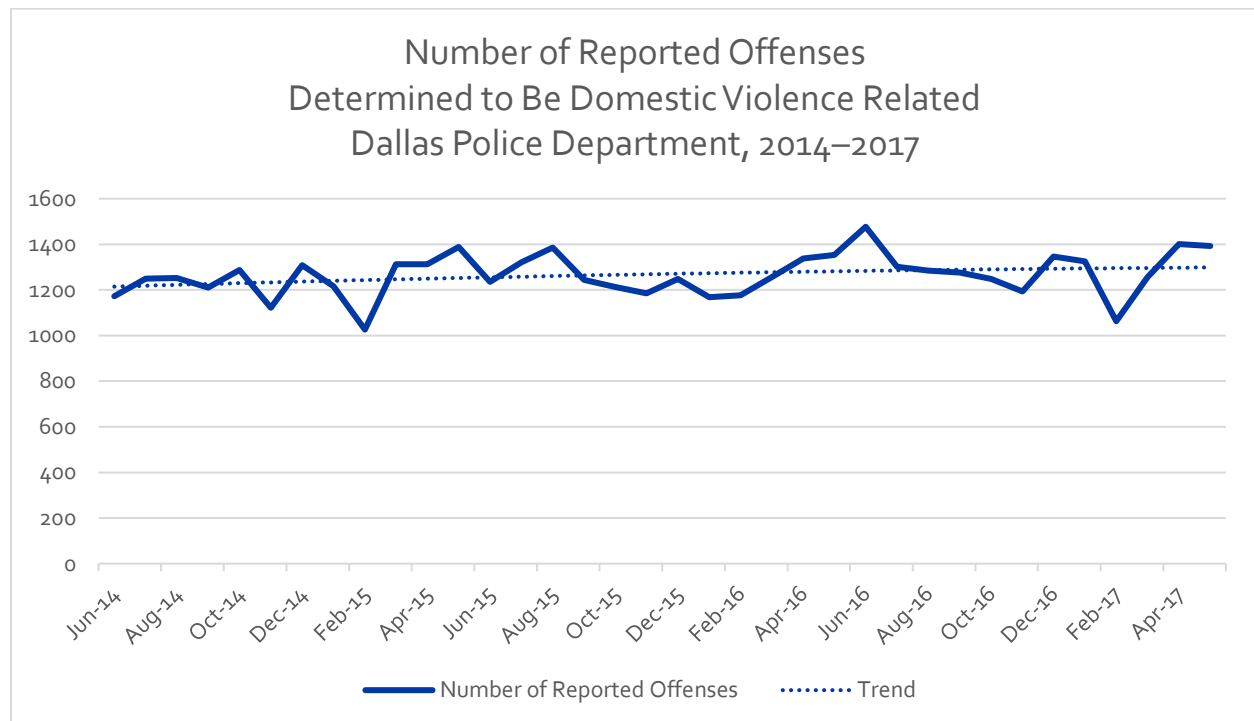


Figure 10. Number of Reported Offenses Determined to Be Domestic Violence Related, Dallas Police Department, 2014–2017

Case Filings

DPD filed 11,371 family violence cases over the past 3 years. The number of cases filed in 2016–17 accounted for the lowest yearly total for any of the years that the annual report has summarized metrics, with 3,527 cases filed. After a 5% increase from 2014–15 to 2015–16, there was a 12% decrease between 2015–16 numbers and those reported in 2016–17. Figure 11 displays both the monthly case filings reported between June of 2014 and May of 2017 as well as the trend. These graphics illustrate that July 2016 had 430 family violence cases filed, thereby accounting for the highest monthly total across all three reporting periods.

The decrease in case filings could be caused by a number of contributing factors cited by leadership within DPD. First, vacancies in key staffing positions within the Domestic Violence Unit clearly appeared to be a leading cause. A decrease in detectives caused a corresponding increase in caseloads for the remaining detectives. High caseloads reduced the amount of time each case received from the detectives, thereby making them cumbersome and creating difficulties in detectives having sufficient time to build these cases. In addition, when victims sign affidavits of prosecution (waivers), it is incumbent upon the detective assigned to the case to gather enough evidence for probable cause for an arrest without the testimony of the victim. While there are many reasons victims may be unwilling or

unable to cooperate with police, these cases can be extremely hard to prove without victim cooperation. This is especially true since domestic violence cases are often based on the testimony of the victim and may lack other outside witnesses. When detectives do not have the necessary time to spend on each case, they likely will not have enough time to gather the evidence needed to build the case, or to conduct important home visits to victims who are nonresponsive to other means of contact. This would result in a decrease in the number of cases filed, as well as other metrics such as home visits that are impacted by this lack of personnel. DPD stated at the end of the reporting year that they anticipated having approval from DPD leadership to fill the vacancies within the unit to address this staff shortage. Moreover, the unit reported looking for and implementing strategies that allow their team to work more efficiently, such as technological advancements that will increase their time management and ability to collect evidence quickly in the field.

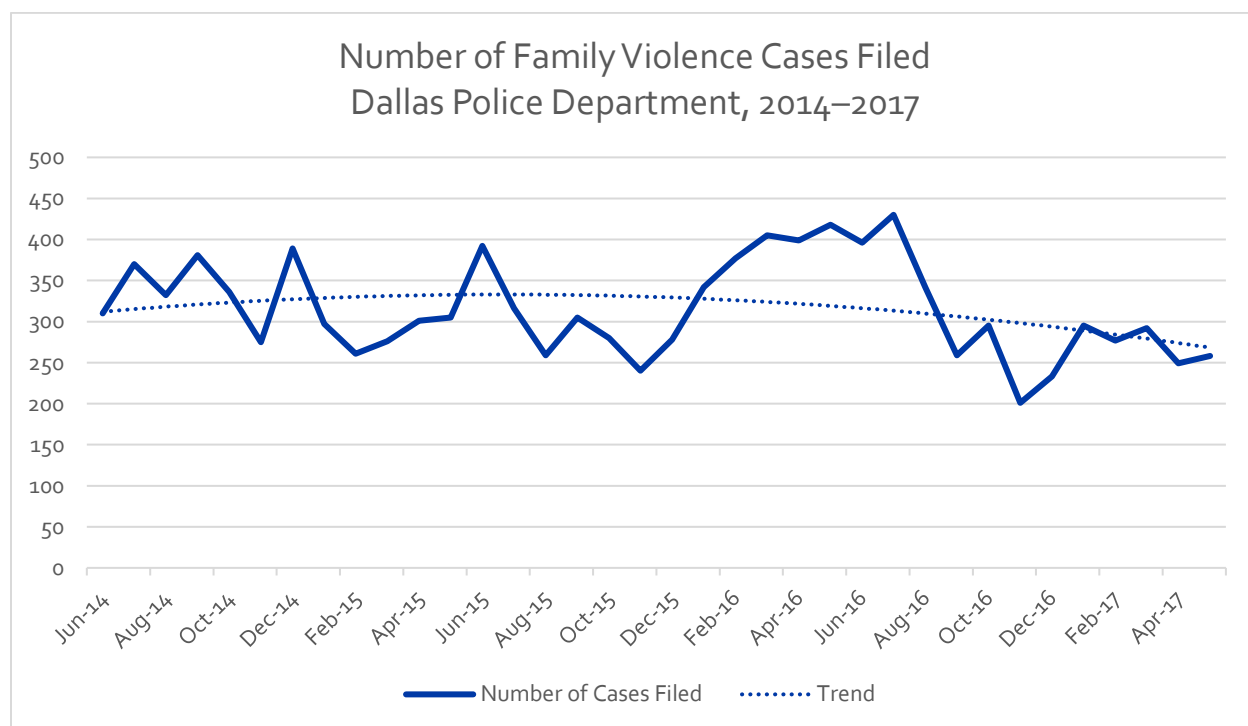


Figure 11. Number of Family Violence Cases Filed, Dallas Police Department, 2014–2017

Court orders of protection, commonly called protection orders, are documents that legally restrict the behavior of known or suspected domestic violence perpetrators. The provisions of these orders may include limitations to communication, distance to be maintained from the victim, and other stipulations specific to the case at hand. Protective order violations occur when a perpetrator violates the requirements of the order. Over the past three years, DPD reported 538 protective order violations, 211 of which occurred during the 2016-17 reporting period. This represents a 19% increase from the 178 violations reported during 2015–16 and a 41% increase compared to the 149 violations reported during the 2014–15 reporting period. Figure 12 provides the month-to-month variation in the reports filed. These data revealed that March of 2017 had the highest number of protective order violation offenses across all 3 years, with 27 violations, followed closely by May of 2015 with 26.

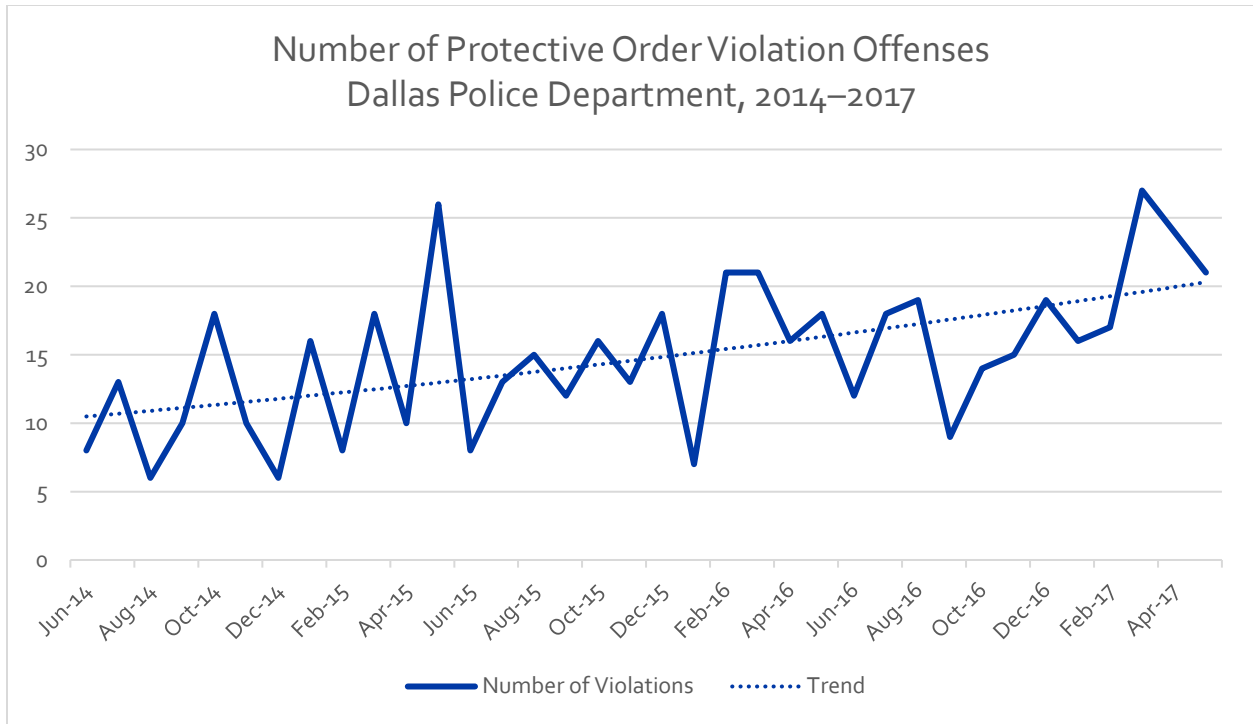


Figure 12. Number of Protective Order Violation Offenses, Dallas Police Department, 2014–2017

Misdemeanor Arrests

Figure 13 depicts the slight but gradual decrease in the number of misdemeanor domestic violence arrests reported by DPD, with the solid line linking monthly totals. Over the previous 3 years, DPD made 17,305 arrests on misdemeanor domestic violence charges. In 2016–17 there were 5,601 misdemeanor domestic violence arrests, which is 164 fewer arrests, or a 3% decrease, from the previous year. These findings mirrored the 3% decrease seen between 2014–15 and 2015–16 when there were 168 fewer misdemeanor arrests. August saw the highest number of misdemeanor arrests by DPD for both the 2015–16 and 2016–17 reporting periods, with 504 and 531 arrests, respectively. When examining the trend line (indicated with the blue dotted line), one will note a gradual decrease and leveling for misdemeanor arrests. DPD leadership noted that this decline in arrests overall may be partially due to a decrease in patrol officers, which in turn has led to an increase in response times and opportunities for offenders to leave the location. As such, more suspects were at-large, making these cases difficult to file, especially if the officers were unable to reach the victim to verify facts.

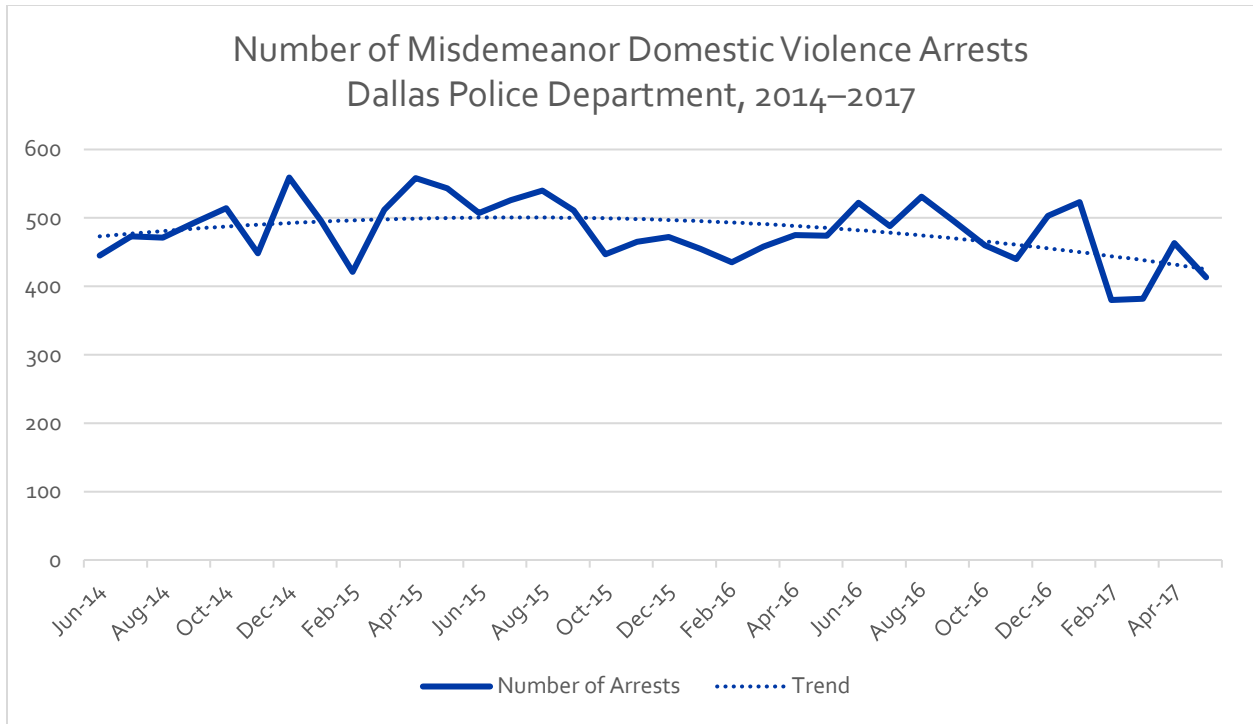


Figure 13. Number of Misdemeanor Domestic Violence Arrests, Dallas Police Department, 2014–2017

Felony Arrests

Figure 14 presents the number of felony domestic violence arrests in 2014–17. When looking at this figure, there is an overall decreasing trend in felony arrests (indicated by the dotted line). However, when considering the annual 2016–17 data only, the reported 1,545 arrests represented a 6% increase from the previous year’s 1,458 felony arrests. Over the 3-year period, DPD has reported 4,668 felony domestic violence arrests. Over the last 2 years, the month of May has historically seen the lowest number of felony arrests (with 76 arrests in 2015–16 and 95 arrests in 2016–17).

To represent the true volume of domestic violence arrests, Figure 15 presents the total number of arrests by the level of charge (misdemeanor versus felony) for June of 2014 through May of 2017. Misdemeanors are presented in blue and felonies in orange. Each month, DPD makes 500–700 arrests for misdemeanor and felony domestic violence. This is more than 16 arrests every day of the year.

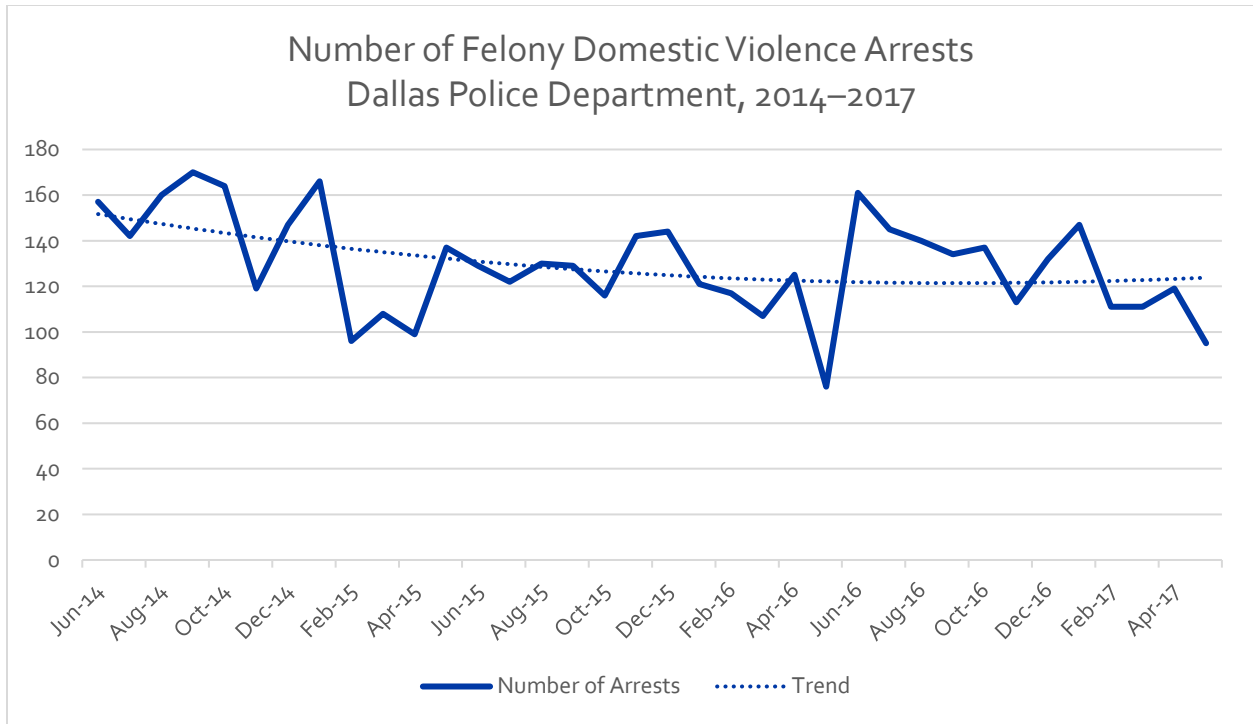


Figure 14. Number of Felony Domestic Violence Arrests, Dallas Police Department, 2014–2017

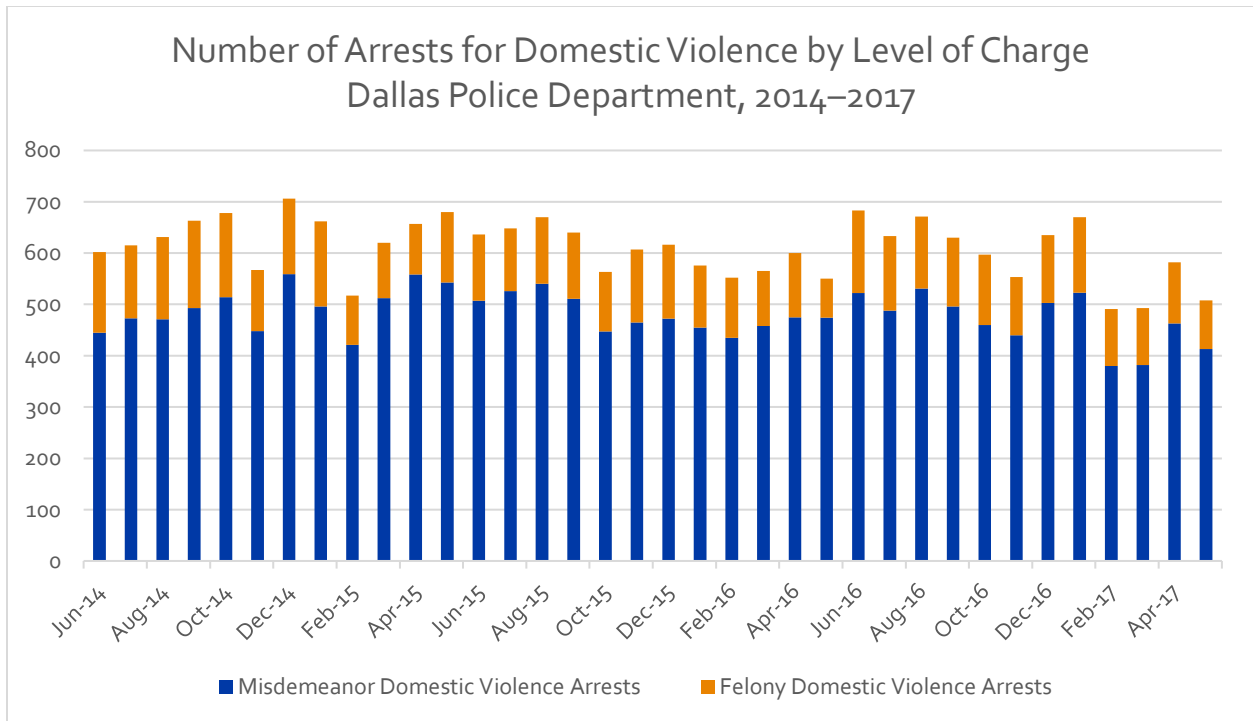


Figure 15. Number of Arrests for Domestic Violence by Level of Charge, Dallas Police Department, 2014–2017

Lethality Reduction Program

In 2012, DPD received a grant to implement the Domestic Violence Lethality Assessment developed by the Maryland Model (Maryland Network Against Domestic Violence, 2017). The instrument assesses

the likelihood of lethal violence based on 11 protective factors, and is an evidence-based instrument considered a best practice for increasing victim safety and preventing intimate partner homicides. These lethality assessments represent a critical tool for DPD in reducing the likelihood of domestic homicides and identifying high-risk cases within the community once they are reported to police. The lethality assessments are conducted as part of the Domestic Violence Supplement Packet for calls related to intimate partner violence (see Appendix A).

Figure 16 presents the month-to-month trend of completed lethality assessments. DPD has conducted 13,213 lethality assessments since first providing data on this metric for the annual report in 2015–16. In 2016–17 alone, DPD conducted 6,052 lethality assessments, which is down 15% from 2015–16. The month of June accounted for the highest number of lethality assessments completed (604), while December marked the lowest (431) for 2016–17. Overall, Figure 18 shows a gradual decrease over the 3-year period of lethality assessments conducted.

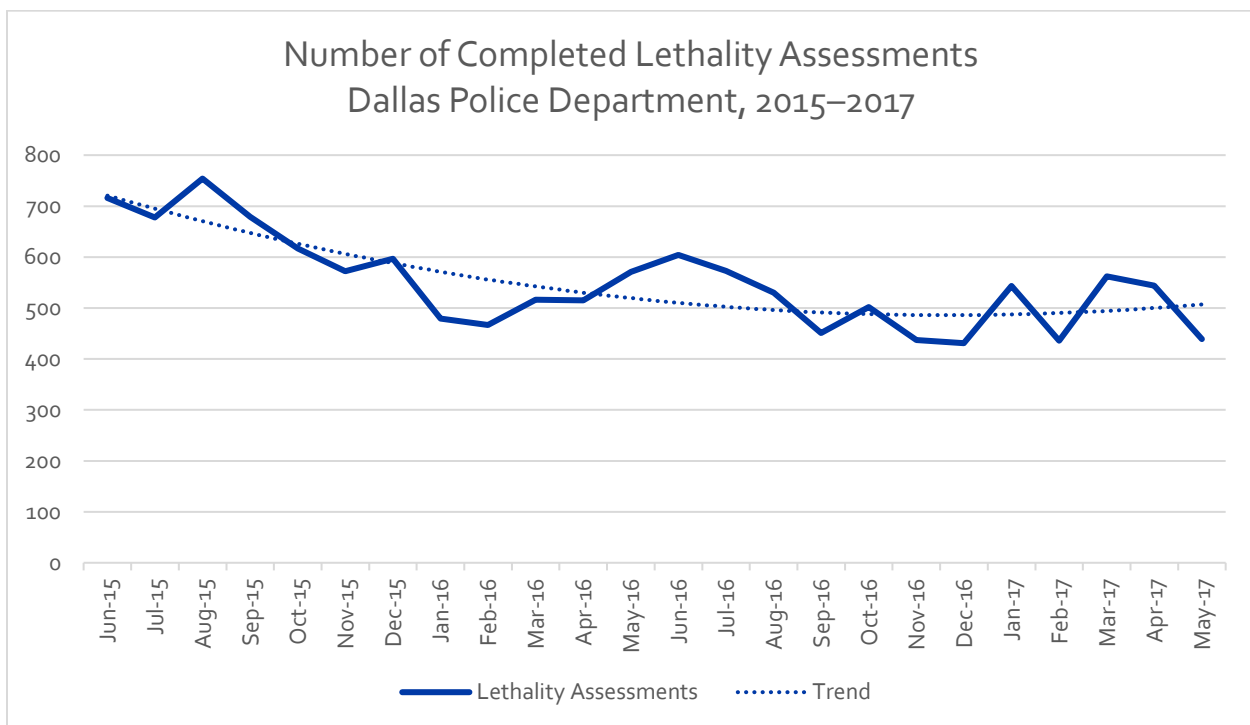


Figure 16. Number of Completed Lethality Assessments, Dallas Police Department, 2015–2017

Using data indicators from the lethality assessment tool, DPD seeks to identify domestic violence victims who are at higher risk for lethal violence. They subsequently follow up with these victims by conducting a home visit where they can assess safety, discuss the facts of the case, and offer information on community resources to these victims if needed. Figure 17 presents the total monthly number of attempted home visit contacts and total monthly number of completed home visit contacts across the past 2 years. During the 2016–17 reporting cycle, DPD attempted 338 home visits or contacts, which is a 19% decrease from 2015–16 (418). However, the 161 home visit contacts completed by the Domestic Violence Unit represents a 58% increase over the previous year (102). In fact, the percentage of home visits that resulted in a successful victim contact nearly doubled over these 2 years, rising from just 24% in 2015–16 to 47% in 2016-17. This dramatic rise in completed home visits is indicative of greater efficiency in the unit, despite shortages in personnel, compared to the previous

year. As these high-risk victims are thought to be in the greatest danger of lethality from their abuser, this is a significant finding and one that merits praise for DPD’s efforts.

The leadership in the Domestic Violence Unit reported moving aggressively toward filling vacancies to provide additional personnel, which should have a positive impact on the number of cases filed and home visits for the next reporting cycle. With increased staffing, the leadership within the unit expects that changes will be made in work schedules to be more aligned with victim availability. Moreover, the anticipated addition of a high-risk victim coordinator should also result in increased numbers of home visits and contact between high-risk victims and detectives.

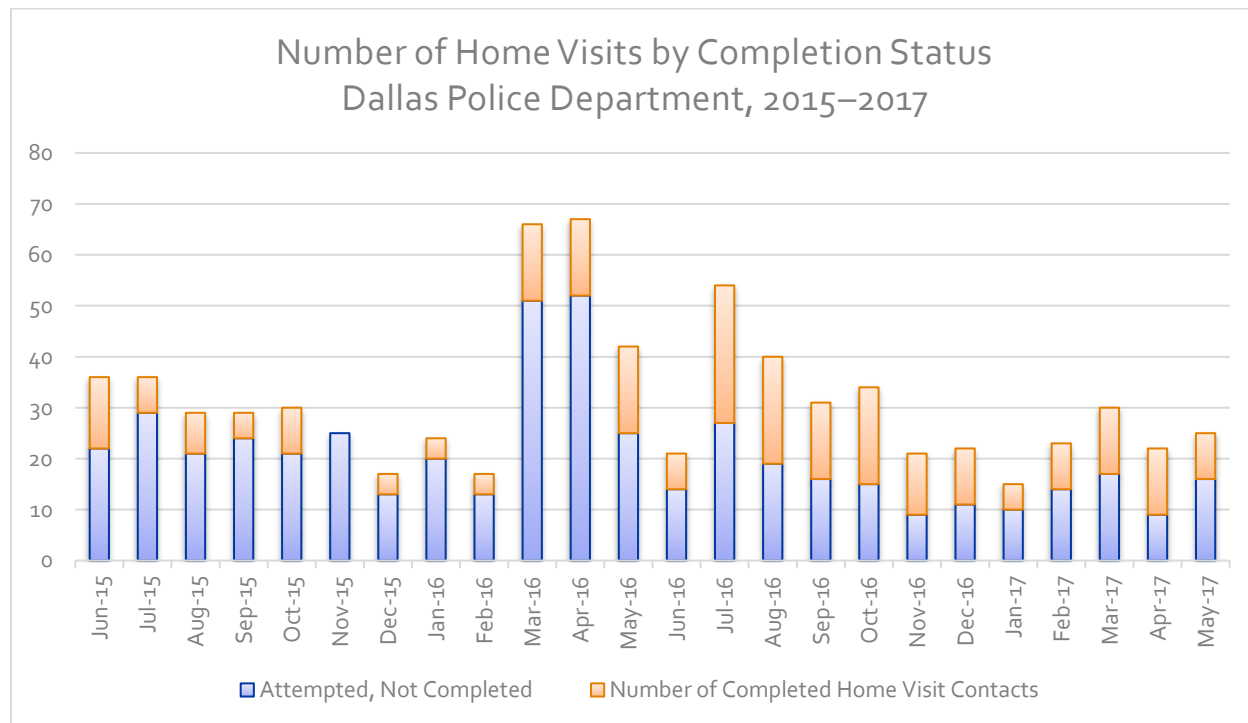


Figure 17. Number of Home Visits by Completion Status, Dallas Police Department, 2015–2017

Family Violence Murders

Figure 18 displays the monthly trend in the previous 3 years for all homicides between family members investigated by DPD. This figure presents, for each month, the total number of family violence murders occurring during each of the three reporting periods. One should note that, within this report, family violence murders comprise *all* family-involved murders, not just those committed by former or current intimate partners (these are disaggregated in the next section of the report). Over the past three reporting periods, 52 family violence murders have occurred within the city of Dallas. In the course of preparing data for this report, DPD’s Domestic Violence Unit identified additional homicides that had been *reclassified to an intimate partner homicide, thereby increasing family violence and intimate partner homicide counts, respectively*. DPD provided the revised data to the research team on October 16, 2017, restating numbers reported in previous Task Force reports. Even with these revised metrics from DPD included, family violence murders still remained virtually stable across the 3-year period: there were 21, 15, and 16 murders, respectively. January (9), February (8), and March (8) saw the greatest number of family violence murders over the 3 years. Similar to last year’s report findings, these trends stand in contrast to the rise in murders overall in Dallas over the same period.

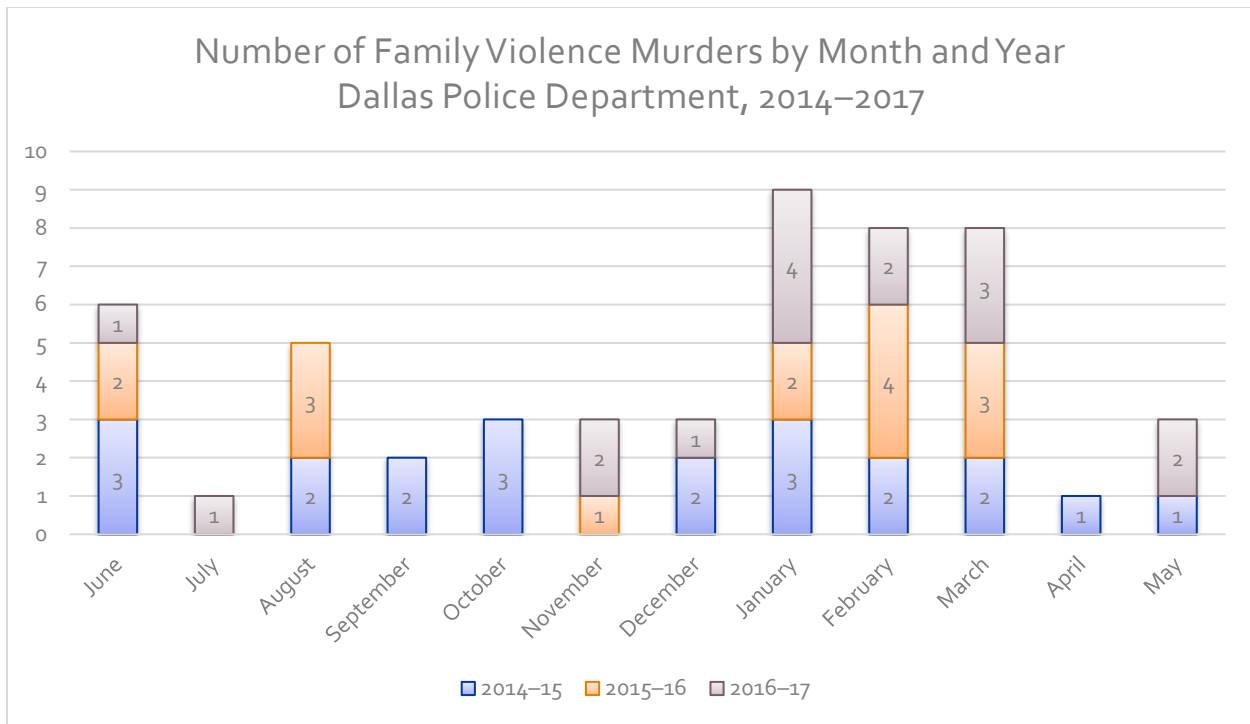


Figure 18. Number of Family Violence Murders by Month and Year, Dallas Police Department, 2014-2017

Intimate Partner Homicides

There have been 24 intimate partner (IP) homicides in the city of Dallas over the three reporting periods (11, 6, and 7, respectively, for each annual report). Of the 16 family violence murders reported by DPD in 2016-17, almost one half (seven, or 44%) involved intimate partners. With revised metrics, there was an increase of one intimate partner homicide from DPD’s 2014-15 total of 10 IP homicides and another for 2015-16 resulting in a total of six. With 11 intimate homicides recorded in Dallas in 2014-15 (the highest year since metrics were reported in annual reports), the 2016-17 report of seven victims represented a 36% drop. Figure 19 presents the month-to-month trend in these homicides and reveals that May and September are the only 2 months without the recording of a family or intimate partner homicide since the reporting of metrics in 2014.

Factors that might have contributed to lower reports of intimate partner homicide include the efforts of the DPD Domestic Violence Unit that resulted in higher home visit completions. In addition, DPD worked closely with the department’s Fugitive Unit to execute warrants on high-risk offenders who violated protective orders or were escalating violent behaviors against victims. Detectives used the lethality assessment instruments to help identify these offenders and those victims at the highest risk. Getting these offenders off the street increases victim and public safety and reduces potentially lethal opportunities for them to hurt their victim again. The efforts of other Task Force partners such as the increased numbers of beds for emergency shelter and transitional housing, continuation of the Felony Domestic Violence Court (under Judge Brandon Birmingham and discussed more in the courts section that follows), expansion of the Gun Surrender Program (under Judge Roberto Cañas in the courts section), and increased prosecutions of impeding (strangulation) felony cases by the district attorney’s office (discussed in the Dallas County District Attorney section that follows), all contributed to some extent to the reduction of intimate partner homicides reported by DPD. Yet more work remains to be done before Dallas is at zero for this metric.

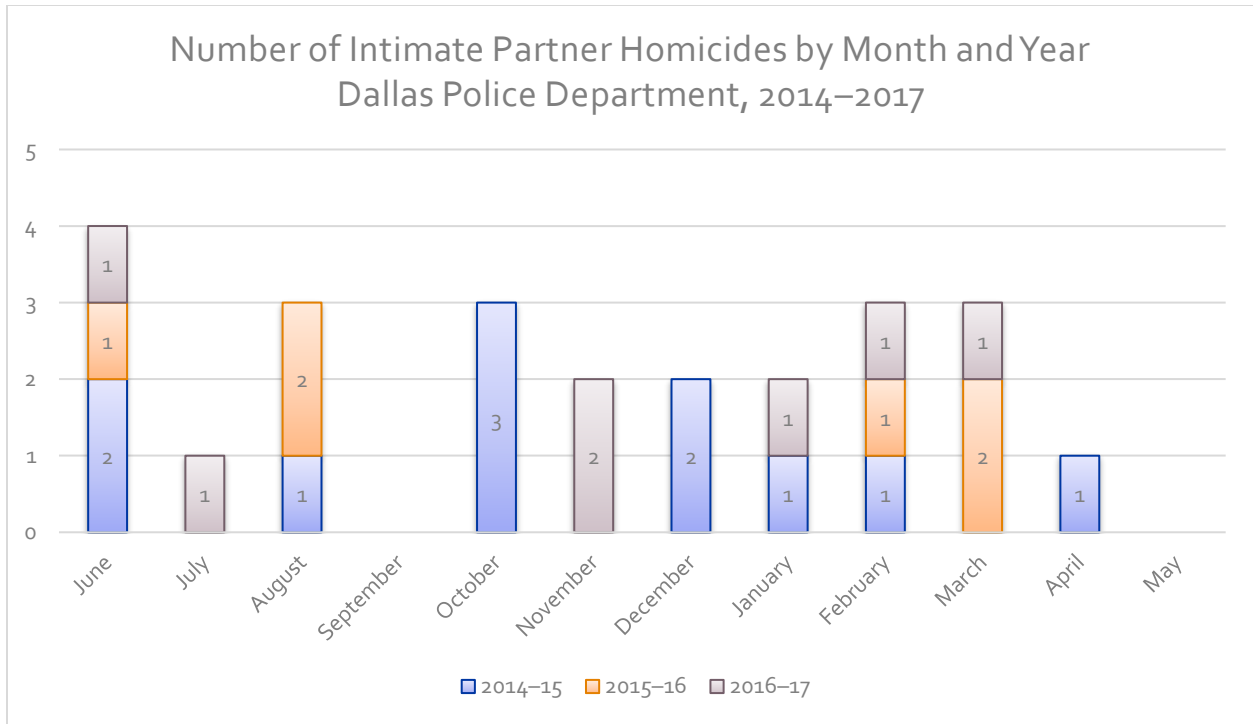


Figure 19. Number of Intimate Partner Homicides by Month and Year, Dallas Police Department, 2014-2017

Figure 20 presents a schematic of the characteristics of the seven intimate partner homicide offenses committed between June of 2016 and May of 2017. Contrary to the national data on intimate partner homicides, which shows that most domestic homicides overwhelmingly involve male offenders killing female victims, 4 of the 7 (or 57%) intimate homicide cases involved female killers. Three of these male victims were Black, and one was White; three were killed by their girlfriends, while one was killed by his wife. In the remaining three cases, the killers were male. The White victim was killed by her husband, while the two African American victims were killed by their boyfriends.

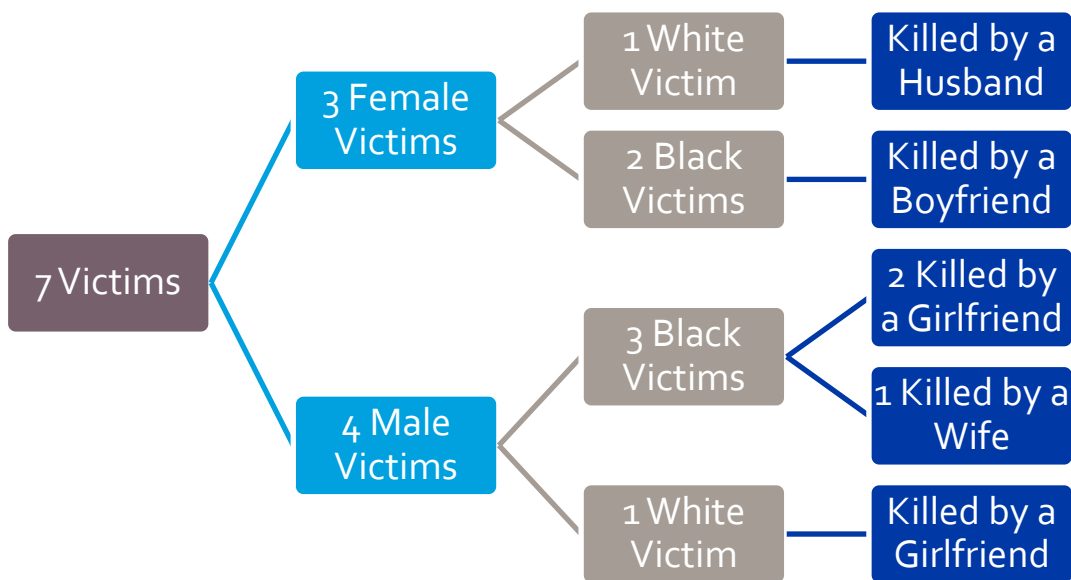


Figure 20. Intimate Partner Homicide Characteristics, Dallas Police Department, 2016-2017

Toward a more generalizable consideration of intimate partner homicides, this year’s report adds substantive new data to the DPD detailed metrics, allowing a more thorough consideration of factors surrounding these 24 murders. This year, DPD provided retrospective data for variables of interest regarding the victims, offenders, and case-specific variables regarding all 3 years of intimate partner murders from the beginning of the annual reports in June 2014 through May 2017. This last section is a significant new contribution to this year’s report as it offers specific information into the dynamics of these intimate partner homicides. In turn and over time, the research team will seek to identify trends or commonalities across murders that may inform the systemic response to domestic violence and better identify factors that make lethality more likely in these cases. Unlike the in-depth analysis of intimate partner homicides conducted by the Dallas County Intimate Partner Violence Fatality Review Team (IPVFRT), the cursory analysis presented here seeks to provide a high-level description of the victims and their assailants over the last 3 years. The empirical research on domestic homicide conducted to date points to the relevance of numerous offender–victim characteristics and offense specifics that are critical to better understand the unique dynamics of these murders, which can direct policies toward the prevention of these homicides (Dobash & Dobash, 2015).

Table 6 presents the demographic characteristics across the combined 24 offenses involving intimate partner homicide victims and offenders. When considering the 3-year trends, some interesting similarities and differences were found. The average age of the victims rose from 39 to 44 from 2014–15 to 2015–16 before falling again to 40 in 2016–17. Black and Hispanic victims continue to be overrepresented as intimate partner homicide victims, with Blacks accounting for 45%, 67%, and 71%, respectively, of all victims across the three reporting periods. As expected, and keeping with national statistics on these crimes, females account for the majority of victims, except in 2016–17 when they were 43% of all victims. As the total sample size is quite small with only seven offenses, these data should be interpreted with caution. Prior victimizations also rose each consecutive year for victims, from an average of 0.2 in 2014–15 to 0.8 in 2016–17. Regarding offender demographics, the average intimate partner killer was in his or her early- to mid-40s. These offenders were predominately Black (followed by Latino/a) and male; the anomaly was in reporting year 2016–17 when only 43% of intimate partner killers were male.

Turning to Table 7, these data show the intimate partner homicide types for each type of premises where these offenses occurred by reporting period. In keeping with prior research, victims were overwhelmingly targeted at their place of residence (75% of all victimizations), with 42% and 25% of all intimate partner homicides occurring in apartments or single-family homes across the 3-year period.

Table 6. Demographic Characteristics of Intimate Partner Homicide Victims and Offenders, City of Dallas, 2014–2017

Demographic Characteristics	2014–15	2015–16	2016–17
Total Offenses	11	6	7
Victim Demographics			
Average Age	39	44	40
Black	45%	67%	71%
Latino/a	36%	17%	0%
White	18%	17%	29%
Male	18%	17%	57%
Female	82%	83%	43%
Average Number of Prior Victimization	0.20	0.50	0.80

Demographic Characteristics	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17
Offender Demographics			
Average Age	40	46	41
Black	64%	67%	71%
Latino/a	36%	17%	14%
White	0%	17%	14%
Male	82%	83%	43%
Female	18%	17%	57%
Average Prior Offenses	11.0	7.50	11.0

Table 7. Intimate Partner Homicides by Type of Premises, Dallas Police Department, 2014-2017

Type of Premises	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	Total
Commercial – Office	0%	17%	0%	4%
Public Space	0%	17%	43%	17%
Residential – Single Family	27%	17%	29%	25%
Residential – Apartment	64%	17%	29%	42%
Residential – Apartment Common Space	9%	17%	0%	8%
Open Field	0%	17%	0%	4%
Total	11	6	7	24

Table 8 portrays the breakdown of intimate partner homicides by sex of the victim and weapon type for the 20 intimate partner homicides for which type weapon could be determined. Firearms were the weapon of choice for most intimate partner killers, with 65% using this weapon. Knives, used in 20% of these murders, were the second most common weapon. Interesting variation can be seen by gender. Female victims are far more likely than males to be killed by firearm (85% compared to 29%). For male victims, the weapon use shows much more variance, with no single weapon type predominant.

Table 8. Intimate Partner Homicides by Sex of Victim and Weapon Type, Dallas Police Department, 2014-2017

Weapon Type	Male Victim	Female Victim	Total
Firearm	29%	85%	65%
Knife	43%	8%	20%
Other Weapon	29%	8%	15%
Total	7	13	20

Additionally, Table 9 offers information on the presence of witnesses to these intimate partner homicides. For the 22 intimate partner homicides for which the presence or absence of witnesses could be established between 2014 and 2017, victims were killed without witnesses present in over three quarters of these murders. In roughly 1 out of 4 cases, one or more persons witnessed the homicide.

Table 9. Intimate Partner Homicides by Presence of Witnesses, Dallas Police Department, 2014–2017

Witnesses to Homicide	2014–15	2015–16	2016–17	Total
None	82%	67%	80%	77%
One or More Witnesses	18%	33%	20%	23%
Total	11	6	5	22

Finally, Figure 21 offers a comprehensive, detailed schematic overview of all 24 intimate partner homicides and their characteristics between June of 2014 and May of 2017. In this 3-year period, there were 17 female and 7 male victims; proportionately, more than two thirds of all these victims were females (71%). Of these 17 female intimate partner homicide victims, nine were Black, five were Latina, and three were White; 82% were non-White victims. All 17 of these female homicide victims were killed by a current husband, common-law husband, or boyfriend. Of the seven males killed by intimate partners in the city of Dallas over the 3 years, five were Black, and two were White. All these victims were killed by their current or former wives, common-law wives, or girlfriends.

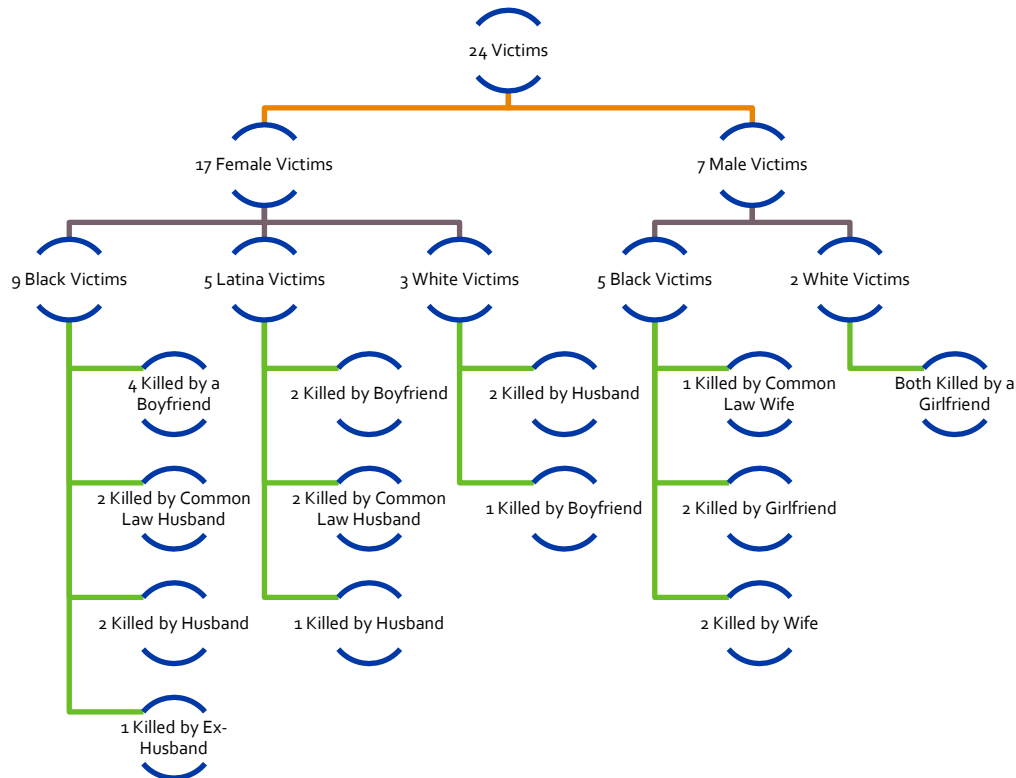


Figure 21. Intimate Partner Homicide Characteristics, Dallas Police Department, 2014–2017

In looking toward next year’s report, the research team will talk with DPD about expanding the detailed information on the dynamics surrounding intimate partner violence in an attempt to bring further information that captures the extent and impact of these murders. This was the first year to bring in specific offense/offender/victim characteristics, and it represented a considerable investment of time and effort for DPD to go through each of these homicides and record details across this full range of variables. However, the extant literature suggests that there are other facets to be explored in more detail. For example, intimate partner homicides often include other family members, friends, or

children as collateral victims. These types of homicides are frequently referred to as *familicides* in the research literature and within the media. Familicide is defined as the killing by a family member of others within their family of origin. For the purposes of this report, familicide specifically refers to intimate partner homicides in which a partner is the primary offender. When looking at the specific offender–victim relationships that characterize familicides involving intimate partner murders, it is all too common to have multiple victims counted among the injured or killed. While the immediate target may be the former or current adult intimate partner, offenders will kill others who are there by chance or who are sought out and targeted by the killer. Familicides involve a subclass of domestic homicide killers known as *family annihilators*. These are particularly tragic events that wipe out entire families, devastate the lives of these victims’ friends and family members, and seemingly come out of the blue when people reflect on their perceptions of some of these killers. When multiple victims are involved, this devastation becomes even more widespread and pronounced as the ripple effects of these crimes impact a larger number of loved ones.

Contrary to public perception that intimate partners who kill their partners will always display aggressive behaviors prior to the event, research has shown that over half of these killers had no known history of family violence prior to the murder event and that they were thought to be good providers for their families (see, for example, Websdale, 2013). Another subset of familial killers do have backgrounds of abusive behavior, arrests for domestic assaults, and/or demonstrated explosive tempers. As such, the variance when looking across the numerous factors related to familicides makes them difficult to predict since they do not all fall within defined parameters of risk factors. Although male killers commit roughly 80%–95% of these crimes, females on occasion also murder their intimate partners or children, or kill themselves. Familicide, while rare, leaves a tremendous amount of pain and trauma in its wake. It is one of the few crimes that shocks a public who have become desensitized to violent crime headlines. Sometimes, these crimes hit close to home and remind us of the realities and scope of these tragic events.

In September of 2016, Meredith Hight was killed by her estranged husband, Spencer Hight in the Dallas suburb of Plano. When police arrived on the scene after receiving a 9-1-1 call of shots being fired in their home within a quiet neighborhood, they were confronted by an armed offender and killed him at the scene. Inside the home and in the back yard, police discovered seven additional victims, many of whom were close friends with the killer, who were executed along with Meredith. Spencer Hight committed this crime on the eve of the couple’s sixth wedding anniversary. Six of these victims were either current or former University of Texas at Dallas students. The research team knew some of them well, and joined the rest of the University community in mourning their collective and individual losses. So why do these type of crimes happen? Websdale (2013), as one of the foremost experts on domestic homicides, has identified four key areas while studying hundreds of these cases. He reports these four factors have been causally linked with these crimes: (a) divorce/breakup of family unit and problems with child visitation, (b) monetary hardships, (c) cultural honor killings, and (d) serious mental illness. The offender feeling an overwhelming sense of shame is a common thread across many of these killings explored by Websdale in hundreds of case studies of intimate partner homicides.

While the number of intimate partner homicides has decreased in Dallas over the last 2 years, it is unclear to what this decrease can be attributed. Continuing to track and consider trends, similarities, and differences across the unique characteristics, offender–victim relationships, and risk factors of these offenses is an important step in both transparency and reporting. The annual report offers a chance for converging the details on these crimes in a timely manner and condensing complex factors. Such analyses offer Task Force partners the chance to carefully consider the findings and make policy

recommendations toward reducing lethality and keeping victims who are at high-risk safe. DPD has made great strides over the past 3 years in implementing the lethality assessment and home visitation program. This year saw a dramatic rise in the success of Family Violence Unit personnel making contact with high-risk victims in the community. Undoubtedly, this best practice is contributing in some form to the low number of intimate partner homicides reported last year.

Prosecution

Two different prosecutorial entities handle prosecution of domestic violence cases in the city of Dallas. The Dallas County district attorney's office prosecutes defendants charged with any offense that is a Class B misdemeanor or higher. When police are unable to secure sufficient evidence to file at least a Class B misdemeanor, DPD has the option to file a Class C misdemeanor with the city attorney's office. This office handles all lower-level misdemeanors and citations via prosecutions in the Dallas Municipal Court System.

Dallas County District Attorney

In December of 2016, Governor Greg Abbott appointed Republican Faith Johnson as the Dallas district attorney, replacing Susan Hawk, who resigned from office that September. Faith Johnson's appointment was historic for the office, as she is the first African American female to hold the office in Dallas County. She was the first African American female district criminal judge elected in Texas, and she served on the bench for over 17 years. She was also the first African American named as chief felony prosecutor during her previous tenure at the Dallas County district attorney's office. In addition to Judge Johnson, Jerry Varney of the Family Violence Unit continues to serve as the main liaison from the Dallas County district attorney with the Task Force. A primary focus of Judge Johnson's first year was to expand the presence of the district attorney via satellite offices throughout the county. In addition, the district attorney's office continued to expand its protective order service in the George Allen Dallas County Civil Court, a program that started in January of 2016. This service provides legal assistance to victims as they seek to leave their abusers and receive protective orders from the court. Beginning in March of 2017, these satellite offices also began offering district attorney representation for domestic violence victims in the protective order process. Working with their nonprofit partners, the district attorney's office also provides these victims with information on shelter and survivor resources from other community partners.

The Dallas County district attorney reported receiving 2,986 misdemeanor domestic violence cases during the 2016–17 program year, an increase of 7% from the previous year. Figure 22 presents the monthly number of misdemeanor family violence cases received from June 2014 to May 2017. The shaded area highlights the monthly average for each month of the 3-year period. For instance, if the line for a month is above the shaded area, then that month was above average when compared to that month in other years. On average, the district attorney received 241 cases per month from 2014 to 2017. One noticeable trend is the decline in the number of cases in March and April of 2016, when the number of cases received was almost 100 less than those received during the same months in other years. Figure 23 depicts the number of misdemeanor family violence cases rejected each month from 2014 to 2017. Overall, 392 cases were rejected in 2016–17, an increase of 84% from the previous year.

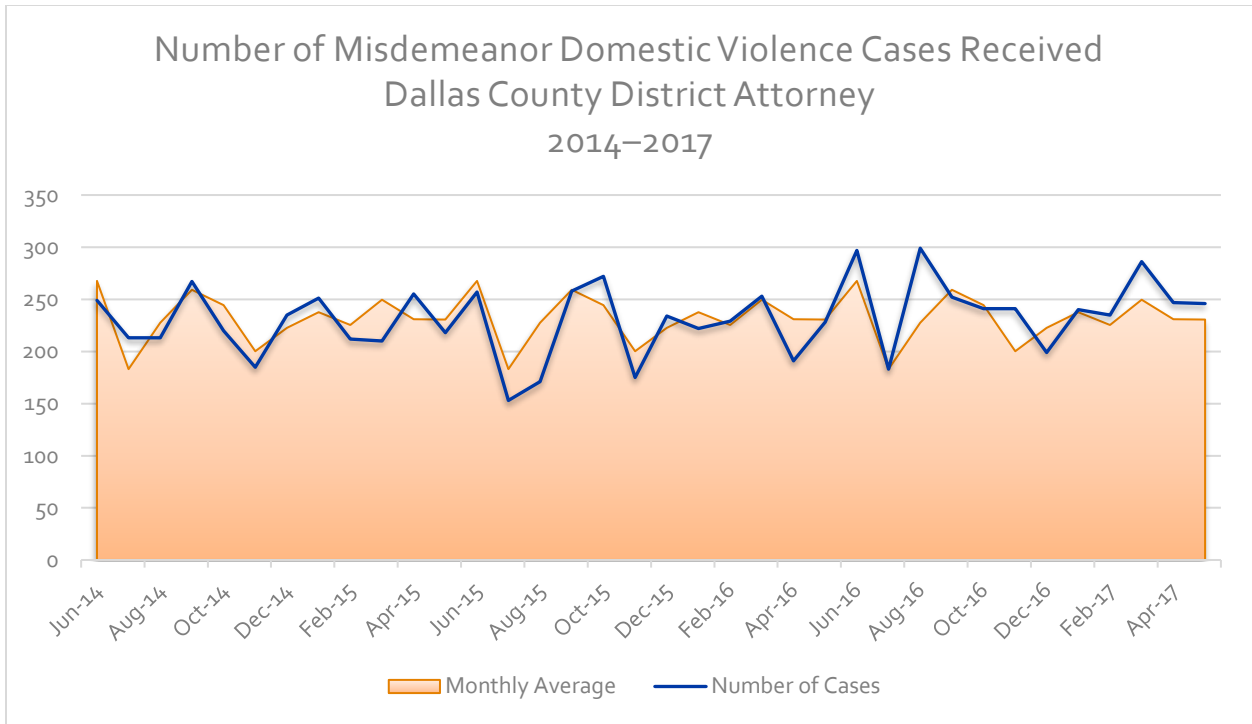


Figure 22. Number of Misdemeanor Domestic Violence Cases Received With Monthly Average, Dallas County District Attorney's Office, 2014–2017

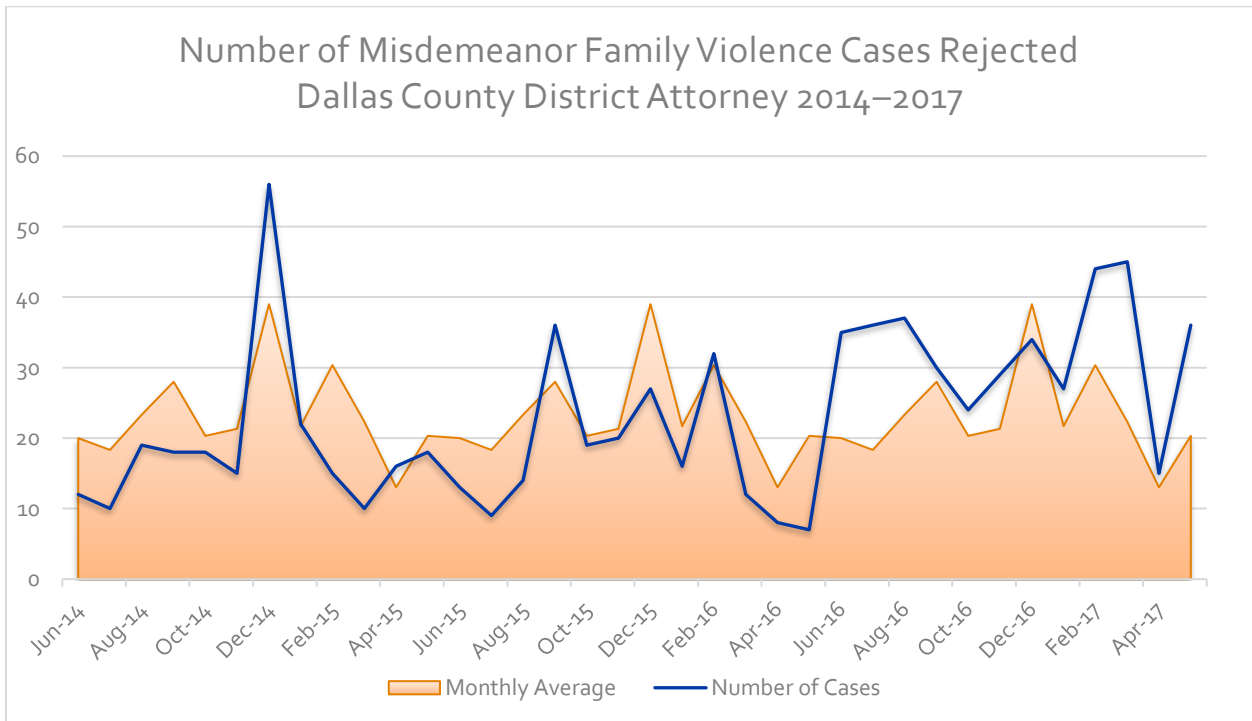


Figure 23. Number of Misdemeanor Family Violence Cases Rejected With Monthly Average, Dallas County District Attorney, 2014–2017

Figure 24 shows the number of felony family violence cases received each month by the Dallas district attorney's office. For 2016–17, an average of 247 cases were received per month, with the highest number of cases (299) received in August and the lowest number (183) received in July. The total number of felony family violence cases received last year was 2,966, which represented a 12% increase over the 2,643 cases received in 2015–16. The metric involves only intimate partner violence cases, and excludes other forms of family violence committed by siblings, parents, or other relatives.

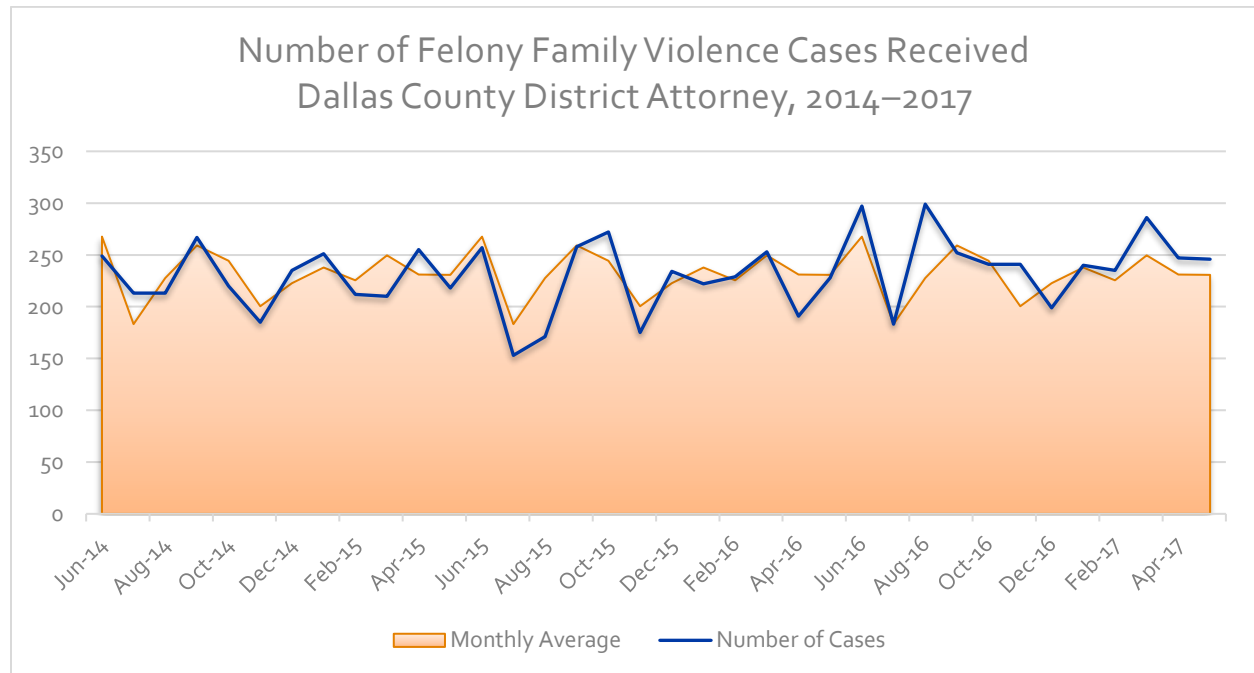


Figure 24. Number of Felony Family Violence Cases Received With Monthly Average, Dallas County District Attorney, 2014–2017

Figure 25 reports the number of felony family violence cases rejected by the Dallas County district attorney from 2014 to 2017. In 2016–17, the office rejected 90 family violence cases, compared to 107 in 2015–16 and 105 in 2014–15. This represents a reduction of 15% between 2015–16 and 2016–17. On average, the district attorney rejected eight felony family violence cases per month in 2016–17, compared to nine in the both of the previous 2 years of annual reporting.

Of the total number of felony family violence cases received by the Dallas County district attorney's office, attorneys presented 92% of these cases to the grand jury. As a result, 2,196 (74% or roughly three quarters) were indicted, while the grand jury returned no-true bill for 528 cases (18%). The outstanding percentage of these cases (a) were received as felony but reduced to misdemeanors, (b) were rejected by the district attorney's office, or (c) were returned to the originating law enforcement agency for more investigation. Figure 26 depicts the monthly trend in the numbers of no-billed and indicted felony family violence cases, reflecting a gradual increase in indictments and a gradual decrease in no bills.

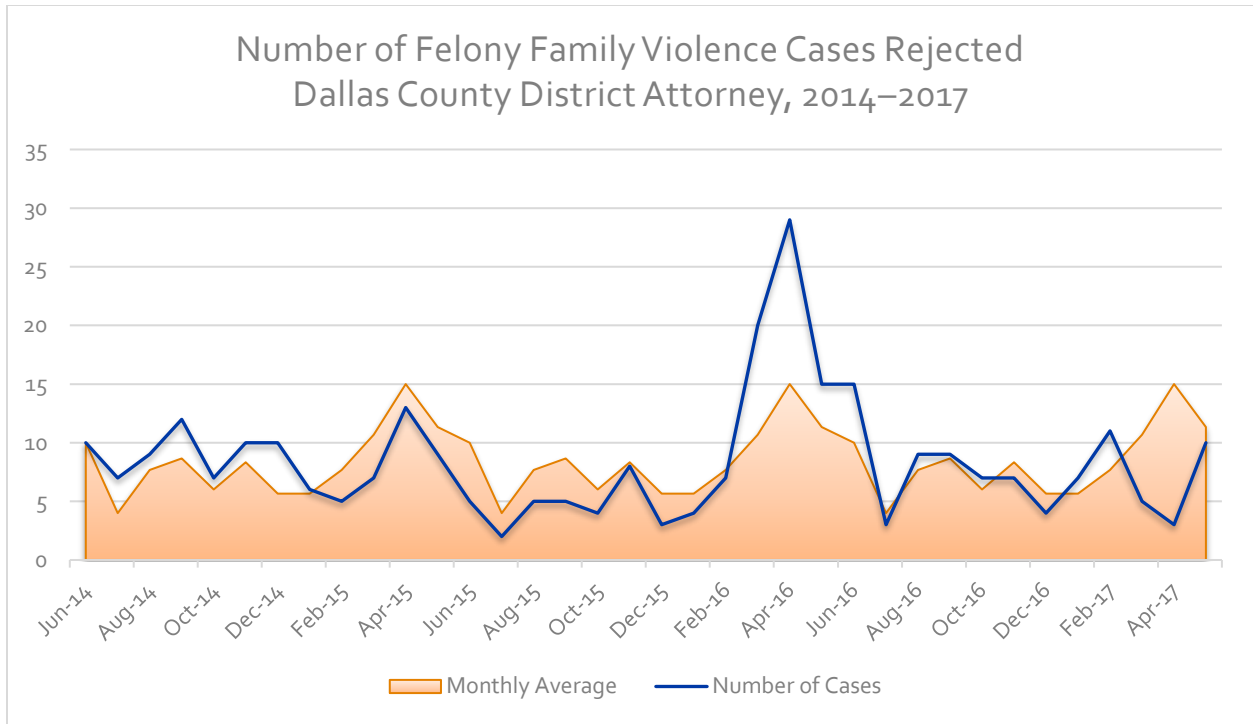


Figure 25. Number of Felony Family Violence Cases Rejected, Dallas County District Attorney, 2014–2017

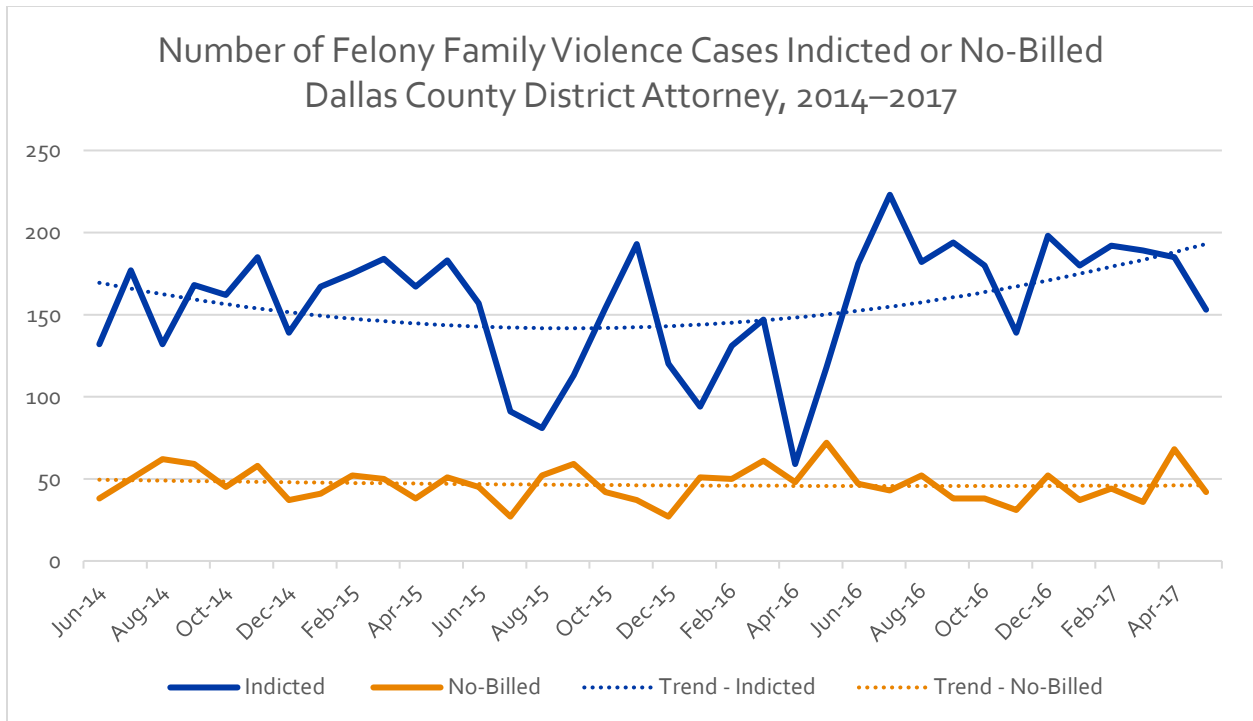


Figure 26. Number of Family Violence Cases Indicted or No-Billed, Dallas County District Attorney, 2014–2017

Penalties for domestic violence crimes can be enhanced when another crime has been committed that carries extra considerations for sentencing. The Texas Penal Code (Tex. Penal Code § 22.01, 2003) has identified six aggravating circumstances for which the sentence can be enhanced:

1. Continuous family violence enhancement: This occurs with a history of two or more arrests for assault against a family member during a 12-month period, enhancing the offense to a third-degree felony;
2. Assault enhancement: This occurs when a misdemeanor family violence assault offense is enhanced by a prior family violence conviction, enhancing the offense to a third-degree felony;
3. Impeding enhancement: This occurs when there is evidence of strangulation with a previous family violence conviction, increasing the offense to a second-degree felony;
4. Stalking: Incidents of stalking over a period of time can enhance an offense to a third-degree felony;
5. Misdemeanor violation of protective order: A nonviolent violation of a protective order can enhance an offense to a Class A misdemeanor; and,
6. Felony violation of a protective order: A violent violation of a protective order can enhance a crime to a third-degree felony.

Table 10 presents the annual number of cases to which each category of enhancement was applied. In 2016–17, 1,366 cases received enhancement to family violence offenses, compared to 1,291 the previous year. A notable drop in the number of enhancements due to felony violation of protection order was observed, with the number of reported cases decreasing from 77 in 2015–16 to 31 in 2016–17. The most notable increase in these family violence enhancements came from the assault and impeding cases; the latter is significant because it involved cases with evidence of strangulation for an offender with a previous conviction of family violence. The change in these prosecutions on impeding cases between 2014-15 and 2016-17 represented a 242% increase.

Table 10. Number of Family Violence Enhancements by Enhancement Type, Dallas County District Attorney, 2014–2017

Type of Family Violence Prosecution Enhancements	2014–2015	2015–2016	2016–2017
Continuous Family Violence	156	108	106
Impeding	168	500	575
Assault	668	509	562
Stalking	29	30	29
Misdemeanor Violation of Protection Order	61	67	63
Felony Violation of Protection Order	65	77	31
Total	1,147	1,291	1,366

Figure 27 illustrates the monthly trends in the types of enhancement applied by the district attorney in 2016–17. A majority of enhancement cases during the year were due to assault or impeding circumstances, a trend that held relatively steady across all months of the year. Figure 28 shows the monthly trend in the number of enhancements applied to prosecution over 2 years.

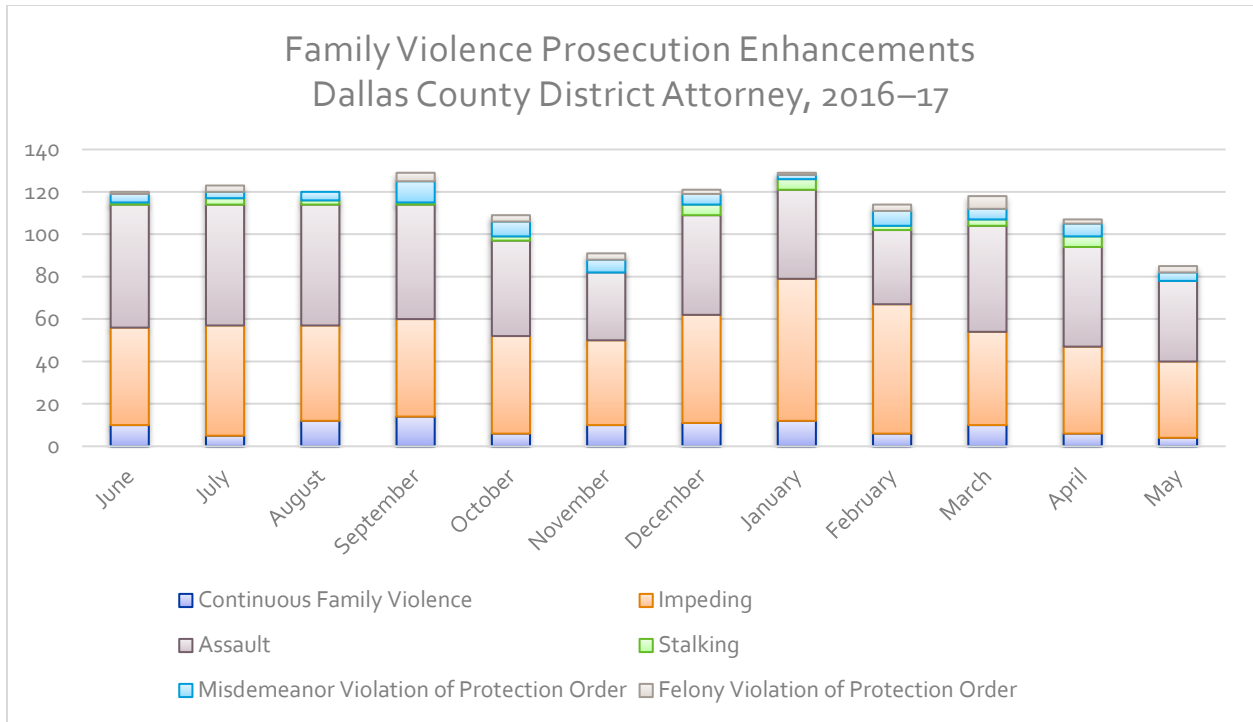


Figure 27. Family Violence Prosecution Enhancements, Dallas County District Attorney, 2016–17

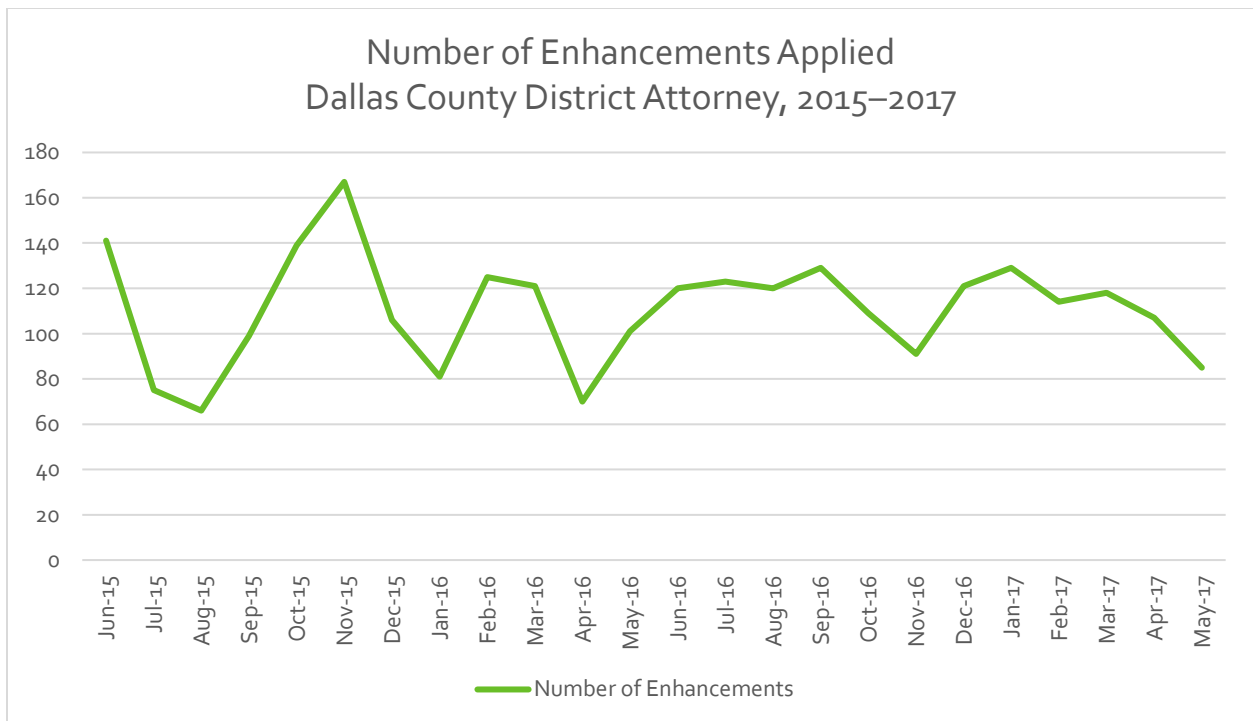


Figure 28. Total Number of Enhancements, Dallas County District Attorney, 2015–2017

The district attorney’s office reported data regarding orders of protection, including the number of order petitions that were granted, withdrawn, dismissed, and denied. In 2016–17, Dallas County judges granted 544 orders of protection, dismissed 56 requests, and denied 25. Seventy defendants withdrew

their petition before hearing. This represents a 36% increase in the number of orders granted over the previous year and a 37% decrease in dismissals. In an effort to make protective services more accessible to victims in need, the district attorney’s office has expanded services to 11 satellite offices throughout the county. This expansion may be a driver of the increase in granted orders of protection and decrease in dismissals. Figure 29 illustrates the monthly trends in orders of protection for each disposition in 2016–17. The total number of orders of protection of any disposition peaked in the months of June, August, September, October, November, and January, with 60 or more orders of protection granted, dismissed, dropped, or denied in each month. The highest number of orders of protection of any disposition were observed in the month of August (74).

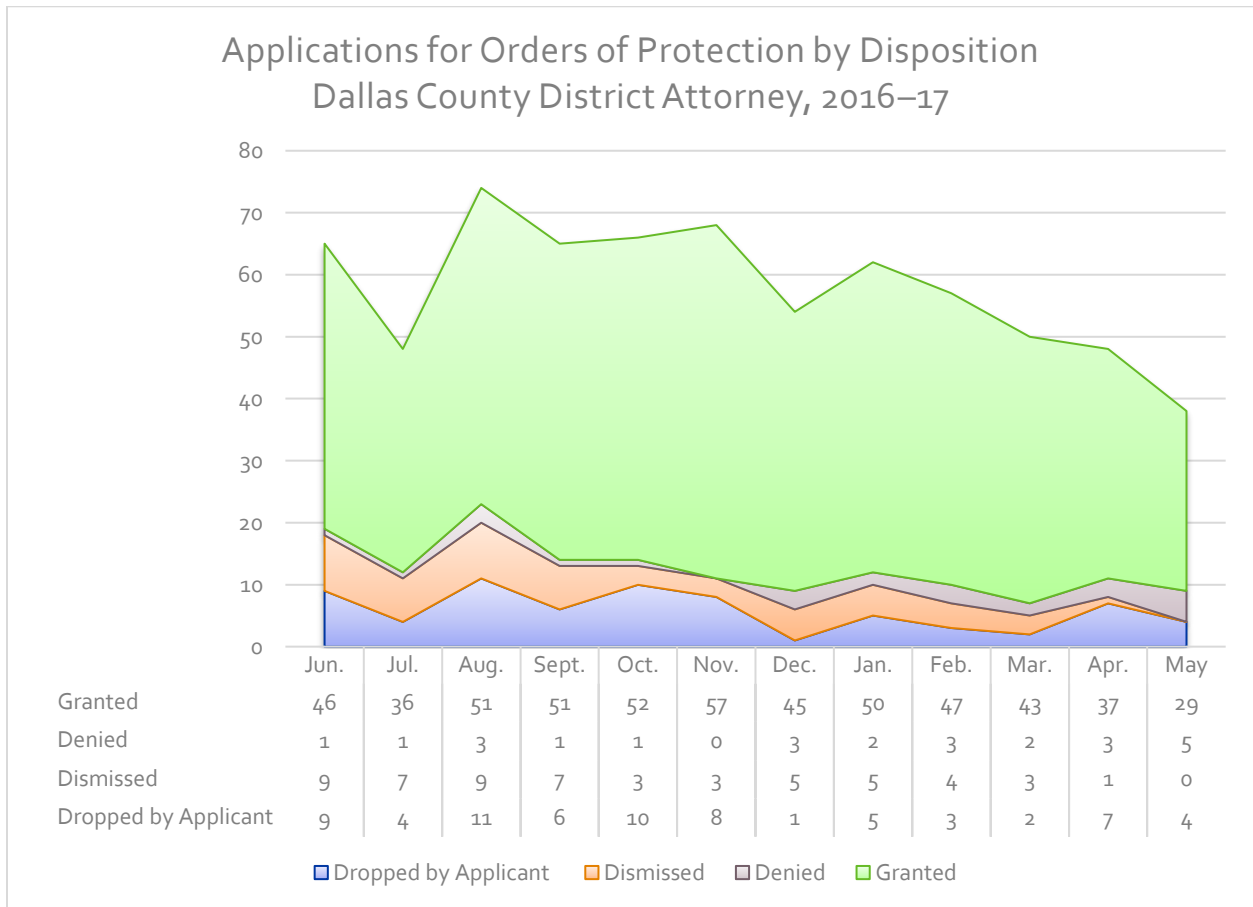


Figure 29. Applications for Order of Protection by Disposition, Dallas County District Attorney, 2016–17

The charts in Figure 30 compare trends in orders of protection for each disposition separately. On average, the courts granted 45 orders of protection each month in 2016–17. The average number of monthly orders of protection that were dismissed, dropped, and denied in 2016–17 were five, six, and two, respectively.

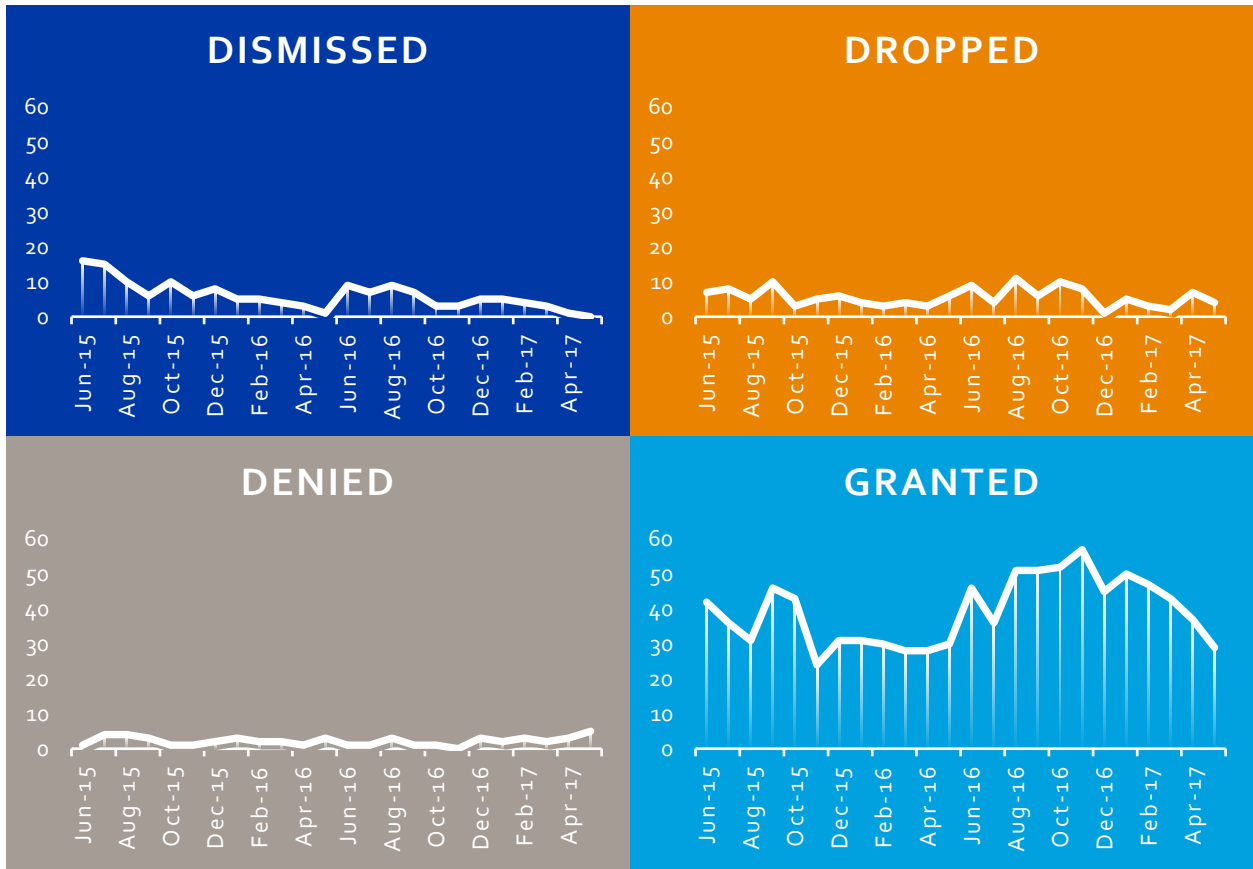


Figure 30. Monthly Trends in Applications for Protective Order by Disposition, Dallas County District Attorney, 2015–2017

City of Dallas Attorney’s Office

The Dallas city attorney’s office is responsible for prosecuting Class C misdemeanors in the city of Dallas, including Class C domestic violence cases. These misdemeanors, usually involving lower risk offenses that do not involve physical injury to victims, are punishable by fines of up to \$500 and do not entail jail time. Cases involving Class C misdemeanors are handled by the Municipal Court System for the city of Dallas and prosecuted by the Dallas city attorney’s office. From June 2016 to May 2017, 4,023 Class C misdemeanor family violence cases were received by the Municipal Court System, which is roughly the same as the 4,065 cases received the previous year. Figure 31 depicts the number of cases received per month in the 3-year period from 2014 to 2017, along with a 3-month moving average trend line. The average number of cases received per month in the 2016–17 reporting period was 335, which is slightly higher than the 3-year average of 326 cases per month.

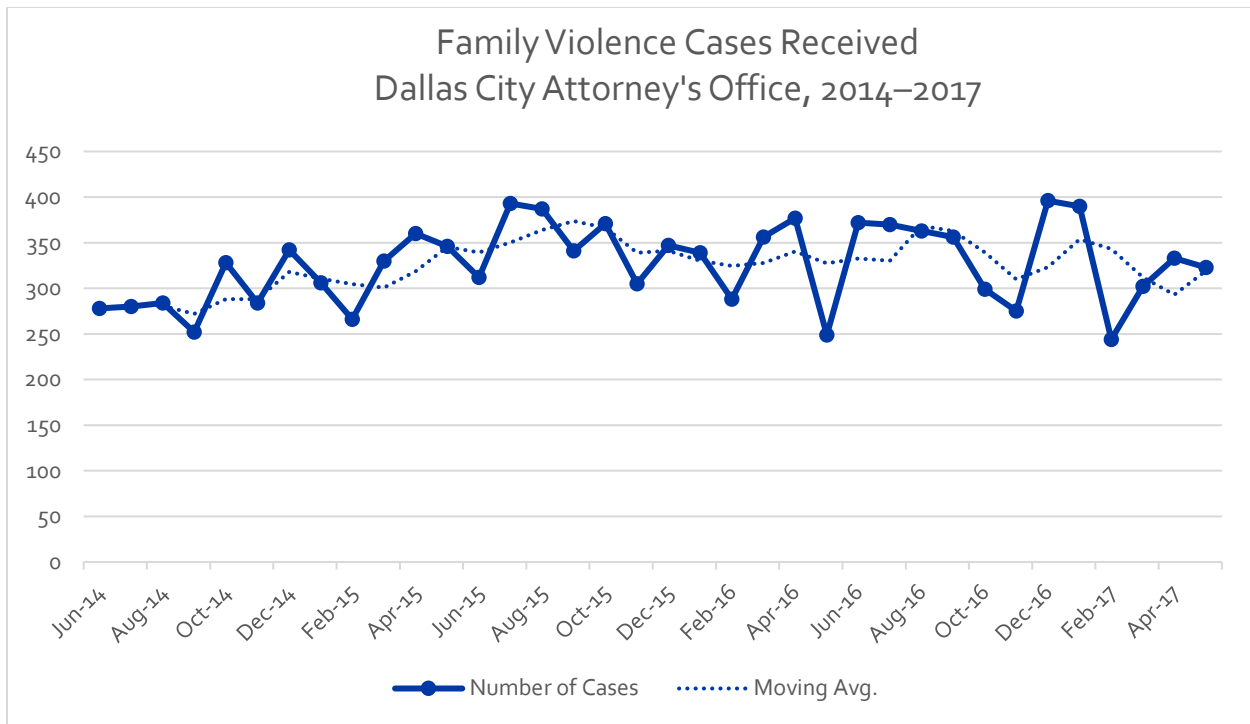


Figure 31. Family Violence Cases Received, Dallas City Attorney's Office, 2014–2017

Figure 32 and Figure 33 illustrate the relative proportions of family violence case dismissals by cause in the 2016–17 and 2015–16 reporting periods. In the current reporting period, 34% of dismissals were made due to no outside witness, and 46% were made due to deferred disposition (in former years' reports, this was referred to as deferred adjudication). This stands in contrast to 35% of dismissals made due to no outside witness and 54% due to deferred disposition in 2015–16. The 2016–17 cycle saw a sharp increase in the number of family violence dismissals made due to insufficient evidence—15%—whereas none was dismissed due to insufficient evidence in the previous year. This anomaly is most likely attributed to how the case dismissals were coded by the prosecutor's office over the last 2 years, such that the reason for dismissal was more specific in the recent year versus less specific in previous years.

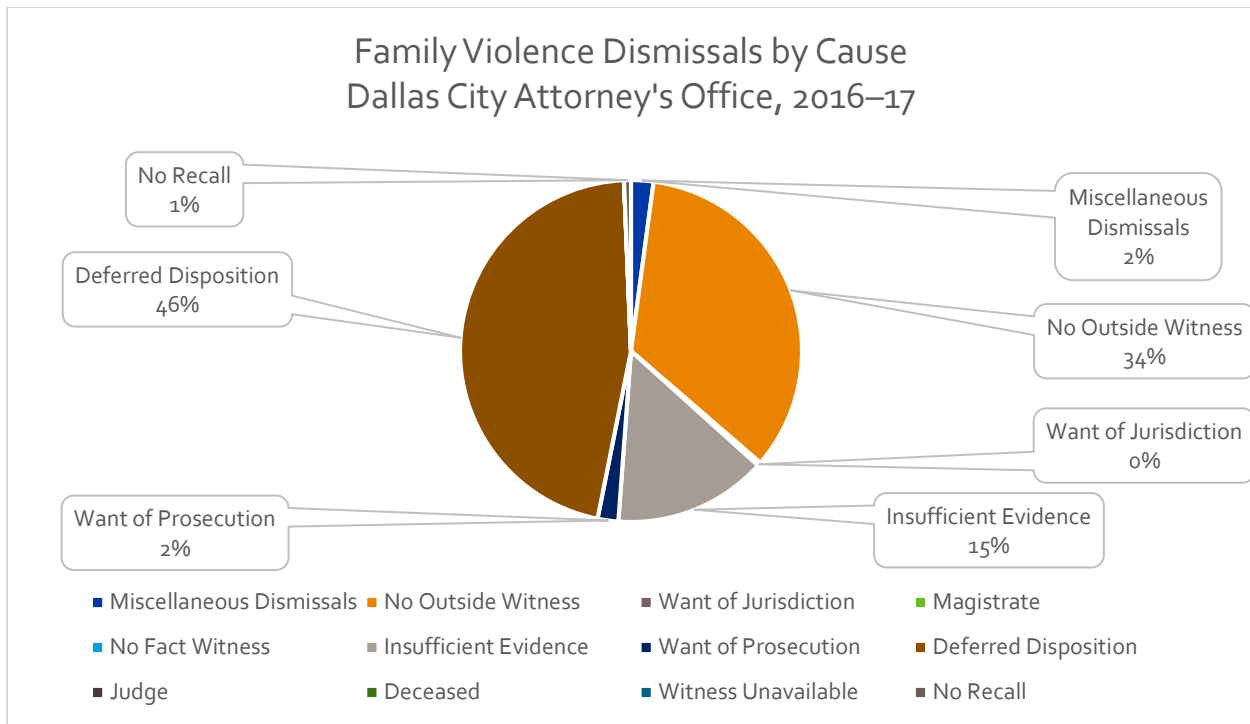


Figure 32. Dismissals of City Court Cases by Cause for Dismissal, Dallas City Attorney's Office, 2016–17

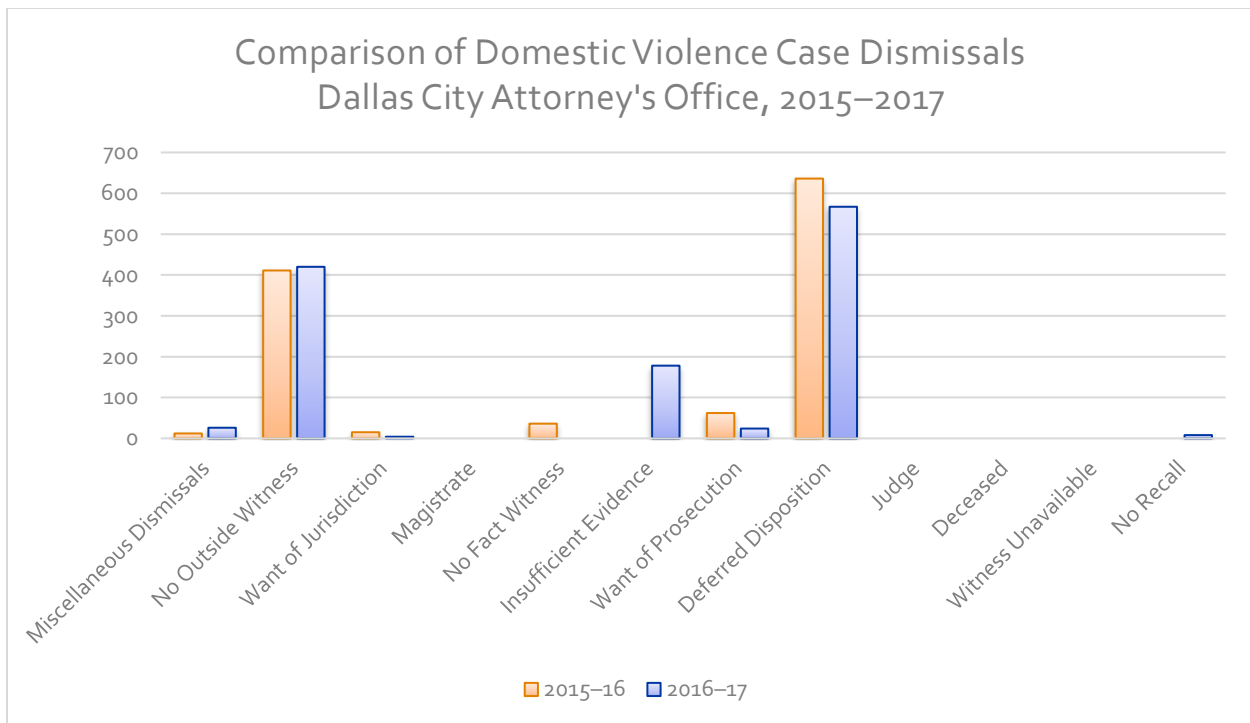


Figure 33. Domestic Violence Case Dismissals by Cause for Dismissal, Dallas City Attorney's Office, 2015–2017

The Dallas city attorney's office sponsored events in the Dallas Municipal Court System throughout National Domestic Violence Awareness Month in October 2016. These activities were intended to raise awareness and educate the public. The office provided citizens pamphlets, resources, and contact

information for domestic violence shelters in the area, and offered promotional items for children and adults.

Dallas County Courts

The courts continue to play a critical role in Dallas's systemic response to domestic violence. This work has been documented in previous Dallas Domestic Violence Task Force annual reports and has expanded over the previous reporting year

In 2014, Judge Rick Magnis established the Dallas County Felony Domestic Violence Court (FDVC) to promote victim and community safety by increasing the court's monitoring of offenders assessed to be of high risk of lethal violence, who have been placed on probation due to felony offenses against domestic partners. With the retirement of Judge Magnis during the 2016–17 cycle of the annual report, Judge Brandon Birmingham now oversees this specialty court program and presides over the 292nd Judicial District Court. In keeping with offender accountability as well as some of the ideals of therapeutic jurisprudence that influence problem-solving courts with difficult populations throughout the United States, the team includes the following members:

- Judge Brandon Birmingham;
- A dedicated probation officer;
- The Family Place (supplies the BIPP [see below]);
- A prosecutor;
- A public defender;
- Genesis Women's Shelter & Support (provides a victim advocate);
- A team of forensic psychological assessors (employed by the Dallas County Community Supervision and Corrections Department);
- A substance abuse counselor (from a community vendor);
- An electronic monitoring service (contracted to a vendor);
- A data collection specialist (records offender-related variables and conducts analyses); and
- A detective from the DPD Family Violence Unit.

Started as a pilot program in 2014, the FDVC program has received funding support from two Violence Against Women Act grants through the Texas Criminal Justice Division and a third through The Family Place from the Texas Council on Family Violence.

Overall, the FDVC program aims to increase accountability for these offenders while also providing opportunities for prosocial change through cognitive behavioral intervention in areas of need. The program specifically focuses on creating opportunities for personal insights into their part of the intimate partner violence and behavioral change via a Battering Intervention and Prevention Program (BIPP). In addition, the county typically orders offenders on probation into substance and alcohol abuse treatment as needed, employment counseling and referrals, and psychological support services. Another goal is to maintain and enhance victim safety using electronic monitoring, illicit drug monitoring, and swift and immediate sanctions for noncompliance with FDVC program requirements.

Between June 1, 2016, and May 31, 2017, the FDVC program conducted 313 forensic domestic violence assessments and recommended 137 participants to Judge Birmingham's FDVC program from the court of original jurisdiction. It had 36 new participants join the court during this period and 27 offenders

successfully graduate. Twenty-four of the FDVC participants have been revoked during the 1-year reporting cycle, with sentencing sanctions ranging from 6 months to 20 years in prison. Twenty of these revocations resulted in sentences of 5 years or more in the Texas Department of Corrections. As these offenders present a considerable risk to the victims, recall that one of the goals of this program is to preserve public safety and hold these offenders accountable quickly for violations while they are under probation. Five FDVC participants continued their probation and were transferred to a different program within the Dallas Community Supervision and Corrections Department.

While the FDVC continues to protect public and victim safety and reinforce accountability of batterers, the program administrators cite the need for additional funding to expand the number of participants in the program and accommodate additional high-lethality domestic violence offenders. Nationally, high-risk felony domestic violence programs such as FDVC have been shown to provide intense probation supervision—specialized courses that address cognitive behavioral programming—thereby increasing victim safety and reducing lethality. Program administrators also cite a need for additional funds for GPS and BIPP services for indigent offenders who do not have money to participate, as it is punishing their victim (and the community) if they are not afforded these interventions/monitoring. It is common for probation programs to require a minimal payment from offenders for services such as monitoring, treatment, or counseling, even when they are court-ordered, to reduce the cost to society and the criminal justice system.

Roberto Cañas continues to oversee and coordinate the Dallas County Gun Surrender Program. Formally established in May of 2015, the program seeks to collect guns from convicted domestic violence offenders; these offenders are ineligible per federal law for life from owning a firearm, while Texas law prohibits offenders from possessing them for 5 years. In spring of 2017, the Southern Methodist University Dedman School of Law published an outstanding comprehensive 114-page Executive Summary and detailed report entitled *Taking Aim at Family Violence: A Report on the Dallas County Gun Surrender Program* (Choi, Elkin, Harasim, & Nanasi, 2017). The report outlined the program's aims and metrics to date, as well as offered a historical account of the creation of the Gun Surrender Program in Dallas and the few similar programs across the country. As the report authors noted in the Executive Summary, this initiative was a crucial step for domestic violence stakeholders seeking to eliminate domestic homicides in Dallas, as these Texas statutory limitations on convicted domestic violence offenders exist primarily to protect victims from lethal violence. Indeed, "Over the past 25 years, more intimate partner homicides in the U.S. have been committed with guns than with all other weapons combined" (Choi et al., 2017, p. 6). The authors pointed to empirical studies on domestic violence lethality showing that intimate partner deaths are premeditated and that there is a statistically significant increased risk of intimates being killed by an abuser when there is a gun present in the home.

The program is spearheaded by Judge Cañas, who presides over the misdemeanor domestic violence Dallas County Court No. 10; he remains an active and dedicated stakeholder and Executive Committee member of the Dallas Domestic Violence Task Force. He continues his work toward policies that seek to reduce domestic violence in the city of Dallas with dedicated partners such as the Dallas County Sheriff's Department, Dallas district attorney's office, and district court judges. However, a tremendous amount of work remains to be done, as the report details that this program receives referrals from only a handful of judges and lacks collaborative efforts that would expand its reach across the Dallas County courts. As a result, the report authors argue that, while the Gun Surrender Program is a critical step toward reducing intimate partner homicides, the program is vastly underused.

As of May 2016, the Gun Surrender Program has collected roughly 60 guns in coordination with the Dallas County Sheriff's Office over the 2 years of the program. This number is dramatically under the estimate of 1,600 guns that program administrators hoped to collect. Judge Cañas reported that four different offenders have surrendered firearms since the beginning of the year, and three of those offenders came from within County Criminal Court No. 10. One firearm has been returned. To help facilitate best practices, Judge Cañas distributed a bench card on how to use the firearm surrender program for the felony district courts.

The Dedman Law School's report included a comprehensive overview of the program, describing the program's strengths and challenges. The report suggests that there is a need for increased communication between partners in the courts, law enforcement, attorneys, social service, and advocacy sectors who are involved in protecting survivors of domestic violence. It also notes a need for increased resources and collaborative efforts to enforce this statutory protection. Judge Cañas stated in this year's reporting that he would like to see the Gun Surrender Program expanded through the number of judges who use it as well as have police officers begin accepting firearms at the scene of a domestic violence incident if the victim surrenders the firearm to them. Judge Cañas also points to the need for a larger evaluation project that assesses the amount of time it takes for misdemeanor and felony domestic violence cases to move from arrest through conviction in the courts. This project will require significant funding but promises to yield critical information and insights into the systemic response to domestic violence in the community that cannot be answered with the data currently provided. Upon reading the Southern Methodist University report, the Dallas County Criminal Justice Advisory Board agreed with one of the report recommendations and requested that Judge Cañas draft and implement a memorandum of understanding between all the interested parties to outline distinct responsibilities. Judge Cañas expects to complete this action within the next calendar year.

In addition to his work with the Gun Surrender Program, Judge Cañas has collaborated with The Family Place on implementing the Justice for Families grant in Dallas County Criminal Court No. 10. Funded by the U.S. Department of Justice Office of Violence Against Women, the grant provides funds to pay for a full-time pretrial compliance officer. This officer's main duty is to monitor offenders while they are awaiting the completion of their domestic violence case. This officer ensures offenders are attending their court-ordered batterer intervention program and serves as a liaison with the court to address any safety concerns that arise for victims. The grant also pays for a part-time victim advocate who works for The Family Place, which is an important resource for victims. This advocate provides support to address any long-term service needs victims have after their case in court is disposed. The Justice for Families grant runs from October 1, 2016, to September 30, 2019.

Another new initiative started in the Dallas County Jail in April of 2016 involves a batterer intervention program group facilitated by The Family Place. These BIPP classes occur in a pod specifically designed for detainees with a previously identified risk of assault and/or family violence. This collaboration may lead to additional opportunities, including domestic violence psychology- and process-based groups within the jail.

Elected Officials

City of Dallas Council Member Jennifer Gates (District 13) continues to oversee and chair the Dallas Domestic Violence Task Force general and Executive Committee meetings. Quarterly meetings are held with Domestic Violence Task Force members, including DPD, the Dallas County district attorney's office, county and district judges, Dallas city attorney's office, and nonprofit agencies throughout the greater Dallas area. During these meetings, Council Member Gates leads discussion on trends in

domestic violence response, sharing resources and event information, relevant policy, legal and criminal justice initiatives, and solutions to issues that arise. On October 19, 2016, for the second year in a row, the City of Dallas City Council and Mayor's Office recognized National Domestic Violence Awareness Month with a proclamation to raise awareness in the community about domestic violence and encourage citizens to take a stand on this critical issue.

On October 28, 2016, Mayor Mike Rawlings, Council Members Jennifer Gates and Tiffinni Young (formerly representing District 7) hosted the Domestic Violence Awareness Month Breakfast. This event served as the official launch and release for the second annual Dallas Domestic Violence Task Force report. Drs. Denise Paquette Boots and Timothy Bray presented key metrics and findings from the data collection from both general Task Force and Executive Committee members with monthly detailed metrics. Roughly 200 people attended the event, and media were present, offering substantial coverage of the annual report highlights and victim recognition, and further raising awareness regarding the impact of domestic violence in the Dallas community. Subsequent stories on the key metrics followed over several days in both live and print media, including coverage of the mayor's special guest Trent Kreslins. Mr. Kreslins was seriously injured after intervening on behalf of a domestic violence victim; he was recognized for his courage in stepping up for victims in hopes others will do the same.

Other events during October 2016 included the Clothesline Project, an art exhibit with sponsorship and coordination by Council Member Gates and domestic violence shelter partners Genesis Women's Shelter & Support, The Family Place, and The Salvation Army. The Clothesline Project is a visual art display of shirts created by survivors of domestic violence and their supporters. The goal is to heal and educate while honoring survivors and memorializing victims. The project was displayed at Dallas City Hall's main lobby and within the main security check-in area in the Art Travelers Love Field Art Gallery at the Dallas Love Field Airport. Thousands of people viewed these symbols of hope, freedom, and healing. Also within the gallery, The Salvation Army displayed silhouettes to represent victims to create awareness.

Additionally, the City of Dallas revisited their annual Paint the Town Purple event to spread awareness and educate the community during October 2016, distributing purple ribbons at 14 City of Dallas parks as well as recreation centers. Staff supported regular social media pictures, posts, and inspirational stories to highlight domestic violence response and to encourage advocacy and support for nonprofits serving victims. They also created a calendar of events of Task Force members to distribute throughout the community.

Council Member Gates directed the drive for funding within the community to support the collection of data and report writing for the Task Force for the next 2 years, starting with this 2016–17 report. The generous donors include Communities Foundation of Texas, Dallas Women's Foundation, Mary Kay, Verizon Corporation, and the Embrey Family Foundation. This funding will continue through the 2017–18 reporting cycle and produce the fourth annual Dallas Domestic Violence Task Force report, which will be completed in October of 2018.

Organization Priorities and Policy Suggestions

Domestic violence affects adults and children in every community. Almost one half of domestic violence cases are not reported to the police, making it one of the more underreported crimes (Reaves, 2017). The members of the Dallas Domestic Violence Task Force represent the domestic violence

shelters, courts, prosecutors, and law enforcement agencies that serve the city. As part of the general survey, members were asked to list their top three organizational priorities and provide policy suggestions. The 13 categories in Figure 34 summarize the respondents' answers.

Many of the needs cited in last year's report persisted. The top priorities for 2016–17 were the need for increased shelter capacity, long-term affordable housing, and increased funding, particularly with fewer restrictions. Domestic violence shelters provide needed safety when victims make the initial decision to leave an extremely dangerous situation, which is why respondents across the field highlighted the need for more options for victims. Many respondents identified the need for long-term shelters and access to safe, affordable housing. A United States Conference of Mayors study found that 50% of homeless mothers were victims of domestic violence. The need for sustained funding with targeted increases of nonrestricted funds was necessary for most agencies, as nearly a quarter of responses identified this priority.

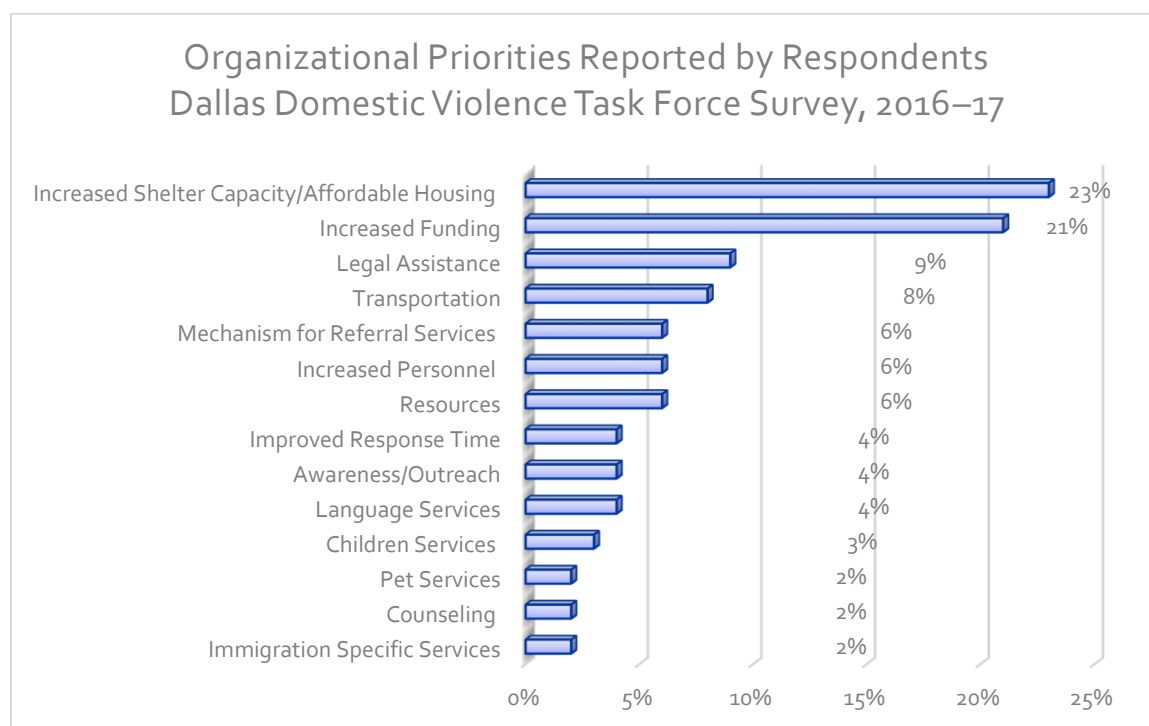


Figure 34. Organizational Priorities Reported by Respondents, Dallas Domestic Violence Task Force, 2016–17

The next most cited priorities were access to legal assistance and transportation. There was a large variety in the types of legal services mentioned, from a larger capacity to address civil cases for victims to increased access to defense for the falsely accused. Many of the organizations that provide crisis-related transportation services for victims expressed the need for more resources to meet the current demand. Strategies that address the long-term transportation needs of survivors are essential as well.

As has been noted in previous annual reports, some Task Force members continue to express concern that LGBTQ victims of intimate partner violence are underserved in the city and county of Dallas. Members suggested that the Task Force might benefit from active recruiting from subsets of the LGBTQ community, including individuals and representatives from organizations and churches serving that population. For transgender victims, it can certainly be difficult or complicated to find emergency or long-term transitional housing, depending upon individual victim circumstances, family composition,

shelter restrictions, and occupancy rates. Since thousands of Dallasites are turned away each year due to lack of shelter space, some portion of these victims undoubtedly belong to the LGBTQ community. Despite increased resources and efforts this year, the Dallas nonprofit partners continue to struggle to meet the ongoing needs and resources required to support domestic violence victims, and they never have enough funds to cover all the needs. As the Dallas population grows, so does the need for beds, emergency and transitional services, as well as legal services, outreach services, and long-term treatment.

Another frequently cited and significant issue reported annually by Task Force partners is that they have few funding sources without strict stipulations on how monies are directed. At the same time, these partners are confronted with the need to fill gaps for services that were unidentified or previously unknown at the time they applied for funding. While they are grateful for funding support from generous sponsors in the private and public sectors, restricted funds can make it difficult to meet all needs for the populations they serve.

Additional concerns were voiced regarding increasing services and outreach to non-native speakers. In early 2017, the Trump administration announced a new immigration policy that endorsed ICE enforcement and deportation for undocumented immigrants. With this new policy comes the certainty that domestic violence victims who lack a documented immigration status will be less likely to call law enforcement on abusers for fear that they will also be arrested and potentially separated from their families and children if they report their abuse. Considerations regarding how immigration status might impact calls for service with the police, fear and victim noncompliance during court proceedings, and home visits for high-risk cases should be further explored in next year's report data and metrics if partners are able to provide relevant data. In response to Task Force members' experiences to date, some partners have already noted in anecdotal terms that a negative impact is being felt within the Dallas community. The research team anticipates creating new metrics with open-ended responses for partners to provide case examples on how undocumented status and related concerns may impact safety for victims and further empower abusers. With regard to policy, one partner left specific comments urging the creation of "city policies and practices that reflect the total inclusion for immigrant victims of violence so that they can freely access services needed to remain safe." While it is an ever-changing and dynamic issue with new policies still rolling out from the federal to the local city level, this complicated issue is one that deserves more discussion and attention in the coming year.

Regarding the annual survey modifications requested to be considered for next year, partners have provided some valuable comments to the research team. While not all suggestions can be accommodated due to funding restrictions or program software limitations, the data collection instrument is revised each year to expand and improve the metrics collected. For the coming year, improvements such as adding an open-ended comment section to each metrics panel will enable partners to provide additional explanatory details to assist in understanding the dynamics of the data reported. Additional demographics regarding victims might also be considered, as was discussed in the general Task Force survey results section of this report. When looking across transportation services provided for adults and children, future instruments will explore methods that disentangle the number of adults versus children offered services. Some partners have also suggested that the Task Force might consider recording the number of batterers served in BIPP programs. This is a complex and time-consuming task that has not been attempted previously. Some of the known BIPP providers do not attend Task Force meetings, so they would need to be identified and approached to see if they have interest in voluntarily providing metrics. Such an endeavor would require outreach beyond existing and active Task Force members for these data to be meaningful. Additional questions regarding outreach

and support services for nonresidential clients should also be considered as a new area for the annual report to collect metrics on. It would also be a meaningful addition to ask the shelter partners if they offer kennel space for animals, how many they housed over the past year, and how many animals could not be accommodated in order to generate a better sense of these needs. Forging future relationships with city and county partners in services and creating networks for foster homes for pets could provide additional resources for victims who are not able to find shelter with their animals.

Challenges for Shelter Providers

Shelters face a dilemma in that the longer a woman stays, the more time she has to stabilize; however, the longer the stay, the fewer number of women who can be housed when in crisis. Most shelters have time limitations or guidelines regarding how long victims may be accommodated in emergency and transitional housing for this reason. Across the board, shelter capacity continues to be an ongoing challenge, along with the affordable housing crisis in the city. The lack of affordable housing has affected the pace at which beds turn over. The situation is further exacerbated by the lack of transitional housing. Another critical issue is the need to have kennel space and care for pets that victims wish to take with them when they flee their abusers.

Beyond providing a safe environment, shelters are struggling to meet the needs of vulnerable populations whose issues extend beyond family violence. National policies regarding immigration have had an immense impact on providers' abilities to serve immigrant victims because many have expressed fear of being deported if they seek services. This has further empowered abusers to use immigration status to exert power and control over victims. Additionally, shelters are inadequately prepared to meet the social and emotional needs of children, and there is no access to safe and free childcare for victims. Most types of assistance require extensive paperwork coupled with long wait lists, which can be overwhelming in an already high-stress situation. The mental health issues of victims also continue to be an on-going concern and challenge. Shelters are continuously seeking training for staff so that they can adequately meet their clients' needs.

Policy Recommendations and Closing

The members of the Dallas Domestic Violence Task Force offered qualitative data on the annual survey regarding policy implications and suggested changes that would advance their work in preventing and ameliorating domestic violence. Of particular importance to respondents this year were vulnerable populations and transportation. Current immigration laws and pervasive anti-immigrant sentiments have left immigrant women who are in abusive relationships more fearful than ever of seeking and receiving services. Respondents suggest providing culturally relevant resources in multiple languages and increasing education campaigns that reinforce protection for victims regardless of victims' legal status. Similarly, the sector continues to struggle in meeting the needs of LGBTQ victims. The report has addressed these concerns across its various sections, but it is clearly an issue that should receive more attention and collaborative efforts over the coming year. Task Force members have suggested targeted recruitment within the LGBTQ community to encourage engagement of allies within this population; such an effort might help identify the particular needs facing LGBTQ victims.

Agencies report a barrier to victims who are pressing charges and/or participating in the legal process, with still more need for transportation services and resources to fund victims getting to court. A suggestion offered is to increase access to low-to-no cost public transportation by providing victims with a verbal password to which DART operators are trained to respond. Additionally, a shared database of resources could help providers and victims navigate current resources available and perhaps alleviate some of the transportation need. The expansion of protective orders and legal aid

from the Dallas County district attorney in 11 community satellite offices and the George Allen Civil Courthouse represents an important step forward for making these protections available to a larger population of victims. Within the Dallas courts, individuals without representation are now aided in the protective order process by a prosecutor and victim advocate. These public servants assist in filling out affidavits and represent the victim at the hearing. These types of efforts are especially salient for low-income victims who have few financial resources at their disposal while seeking safety from a violent abuser.

In general, respondents believe there is a need to strengthen and expand programs that support victims and keep them safe. As many offenders continue to perpetuate their abuse on victims, identifying these offenders and protecting the safety of domestic violence survivors is always a top issue. With regard to the FDVC and the Dallas County Gun Surrender Program, Dallas continues to promote and support progressive programs and initiatives and be a national leader in the fight against domestic violence. As noted previously, the Gun Surrender Program seeks to confiscate guns per statutory requirements from persons convicted of domestic violence charges; it is the first of its kind in Dallas and one of the few in existence nationally. Yet this program needs more active participation and referrals from judges to ensure victim safety. Several Task Force partners have noted that the identification of repeat and dangerous offenders and the removal of guns remain top priorities. One partner commented, "The City must continue to be mindful of the role of gun ownership, and the courts must find ways to share information to assist in targeting repeat offenders."

Respondents identified another urgent need, to increase services that are directly related to mothers and children to aid in their recovery and healing. Some shelters have placed increased emphasis and effort on rules reduction and trauma-informed care training and practices toward this end. As has been reported in previous years, there is not nearly enough transitional housing available to support all the adult victims and children needing this level of long-term support. While needs change often, making it difficult to anticipate the beds and rooms needed, partners clearly voiced a serious shortage of beds at this time. There is also a need to reprioritize domestic violence transitional housing in funding allocations. Restricted funds make new or unanticipated demands hard, if not impossible, to accommodate. Finally, several partners pointed toward the need for policies and practices that have more survivor-centered versus program-centered goals and outcomes. Best practices point toward survivor-centered trauma responses.

In closing, the research team wishes to thank each of the Task Force partners for their considerable time and efforts to contribute to this year's annual report. Each of these partners play a vital role in the systemic response to domestic violence across Dallas. They serve in differing capacities and with varying missions, yet share a joint goal of helping victims to heal and holding abusers accountable. This report grows each year in size, content, and value due to the joint efforts of the Task Force members who work across the nonprofit, government, courts, law enforcement, social service, religious, and public sectors of the Dallas area. The research team is grateful for the open communication and constructive feedback received from each of these partners. Hundreds of hours of work went into the creation of the survey, data collection and management, data analyses, graphic design and written presentation of findings. Throughout this yearlong process, the Task Force partners worked closely with the research team and confirmed metrics and their interpretation, offered substantive comments and policy recommendations, and provided insights into organizational and metric-related processes that were central to the report creation and the integrity of its contents. The team also wishes to thank City of Dallas Council Member Jennifer Gates and Mayor Mike Rawlings (and their tireless staff members Carolyn Williamson, Scott Goldstein, and Patricia Blasquez) for their continuing leadership

and vision to bring community partners and research together to raise awareness on these issues. Finally yet importantly, the team thanks the generous donors who made this report possible: the Communities Foundation of Texas the Dallas Women’s Foundation, Mary Kay, Verizon Corporation, and the Embrey Family Foundation. The Dallas Domestic Violence Task Force Annual Report is one of the most comprehensive domestic violence reports in the nation and reflects the significant and ongoing contributions of this dedicated coordinated community response team.

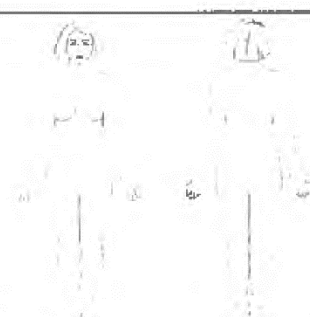
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Appendix A

DALLAS POLICE DEPARTMENT

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE SUPPLEMENT

VICTIM'S NAME (LAST, FIRST, MIDDLE, MAIDEN):		R/S/DOB:	SERVICE NUMBER:
HOME ADDRESS:		HOME TELEPHONE:	SOCIAL SECURITY NUMBER:
BUSINESS ADDRESS:		MOBILE TELEPHONE:	EMERGENCY CONTACT NUMBER:
EMAIL ADDRESS OF VICTIM:		HEIGHT OF VICTIM:	WEIGHT OF VICTIM:
SUSPECT'S NAME:	R/S/DOB:	SUSPECT'S ADDRESS:	SUSPECT'S PHONE NUMBER:
LOCATION OF OFFENSE:		SUSP DESCRIPTION (HT, WT, CLOTHING):	
EMOTIONAL STATES AND CRIME SCENE DESCRIPTION	VICTIM (Mark all that apply)	OFFICER'S OBSERVATIONS DESCRIBE CRIME SCENE CONDITIONS OBSERVED (property damage, bloodstains, door damage, possible weapons, etc.)	
	<input type="checkbox"/> ANGRY <input type="checkbox"/> HYSTERICAL <input type="checkbox"/> APOLOGETIC <input type="checkbox"/> AFRAID <input type="checkbox"/> CRYING <input type="checkbox"/> IRRATIONAL <input type="checkbox"/> FEARFUL <input type="checkbox"/> NERVOUS <input type="checkbox"/> OTHER <input type="checkbox"/> PREGNANT		
	SUSPECT (Mark all that apply)	EMOTIONAL SIGNS WHAT PHYSICAL MANNERISMS IS VICTIM DISPLAYING FOR EACH EMOTIONAL STATE MARKED (EX: NERVOUS: victim visibly shaking and rubbing hands together.)	
STATEMENTS	STATEMENTS MADE BY VICTIM		
	RES GESTAE STATEMENTS MADE BY SUSPECT		
BODY INJURY DIAGRAM		SERVICE #: _____	
		(CIRCLE ONE) VICTIM OR SUSPECT	
PLEASE DRAW ON DIAGRAM (S) LOCATION OF ALL INJURIES AND DESCRIBE THE TYPE OF INJURY.			
OFFICER'S NAME:	OFFICER'S BADGE #:	OFFICER'S SIGNATURE:	ELEMENT #:
SUPERVISOR'S NAME:	SUPERVISOR'S BADGE #:	SUPERVISOR'S SIGNATURE:	ELEMENT #:

DALLAS POLICE DEPARTMENT

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE SUPPLEMENT

VERBAL STATEMENTS OR EXCITED UTTERANCES MADE BY CHILD TO OFFICER					
1.					
2.					
CHILDREN	CHILDREN PRESENT DURING DOMESTIC VIOLENCE? <input type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO				
	NAME	R	S	DOB	SCHOOL
WITNESSES	NAME	SSN	EMAIL ADDRESS	HOME PHONE	WORK PHONE
	VERBAL STATEMENTS OR EXCITED UTTERANCES MADE BY WITNESSES TO OFFICER				
	1.				
	2.				
CONTACT PERSON	TRANSLATOR INFORMATION				
	1.				
	PERSON TO CONTACT FOR COMPLAINANT OR SHELTER COMPLAINANT WAS TAKEN TO				
	NAME: _____	ADDRESS: _____	PHONE 1: _____	PHONE 2: _____	
	PERSON WHO COULD TESTIFY TO THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN VICTIM AND SUSPECT				
NAME: _____	ADDRESS: _____	PHONE 1: _____	PHONE 2: _____		
EVIDENCE	MEDICAL TREATMENT			RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN VICTIM AND SUSPECT (MARK ALL THAT APPLY) <input type="checkbox"/> SPOUSE <input type="checkbox"/> FORMER SPOUSE <input type="checkbox"/> COHABITANT <input type="checkbox"/> FORMER COHABITANT <input type="checkbox"/> BLOOD RELATION <input type="checkbox"/> IN-LAW <input type="checkbox"/> PARENT OF CHILD <input type="checkbox"/> FOSTER PARENT <input type="checkbox"/> FOSTER CHILD <input type="checkbox"/> DATING <input type="checkbox"/> ACTIVE MILITARY/RESERVE: <input type="checkbox"/> VICTIM <input type="checkbox"/> SUSPECT BRANCH _____ LENGTH OF RELATIONSHIP _____ YEAR(S) _____ MONTH(S)	
	<input type="checkbox"/> NONE	<input type="checkbox"/> EMT UNIT #	<input type="checkbox"/> DECLINED		
	<input type="checkbox"/> SEEK OWN	<input type="checkbox"/> HOSPITAL (WHICH ONE?)			
	AUDIO / VIDEO OF INVESTIGATION? IF SO, VEH # ?				
	PHOTOGRAPHS				
	VICTIM (with or without injuries)	<input type="checkbox"/> YES	<input type="checkbox"/> NO		
	SUSPECT (with or without injuries)	<input type="checkbox"/> YES	<input type="checkbox"/> NO		
	CRIME SCENE (evidence!!!!)	<input type="checkbox"/> YES	<input type="checkbox"/> NO		
	CHILDREN	<input type="checkbox"/> YES	<input type="checkbox"/> NO		
	PROPERTY				
TYPE OF WEAPON USED					
WEAPON(S) IMPOUNDED <input type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO					
PROPERTY TAG NUMBER(S)					
WAS SUSPECT ARRESTED? <input type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO			WAS AN E.P.O. APPLIED FOR? <input type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO		

DALLAS POLICE DEPARTMENT

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE SUPPLEMENT

Documentation Form for Attempted Strangulation Cases

Use this form when a victim reports being "choked" or strangled

Method and/or Manner:

How was the victim strangled?:

- One Hand (R or L) Two Hands Forearm (R or L) Knee / Foot

- Device/Weapon used in strangulation?

(Describe): _____

- How Long? _____ seconds _____ minutes Also smothered?

- From 1 to 10, how hard was the suspect's grip (not pain level)? (low)1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10 (high)

- Multiple Attempts: _____ Multiple Methods: _____

Is the suspect RIGHT or LEFT handed? (circle one)

What did the suspect say while he was strangling the victim? _____

Was she / he shaken simultaneously while being strangled? _____

Was her / his head being pounded against wall, floor or ground? _____

What did the victim think was going to happen? _____

How or why did the suspect stop strangling her / him? _____

Describe what the suspect's face looked like during strangulation (angry, smiling, etc)

Threats to kill or harm pets? Yes No

Describe prior incidents of strangulation?

Symptoms and / or internal injury:

Breathing Changes <input type="checkbox"/> Difficulty breathing <input type="checkbox"/> Hyperventilation <input type="checkbox"/> Unable to breathe <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____	Voice Changes <input type="checkbox"/> Raspy voice <input type="checkbox"/> Hoarse Voice <input type="checkbox"/> Coughing <input type="checkbox"/> Unable to speak	Swallowing Changes <input type="checkbox"/> Trouble swallowing <input type="checkbox"/> Painful to swallow <input type="checkbox"/> Neck Pain <input type="checkbox"/> Nausea <input type="checkbox"/> Vomiting	Behavioral Changes <input type="checkbox"/> Agitation <input type="checkbox"/> Amnesia <input type="checkbox"/> PTSD <input type="checkbox"/> Hallucinations <input type="checkbox"/> Combativeness	Other <input type="checkbox"/> Dizzy <input type="checkbox"/> Headaches <input type="checkbox"/> Fainted <input type="checkbox"/> Urination <input type="checkbox"/> Defecation
Face <input type="checkbox"/> Red or flushed <input type="checkbox"/> Pinpoint red spots (petechiae) <input type="checkbox"/> Scratch marks	Eyes & Eyelids <input type="checkbox"/> Petechiae to R and / or L eyeball <input type="checkbox"/> Petechiae to R and / or L eyelid <input type="checkbox"/> Bloody red eyeball	Nose <input type="checkbox"/> Bloody nose <input type="checkbox"/> Broken nose (ancillary finding) <input type="checkbox"/> Petechiae	Ear <input type="checkbox"/> Petechiae (external and / or ear canal) <input type="checkbox"/> Bleeding from ear canal	Mouth <input type="checkbox"/> Bruising <input type="checkbox"/> Swollen tongue <input type="checkbox"/> Swollen lips <input type="checkbox"/> Cuts/abrasions (ancillary finding)
Under Chin <input type="checkbox"/> Redness <input type="checkbox"/> Scratch marks <input type="checkbox"/> Bruise(s) <input type="checkbox"/> Abrasions	Chest <input type="checkbox"/> Redness <input type="checkbox"/> Scratch marks <input type="checkbox"/> Bruise(s) <input type="checkbox"/> Abrasions	Shoulders <input type="checkbox"/> Redness <input type="checkbox"/> Scratch marks <input type="checkbox"/> Bruise(s) <input type="checkbox"/> Abrasions	Neck <input type="checkbox"/> Redness <input type="checkbox"/> Scratch marks <input type="checkbox"/> Finger nail impressions <input type="checkbox"/> Bruise(s) <input type="checkbox"/> Swelling <input type="checkbox"/> Ligature mark	Head <input type="checkbox"/> Petechiae (on scalp) Ancillary findings: <input type="checkbox"/> Hair pulled <input type="checkbox"/> Bump <input type="checkbox"/> Skull fracture

DECLARACION DE LA VICTIMA

Pagina ___ de ___

Numero del Reporte: _____

La informacion que sigue se usara para hacer cargos criminales contra la persona sospechada en esta causa. Si Usted de respuestas o informacion falsa, podemos poner cargos contra Usted por el crimen de "Reporte Falso a Oficial de Policia" segun la seccion 37.08 del codigo penal de Texas.

Nombre y Fecha de Nacimiento:

Numero Seguro Social:

Blank lines for entering name, date of birth, and social security number.

LA INFORMACION DICHA ESTA CORRECTA A LO MEJOR DE MI CONOCIMIENTO.

FIRMA DE LA VICTIMA

FECHA

FIRMA DEL OFICIAL

WITNESS STATEMENT

Page of

Service Number:

The following information will be used in the filing of criminal charges against the suspect in this case. Should you give any false answers or information, you could be prosecuted for the crime of "False Report to a Peace Officer" under Section 37.08 of the Texas Penal Code.

Name:	DOB:	Social Security #:

THE ABOVE INFORMATION IS TRUE TO THE BEST OF MY KNOWLEDGE:

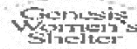
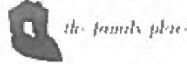
WITNESS SIGNATURE

DATE

OFFICER'S SIGNATURE



DOMESTIC VIOLENCE LETHALITY SCREEN FOR FIRST RESPONDERS



(214) 941-1991

(214) 946-4357 (HELP)

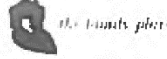
Officer:	Date:	Case #:
Victim:	Offender:	
<input type="checkbox"/> Check here if victim did not answer any of the questions.		
▶ A "Yes" response to any of Questions #1-3 automatically triggers the protocol referral.		
1. Has he/she ever used a weapon against you or threatened you with a weapon?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Not Ans.
2. Has he/she threatened to kill you or your children?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Not Ans.
3. Do you think he/she might try to kill you?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Not Ans.
▶ Negative responses to Questions #1-3, but positive responses to at least four of Questions #4-11, trigger the protocol referral.		
4. Does he/she have a gun or can he/she get one easily?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Not Ans.
5. Has he/she ever tried to choke you?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Not Ans.
6. Is he/she violently or constantly jealous or does he/she control most of your daily activities?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Not Ans.
7. Have you left him/her or separated after living together or being married?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Not Ans.
8. Is he/she unemployed?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Not Ans.
9. Has he/she ever tried to kill himself/herself?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Not Ans.
10. Do you have a child that he/she knows is not his/hers?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Not Ans.
11. Does he/she follow or spy on you or leave threatening messages?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Not Ans.
▶ An officer may trigger the protocol referral, if not already triggered above, as a result of the victim's response to the below question, or whenever the officer believes the victim is in a potentially lethal situation.		
Is there anything else that worries you about your safety? (If "yes") What worries you?		
What is the victim's gender?	<input type="checkbox"/> Male	<input type="checkbox"/> Female
What is the suspect's gender?	<input type="checkbox"/> Male	<input type="checkbox"/> Female
Was the Victim Transported to a Hospital?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No
Was the suspect intoxicated/high during this offense?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No
Is the suspect At Large?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No
Check one: <input type="checkbox"/> Victim screened in according to the protocol <input type="checkbox"/> Victim screened in based on the belief of officer <input type="checkbox"/> Victim did not screen in		
If victim screened in: After advising her/him of a high danger assessment, did the victim speak with the hotline counselor? Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>		

Note: The questions above and the criteria for determining the level of risk a person faces is based on the best available research on factors associated with lethal violence by a current or former intimate partner. However, each situation may present unique factors that influence risk for lethal violence that are not captured by this screen. Although most victims who screen "positive" or "high danger" would not be expected to be killed, these victims face much higher risk than that of other victims of intimate partner violence.

Form DPD-R1-4-1-2013



**DOMESTIC VIOLENCE LETHALITY
SCREEN FOR FIRST RESPONDERS**



(214) 941-1991

(214) 946-4357 (HELP)

Officer:	Date:	Case #:
Victim:	Offender:	
<input type="checkbox"/> Check here if victim did not answer any of the questions.		
▶ A "Yes" response to any of Questions #1-3 automatically triggers the protocol referral.		
1. Tiene él / ella nunca usó un arma en contra de usted o le amenazó con un arma? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Not Ans.		
2. Tiene él / ella amenazó de muerte a usted o a sus hijos? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Not Ans.		
3. ¿Cree usted que él / ella podría tratar de matarte? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Not Ans.		
▶ Negative responses to Questions #1-3, but positive responses to at least four of Questions #4-11, trigger the protocol referral.		
4. ¿Tiene él / ella tiene una pistola o puede él / ella conseguir uno fácilmente? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Not Ans.		
5. Tiene él / ella alguna vez trató de ahogarse? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Not Ans.		
6. ¿Es él / ella violentamente o constantemente celoso o él / ella controlan la mayor parte de sus actividades diarias? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Not Ans.		
7. ¿Ha dejado a él / ella o separados después de vivir juntos o estar casado? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Not Ans.		
8. ¿Es él / ella desempleado? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Not Ans.		
9. Tiene él / ella alguna vez trató de matar a sí mismo / a? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Not Ans.		
10. ¿Tiene un niño que él / ella sabe que no es él / ella? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Not Ans.		
11. ¿El / ella seguir o espiar a usted o dejar mensajes amenazantes? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Not Ans.		
▶ An officer may trigger the protocol referral, if not already triggered above, as a result of the victim's response to the below question, or whenever the officer believes the victim is in a potentially lethal situation.		
¿Hay algo más que usted se preocupa por su seguridad? (Si responde "Si") ¿Qué te preocupa?		
What is the victim's gender? <input type="checkbox"/> Male <input type="checkbox"/> Female		
What is the suspect's gender? <input type="checkbox"/> Male <input type="checkbox"/> Female		
Was the Victim Transported to a Hospital? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No		
¿Estaba el sospechoso ebrio / en drogado durante este delito? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No		
Is the suspect At Large? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No		
Check one: <input type="checkbox"/> Victim screened in according to the protocol <input type="checkbox"/> Victim screened in based on the belief of officer <input type="checkbox"/> Victim did not screen in		
If victim screened in: After advising her/him of a high danger assessment, did the victim speak with the hotline counselor? Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>		

Note: The questions above and the criteria for determining the level of risk a person faces is based on the best available research on factors associated with lethal violence by a current or former intimate partner. However, each situation may present unique factors that influence risk for lethal violence that are not captured by this screen. Although most victims who screen "positive" or "high danger" would not be expected to be killed, these victims face much higher risk than that of other victims of intimate partner violence.

Form DPD-RS1-4-1-2013

DALLAS COUNTY DISTRICT ATTORNEY SATELLITE OFFICES



**The Dallas County District Attorney's Office has opened
ELEVEN satellite offices to better serve YOU!**

Each location offers:

- **Protective order screening**
- **Intimate crime resources**
- **Case information**
- **Interaction with a prosecutor**

THE PEOPLE'S OFFICE IS CLOSER THAN YOU THINK!

LOCATION:	HOURS:
DPD Patrol Stations	2:00pm-5:00pm
North Central 6969 McCallum Boulevard Dallas, Texas 75252	Tuesday Thursday
Northwest 9801 Harry Hines Boulevard Dallas, Texas 75220	Tuesday Thursday
Southwest 4230 W. Illinois Avenue Dallas, Texas 75211	Tuesday Thursday
South Central 1999 E. Camp Wisdom Road Dallas, Texas 75241	Tuesday Thursday
Central at Jubilee Park 907 S. Carroll Avenue Dallas, Texas 75223	Tuesday Thursday
Southeast at Bexar Street 5411 Bexar Street Dallas, Texas 75215	Tuesday Thursday
Northeast 9915 East Northwest Highway Dallas, Texas 75238	Tuesday Thursday

LOCATION:	HOURS:
City of Dallas Community Courts	9:00am-5:00pm
South Oak Cliff Community Court 2111 South Corinth Street Dallas, Texas 75203	Monday
West Dallas Community Court 2828 Fishtrap Road Dallas, Texas 75212	Tuesday
South Dallas Community Court 2922 Martin Luther King, Jr. Boulevard Dallas, Texas 75215	Thursday
Northeast Dallas Community Court 9451 LBJ Freeway, Suite 125 Dallas, Texas 75243	Monday

**For more information,
please call (214)653-3528**

OFICINAS SATELITES DEL FISCAL DEL DISTRITO DEL CONDADO DALLAS



¡Oficina del fiscal de Distrito del Condado de Dallas ha abierto **once** oficinas para servirle mejor!

Cada ubicación ofrece lo siguiente:

- protección orden
- recursos de crimen íntima
- proyección información
- interacción con un fiscal

¡OFICINA DE LA GENTE ESTÁ MÁS CERCA DE LO QUE CREE!

Lugares: Estaciones de Policías	Horario: 2:00pm-5:00am
North Central 6969 McCallum Boulevard Dallas, Texas 75252	martes jueves
Northwest 9801 Harry Hines Boulevard Dallas, Texas 75220	martes jueves
Southwest 4230 W Illinois Avenue Dallas, Texas 75211	martes jueves
South Central 1999 E Camp Wisdom Road Dallas, Texas 75241	martes jueves
Central at Jubilee Park 907 S. Carroll Avenue Dallas, Texas 75223	martes jueves
Southeast at Bexar Street 5411 Bexar Street Dallas, Texas 75215	martes jueves
Northeast 9915 East Northwest Highway, Dallas, Texas 75238	martes jueves

Lugares: Cortes de Comunidad de la Ciudad	Horario: 9:00am-5:00pm
South Oak Cliff Community Court 3111 South Corinth Street Dallas, Texas 75209	lunes
West Dallas Community Court 2828 Fishtrap Road Dallas, Texas 75212	martes
South Dallas Community Court 2922 Martin Luther King, Jr. Boulevard Dallas, Texas 75215	jueves
Northeast Dallas Community Court 8451 LBJ Freeway, Suite 125 Dallas, Texas 75249	lunes

**Para obtener más información,
llame al (214)653-3528**



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Urban Policy Research
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Richardson, Texas 75080-3021**

(972)883-5430 voice (972)883-5431 facsimile

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