

# Leading Florida Higher, Lifting Survivors Upward

**Florida's Commitment to Ending  
Domestic Violence and Saving Lives**



**FCADV**  
Florida Coalition Against Domestic Violence

# Introduction

If we judge a society by how much it values life, we should be proud to call ourselves Floridians.

For decades, the Florida Coalition Against Domestic Violence has partnered with the Florida Department of Children and Families to provide lifesaving services to survivors of domestic violence and their children. This has been possible through the steadfast support of Florida's Governors and Legislators who have consistently demonstrated their value for life through their commitment to the provision of services and the implementation of responsible policies.

Antoine de Saint-Exupéry said, "A goal without a plan is a wish." Sustained progress and improvement occur neither instantaneously nor by chance. They require, vision, coordination, and persistence.

In 2003, Florida implemented its vision of the coordinated provision of domestic violence services through the persistence of statute. Public officials – both elected and appointed – serve limited terms, and the institutional knowledge of their experience departs with them. Florida has been able to retain continuity by recognizing the singular organization with both the associational infrastructure and direct experience to understand the issues facing survivors of domestic violence and their children.

Through programs such as the Annual Listening Project as well as its long-term, firsthand relationships with Florida's certified domestic violence centers, FCADV is positioned to maintain the institutional knowledge critical to providing oversight and guidance to the centers. It also allows the organization to develop and successfully advocate for effective public policy.

Moreover, this continuity results in efficiency. Over 96 percent of funding the organization receives goes directly to serving survivors of domestic violence and their children. Not only is this an extraordinary cost savings for the people of Florida, it means FCADV is better positioned to deliver lifesaving services and help survivors live in peace, free from abusive partners.

Further, the statewide reach of the Coalition has allowed the organization to develop relationships with community partners such as law enforcement agencies, employers, and lenders. FCADV has worked with these partners to establish training programs for law enforcement, assist survivors with employment opportunities, and even arrange microloans for survivors to start businesses and achieve financial independence.

FCADV is a private, non-profit organization dedicated the goal of ending domestic violence through public awareness, policy development, and support for Florida's certified domestic violence centers. In addition to its contract with DCF, the Coalition provides a variety of training, education, outreach, prevention, and many other programs and resources through federal grants and private funding.

This all stems from FCADV's belief that every person deserves to live their life free from violence and subjugation. The Coalition shares this belief with residents across our great state, including business and political leaders, professionals and first responders, civic and religious organizations. Domestic violence is unbound by demographics, affecting people from all ethnic and socioeconomic backgrounds. But the same is true of society's support for services and policies to assist survivors and to hold perpetrators responsible for their crimes.

FCADV is grateful to the Governor and the Legislature for their vision and commitment to serving survivors of domestic violence and their children. This report contains updated domestic violence statistics, a review of the state of domestic violence in our state, descriptions of many of the programs and services provided through the Coalition, and an accounting for the funding entrusted to us to serve survivors.

## The Florida Coalition Against Domestic Violence

FCADV is the private, nonprofit organization that serves as the statewide professional association for Florida's 42 certified domestic violence centers. In this role, FCADV provides leadership, advocacy, education, training, technical assistance, coordination, and support to certified domestic violence centers, their community partners, and other statewide professionals to improve services, practices, and policies related to domestic violence. FCADV is statutorily required to implement, evaluate, and fund the state's domestic violence services.<sup>1</sup> As such, FCADV conducts annual monitoring of certified domestic violence centers to ensure the provision of quality services and fiscal accountability. FCADV also serves as the primary voice for survivors of domestic violence and their children in the public policy arena.

## The Florida Department of Children and Families

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

<sup>1</sup>Pursuant to s. 39.9035, Florida Statutes



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

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## At a Glance

### What is Domestic Violence?

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

### Domestic Violence Defined in Statute

Florida law defines domestic violence as any assault, aggravated assault, battery, aggravated battery, sexual assault, sexual battery, stalking, aggravated stalking, kidnapping, false imprisonment, or any criminal offense resulting in physical injury or death of one family or household member by another family or household member.<sup>2</sup>

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<sup>2</sup>Pursuant to s. 741.28, Florida Statutes



## Responding to Domestic Violence Saves Lives

### Domestic Violence Crime in Florida<sup>3</sup>

#### January – December 2018

- Overall crime decreased by 7.4 percent, while reported domestic violence offenses decreased by 1.9 percent
- 104,914 domestic violence offenses were reported to law enforcement
- 215 individuals died as a result of domestic violence homicide, representing approximately 19 percent of all homicides in Florida
- Law enforcement made 64,573 arrests for domestic violence related crimes

### Individuals Seeking Services

#### Fiscal Year 2018-19

- 14,817 individuals received emergency shelter at a certified domestic violence center
- Domestic violence survivors and their children spent 646,971 nights in emergency shelter
- Advocates received 85,976 hotline calls
- 163,938 safety plans were completed with survivors
- 38,869 women, children, and men received outreach services

<sup>3</sup>Information from FDLE's 2018 Annual Uniform Crime Report: <https://www.fdle.state.fl.us/FSAC/Data-Statistics/UCR-Domestic-Violence.aspx>

Certified domestic violence centers are the only state-designated organizations responsible for the provision of a continuum of services 24 hours a day, 7 days a week for survivors of domestic violence and their children.

## Florida's Certified Domestic Violence Centers

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

Certified domestic violence centers are statutorily required to provide specific "core services" that include: information and referrals; counseling and case management; temporary emergency shelter; a 24-hour crisis hotline; training for law enforcement personnel; assessment and appropriate referral of residential children; and community educational training related to the incidence of domestic violence, the prevention of such violence, and the services available for persons engaged in or subject to domestic violence.<sup>4</sup>

During the 2018-19 fiscal year, certified centers provided 646,971 nights of life-saving emergency shelter to 14,817 women, children, and men. Many survivors fled violent homes with their children, who represented 45.5 percent of those served in emergency shelter. In addition to the services required by Florida Statutes, certified centers supplement their programs with important ancillary services such as transportation, rent and utility assistance, transitional housing, legal and court advocacy, work skills and job-readiness training and placement, financial literacy, and other training and education programs.

<sup>4</sup>Pursuant to s. 39.905, Florida Statutes

### Advocates responded to domestic violence by:

Completing 163,938 survivor-focused safety plans

Providing 293,666 hours of counseling and advocacy

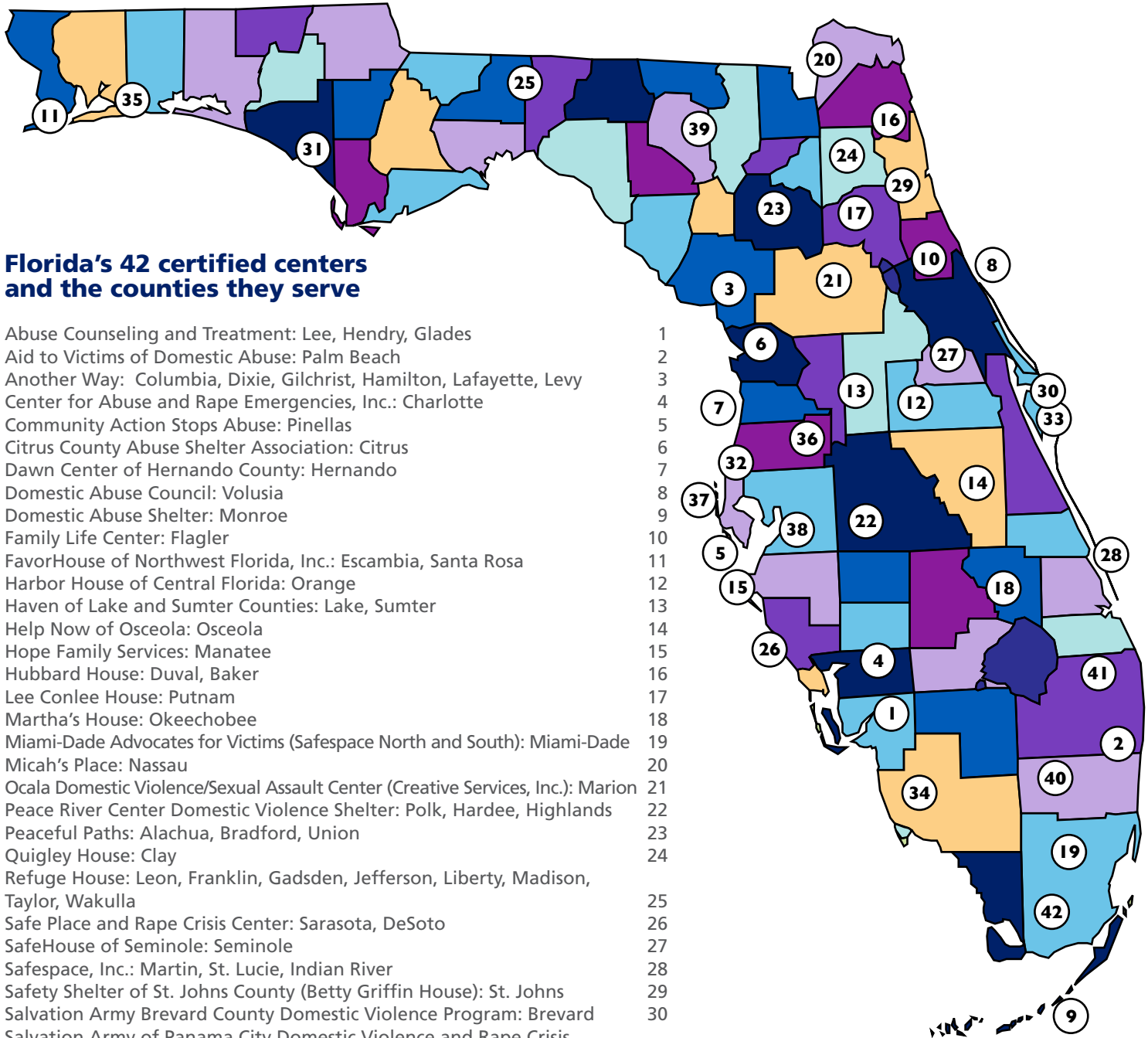
Offering 360,348 direct service information and referrals to survivors, family members, and individuals seeking assistance

Spending 89,993 hours facilitating child and youth-specific activities

Providing youth-targeted community education to 133,637 participants

Providing education and training programs to 44,824 adults

## Map of centers



### Florida's 42 certified centers and the counties they serve

Abuse Counseling and Treatment: Lee, Hendry, Glades  
 Aid to Victims of Domestic Abuse: Palm Beach  
 Another Way: Columbia, Dixie, Gilchrist, Hamilton, Lafayette, Levy  
 Center for Abuse and Rape Emergencies, Inc.: Charlotte  
 Community Action Stops Abuse: Pinellas  
 Citrus County Abuse Shelter Association: Citrus  
 Dawn Center of Hernando County: Hernando  
 Domestic Abuse Council: Volusia  
 Domestic Abuse Shelter: Monroe  
 Family Life Center: Flagler  
 FavorHouse of Northwest Florida, Inc.: Escambia, Santa Rosa  
 Harbor House of Central Florida: Orange  
 Haven of Lake and Sumter Counties: Lake, Sumter  
 Help Now of Osceola: Osceola  
 Hope Family Services: Manatee  
 Hubbard House: Duval, Baker  
 Lee Conlee House: Putnam  
 Martha's House: Okeechobee  
 Miami-Dade Advocates for Victims (Safespace North and South): Miami-Dade  
 Micah's Place: Nassau  
 Ocala Domestic Violence/Sexual Assault Center (Creative Services, Inc.): Marion  
 Peace River Center Domestic Violence Shelter: Polk, Hardee, Highlands  
 Peaceful Paths: Alachua, Bradford, Union  
 Quigley House: Clay  
 Refuge House: Leon, Franklin, Gadsden, Jefferson, Liberty, Madison, Taylor, Wakulla  
 Safe Place and Rape Crisis Center: Sarasota, DeSoto  
 SafeHouse of Seminole: Seminole  
 Safespace, Inc.: Martin, St. Lucie, Indian River  
 Safety Shelter of St. Johns County (Betty Griffin House): St. Johns  
 Salvation Army Brevard County Domestic Violence Program: Brevard  
 Salvation Army of Panama City Domestic Violence and Rape Crisis Program: Bay, Calhoun, Gulf, Holmes, Jackson, Washington  
 Salvation Army Domestic Violence Program of West Pasco: Pasco  
 Serene Harbor: Brevard  
 The Shelter for Abused Women and Children: Collier  
 Shelter House: Okaloosa, Walton  
 Sunrise Domestic and Sexual Violence Center: Pasco  
 The Haven of RCS: Pinellas  
 The Spring of Tampa Bay: Hillsborough  
 Vivid Visions: Suwannee  
 Women in Distress of Broward County: Broward  
 YWCA of Palm Beach County: Palm Beach  
 Victim Response, Inc. (The Lodge): Miami-Dade

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# CERTIFIED CENTER SERVICES

## In FY 2018-19

**Received**.....85,979 hotline calls

**Sheltered** ..... 14,817 in emergency shelter

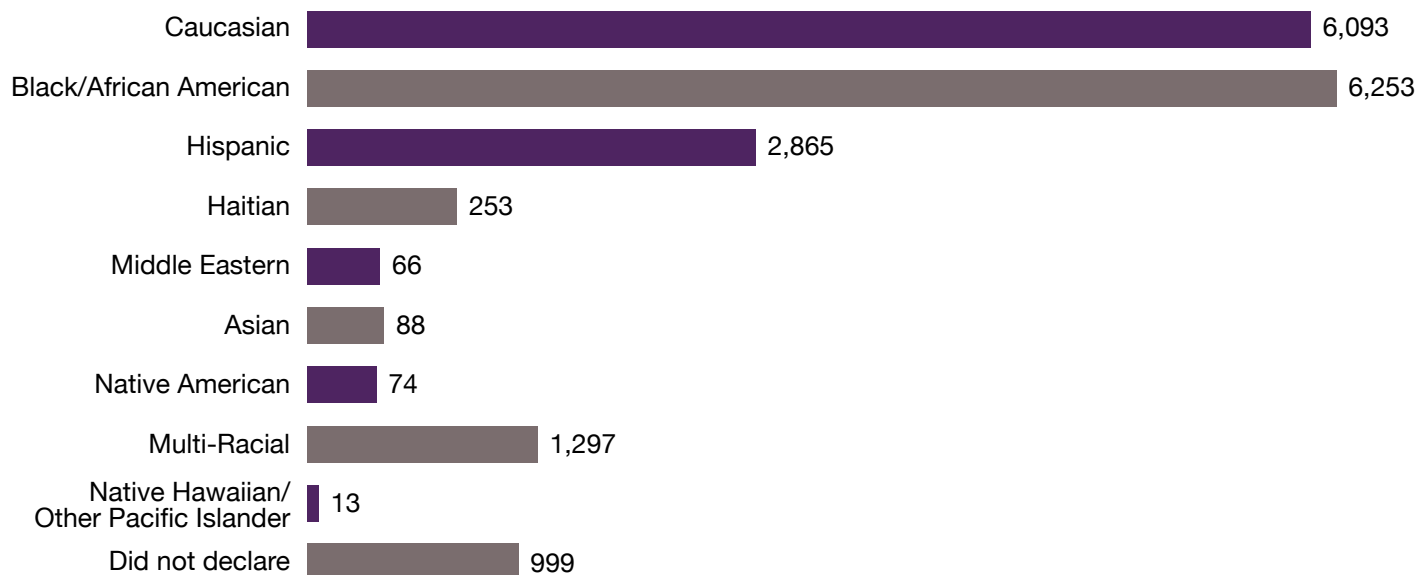
**Provided** ..... 38,869 adults and children with outreach services

## Individuals Served

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

### Served in Shelter

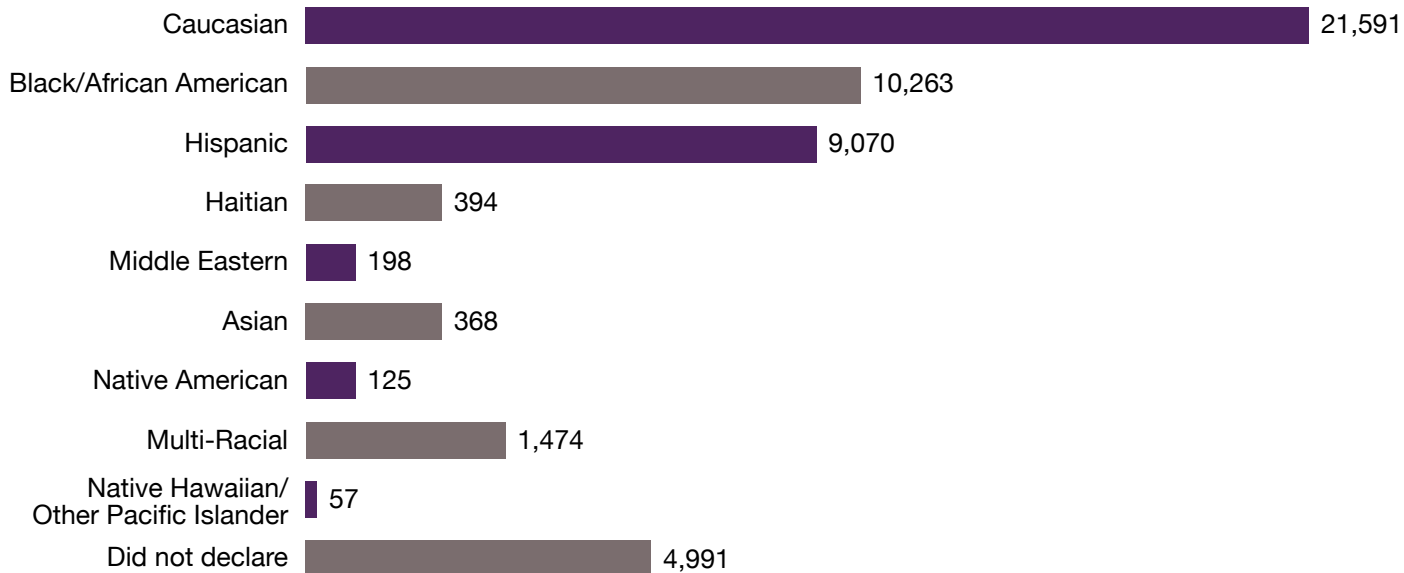
**Total Served 14,817**





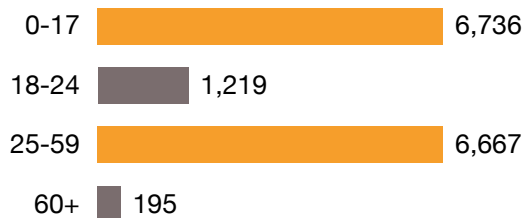
## Served in Outreach

**Total Served 38,869**

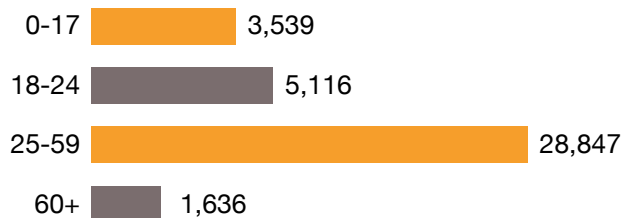


\*Race and ethnicity are separate categories for data collection purposes and thus the totals from the above lists are greater than the overall total of survivors served.

## Served in Shelter



## Served in Outreach



# Communities Responding to Domestic Violence

Florida's certified domestic violence centers have a long history of collaborating with community partners to create and implement important programming that efficiently and effectively responds to domestic violence.

In the second year of FCADV's statewide economic empowerment project, advocates have been innovative in their support of local survivors in their journey toward financial independence. Employment is a key component to establishing financial stability, and local advocates have identified creative ways to overcome barriers that prevent what survivors may face specific to securing or supplementing income.

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

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

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

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

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

## General Training and Conferences

During the 2018 – 2019 fiscal year, FCADV conducted 217 training sessions including statewide

institutes, regional trainings and onsite trainings for 5,715 participants. Of those participants more than 4,100 evaluations were received from certified domestic violence center staff, local community organizations working with survivors of domestic violence, and allied partners. Of those trained, 98 percent reported that 1) the information presented in these workshops would be implemented into their work and 2) the information resulted in an increase in their knowledge about the safety needs of survivors of domestic violence.

## Core Competency Institute

During the 2018 – 2019 fiscal year, FCADV conducted four Core Competency Training Institutes for 48 new certified domestic violence center staff, five Core Competency for Trainers Institutes for 97 certified domestic violence center staff and three Core Competency Train-the-Trainer Institutes for 77 certified domestic violence center staff.

### During Fiscal Year 2018-2019, FCADV:

- Responded to **6,528** electronic technical assistance requests from domestic violence centers, collaborative partners, and other agencies.
- **Conducted 173** onsite technical assistance visits and meetings for certified domestic violence center staff and/or Board of Directors, collaborative partners, and other agencies
- Conducted **150** webinars/technical assistance conference calls.
- Conducted **11** listening and/or focus groups throughout the state to obtain input from survivors, advocates, and other service providers regarding the current needs, barriers, and trends impacting prevention and intervention of domestic violence.

## Families Experiencing Domestic Violence involved in the Child Welfare System

### Child Protection Investigation Project

#### State

During the 2018 – 2019 fiscal year, FCADV conducted 62 child welfare related trainings and onsite technical assistance visits for over 664 certified domestic violence center and child welfare agency staff members.

Eighty-nine percent of people that participated in CPI Project training increased their knowledge about the overall safety and support needs of survivors as evidenced in post-tests administered at the end of the training.

Ninety-four percent of participants evaluated noted that the information in these trainings would assist in helping to increase a survivor's overall safety and support.

#### Local

During the 2018 – 2019 fiscal year, co-located advocates received and followed up on a total of 10,532 CPI Project referrals from child welfare professionals, participated in 4,742 child welfare case staffing meetings, and provided 14,886 case consultation services to child welfare professionals.

During this period, co-located advocates provided 9,932 services to 6,635 child welfare involved survivors referred to local certified domestic violence centers. Services included shelter and housing, criminal and civil justice system assistance, personal advocacy and accompaniment, emotional support

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and safety services, as well as assistance with the State of Florida's Victim' Compensation application and information and referrals.

In FY 2018-19, FCADV's CPI projects were collectively able to create and utilize a holistic seamless system of wrap around services which allowed 12,596 children, whose families were involved in the child welfare system as a result of domestic violence, to remain in the home with the non-offending parent. This effort significantly reduced the need for foster care services and produced an approximate cost savings of \$35,267,540.40  $[12,596 \times \$466.65 \text{ (lowest foster care board rate)} \times 6 \text{ months (low estimate for a child's time in foster care)}]$ .

### **Increase child welfare professionals' capacity in domestic violence cases (sample measures):**

- Sixty-five percent of all CPI Project participants surveyed reported that the abuser was held accountable by the child welfare provider for the pain they caused and 62 percent reported that the abuser was held accountable by the child welfare provider for the pain they caused to their children.
- Ninety-six percent of all children involved with a DV maltreatment finding resulted in the child staying with the non-offending parent according to co-located advocate reports. This represents an 18 percent increase in the child staying with the non-offending parent from the previous fiscal year.

### **Increase safety for survivors and their children as a result of their participation in the CPI Project:**

- All CPI Project participants surveyed reported that the DV advocate spent enough time talking about their safety.
- All CPI Project participants surveyed reported that the DV advocate spent enough time talking about their children's safety
- All CPI Project participants surveyed that received assistance from an advocate reported that the advocate was caring and supportive.
- Of the survivors referred to the CPI Project by child welfare partners, 54 percent not only accessed the services provided by the co-located advocate, but also accessed DV center core safety services. Access to core domestic violence services has been identified as a homicide reduction strategy by Florida's Statewide Fatality Review Team.

## Perpetrator Accountability through Law Enforcement Partnerships

### **Law Enforcement Training Initiative**

To increase perpetrator accountability in domestic violence cases, FCADV provides training and technical assistance on best practices in evidence collection and prosecution of domestic violence perpetrators to law enforcement, advocates, and prosecutors. Trainings also include establishing appropriate protocols for responding to domestic



violence calls, maintaining the confidentiality of survivor information, and effectively assessing the risk for potential domestic violence homicides.

### Law Enforcement Enhanced Response Program

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

### InVEST and Law Enforcement Programs

#### State

During the 2018 – 2019 fiscal year, FCADV conducted 23 reducing intimate partner homicide trainings for over 569 certified domestic violence center staff and allied partners.

In addition, FCADV conducted 16 law enforcement trainings focused on advanced topics related to law enforcement investigations, technology and stalking, and evidence collection in domestic violence cases for a total of 401 participants. Of those evaluated, 100 percent agreed that the information presented increased their knowledge.

Ninety-nine percent of people that participated in reducing intimate partner homicide training increased their knowledge about the safety needs of survivors.

Ninety-eight percent of people that participated in reducing intimate partner homicide training increased their knowledge about perpetrator accountability.

#### Local

During the past fiscal year, law enforcement agencies participating in the InVEST and Law Enforcement Enhanced Response programs initiated 17,265 domestic violence reports, arrested 8,878 domestic violence perpetrators, while these same law enforcement agencies filed 9,284 arrests for prosecution with the local state attorney's office.

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

**-Quote from a survivor served by the IFP Project**

## Injunction for Protection Project

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

FCADV conducts site visits with the attorneys to address challenges, observes court proceedings, and provides legal research and individualized technical assistance to each of the centers and attorneys. During this inaugural year of the project, FCADV developed numerous written forms and protocols for the IFP Project to assist with project implementation.

Currently, there are 76 IFP Project Attorneys providing services in 49 counties. The vast majority of survivors receiving injunction representation are victims of domestic violence. From October 2018 through September 2019:

- IFP Project lawyers provided legal advice and injunction representation to 11,854 new survivors
- IFP Project lawyers represented survivors in 18,678 injunction for protection and other injunction related hearings (“Civil legal assistance with obtaining protection or restraining order” on report)
- 8,608 survivors received information and referral services and 5,915 survivors received victim compensation/relocation information as a part of the program

During the 2018-2019 fiscal year, FCADV conducted an Injunction for Protection Project Attorney Training. Of those evaluated, 94 percent agreed that the information presented increased their knowledge about the legal needs of survivors. Eighty-eight percent reported that the information presented in this training would be implemented into their work.

## Statewide Economic Empowerment Program

FCADV's Statewide Economic Empowerment Program was created to directly respond to financial control exercised by perpetrators. Lack of financial knowledge and resources is the number one indicator of whether a domestic violence victim will stay, leave, or return to an abusive relationship.<sup>5</sup> Financial abuse occurs in 98 percent of all domestic violence cases.<sup>6</sup> Survivors report that abusers utilize a multitude of economically-related tactics to gain and maintain power and control over them, such as creating large amounts of debt in joint accounts, withholding funds from the survivor or children to obtain basic needs such as food and medicine, prohibiting the survivor from working, and not allowing the survivor to access bank accounts.<sup>7</sup> FCADV's Statewide Economic Empowerment Program provides funding to advance financial independence for survivors of domestic violence and their children by coordinating grants for certified domestic violence centers to implement local economic empowerment projects.

### State

During the 2018 – 2019 fiscal year, FCADV conducted 34 trainings and onsite technical assistance visits related to strategies for improving economic opportunities for survivors of domestic violence, economic empowerment and addressing adult literacy needs.

Ninety-nine percent of people that participated in adult literacy and economic empowerment training increased their knowledge about survivor's literacy needs.

Ninety-three percent of people that participated in economic empowerment training increased their knowledge about survivor's financial needs.

### Local

15,081 survivors of domestic violence incorporated financial safety planning methods into their personal plans to maintain safety, a 56 percent increase from the previous year.

All certified domestic violence centers participating in the Economic Empowerment Program incorporated financial safety planning into the centers' safety planning procedures.

### Also during FY 2018-19:

- 4,206 survivors of domestic violence participated in financial empowerment services using the Allstate Moving Ahead Curriculum. This represents a 15 percent increase in survivors participating in financial empowerment services from the previous fiscal year.
- 7,445 survivors of domestic violence received financial empowerment services through the local domestic violence center Economic Empowerment Programs. This represents a 61 percent increase in survivors receiving financial empowerment services from the previous fiscal year.
- 1,715 survivors participated in the certified domestic violence centers' Literacy Programs. This represents a 36 percent increase in survivors participating in certified centers' literacy program from the previous fiscal year.
- 169 meetings were conducted with financial institutions or agencies that assist in developing programs related to microloans, microenterprises, matched savings accounts, and/or individual development accounts for survivors.
- 3,600 survivors of domestic violence were assisted with identifying and securing affordable housing

<sup>5</sup>Jinseok Kim & Karen Gray, Leave or Stay?: Battered Women's Decision After Intimate Partner Violence, 23 Journal of Interpersonal Violence 1465, 1466 (2008) citing Deborah K. Anderson & Daniel G. Saunders, Leaving an Abusive Partner: An Empirical Review of Predictors, the Process of Leaving, and the Psychological Well-being, 4 Trauma, Violence, & Abuse 163 (2003); Ola W. Barnett, Why Battered Women Do Not Leave: Part 1: External Inhibiting Factors Within Society, 1 Trauma, Violence, & Abuse 343 (2000), as referenced at: [https://www.allstatefoundation.org/domestic\\_violence\\_facts.html](https://www.allstatefoundation.org/domestic_violence_facts.html)

<sup>6</sup>Chen, Tim. "How to Stop Domestic Financial Abuse - US News." US News RSS. U.S. News & World Report, 26 Apr. 11. Web. 06 Aug. 2014, as referenced at: [https://www.allstatefoundation.org/domestic\\_violence\\_facts.html](https://www.allstatefoundation.org/domestic_violence_facts.html)

<sup>7</sup>Additional information available at: <http://nnedv.org/resources/ejresources/about-financial-abuse.html>

and 2,593 survivors received assistance with identifying and securing employment goals. This represents an 83 percent increase in survivors assisted with identifying and securing affordable housing from the previous fiscal year.

- 362 survivors of domestic violence completed educational courses, job training programs, or certificate programs. This represents a 30 percent increase in survivors completing educational courses, job training programs, or certificate programs from the previous fiscal year.
- 91 survivors of domestic violence participated in the Micro-loan program, while 217 participated in the micro-enterprise program.
- Participating programs throughout the state provided 19,869 information and referral services, a 41 percent increase from the previous fiscal year; advocacy and accompaniment in 13,886 instances, and 14,597 emotional support and safety services, a 9 percent increase from the previous fiscal year.

While Economic Empowerment programs have assisted 1,785 survivors with filling Victim's

Compensation applications, they have also provided shelter and housing services in 5,778 instances, a 29-percent increase from the previous fiscal year.

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

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

## SafetyNet Program

During the 2018 – 2019 fiscal year, FCADV conducted 23 trainings related to the complex safety needs of survivors experiencing high-tech stalking, technology and abuse for 1,710 certified domestic violence center staff and allied partners. Participants noted that the information presented would influence their work greatly making statements such as, “This is information will help [me to] provide better information and resources to victims of stalking” and will “help [me to] assist individuals with safety planning and gathering evidence.”

Ninety-seven percent of people that participated in FCADV's Statewide Anti-Stalking Institute increased their knowledge about the complex safety needs of survivors of high-tech stalking, technology and abuse.

## Rural Statewide Initiative and Rural/Underserved Programs

### State

During the 2018 – 2019 fiscal year, FCADV conducted the 22nd Annual Rural Statewide Domestic Violence Training Institute with 126 participants. Of those evaluated, 99 percent of attendees noted that the information provided in the over 30 workshops, panel session, group activity sessions and the keynotes assisted in increasing their knowledge about domestic violence. Ninety-nine percent of attendees noted that the presenters were engaging and knowledgeable. Ninety-nine percent of attendees also noted that they understood the information discussed during the training institute. Regarding the overall training institute, participants noted that “the knowledge gained in the workshops will benefit my work and how I serve the community” and “presenters were amazing, engaging and very informative.”



## Local

During the 2018 – 2019 fiscal year, local funded rural programs provided services to 1,225 survivors. This represents a 71-percent increase in the number of survivors served in rural and underserved areas from the previous fiscal year.

During the 2018 – 2019 fiscal year, local funded programs reported 204 support groups, a 269-percent increase in the number of support groups provided to survivors in rural and underserved areas from the previous fiscal year.

During the 2018 – 2019 fiscal year, local funded programs reported 32 community trainings, a 167-percent increase in the number of trainings provided to partners in rural and underserved areas from the previous fiscal year.

During the 2018 – 2019 fiscal year, local funded programs reported an 8-percent increase in the number of partnerships with community or system stakeholders reported, creating 14 new Memoranda of Understanding or service provision protocols for serving survivors of domestic violence in rural communities.

## Strong Families Domestic Violence Prevention Campaign

In FY 2018-19, a total of 2,223 people attended All Pro Dad Experiences in Jacksonville, Miami, and Tampa. On a 1 to 10 scale, participants on average scored a 9.7 likelihood for recommending All Pro Dad events to a friend. Respondents attending events reported learning an average of more than five new ideas to become a better father. They also reported a 9 out of 10 intention to help their children intervene when someone else needs help and 8 out of 10 likelihood to help their children stand up to dating violence. In addition, the following outcomes relate to the projects content for fathers and their children:

- Eighty-nine percent have new ideas to help their children stand up to bullies
- Ninety-four percent were inspired to be a relationship role model for their children
- Fifty-six percent were more likely to talk to their children about dating violence
- Ninety-four percent were more likely to talk to their children about bullies
- Fifty percent responded having new ideas to help their children stand-up to dating violence

A popup survey explored the marketing campaign impact on respondent knowledge, skills, and behaviors that foster healthy relationships for respondents' children. Almost all webpage survey





respondents reported that campaign materials made them more likely to talk with their children about healthy relationships. One hundred percent of the respondents reported being more likely to talk with their children about bullies as a result of the campaign. Also as a result of the campaign:

- Ninety-four percent gained new ideas about how they can help their children stand up to bullies
- Ninety-four percent were inspired by the campaign to be role models for their children about healthy relationships
- Eighty-six percent were interested in receiving more tips and suggestions for how to help their children have healthy relationships, as a result of engaging with the campaign



## Responding to Crisis Calls

### The Statewide Florida Domestic Violence Hotline

FCADV operates and manages the Statewide Florida Domestic Violence Hotline, which provides multilingual services 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. Hotline advocates provide support, advocacy, information, and referral services for survivors of domestic violence, their children, families, and friends residing in Florida's 67 counties. FCADV, in partnership with Florida Legal Services, Inc., administers the Statewide Domestic Violence Legal Hotline, which provides comprehensive legal advice, information, and referrals to survivors of domestic violence. During the 2018-19 fiscal year, the Florida Domestic Violence Hotline received 27,057 calls, 4,203 of which were answered by the legal hotline.

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

### Primary Prevention Initiative

FCADV conducted a training for Advocates on Coaching Boys Into Men in which 100 percent agreed that training concepts can be implemented into their work. Ninety-five percent of participants agreed that presenters were engaged and knowledgeable and they understood the information being presented. Participants stated that the information from the training will "enhance the work we are doing in schools and in the community" and "expand our capacity to engage men and boys".

During the 2018 – 2019 fiscal year, 68.2 percent of middle school students and 73.5 percent of high school students that participated in local primary prevention curriculum training expressed positive change in intimate partner risk and protective factors as evidenced by pre and post surveys administered at the beginning and end of the curriculum period.

Domestic Violence Centers reported 98 Community Action Team meetings to engage their local communities and partners in primary prevention efforts. Community Action Team members reported an increase in individual engagement with prevention activities in 14 content areas related to preventing violence in their communities before it occurs.

### List of Additional FCADV Programs

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

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



# Domestic Violence Crime in Florida

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

The 2018 UCR<sup>8</sup> reflected that while overall crime decreased 7.4 percent, domestic violence crimes decreased by only 1.9 percent. The report also reflected an increase of 21 percent in domestic violence murder offenses, following an increase of 10.5 percent in domestic violence aggravated stalking offenses in 2017. Stalking is a known precursor to domestic violence homicide. Tragically, 215 individuals died as a result of domestic violence homicide, representing 19 percent of all homicides in Florida last year.

In 2018, law enforcement agencies reported a total 104,914 domestic violence offenses and 64,573 arrests. Domestic violence crimes against spouses and cohabitants are overwhelmingly the most frequently reported relationship between perpetrators and victims. There were 10 counties in Florida that experienced increases of 10 percent or more in domestic violence incidences from the previous year. Overall, 20 Florida counties reported increases in domestic violence crimes, while 47 experienced decreases. It should be noted that the data contained in the annual report and reflected in the UCR only represents domestic violence offenses reported to law enforcement agencies, and domestic violence is recognized as a significantly underreported crime. An estimated 27 percent of women and 13.5 percent of men who are physically assaulted and less than 20 percent of women who are raped by an intimate partner report these crimes to law enforcement.<sup>9</sup>

## Headlines Around the State

### Orlando Sentinel

*October 28, 2019*

Montalvo, 33, was reported missing last week after she didn't arrive to pick up her 8-year-old son from school. Her body was found at a property on Hixon Avenue owned by the parents of her husband and the father of her child, Christopher Otero-Rivera... Few details have been released about the circumstances of Montalvo's killing. But court records show Montalvo had repeatedly sought help from law enforcement and the courts, describing episodes of escalating abuse by her husband in the years before her slaying.

<sup>8</sup>Information from FDLE's 2018 Uniform Crime Report: <https://www.fdle.state.fl.us/FSAC/Data-Statistics/UCR-Domestic-Violence.aspx>

<sup>9</sup>Tjaden, Patricia & Thoennes, Nancy. National Institute of Justice and the Centers of Disease Control and Prevention, "Extent, Nature and Consequences of Intimate Partner Violence: Findings from the National Violence Against Women Survey," (2000)



## **Newsweek**

***April 1, 2019***

Early Thursday morning, a woman found text messages on the phone of Angel Luis Sanchez-Baez suggesting that he had cheated on her, a police arrest report seen by NBC-affiliate WFLA showed... As she did so, Sanchez-Baez used a green propane cylinder to hit her on the back of her head. The suspect knocked the woman to the floor, causing her to lose consciousness. She did not know how long she was out for, according to WFLA. The woman came to, and noticed she was lying with her face to the ground. She then heard Sanchez-Baez say: "I should kill you right now."

## **Tampa Bay Times**

***March 15, 2019***

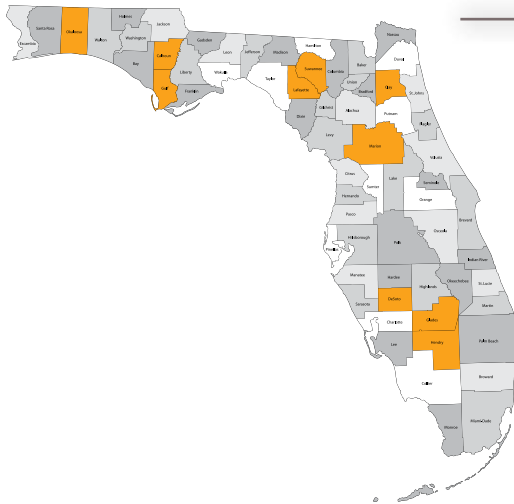
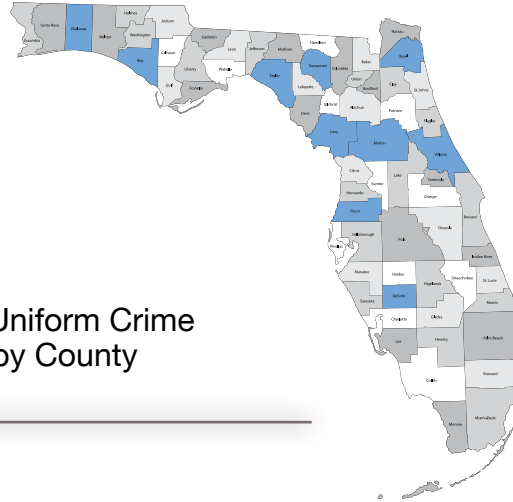
A domestic-related murder-suicide left two people dead Friday night in the Magnolia Hill neighborhood, according to the Hillsborough County Sheriff's Office... When deputies arrived, they found a man and a woman dead inside. Deputies believe they married at one point but no longer living together, that the man was living in another part of Florida.

# Top 10 Counties (by percentage of population)

## Domestic Violence Offenses, 2018<sup>10</sup>

- Levy
- Taylor
- Marion
- DeSoto
- Pasco
- Volusia
- Okaloosa
- Duval
- Suwannee
- Bay

SOURCE: Florida Department of Law Enforcement, Uniform Crime Report, Total Reported Domestic Violence Offenses by County

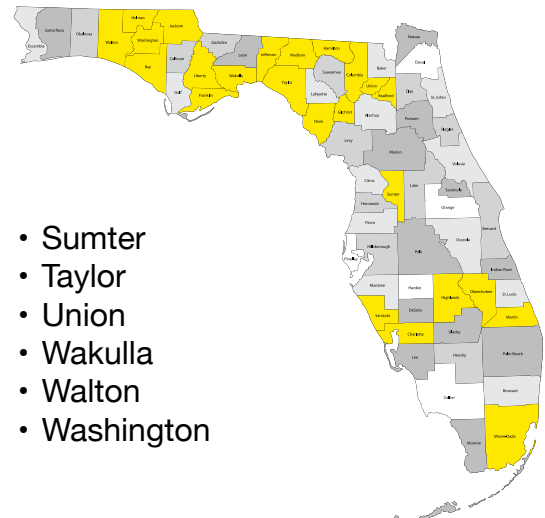


## Counties that Experienced a 10-percent\* + Increase in Domestic Violence Offenses, 2018<sup>11</sup>

- Calhoun
- Clay
- Desoto
- Glades
- Gulf
- Hendry
- Lafayette
- Marion
- Okaloosa
- Suwannee

## Counties that Experienced a 10-percent\* + Decrease in Domestic Violence Offenses, 2018<sup>12</sup>

- Bay
- Bradford
- Charlotte
- Columbia
- Dixie
- Franklin
- Gilchrist
- Hamilton
- Highlands
- Holmes
- Jackson
- Jefferson
- Liberty
- Madison
- Martin
- Miami-Dade
- Okeechobee
- Sarasota
- Sumter
- Taylor
- Union
- Wakulla
- Walton
- Washington



\*Percent changes should be interpreted with caution. In small counties with low numbers of crime, a small increase may produce a large percent change.

<sup>10</sup>Total Reported Domestic Violence Offenses for Florida by County, 2018, Retrieved from [https://www.fdle.state.fl.us/FSAC/Documents/PDF/DV\\_OFF\\_JUR18.aspx](https://www.fdle.state.fl.us/FSAC/Documents/PDF/DV_OFF_JUR18.aspx)

<sup>11</sup>Ibid

<sup>12</sup>Ibid

## Domestic Violence Fatality Review Teams

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

During the 2018-19 fiscal year, FCADV assisted to revive one inactive local fatality review team and establish one new local fatality review team. As a result, there are now a total of 25 active local fatality review teams in the State of Florida. FCADV also published and distributed the 2019 Faces of Fatality report synthesizing data from 32 reviews conducted by local fatality review teams.

### GENDER/AGE:

#### Perpetrator

**94% male, 6% female**

**Average age: 42**

#### Decedent

**90% female, 10% male**

### PERPETRATOR ETHNICITY

Non-Hispanic/Non-Latino:  
**57%**

Hispanic/Latino: **36%**

Haitian: **7%**

### DECEDENT ETHNICITY

Non-Hispanic/Non-Latino:  
**53%**

Hispanic/Latino: **40%**

Haitian: **3%**

Other: **3%**

### PERPETRATOR RACE

Black/African-American: **43%**

White/Caucasian: **53%**

Other: **3%**

### DECEDENT RACE

White/Caucasian: **67%**

Black/African-American.: **27%**

Native American: **3%**

Multi-racial: **3%**

### RELATIONSHIP OF PERPETRATOR TO DECEDENT

Spouse: **48%**

Intimate partner, unmarried: **32%**

Former-intimate partner: **13%**

Former-intimate spouse: **3%**

Parent: **3%**

## Key Findings

- Twenty-seven percent of perpetrators were unemployed at the time of the homicide.
- Seventy-seven percent of perpetrators were reported to have substance abuse histories.
- Forty-five percent of perpetrators had a known mental health condition and/or received mental health treatment.
- In 26 percent of the fatalities, there was known prior alleged stalking behavior on the part of the perpetrator as defined by section 784.087, Florida Statutes, and in 12 percent of the fatalities, there were known alleged stalking behaviors that did not meet the statutory requirements.
- Thirty-six percent of perpetrators were known by family or friends to carry or possess a weapon in such a way that it was used as a means of power and control.
- Thirty-nine percent of decedents and perpetrators were separated at the time of the homicide and forty-six percent of decedents and perpetrators were in the process of ending their relationship at the time of the fatality.
- In Thirty-four percent of the fatalities, the decedents were known to be in a new relationship.
- Fifty-eight percent of decedents were known to express an intention to leave the perpetrator.
- Fifty-two percent of fatalities had known prior death threats made by the perpetrator towards the decedent.
- Sixty-nine percent of perpetrators had a known criminal history of domestic violence.
- In 82 percent of the fatalities, family members reported knowing about prior incidents or prior threats of domestic violence on the part of the perpetrator.
- In 31 percent of the fatalities, there was a known criminal order of no contact issued against the perpetrator.
- In 13 percent of the fatalities, there was a known petition for a civil injunction for protection filed against the perpetrator by the decedent.
- In 25 percent of the fatalities, there was a known permanent civil injunction for protection by the court entered against the perpetrator by someone other than the decedent.
- Thirty-nine percent of perpetrators died by suicide and an additional three percent attempted but did not complete suicide.
- Twenty-four percent of perpetrators were known to have previously attempted suicide and twenty-five percent of perpetrators were known to have made threats of suicide prior to the fatality.

## 2019 Recommendations

- Law enforcement agencies often provide assistance to persons seeking police protection in situations where the potential for an escalation of violence is a legitimate concern. Examples of these “keeping the peace” or “standby” calls include one partner retrieving belongings from a shared residence or child custody exchanges. FCADV’s Intimate Violence Enhanced Services Team (InVEST) and FCADV’s Law Enforcement Enhanced Response Statewide Initiative should work with local law enforcement agencies to review the feasibility of developing protocols for informing survivors of the parameters and availability of this service to the community.
- Coordinated Community Response (CCR) teams provide a comprehensive community-based approach to perpetrator accountability and victim advocacy in which local stakeholders such as law enforcement, criminal justice partners, social service organizations, healthcare providers, and certified domestic violence centers work together to coordinate a system wide response to domestic violence. CCR teams located in many communities around the state include local domestic violence councils/ task forces, and other multidisciplinary workgroups that come together with the goal of improving



their local response to domestic violence. CCR teams should work together with FCADV to enhance existing training curricula related to high-risk-indicators for intimate partner homicide for community partners and local stakeholders, including social service agencies, behavioral health providers, healthcare providers and the Department of Children and Families. The enhanced training should include a specialized component related to the risk of escalated violence and death when survivors leave or attempt to leave their abusive partners. Survivors are at a 75-percent or greater risk of being killed by their abusers after leaving the relationship.<sup>13</sup> Family members, friends and service providers may be unaware of the escalated risk and suggest that survivors leave the relationship. Leaving often requires that survivors consider strategies to help mitigate the risks, such as consulting with a trained victim advocate to receive safety planning assistance. The enhanced training should focus on the risks and barriers survivors face when attempting to leave, methods to hold the perpetrator accountable, and empowerment-based responses for offering resources and referrals for support, safety planning and advocacy for survivors.

“The tragic loss of life as a result of domestic violence homicide continues to be an ongoing concern in our state. These senseless deaths lend credence to the important collaborative effort of domestic violence fatality review teams in seeking solutions to reduce and prevent future domestic violence fatalities. The teams work on behalf of the families of loved ones that were killed to increase the safety of survivors and their children and hold perpetrators accountable for their violent behavior. I am pleased to partner with the Florida Coalition Against Domestic Violence in co-chairing the Statewide Domestic Violence Fatality Review Team and honor the critical role of outstanding law enforcement officers, prosecutors, advocates and other team members who work diligently to enhance the safety of citizens by decreasing domestic violence homicide in Florida.”

Attorney General Ashley Moody

<sup>13</sup>For more information about the Statewide Domestic Violence Fatality Review Team: <http://fcadv.org/projects-programs/sdvfrt>

# Responding To Domestic Violence through Government Funding Sources

## Domestic Violence Trust Fund and General Revenue

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

## Domestic Violence Diversion Program, Temporary Assistance for Needy Families

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

## Capital Improvement Grant Program

Legislation passed in 2000 created this first-in-the-nation program through which, pursuant to legislative appropriations, certified domestic violence centers may apply to DCF for a capital improvement grant to construct, repair, improve, or upgrade systems, facilities, or equipment.<sup>14</sup>

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

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

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

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

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<sup>14</sup>Pursuant to s. 39.9055, Florida Statutes

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

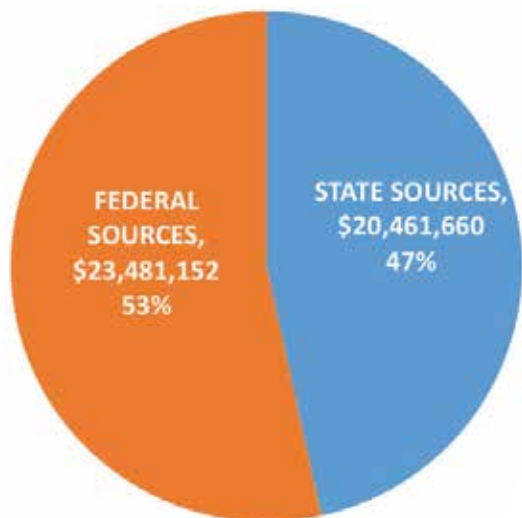
## Grants to Encourage Arrest

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

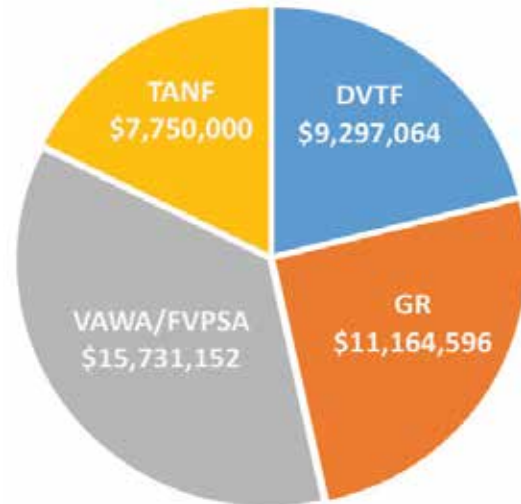
## Responding To Domestic Violence Through Government Funding

### Legend:

VAWA: Violence Against Women Act  
 FVPSA: Family Violence Prevention and Services Act  
 GTEA: Grants to Encourage Arrest  
 TANF: Temporary Assistance for Needy Families  
 DVTF: Domestic Violence Trust Fund  
 GR: General Revenue

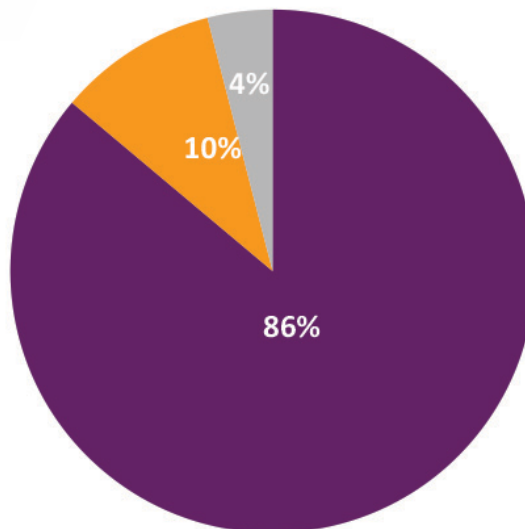


**TOTAL: \$43,942,812**



**TOTAL: \$43,942,812**

### FCADV BUDGET



- 86% Services
- 10% Training, Education, Technical Assistance
- 4% Administrative

“For 25 years, it has been my honor to be part of the fight against domestic violence. It is a fight that must continue until every single person can live free of violence. We must remain committed to that end and never relent. It is up to all of us to say enough is enough. Everyone, every day, without fail, together, for as long as it takes.”

**Tiffany Carr, President/CEO**

The Florida Coalition Against Domestic Violence

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



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**Florida Domestic Violence Hotline**

**(800) 500-1119**

**TDD**

**(800) 621-4202**

**Florida Relay**

**711**

[www.fcadv.org](http://www.fcadv.org)