



## **DOMESTIC VIOLENCE ANNUAL REPORT**

**January 1, 2026**

Taylor N. Hatch  
Secretary

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Governor

## Executive Summary

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

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

This year's annual legislative report provides an update of ODV's array of services, trends, and achievements for the Fiscal Year (FY) 2024-25. As a part of the Office of Community Services (OCS), the ODV has been working diligently to enhance family safety by providing domestic violence-informed services and addressing intergenerational and systemic trauma.

### What is Domestic Violence?

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

### Domestic Violence Defined in Statute

Florida law defines domestic violence as any assault, aggravated assault, battery, aggravated battery, sexual assault, sexual battery, stalking, aggravated stalking, kidnapping, false imprisonment, or any criminal offense resulting in physical injury or death of one family or household member by another family or household member<sup>1</sup>.

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

# Identifying Trends to Inform Domestic Violence Responses

## Domestic Violence Crimes in Florida

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

The most recent Florida Department of Law Enforcement (FDLE) Annual Summary Uniform Crime Reports was released for 2021. The 2021 crime statistics are as follows:

January-December 2021<sup>2</sup>

- 103,915 domestic violence offenses were reported to law enforcement.
- 220 individuals died because of domestic violence homicide, representing approximately 20 percent of all homicides in Florida.
- Law enforcement made 63,464 arrests for domestic violence related crimes.

The Florida Computerized Criminal History (CCH) data reported the following domestic violence-related events, categorized by level code, for the period spanning Jan. 1, 2020, through Dec. 31, 2024.<sup>3</sup>

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<sup>2</sup> Information from FDLE's 2021 Annual Crime in Florida Abstract" The statistics presented in this release are an indication of crime and criminal activities known to, and reported by, law enforcement agencies for 2021. This report reflects data residing in the Uniform Crime Reporting (UCR) database as of July 14, 2022. 2021 totals are estimates derived from submissions of summary data from 239 agencies, representing 57.5% of Florida's population. The data was used to determine a statewide aggregate, compared to 2020 annual figures to determine statewide trends for each UCR measure. This is consistent with the Federal Bureau of Investigation's (FBI) methodology for estimating a complete view of UCR data. This data does not include data derived from agencies participating only in incident-based submissions or agencies that were transitioning to incident-based reporting.": [UCR-Crime-in-Florida-Abstract-Statewide-2021A.pdf](https://www.fdle.state.fl.us/ucr/ucr-crime-in-florida-abstract-statewide-2021a.pdf)

<sup>3</sup> Data requested from the FDLE, CAVEAT: Florida's CCH is fingerprint-based and, unless prints were taken at a later stage in the criminal justice process, does not include records involving a notice to appear, direct files or sworn complaints where no physical arrest was made. FDLE does not warrant that the records provided are comprehensive or accurate as of the date they are provided; only that they contain information received by FDLE from contributing agencies, and that any errors or omissions brought to FDLE's attention are investigated and as needed, corrected. Caution should be used in making conclusions about the data provided. CCH data is as of Oct. 15, 2025.

Charge Level	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
<b>Felony</b>	19,554	20,759	21,141	21,801	21,618
<b>Misdemeanor</b>	43,546	46,679	47,146	49,660	49,528
<b>Total DV Arrests</b>	<b>63,100</b>	<b>67,438</b>	<b>68,287</b>	<b>71,461</b>	<b>71,146</b>

## The Statewide Domestic Violence Hotline

Operated and managed by the Florida Domestic Violence Collaborative, (FLDVC), Florida's Statewide Domestic Violence Hotline provides 24/7 multilingual supportive services, advocacy and information, referral services and legal assistance for survivors of domestic violence, their children, families, and friends residing in Florida's 67 counties. Florida Legal Services, Inc., administers the Statewide Domestic Violence Legal Hotline, which provides comprehensive legal advice, information, and referrals to survivors of domestic violence.

During FY 2024-25, the Florida Domestic Violence Hotline received 16,742 calls, in which 5,777 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.

## Florida's Certified Domestic Violence Centers

In FY 2024-25, there were 41 certified domestic violence centers (centers) serving Florida's 67 counties, as outlined in Appendix A. These centers are responsible for providing critical, life-saving emergency shelter, services, and programming to survivors and their children. In Florida, centers are on the front lines of responding to domestic violence by providing a place of safety, security, and empowerment to survivors of domestic violence and their children fleeing violent homes.

Centers are the only state-designated, certified organizations responsible for the provision of a continuum of services to survivors, 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, as they begin to achieve safety and self-efficacy. Centers are statutorily required to provide specific services, including: 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 FY 2024-25, certified centers provided 624,269 nights of emergency shelter to 12,425 women, men, and children. Many survivors fled violent homes with their children, representing 47 percent of those served in emergency shelter. In addition to the services required by Florida Statutes, many of the Department's certified centers supplement their programs with important ancillary services such as transportation, rent and utility assistance, transitional housing, legal and court advocacy, work skills and job-readiness training and placement, financial literacy, and other

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<sup>4</sup> Pursuant to s. 39.905, F.S.

training and education programs. Collectively, Florida certified domestic violence centers provided the following services during the reporting period:

- 12,425 individuals received emergency shelter at a certified domestic violence center.
- 74,381 crisis hotline calls.
- 31,441 individuals received outreach services.
- 229,076 safety plans were completed with survivors.
- 25,304,605 service management goal plans were completed with survivors.
- 404,096 direct service information and referrals to survivors, family members, and individuals seeking services.
- 206,274 hours of supportive counseling and advocacy.
- 50,427 hours facilitating child and youth-specific activities.
- 32,753 adult individuals attended training and education events.
- 68,020 youth attended & youth targeted community education.

In FY 2024-25, increased state funding for survivors' housing to centers strengthened safety planning and training. Survivors accessed expanded housing supports and community-based services, allowing centers to focus on specialized care while enhancing coordinated responses to domestic violence and related issues.

## **Enhancing Services for Survivors and Promoting Family Safety**

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

During FY 2024-25, training, technical assistance, and education was provided to centers, relevant community partners, agencies, and service providers throughout the state. These efforts strengthened knowledge, enhanced standards and built capacity to deliver high-quality services to domestic violence survivors and their children. Each training was created to address the specific needs identified by the center and/or local community organization. Training and technical assistance was provided by FLDVC through 177 trainings and webinars, and 2,338 technical assistance visits and calls, to community partners, agencies, and service providers throughout the state.

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

The Department recognizes specific domestic violence-related maltreatment types. Intimate Partner Violence (IPV) is defined as a pattern of behavior used by one person to gain and maintain power and control in a romantic or intimate relationship. IPV may include physical violence, sexual violence, psychological aggression, emotional abuse, and other controlling behaviors. An intimate partner includes current or former spouses, dating partners, and individuals who share a child in common.

Additionally, the Department's maltreatment type, Household Violence Threatens Child, applies to situations in which household members engage in violent behavior that demonstrates a wanton disregard for a child's safety and/or could reasonably result in injury to the child.

Household Violence Threatens Child and IPV Threatens Child maltreatments remain among the most frequently reported maltreatments to the Florida Abuse Hotline, accounting for 22.69 percent of all maltreatments received during FY 2024-25. In response, the Department partnered with the Office of the Attorney General (OAG) and domestic violence experts between 2004 and 2008 to develop an initiative focused on achieving permanency for children by maintaining them in their home with the non-offending caregiver, whenever safely possible. This initiative is formally known as the CPI Project.

The primary goal of the CPI Project is to enhance family safety and promote permanency for children by keeping children safely in the home with the non-offending caregiver while strengthening perpetrator accountability. This project supports formal partnerships and evidence-informed practices across systems, including the co-location of domestic violence advocates within child welfare offices to provide case consultation and advocacy services, the development of cross-system protocols and cross-training domestic violence and child welfare professionals.

Co-located domestic violence advocates serve as subject matter experts who assist child welfare professionals in partnering effectively with survivors by building on the protective factors of the non-offending caregiver. Their expertise also supports the identification of batterers' patterns of coercive and controlling behavior, the assessment of batterer-generated risks, and the evaluation of the impact of such behaviors on children.

The continued success of the collaboration established through the CPI Project demonstrates meaningful progress toward the Department's goals of enhancing family permanency, supporting families throughout their journey, and promoting positive long-term outcomes. In FY 2024-25, the CPI Project utilized a coordinated system of wraparound services that enabled 20,815 children involved in the child welfare system to safely remain the home with a non-offending caregiver. During this period, co-located domestic violence advocates achieved the following:

- Received and followed up on a total of 12,670 CPI Project referrals from child welfare professionals.
- Participated in 8,444 child welfare case staffings.
- Provided 18,761 case consultation services to child welfare professionals.
- Delivered 54,466 distinct services to survivors involved with the child welfare system through certified domestic violence centers. These services included shelter and housing assistance, safety planning and emotional support, criminal and civil justice system assistance advocacy and accompaniment, financial, and personal advocacy, relocation and transportation assistance, information and referrals, and assistance with applications to the state's Victim Compensation program.
- Conducted 257 trainings for local child welfare partners and domestic violence center advocates on topics including, but not limited to, the dynamics of domestic violence, the intersection of domestic violence and child abuse, batterer accountability, and safety planning.

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

The Intimate Violence Enhanced Service Team (InVEST) initiative is a coordinated community response designed to reduce intimate partner homicides across participating Florida counties by strengthening survivor safety and increasing perpetrator accountability. InVEST encourages local law enforcement agencies and community partners to treat domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, and stalking as serious criminal offenses requiring a unified, systemwide approach. Through collaborative partnerships between certified domestic violence centers and law enforcement agencies, the initiative involves daily joint reviews of police reports to identify high-risk cases, proactive outreach to survivors, and enhanced support throughout the criminal and civil justice processes.

The Department contracts with providers to train all InVEST project partners, including domestic violence advocates, law enforcement officers, prosecutors, judges, and probation and parole officers, on identifying high-risk indicators for intimate partner homicide, improving investigations and prosecutions, and employing survivor-centered practices that promote community safety. Recognizing the critical role of law enforcement as first responders, the Department supports efforts that equip officers with the tools and strategies needed to intervene effectively, disrupt escalating patterns of abuse, and prevent future homicides.

In FY 2024-25, nine law enforcement agencies across Florida were awarded federal funds through the STOP (Services for Training, Officers, and Prosecution) Violence Against Women Formula (VAWA) grant to support the law enforcement enhanced response projects. The Department serves as the State's pass-through for the STOP grant and distributed funds through a competitive Request for Applications (RFA) process. The total amount of funding allocated for this portion of the award for FY 2024-25 was \$1,821,890.10.

As part of this Coordinated Community Response (CCR) approach, grantees engage in community assessments to identify systemic challenges, foster open communication, and share strategies to improve responses that prioritize survivor safety and offender accountability. Each CCR must host a minimum of three meetings a year. STOP funding facilitated the expansion of the InVEST Project, enabling the placement of at least one dedicated detective within each participating law enforcement agency. These detectives work in close collaboration with certified domestic violence centers to reduce domestic violence-related homicides.

Law enforcement agencies have strengthened their partnerships with community stakeholders through CCR team meetings, enhanced collaboration with the State Attorney's Office, certified domestic violence centers, and other outreach programs. These efforts have resulted in more effective and survivor-centered responses.

During FY 2024-25, contracted STOP providers reported there were 2,532 arrests related to IPV statewide. Of these, 2,363 cases were reviewed in partnership with the Batterer Accountability Specialist and the State Attorney's Office, leading to 1,207 cases being filed for prosecution. STOP funding also supports trauma-informed training for law enforcement officers, equipping them with a deeper understanding of the dynamics of domestic violence and its impact on survivors and their families. In FY 2024-25, InVEST detectives referred 1,139 survivors to specialized victim services

at certified domestic violence centers using a trauma-informed approach, with 621 of those individuals also referred to additional community wraparound services.

## **Batterer Accountability Project**

In FY 2024-25, five certified domestic violence centers were awarded federal STOP funds to enhance victim safety, achieved by utilizing batterer accountability measures, through a competitive Request for Application (RFA) procurement. The total amount of funding allocated for this portion of the award for FY 2024-25 was \$818,937.30. Each project funds a Batterer Accountability Specialist (BAS) who serves as a single point of contact, unifying courts, and system of care providers, and increases coordinated collaboration to enhance accountability for batterers when there is involvement in the child welfare system. The BAS also increases the safety of survivors and children by ensuring child welfare partnering agencies develop dependency case plans that hold batterers accountable in ways that promote safety and compliance with orders and enable the courts' ability to closely monitor batterers' compliance with dependency case plans and other court orders, aimed at preventing the reoccurrence of violence.

## **Prosecution**

In FY 2024-25, eight State Attorneys' Offices received STOP funding through a competitive RFA process, totaling \$1,567,203.88. This support enabled the participating offices to dedicate prosecuting attorneys and victim advocates exclusively to cases involving domestic violence, sexual assault, and stalking. These professionals work in close collaboration with local law enforcement agencies to strengthen prosecution efforts and provide comprehensive, survivor-centered supports.

The Department maintains a strategic partnership with the Florida Prosecuting Attorneys Association (FPAA), a statewide nonprofit organization representing Florida's 20 elected State Attorneys and more than 2,000 Assistant State Attorneys. Through this collaboration, FPAA delivers specialized training and technical assistance on emerging issues aligned with the STOP Violence Against Women Formula Grant Program purpose areas.

These purpose areas include:

1. Training law enforcement officers, judges, court personnel, and prosecutors to more effectively identify and respond to violent crimes, including domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, and stalking.
2. Developing, training, or expanding specialized units within law enforcement, the judiciary, and prosecution that focus on violent crimes such as domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, and stalking.
3. Implementing more effective policies, protocols, orders, and services across police, court, and prosecution systems to prevent, identify, and respond to these crimes, while ensuring appropriate treatment and support for victims.

With support from STOP funding, FPAA staff serve as a centralized resource for prosecutors statewide, providing essential training and technical assistance to ensure they are equipped to address complex violent crime cases.

In FY 2024-25, FPAA trained 344 multidisciplinary professionals, including law enforcement officers, prosecutors, and victim advocates. Training topics included domestic violence, sex crimes, human trafficking, trial advocacy, interagency coordination, and survivor safety resources. Participants achieved an average competency score of 80 percent or higher, and each received training materials to share with colleagues and community partners. Additionally, recorded webinars and seminars were made available online, extending the reach of these educational resources. FPAA also conducted 250 technical assistance sessions throughout the FY, further supporting prosecutors and allied professionals in enhancing their response to domestic violence related crimes.

## **Courts**

In FY 2024-25, the Office of the State Courts Administrator (OSCA) made several key advancements to support the judiciary's response to domestic violence. Notably, OSCA added the Elder Abuse Bench Book to its website, providing judges with a valuable resource to guide decision-making in cases involving elder abuse. A Firearms and Domestic Violence training module was also developed and made available online, accompanied by a comprehensive toolkit to support judicial education and implementation.

In addition, OSCA continued to monitor domestic violence-related legislation and prepared judicial impact statements to inform the courts of potential implications. Regular case law updates were distributed and posted on the OSCA website to ensure judges remain informed of relevant legal developments. Specialized mentoring for judges presiding over domestic violence cases was offered, reinforcing judicial capacity to handle these complex matters.

Ongoing training and mentorship opportunities were also extended to family court judges, case managers, and domestic violence coordinators. These professionals received educational materials and technical assistance through a variety of formats, including in-person and virtual training sessions, printed resources, and other support tools.

## **Victim Services**

The Violence Against Women Act (VAWA) provides federal funding for survivor services in cases of domestic violence, sexual violence, dating violence, and stalking. Survivor service funds are directed in numerous ways to address all four VAWA crime areas and support statewide efforts by providing resources, advocacy, training, technical assistance, outreach services, hospital and court accompaniment, and emergency shelter services.

During FY 2024-25, several agencies expanded their services to include family law assistance and court accompaniment for survivors of domestic violence. Additionally, throughout FY 2024-25, the Department provided training and technical assistance to certified domestic violence centers, collaborative community partners, agencies, and service providers throughout the state to strengthen knowledge, enhance standards, and build capacity to provide quality services to victims. The certified centers delivered training to community partners, agencies, and service providers across the state. These efforts are intended to strengthen knowledge, improve service standards, and build capacity to deliver high-quality, trauma-informed support to survivors.

Additionally, the Florida Council Against Sexual Violence (FCASV) was funded utilizing federal STOP funds to develop material guidance and provide technical assistance on properly managing requests for forensic examinations when the survivor evidences either a diminished or total lack of capacity to consent, assist certified rape crisis centers in properly responding to subpoenas for records containing privileged information, facilitate monthly drop-in discussions and technical assistance meetings with rape crisis program directors, conduct webinars for rape crisis centers and administer and monitor funding for prosecutors, law enforcement agencies, and rape crisis center personnel.

During FY 2024-25, FCASV provided training to law enforcement and prosecutors on trauma-informed sexual assault investigations, certified law enforcement trainers on effective delivery of the Trauma-informed Investigations training curriculum, certified rape crisis center Executive Directors and Program Directors on Managing Change, Program Evaluation, and Board Governance/Management and qualified healthcare professionals on forensic examination performance and evidence collection, packaging and documentation (40-hour Sexual Assault Nurse Examiner (SANE) training), and advanced SANE training on updated medical forensic examination and diminished consent guidance.

FCASV entered subcontracts with 27 certified rape crisis programs<sup>5</sup> statewide to provide direct services and strengthen the overall response to sexual assault survivors. Through funding awarded under the STOP procurement, M.U.J.E.R., Inc. delivered culturally and linguistically appropriate services for survivors of sexual violence in south Miami-Dade County.

The Gulf Coast Sexual Assault Program (GCSAP) contract supported service delivery in four counties that had previously been served by other providers in prior years. Notably, within its first month of providing sexual assault services in Okaloosa and Walton Counties, GCSAP served more survivors than the prior provider had served over a 12-month period.

FCASV also subcontracted with Betty Griffin Center (BGC), Inc., a sexual assault and domestic violence service provider in St. Johns County. This partnership enabled BGC to enhance its sexual assault services by employing multiple licensed mental health clinicians and expanding trauma-informed approaches, including the use of therapy animals and the development of trauma-informed spaces.

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

The Improving Criminal Justice Responses (ICJR) Program, funded through the VAWA and administered by the Federal Office on Violence Against Women (OVW), is designed to strengthen the capacity of communities and criminal justice systems to respond effectively to domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, and stalking.

In Florida, survivors of these crimes rely on the state's 20 judicial circuits for protection and access to justice. To support this need, the Office of the State Courts Administrator (OSCA) provides

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<sup>5</sup> [Find Your Local Center — Florida Council Against Sexual Violence](#)

ongoing training and technical assistance to ensure judges and court personnel are equipped to recognize and respond to the unique needs of victims in each case.

Through ICJR funding, OSCA has partnered with the Department, Florida State University's Institute for Family Violence Studies, and the Citrus County Abuse Shelter Association, Inc. (CASA) to advance several key initiatives. These include:

- Developing specialized training for judicial and court staff to improve responses to IPV.
- Maintaining a statewide protection order database to enhance information sharing and victim safety.
- Implementing a homicide reduction resource center aimed at strengthening court protocols and preventing lethal outcomes in cases involving IPV.

These collaborative efforts reflect Florida's commitment to improving the judicial response to violence, ensuring that survivors receive comprehensive, trauma-informed support throughout the legal process. The project began during FY 2022-23 and concluded in September 2025.

In collaboration with CASA, the Department launched a six-part training series designed for professionals within the criminal justice system. The series focused on the relationship between high-risk factors of Intimate Partner Violence (IPV), with the goal of equipping practitioners with the knowledge and tools to effectively identify coercive control, assess risk, and promote perpetrator accountability and survivor safety across disciplines.

Attendees had the option to participate in all or selected portions of the series; however, each session was designed to build upon the previous one, offering a progressively deeper understanding of risk factors and system responses to IPV.

- Session One introduced a foundational framework for understanding risk factors within the context of IPV. This interactive training provided an overview of common risk indicators and offered guidance on how to assess risk effectively across various criminal justice roles.
- Session Two focused on domestic violence strangulation cases. Participants gained practical skills for implementing coordinated community responses and learned how to interpret risk assessment tools to support offender accountability and survivor recovery.
- Session Three addressed stalking, including its prevalence, best practices for making separate charging decisions when stalking co-occurred with other offenses, and methods for assessing stalking within IPV contexts.
- Session Four explored the impact of coercive control on survivors and their children. The training covered definitions, forms of coercive control, screening tools, and an analysis of how system responses could either support or undermine survivor safety and accountability efforts.
- Session Five examined the unique risks associated with IPV cases involving non-biological children. The session emphasized implications for safety planning, survivor recovery, and prosecution, and provided instruction on applying risk assessment tools to inform intervention strategies.

In addition to the training series, the Department presented the Law Enforcement Strangulation Bench Card to the Office of the State Courts Administrator (OSCA) during FY 2023-24. In March 2024, the Department also hosted a 1.5-day virtual institute for judges, court staff, law enforcement, child welfare professionals, and domestic violence advocates. The institute featured state and national experts who presented on topics such as multicultural responses, cybersecurity, stalking, sexual violence, and the prevention of intimate partner homicides. Attendees gained a comprehensive understanding of the connections between stalking, cyberstalking, strangulation, sexual violence, and risk indicators for intimate partner homicide.

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

The ODV developed and launched Safe Space in FY 2023-24, a Domestic Violence Faith and Community-Based Initiative, to strengthen the role of faith-based communities in Florida's domestic violence prevention and response efforts. Faith-based communities are vital pillars of resiliency, offering support across the lifespan, from youth and family programs to individual counseling and crisis intervention. Their trusted presence creates unique opportunities to reach survivors, perpetrators, and families seeking safety and healing.

Safe Space was designed using social ecological strategies, recognizing the importance of individual, relational, community, and societal engagement. The initiative empowers faith leaders to drive meaningful change in the prevalence of violence utilizing a three-tiered approach:

### **1. Training and Technical Assistance**

Ongoing trainings are offered to all faith leaders, parishioners, and religious community groups interested in increasing their knowledge on domestic violence and learn ways to support their community in the prevention of violence. Technical assistance is provided to leaders who have received more advanced designations.

Examples of training topics:

- Introduction to Domestic Violence for Faith Communities
- Introduction to Prevention
- Financial Abuse and Economic Justice
- Bystander Intervention Through Faith
- Certified Domestic Violence Center Services
- Coordinated Community Response

### **2. Domestic Violence Chaplain and Sanctuary Designations**

Faith leaders have the opportunity to be designated as a DV Chaplain upon fulfillment of requirements. Participants receive specialized training on basic issues related to domestic violence and access to relevant resources and a network of peers focused on using faith to support their local communities.

Requirements:

Specialized Designation Training:

- Annual Training Hours
- Background Screening
- Required Annual Domestic Violence Awareness Message
- Annual Engagement with local certified domestic violence center
- Annual Reporting

For organizations interested in furthering their involvement by ensuring their congregation is deemed safe and domestic violence-informed, the Sanctuary-Governance policy provides an opportunity for organizational leaders to complete strategic core curriculum.

Requirements:

- Minimum of one leader designated as a DV Chaplain
- Annual domestic violence awareness events
- Annual congregational missional engagement
- Annual engagement with their local, certified domestic violence center
- Training offerings for members

### **3. Community Connections**

All faith leaders can engage in community-level networking and discussion related to domestic violence. Participants are offered quarterly communities of practice meetings (statewide/regional workgroups) and coordinated community faith-based subcommittees. The purpose of this tier is to broaden community engagement of faith leaders with multidisciplinary partners focused on the reduction of domestic violence.

Key events included the first in-person designation training in Jacksonville in May of 2025 to designate interested faith leaders and a Spanish-language session with Nuevo Sendero in June 2025. Ongoing engagement is supported through monthly Office Hours, quarterly info sessions, and workgroup workshops. Faith institution outreach and toolkit distribution continue to build local relationships and awareness.

To further support accessibility, ODV is developing multilingual, printed materials, including flyers, a resource map, and a partner directory, to reach communities with limited digital access. Looking ahead, SafeSpace will expand designation trainings, introduce virtual options for rural and disaster-impacted areas, and deepen collaboration with community provider organizations.

Safe Space has expanded its network to 206 active stakeholders as of July 2025, representing a 78 percent increase from FY 2023-24 to FY 2024-25. Outreach efforts included more than 590 introductory contacts, virtual meetings, and presentations with active stakeholders and interested parties, reaching thousands across the state. The ODV also provided technical assistance to the Governor's Faith Office and co-hosted statewide calls to strengthen partnerships between faith leaders and certified domestic violence centers.

Faith-based communities are an integral part of a community's response and prevention of domestic violence. These partners not only provide support for their community, they also facilitate optimal opportunities for impact across the lifespan from youth and kids' programs, marital and

partners groups, and groups for individuals to address a variety of life challenges. The Department is committed to connecting individuals in crisis with these pillars of resiliency to best support survivors, perpetrators, and their families as they seek safety.

For additional information about the Safe Space Initiative, please visit the Department's page at <https://myflfamilies.com/safespace>.

## **Prevention Initiative**

Aligned with the Department's priorities, the ODV aims to reduce incidences of domestic violence by focusing on upstream prevention and intervening at the earliest points of impact. Primary and secondary prevention initiatives are designed to prevent both perpetration and victimization by addressing risk and protective factors across the socioecological model. Through the implementation of evidence-informed strategies at both the state and local levels, Florida continues to advance efforts to reduce the prevalence of domestic violence. These efforts include expanding access to healthy relationship education, parenting workshops, and other community-based prevention initiatives. The overarching goal is to increase awareness and strengthen protective factors that make violence less likely to occur.

At the local level, providers have prioritized youth leadership and community partnerships as key components of violence prevention and intervention efforts. Certified domestic violence centers receive funding to develop, implement, and evaluate prevention strategies tailored to the unique needs of their communities. These strategies often include collaboration with Community Action Teams, delivery of local trainings, and engagement with key stakeholders to promote sustainable change.

Examples include:

- Youth-led initiatives, such as school-based peer education programs that promote healthy relationships and challenge harmful norms.
- Collaborative workshops with faith leaders, healthcare providers, and educators to strengthen coordinated responses to domestic violence.
- Community events that raise awareness and foster dialogue around prevention, including town halls, resource fairs, and community specific outreach campaigns.

Each certified domestic violence center develops its own strategic plan grounded in local context, with a focus on enhancing partnerships and engaging individuals and groups within their communities. These plans reflect a commitment to long-term prevention through education, empowerment, and inclusive collaboration.

In FY 2024-25, certified domestic violence centers were encouraged to broaden the scope of their primary prevention programming to include:

- Bystander empowerment
- Parenting skills and family enrichment programs
- Programs for men and boys
- Economic self-sufficiency

While primary prevention efforts have traditionally focused on youth, particularly those in high school or younger, effective prevention requires a comprehensive, community-wide approach. Engaging individuals across all age groups and roles strengthens the overall impact of prevention strategies.

As a result of this expanded focus, the Department has observed a significant increase in statewide capacity for domestic violence primary prevention. More individuals are engaging in prevention programming, training, and events, supported by certified domestic violence centers through initiatives such as youth education, professional development, and community-based outreach. These efforts reflect a growing infrastructure and commitment to preventing violence before it occurs.

In FY 2024-25, Florida continued to advance a comprehensive approach to preventing Intimate Partner Violence (IPV) through initiatives aligned with the socioecological model. This marked the third consecutive year the ODV used a standardized reporting tool to document provider-level prevention activities across four focus areas: youth engagement, community action, social change, and capacity building.

Individual-level efforts centered on equipping youth and caregivers with the skills needed to foster healthy relationships and recognize early warning signs of IPV. Community action initiatives strengthened partnerships with school, healthcare providers, law enforcement, and local organizations to support coordinated prevention efforts. Social change activities focused on shifting societal norms through public awareness campaigns, public advocacy, and leadership development. Capacity building efforts enhanced organizational and community readiness through training, resource development, and infrastructure support to improve IPV prevention and survivor support.

Together, these initiatives reflect Florida's continued commitment to fostering safe, healthier communities statewide.

#### Prevention Engagement Activities Statewide

<b>Individual Engagement</b> (Youth and/or Adults)	Number of Events	4,043
	Number of Attendees	95,834
<b>Community Action</b>	Number of Events	1,933
	Number of Attendees	166,869
<b>Social Change</b>	Number of Events	2,558
	Number of Attendees	143,708
<b>Capacity Building</b>	Number of Events	1,352
	Number of Attendees	41,913
<b>Statewide Total</b>	<b>Number of Events</b>	<b>9,886</b>
	<b>Number of Attendees</b>	<b>448,324</b>

## Supportive Housing Services

In FY 2024-25, the ODV launched a \$10 million Statewide Supportive Housing Initiative, made possible through a Legislative appropriation received in FY 2023-24 as part of a Department Legislative Budget Request. The initiative is designed to expand access to safe, stable housing for survivors while aligning with broader state housing priorities.

All certified domestic violence centers accessed the available funds, which were allocated using the established domestic violence center funding formula. This funding was designated exclusively for certified centers providing rental assistance, transitional housing, and flexible financial support. The full \$10 million allocation has been obligated, and coordination with Continuums of Care has improved survivor access to housing. Key accomplishments include statewide implementation of the additional housing funding, provider training, and the rollout of standardized tools and technical assistance. Quarterly office hours were launched in FY 2025-26 to support certified domestic violence centers in continued capacity building.

During FY 2024-25, certified centers achieved the following outcomes through Supportive Housing Services funding:

- Provided services to 5,150 adult survivors and 5,311 children, including the following direct funding supports and services for eligible program areas:
  - **Rental Assistance:** Financial support for short- or long-term rental costs, including security deposits, rental arrears, and ongoing rent payments.
  - **Relocation Assistance:** Support for expenses related to moving to a safer location, such as transportation, moving services, and initial housing setup.
  - **Utility Assistance:** Payment of essential utilities (e.g., electricity, water, gas) to help maintain housing stability.
  - **Flexible Financial Support for Housing Stability:** Survivor-directed assistance to address urgent housing-related needs, including furniture, minor repairs, or accessibility modifications.
- Connected 10,863 survivors to community support services, including access to economic assistance.
- Staff supported through this funding participated in 361 training units focused on housing, credit repair, and other survivor-centered topics.
- Participated in 218 HUD Continuum of Care meetings to support coordinated housing and service delivery for survivors.

## Federal and State Funding

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

The primary source of state funding for domestic violence emergency shelters, services, programs, and training is from state general revenue. The DVTF/GR amount allocated to certified centers was \$29,263,617 in FY 2024-25. These funds are distributed to Florida's 41 certified domestic

violence centers to provide critical, life-saving programs and services to domestic violence survivors and their children. The DVTF is funded from a portion of fees for both marriage licenses and filing for dissolution of marriage, and fines for domestic violence crime convictions.

As a separate project, the Department administered funds to the certified domestic violence centers for the CPI Project to create programming to address the complexities associated with the needs of families in the child welfare system experiencing domestic violence. Of the total DVTF/GR funds, the amount allocated to local centers for the CPI Project was \$3,909,235 during FY 2024-25.

### **Domestic Violence Diversion Program**

Recognizing that survivors of domestic violence may need temporary economic assistance to escape a violent partner, federal and state lawmakers created the Domestic Violence Diversion Program. Florida's program is modeled on the Family Violence Prevention and Services Act (FVPSA) and provides support services to survivors unable to temporarily participate in training or work requirements due to safety considerations or the residual effects of domestic violence. The Department allocated \$7,750,000 in federal funds to certified domestic violence centers during FY 2024-25 to support this effort.

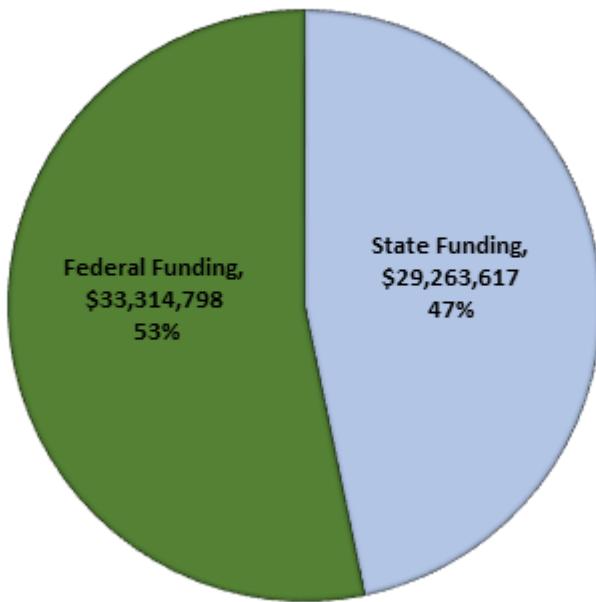
### **Family Violence Prevention and Services Act (FVPSA) Grant Program**

FVPSA is the only federal funding dedicated specifically for domestic violence centers for the operation of emergency shelter and other critical services and is distributed through a state formula. The amount allocated to local centers was \$10,713,607 (\$8,674,542 from FVPSA and \$2,039,065 from FVPSA American Rescue Plan (ARP)). FVPSA requires GR Match, which is included in the GR total as stated previously in the DVTF and GR section. The GR Match for FVPSA totaled \$2,168,636 for FY 2024-25. The grant program also provides funding to state coalitions for the provision of training and technical assistance to member programs to ensure quality of service provision to survivors and their children. The FVPSA ARP is a supplemental grant award that provides states, tribes, and local domestic violence and sexual assault programs with flexible funding for shelter, temporary housing, and supportive services. This funding was available through September 2025.

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

The Department administered an annual formula grant, VAWA STOP, provided by the United States Department of Justice Office on Violence Against Women. The amount allocated to local providers was \$8,550,244 during FY 2024-25 and was distributed through a competitive procurement process. The STOP grant promotes a coordinated, multidisciplinary approach to enhancing advocacy and improving the criminal justice system's response to violent crimes against women. Federal regulations require the funding to be allocated geographically based on identified needs and availability of resources.

## Funding Sources FY 2024-2025



FY 2024-25 Total Funding: \$62,578,415

### Florida Partnership to End Domestic Violence (FPEDV)

The Florida Partnership to End Domestic Violence (FPEDV) was formed in 2020 to support certified domestic violence centers across the state. In September 2022, the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), Administration for Children and Families, designated FPEDV as Florida's federally recognized state domestic violence coalition. In this role, FPEDV provides education, support, and technical assistance to domestic violence centers and serves as the state's information clearinghouse under the Family Violence Prevention and Services Act (FVPSA). The coalition is required to maintain a membership that includes a majority of Florida's certified domestic violence centers and to share resources and best practices statewide.

In FY 2022-23, the Department administered a \$500,000 legislatively awarded member project contract to FPEDV to support start-up costs, including hiring personnel; this funding did not support direct service delivery. The Department provided an additional \$500,000 in FY 2023-24 to further build FPEDV's capacity to coordinate statewide service improvements and deliver essential training and technical assistance to Florida's 41 certified domestic violence centers and their staff.

In FY 2024-25, FPEDV expanded its training offerings to better support its member centers, with a focus on proactive planning for organizational growth and innovation in service delivery. In June 2025, FPEDV hosted its second statewide Prevention Summit, themed "*Engage, Empower, Transform.*" The Summit convened changemakers from across Florida to explore innovative approaches to domestic violence prevention, including youth-centered storytelling, sustainable

partnerships, and survivor engagement through technology. FPEDV is also conducting a statewide needs assessment, as required by FVPSA, which mandates completion of such assessments every three to five years.

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

FLDVC was awarded funding through a competitive Invitation to Negotiate (ITN) to provide comprehensive support services, including training and technical assistance, to certified domestic violence centers and community partners. These services also seek to improve intervention and prevention strategies in addressing domestic violence, legal services through designated projects, as well as managing the 24-hour crisis hotline call center operations of the Florida Domestic Violence Hotline.

## **Statewide Domestic Violence Fatality Review Teams**

The mission of the Statewide Domestic Violence Fatality Review Teams<sup>6</sup> is to identify statewide trends, systemic gaps, and potential solutions that increase safety and justice for survivors and their children, strengthen perpetrator accountability through coordinated community responses, and reduce the likelihood of future domestic violence fatalities.

Fatality Review Teams operate under sections 741.316<sup>7</sup> and 741.3165, F.S.<sup>8</sup> and develop a comprehensive timeline of events leading up to a fatal incident to examine agency and system involvement, coordination and response. Based on this analysis, teams develop recommendations to improve future prevention and intervention efforts. All teams adhere to statutory confidentiality requirements and public records exemptions when reviewing fatality-related information, ensuring that members can engage in open and candid discussions about the circumstances surrounding each case.

Statewide and local fatality review teams are statutorily required to include representation from a broad range of stakeholders. These include law enforcement, the State Attorney's Office, medical examiners, certified domestic violence centers, child protection service providers, the Office of State Courts Administration, local clerks of court, victim services programs, child death review teams, members of the business community, county probation or correction agencies, and other individuals with expertise related to domestic violence fatalities, nonlethal domestic violence incidents, or suicide. This includes those with backgrounds in research, policy or law. Additional representatives may be included as determined necessary by each review team.

An innovative approach to service delivery integrates awareness of high-risk indicators for lethality with primary and secondary prevention strategies. Applying knowledge of coercive control and recognizing high-risk lethality indicators can reshape responses to the needs of those served by strengthening perpetrator accountability and enhancing safety measures for survivors and their children. Each interaction or point of contact with families presents an opportunity to deliver trauma-informed, accessible services that may ultimately help prevent future homicides.

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<sup>6</sup> [Fatality Review Teams | Florida DCF](#)

<sup>7</sup> [Statutes & Constitution :View Statutes : Online Sunshine](#)

<sup>8</sup> [Statutes & Constitution :View Statutes : Online Sunshine](#)

## Domestic Violence Fatality Review — Key Highlights (FY 2024-25)

Demographics
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>85% of victims were female; 90% of perpetrators were male.</li><li>Average age: Victims — 47, Perpetrators — 46.6.</li><li>Majority of victims and perpetrators were White/Caucasian and Non-Hispanic/Non-Latino.</li></ul>

Perpetrator Characteristics
Behavioral Risk Factors
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>30% of perpetrators had known mental health conditions.</li><li>50% of perpetrators had a history of substance abuse.</li><li>45% of perpetrators died by suicide following the fatality.</li><li>25% of perpetrators used weapons as a form of control.</li></ul>
Criminal History
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>40% of perpetrators had prior domestic violence against the victim.</li><li>55% of perpetrators had non-domestic criminal records.</li><li>100% of surviving perpetrators were arrested for the homicide.</li></ul>
Legal Protections
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>35% of perpetrators had criminal no-contact orders issued against them by the victim in connection with prior domestic violence incidents.</li><li>25% of perpetrators had civil protection petitions filed against them by individuals other than the victim in the reviewed case.</li><li>10% of perpetrators made death threats; 5% had prior attempts to kill the victim.</li></ul>

Fatality Circumstances
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>40% of victims had previously expressed intent to leave.</li><li>25% of victims were in new relationships at the time of the fatality.</li><li>45% of victims had disclosed abuse to others before the fatality.</li></ul>

Manner of Death
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>65% of fatalities were caused by gunshot wounds.</li><li>Most victims were in current intimate relationships (60%) or married (30%).</li></ul>

Impact on Children
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>30% of victims had children living in the home.</li><li>83% of those children witnessed or were present during the fatality.</li><li>80% of children were placed with relatives; 20% with the Department.</li><li>50% of cases involved child abuse allegations against the perpetrator; 67% of those were founded.</li></ul>

The Domestic Violence Fatality Review Teams across Florida have identified and proposed a series of strategic activities aimed at reducing and preventing domestic violence-related fatalities statewide. These proposed activities are outlined below and reflect key priorities for coordinated prevention, intervention, and system-level improvements.

Additional information related to the Statewide Domestic Violence Fatality Review Team data can be found in Appendix B.

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## Strengthen Victim Advocacy and Support Services

- Maintain dedicated funding for police-based victim advocates to support survivors and families, including access to Victim Compensation funding and grief counseling services.
- Expand trauma-informed services and follow-up case management for children impacted by domestic violence fatalities.
- Improve documentation and tracking of survivor service referrals and outcomes.

## Enhance Community Coordination and Crisis Response

- Expand participation in Coordinated Community Response (CCR) teams for community-wide preparedness.
- Implement inter-agency training and resource-sharing among law enforcement, victim services, and community partners.
- Increase coordination between the State Attorney's Office, the Department, and law enforcement to improve case response and service delivery.

## Improve Public Awareness and Education

- Launch targeted campaigns to raise awareness of stalking as a high-risk lethality indicator, including the use of technology (e.g., GPS tracking).
- Promote education for individuals exposed to domestic violence in their families, emphasizing available resources and support.
- Increase outreach to communities and survivors, including education on legal remedies and services.

## Expand Legal and Safety Protections

- Provide legal assistance for survivors seeking restraining orders and final injunctions for stalking and domestic violence.
- Advocate for mental health screening requirements for firearm and ammunition purchases.
- Conduct cross-training between injunction attorneys and the State Attorney's Office to improve understanding of injunction procedures and limitations.
- Promote firearm safety education, and increase awareness of safety apps available to survivors.

## Address Perpetrator Risk and System Gaps

- Increase awareness of high-risk indicators, including jealousy, possessiveness, stalking, and untreated mental illness.
- Improve coordination with behavioral health facilities to ensure risk assessments and discharge planning for individuals with violent histories.
- Educate workplaces to recognize and report threats or warning signs of violence.
- Analyze civil and traffic infraction trends among perpetrators to identify patterns linked to domestic violence.

## Promote Prevention Through School-Based Education

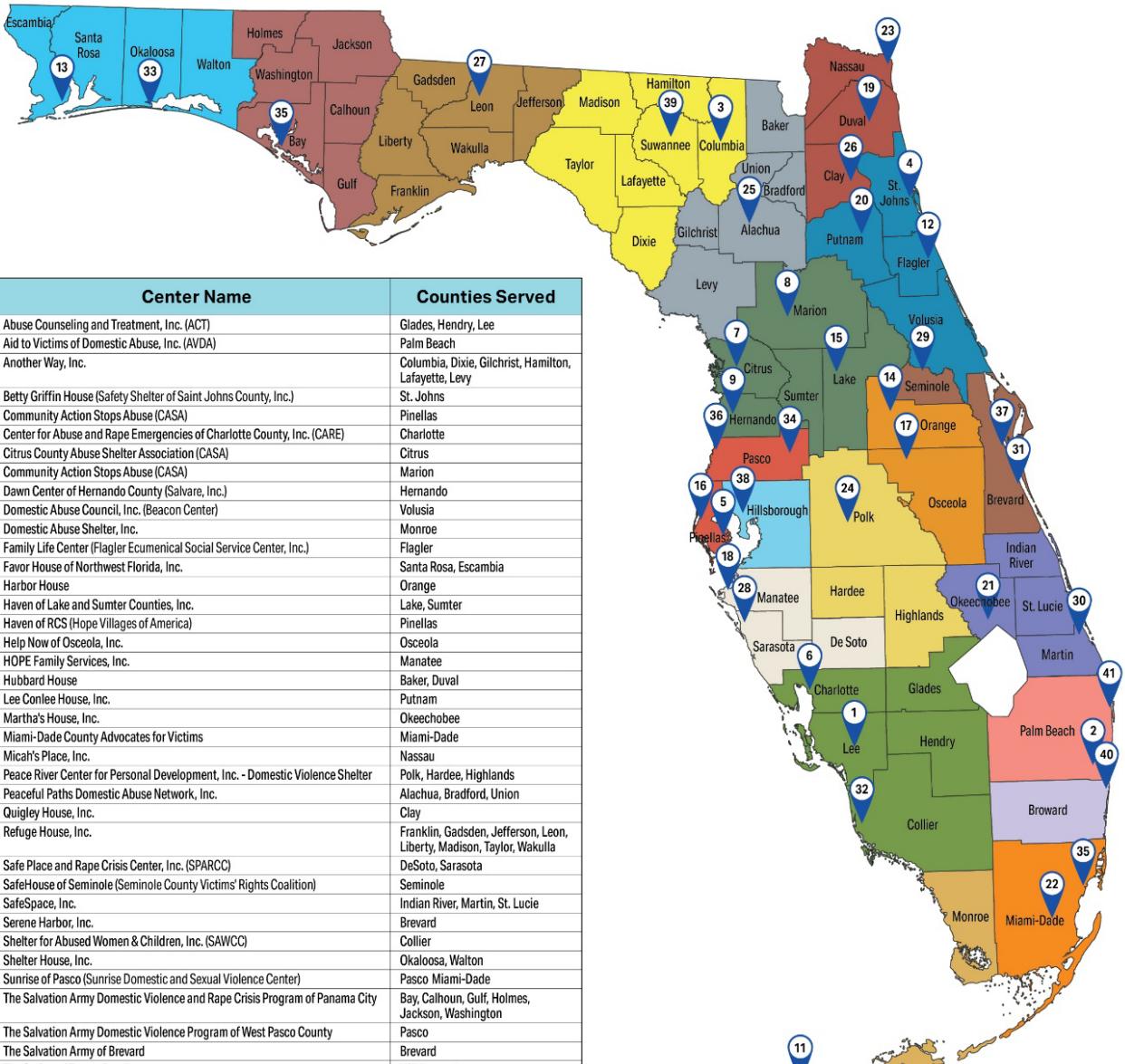
- Implement a county-wide educational awareness program in schools based on the "Framework for Developing School Policies to Address Domestic Violence, Dating Violence, Sexual Assault, and Stalking."
- Integrate prevention education into core subjects (e.g., English, Social Studies, Health), creative arts, and extracurricular activities.
- Train educators, coaches, and staff to model and promote healthy relationships.
- Begin prevention early in adolescence, when peer and societal influences are most impactful.

## Appendix A

### Florida's Certified Domestic Violence Centers



## Domestic Violence Centers



Information current as of December 2025

## Appendix B

### Florida Fatality Review Team Data

The figures in this report present an overview of cases selected by the fatality review teams of fatal or near-fatal domestic violence incidents across the State of Florida. The teams reviewed these incidents during FY 2024-25.

It is important to note that the existing research related to known risk factors is based on cases of intimate partner femicide, which are male perpetrated homicides of their female partners. Therefore, information on the breakdown of known risk factors contains data related to 20 deaths that teams identified as resulting from intimate partner homicide.

#### Description of Findings

The descriptive statistics in this report are based on information that fatality review teams obtained from reviewing domestic violence homicides in their communities. The reviews may include both intimate partner homicides and other domestic violence-related deaths. The data points are based on information collected from 20 reviews submitted by local teams. In some instances, however, statistics may be based on different totals, resulting from either non-applicability or information otherwise unavailable. Therefore, the totals may not always equal the total sum of 100. Additionally, one review that is included in the basic demographics is left out of the fatality analysis due to the fatality being determined to have been in self-defense<sup>9</sup>. The total number of cases used to calculate each statistic is provided in parentheses.

#### Survivor Demographics

##### Victim Gender:

Female	85% (17 cases)
Male	15% (3 cases)

Victim Average Age: 47 (minimum age of 18, maximum age of 86, 20 total cases)

Survivor Race	Number	Percent
White/Caucasian	13	65%
Black/African American	7	35%
<b>Total</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>100%</b>

Survivor Ethnicity	Number	Percent
Non-Hispanic/Non-Latino	14	70%
Hispanic/Latino	5	25%
<b>Not provided/unknown</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>5%</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>100%</b>

<sup>9</sup> This determination was made by Law Enforcement prior to the review.

## **Perpetrator Demographics**

### **Perpetrator Gender:**

Male	90% (18 cases)
Female	10% (2 cases)

Perpetrator Average Age: 46.6 (minimum age of 20, maximum age of 83, 20 total cases)

### **Perpetrator to Victim Gender:**

Male perpetrator/ female victim	85% (17 cases)
Male perpetrator/ male victim	5% (1 case)
Female perpetrator/ male victim	10% (2 cases)
<b>Total</b>	100% (20 cases)

Perpetrator Race	Number	Percent
White/Caucasian	10	50%
Black/African American	9	45%
Asian	1	5%
<b>Total</b>	20	100%

Perpetrator Ethnicity	Number	Percent
Non-Hispanic/Non-Latino	16	80%
Hispanic/Latino	3	15%
Not provided/unknown	1	5%
<b>Total</b>	20	100%

## **Perpetrator Characteristics**

### **Mental Health:**

- 30% (6 of 20) of perpetrators were thought to have a mental health condition and/or received mental health treatment (based on various sources, including police records, court documents and personal narratives from self, family members or friends).

### **Suicidality:**

- 45% (9 of 20) of perpetrators died by suicide.
- None (0 of 20) of the perpetrators were known to have made threats of suicide prior to the fatality.

### **Substance Abuse:**

- 50% (10 of 20) of perpetrators had a history of substance abuse (based on various sources, including police records, court documents, and personal narratives from family members, or friends).

### **Possession of Weapons:**

- 25% (5 of 20) of perpetrators were known to carry or possess a weapon in such a way that it was used as a means of power and control.

## **Criminal and Domestic Violence History**

### **Criminal History:**

- 40% (8 of 20) of perpetrators had a known history of domestic violence against the victim based on criminal records and narrative reports.
- 20% (4 of 20) of perpetrators had a known history of domestic violence toward other survivors/victims.
- 55% (11 of 20) of perpetrators had known non-domestic violence related criminal history.

### **Criminal Charges:**

- 60% (12 of 20) of family members reported knowing about prior incidents or prior threats of domestic violence by the perpetrator toward the victim.
- 100% (11 of 11) of perpetrators were arrested for the homicide/attempted homicide of the victim/survivor\*
  - \*The total number does not include homicides in which the perpetrator died by suicide.

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

- 20% (4 of 20) of perpetrators exhibited alleged stalking behavior as defined by section 784.08, F.S.
- 5% (1 of 20) of perpetrators exhibited alleged stalking behavior<sup>10</sup> that did not meet the statutory requirements of 748.08.

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<sup>10</sup> This determination was made by the Fatality Review Team based on their comprehensive assessment, which included police records and testimony provided by the victim's family and friends.

- 35% (7 of 20) of perpetrators had a known criminal order of no-contact for any domestic violence cases issued against them.
- 5% (1 of 20) of perpetrators had a known civil order of protection filed against them by the victim.
  - When an injunction was filed, no perpetrators had a permanent injunction issued against them by the court.
- 25% (5 of 20) of perpetrators had a known petition for a civil order of protection filed against them by an individual other than the victim.
- No perpetrators (0 of 13) had evidence of an arrest connected to a violation of an injunction for protection by the victim.

**Threats:**

- 10% (2 of 20) of perpetrators made death threats to the victim prior to the fatality<sup>11</sup>.
- 5% (1 of 20) of the perpetrators were known to have previously attempted to kill the victim prior to the fatality.

**Characteristics of the Fatality:**

- 40% (8 of 20) of victims expressed an intention to leave the perpetrator in the past.
- 10% (2 of 20) of victims expressed an intention to leave the perpetrator at the time of the fatality.
- 20% (4 of 20) of victims and perpetrators were in the process of ending the relationship at the time of the fatality.
- 20% (4 of 20) of victims and perpetrators were known to have ended the relationship prior to the fatality incident (i.e., they were separated or divorced). Out of the four victims and perpetrators that ended the relationship, one ended between six months to a year, and three ended less than three months prior to the fatality incident.
- At the time of the fatality, 25% (5 of 20) of victims were known to be in a new relationship.
- At the time of the fatality, 15% (3 of 20) of perpetrators were known to be in a new relationship.
- 45% (9 of 20) of fatalities included prior reports of domestic violence to family, friends, coworkers, or community members by the victim alleging domestic violence by the perpetrator.

Manner of Death (or attempt)	Number	Percent
Homicide-gunshot	13	65%
Homicide-stabbing	3	15%
Homicide-beating	1	5%
Other (not specified in data)	1	5%
Homicide-strangulation	1	5%
Attempted homicide-beating	1	5%
<b>Total</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>100%</b>

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<sup>11</sup> This determination was made by the Fatality Review Team based on their comprehensive assessment, which included police records and testimony provided by the victim's family and friends.

Relationship Type	Number	Percent
Intimate partner (unmarried)	12	60%
Spouse	6	30%
Former spouse	1	5%
Former intimate partner (unmarried)	1	5%
<b>Total</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>100%</b>

Relationship Length	Number	Percent
20 years or more	6	30%
10 years to less than 20 years	1	5%
Five years to less than 10 years	2	10%
One year to less than five years	5	25%
Six months to less than one year	3	15%
Less than six months	2	10%
Unknown	1	5%
<b>Total</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>100%</b>

## Impact on Children

### **Children in the Home:**

- 30% (6 of 20) of victims had children living in the home at the time of the fatal or near-fatal incident.
- When children were living in the victim's home, the breakdown is as follows:
  - 17% of households with children had one child (1 of 6).
  - 50% of households with children had two children (3 of 6).
  - 33% of households with children had 4 children (2 of 6).

### **Relationship to Children:**

- 100% (6 of 6) of victims were known to be the parent to at least one of these children.

### **Children as Witnesses:**

- In 83% of the cases where children were known to reside in the home (5 out of 6 reviews), surviving minor children were either direct witnesses to or present during the fatality incident.<sup>12</sup>
- None (0 of 20) of victims were known to be pregnant at the time of the fatality.

### **Impact on Children:**

- 80% (4 of 5) of the reviews that included information on child placement after the fatal incident, children were placed in the homes of relatives-either of the victim or the perpetrator. This conclusion was based on documentation from police reports, court records, and personal accounts provide by family members and friends.
- 40% (2 of 5) of those placed with relatives were placed with a relative of the victim.

<sup>12</sup>

- Out of five reviews reporting child placement, 20% were placed with the Department through the Dependency system (1 of 5).
- Out of the six reviews involving children:
  - 50% (3 of 6) involved allegations of child abuse filed against the perpetrator prior to the fatal or near-fatal incident.
    - In the reviews involving child abuse allegations filed against the perpetrator, 67% (2 of 3) of the allegations were founded.
  - 67% (4 of 6) involved allegations of child abuse filed against the victim prior to the fatal or near-fatal incident.
    - In the only review involving child abuse allegations filed against the victim 100% (4 of 4) of the allegations were unfounded.