# **Domestic Violence Trends in New Mexico, 2005-2009**

## An Analysis of Data from The New Mexico Interpersonal Violence Data Central Repository

# ABRIDGED



Developed by Betty Caponera, Ph.D.

Funded by: Office of Injury Prevention Injury and Behavioral Epidemiology Bureau Epidemiology and Response Division New Mexico Department of Health Through the New Mexico Coalition of Sexual Assault Programs

## February 2011

#### New Mexico Interpersonal Violence Data Central Repository

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Letter from the Director...

For our 2010 domestic violence report we present *Domestic Violence Trends in New Mexico*, 2005-2009. We reviewed Central Repository domestic violence data for this five-year period to give perspective and context to the information reported. For instance, from 2005-2009 there was an average 22,885 cases of domestic violence a year reported to statewide law enforcement agencies. However, the 20,050 domestic violence incidents reported in 2009 represent a 29% decrease from the number reported in 2005 (28,256). This is great news! Some combination of statewide prevention, investigation, and prosecution efforts are working.

Additionally, there is evidence that the focus on continued training in our state for those professionals who respond to domestic violence is paying dividends. For instance, there has been significant training for law enforcement on identifying the *primary aggressor* in domestic violence incidents, determining the victim and the suspect in each case. There is evidence that law enforcement has significantly improved in this area. In 2005, a victim was identified in 66% of domestic violence incidents, while in 2009 more victims were identified than there were domestic violence incidents (114%). Similarly in 2005, a suspect was identified in 58% of domestic violence incidents, while in 2009 there was a suspect identified in 91% of domestic violence incidents.

More importantly, there is evidence that more domestic violence victims are aware that helping services exist and are seeking services. In 2005, those that went to statewide domestic violence service providers comprised only 30% of the number of domestic violence incidents reported for that year. In 2009 however, those that went for services comprised 43% of the number of incidents reported.

On behalf of myself and the Office of Injury Prevention, we thank you for your proven interest in the work we do and your consistent participation to make it all possible. Above all, we celebrate our statewide accomplishments in preventing and responding to domestic violence.

Sincerely,

Betty Ceponer

Betty Caponera, Ph.D. Director

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- > Pam Wiseman, NM Coalition Against Domestic Violence, Executive Director

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\* A special thanks to the chiefs, sheriff's, marshals, and records department staff of all the participating law enforcement agencies; executive directors and staff of the domestic violence service providers; and all data entry staff of the individual law enforcement agencies and district and magistrate courts, without whom this report would not be possible.

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## **DOMESTIC VIOLENCE TRENDS IN NEW MEXICO 2005-2009**

## I. INTRODUCTION

The Central Repository is supported by the State of New Mexico Department of Health, Office of Injury Prevention and Behavioral Health Services Division and the New Mexico Crime Victims Reparation Commission Violence Against Women STOP Grant Program. It was established in 1998 to house data submitted from a variety of agencies statewide (law enforcement, district and magistrate courts, and domestic violence service providers) that deal with the issue of domestic violence. In 2001, the Central Repository began capturing statewide sexual assault data, as well. To this end, data from rape crisis centers, statewide mental health centers and sexual assault nurse examiner units (SANEs) that provide services for sexual assault victims are also submitted to the Central Repository.

## **II. DEFINITIONS**

Domestic violence incidence as determined by law enforcement include all incidents of *assault*, *aggravated assault*, *battery*, and *aggravated battery* as outlined in the "Crimes Against Household Members Act" in statutes 30-3-10 through 3-3-16. Full definitions are found in **Appendix A**.

Data submitted from law enforcement agencies are used to determine statewide domestic violence reported incidence and the county rates of reported domestic violence. Data from each participating law enforcement agency were extracted from police offense incident reports and submitted in aggregate form on the standardized *Law Enforcement Domestic Violence Data Collection Form* (see **Appendix B**).

Domestic violence cases as determined by *domestic violence service providers* include all *adult victims* who are accepted as clients by the providers for delivery of services. Data on children victim-witnesses and offenders served by domestic violence service providers are also analyzed and presented herein. None of the cases served by the domestic violence service providers are considered in the county reported rates of incidence to avoid possible duplication of reporting. Data from each participating service provider agency were extracted from client intake information and submitted on the standardized *Domestic Violence Service Agencies Data Collection Form* (see **Appendix C**).

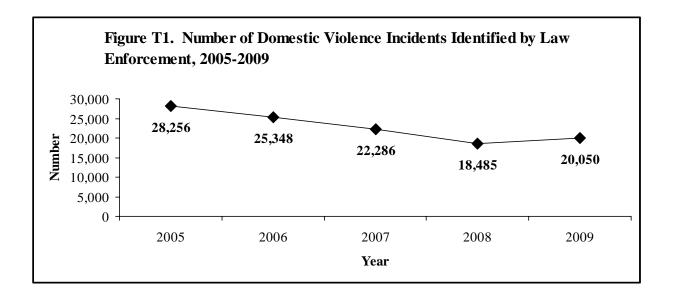
Domestic violence data from all *magistrate* and *district* courts include codes that capture *aggravated assault*, *aggravated battery*, *aggravated stalking*, *assault*, *battery*, *stalking* and *assault with intent to commit a violent felony*, all against a household member. These codes and the number of protection orders granted are extracted from the Administrative Office of the Courts Judicial Information System.

Currently, standardized data from each aforementioned discipline are submitted to the Central Repository on a quarterly basis. The data from the Central Repository analyzed for this report covers domestic violence data for the period 1/1/05 - 12/31/09.

## **III. FINDINGS**

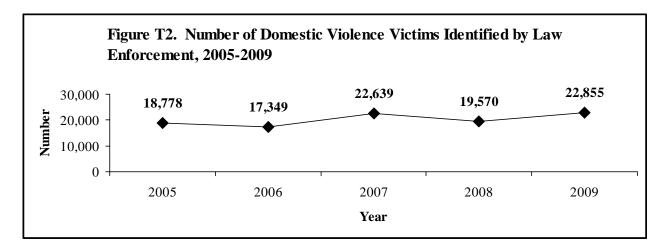
#### A. Law Enforcement Reported Domestic Violence Incidents

Between 2005 and 2009, an average 102 law enforcement agencies submitted domestic violence data to the Central Repository. In this time period, an average 22,885 cases of domestic violence came to the attention of statewide law enforcement agencies each year. The greatest number of domestic violence cases was reported to law enforcement in 2005 (28,256). This number decreased steadily until 2008 (18,485). There were 20,050 incidents of domestic violence reported by law enforcement agencies in 2009, an 8% increase over that reported in 2008. See **Figure T1**. However, 2008 data from the Albuquerque Police Department (APD) and Bernalillo County Sheriff's Office (BCSO) were incomplete due to the transition to a new records operating system; and it is unclear what proportion of the increase from 2008 to 2009 can be explained by this change.



#### **B.** Number and Gender of Victims

Between 2005 and 2009, law enforcement reported an average of 20,238 victims of domestic violence each year, with the greatest number of victims identified in 2009 (22,855). This represents a17% increase of victims over that reported in 2008 (19,570). Since 2008 data from APD and BCSO impact the statewide total of victim numbers in the same way they impact the number of domestic violence incidents, as explained earlier, this increase should be viewed with caution. However, the 22,855 victims identified by statewide law enforcement agencies in 2009, represents the greatest number of victims identified during the 5-year period analyzed. See **Figure T2**.

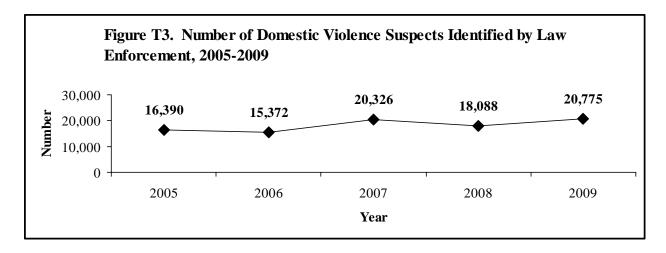


An average 72% of victims each year during this period were female.

#### C. Number and Gender of Suspects

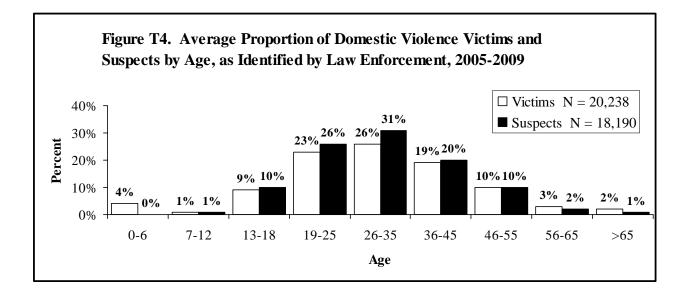
From 2005 to 2009, law enforcement reported an average of 18,190 suspects of domestic violence each year, with the greatest number of suspects identified in 2009 (20,775). This represents an increase of 15% over that reported in 2008 (18,088). Again, since 2008 data from APD and BCSO impact the statewide total of suspect numbers in the same way they impact the number of domestic violence incidents and victim identification, this increase should be viewed with caution. However, the 20,775 suspects identified by statewide law enforcement agencies in 2009, represents the greatest number of suspects identified during the 5-year period analyzed See **Figure T3**.

An average 76% of suspects each year during this period were male.



#### D. Victim Ages

The average age of most domestic violence victims identified by law enforcement from 2005-2009 was 26-35 (26%), followed by victims 19-25 (23%) and victims 36-45 (19%). See **Figure T4**. It is worth noting that there has been dramatic improvement in the number of law enforcement reports documenting victim ages. From 2005-2007 law enforcement reported victim ages on an average 52% of domestic violence victims. In 2008 and 2009, ages were reported on 84% and 80% of victims, respectively.

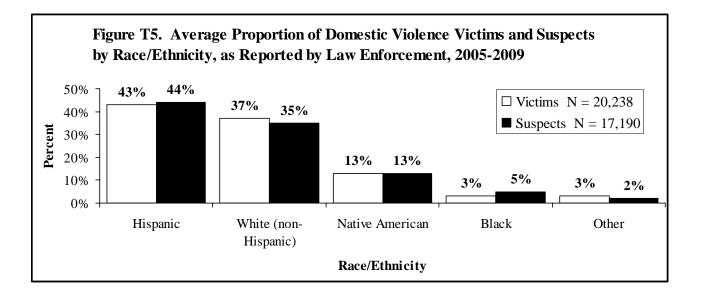


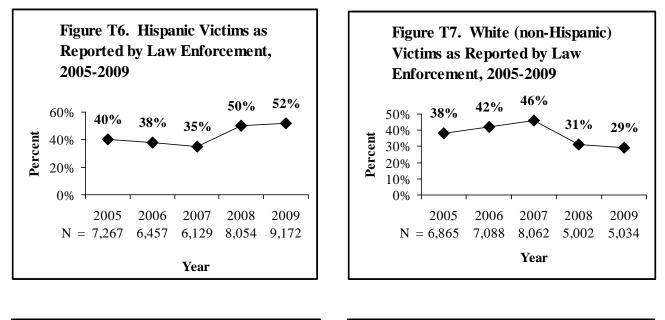
#### E. Suspect Ages

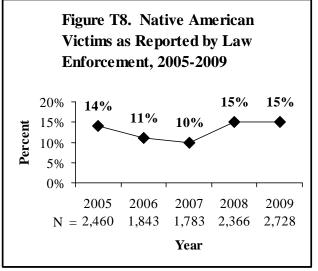
Similarly, the average age of most domestic violence suspects identified by law enforcement from 2005-2009 was 26-35 (31%), followed by suspects 19-25 (26%) and suspects 36-45 (20%). Refer to Figure T4. As found with victim identification, there has been dramatic improvement in the number of law enforcement reports documenting suspect ages. From 2005-2007, law enforcement reported suspect ages on an average 48% of domestic violence suspects. In 2008 and 2009, ages were reported on 83% and 80% of victims, respectively.

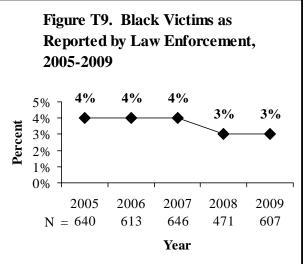
#### F. Victim Race/Ethnicity

Most domestic violence victims identified by law enforcement are *Hispanic*, an average 44% each year from 2005-2009, followed by *Whites (non-Hispanics)* (37%), *Native Americans* (13%), *Blacks* (3%) and victims of *other* races (3%). See **Figure T5.** There appear to be significant changes in the proportion of victims comprised by each race after 2007. See **Figures T6-T9**. This is explained more by a change in the capture of race/ethnicity in APD and BCSO records than by a change in the rate of domestic violence for each group. Starting in 2008, only the non-Hispanic victims that comprise each race are counted as such. Victims of Hispanic ethnicity of each race are counted as Hispanic. The race/ethnic designations are by self-report.



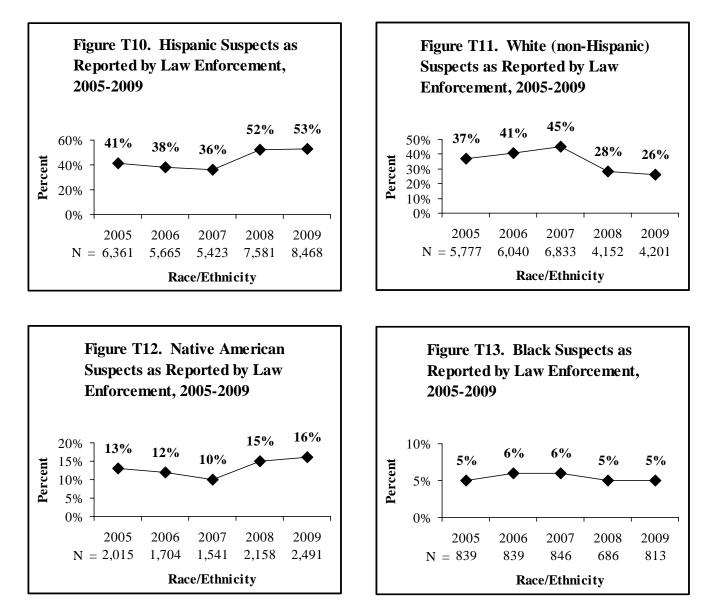






#### G. Suspect Race/Ethnicity

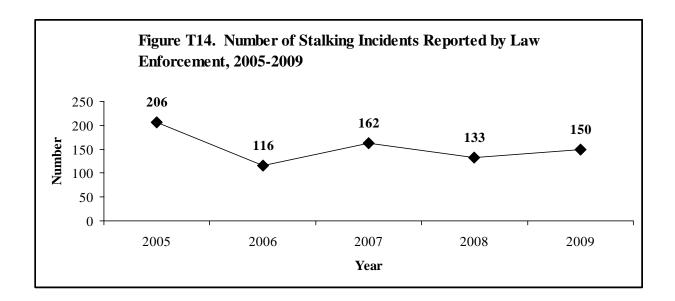
Similarly, most domestic violence suspects identified by law enforcement are *Hispanic*, an average 44% each year from 2005-2009, followed by *Whites (non-Hispanics)* (35%), *Native Americans* (13%), *Blacks* (5%) and victims of *other* races (2%). Refer to Figure T5. As with victim race/ethnicity, there appear to be significant changes in the proportion of suspects comprised by each race after 2007. See **Figures T10-T13**. Again, this is explained more by a change in the capture of race/ethnicity in APD and BCSO records than by a change in the rate of domestic violence for each group.



#### H. Stalking Incidents

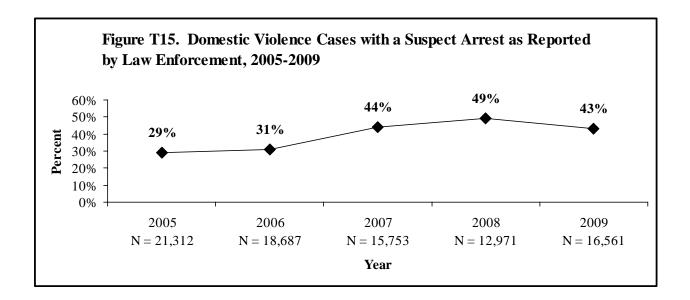
From 2005-2009, there was an average 153 stalking cases reported to law enforcement each year. The most stalking cases were reported in 2005 (206 or 1% of domestic violence incidents); and the fewest stalking cases reported in 2006 (116), less than 0.5% of domestic violence incidents). See **Figure T14**. It is worth noting that there is significant and inexplicable disparity between the number of stalking incidents reported to

law enforcement and the number that actually occur in New Mexico. In 2005, the *Statewide Survey of Violence Victimization* (SVV) found that 12 per 1000 adults (20 per 1000 women; and 4 per 1000 men) were stalked or approximately 17,177 victims. Further, the SVV found that 34% of stalking victims stated that they reported their victimization to law enforcement. Yet in 2005, law enforcement reported 206 stalking cases.



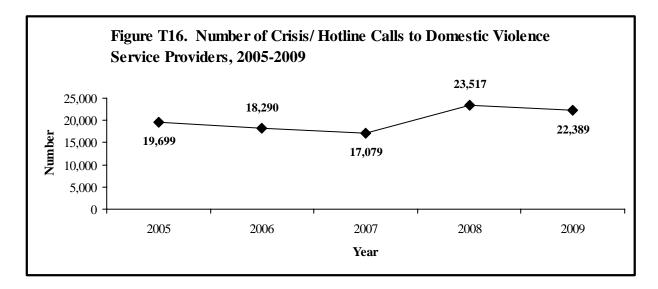
#### I. Suspect Arrests

Between 2005 and 2009 there was an average 39% of law enforcement reported domestic violence incidents that resulted in a suspect arrest. It is worth noting that the proportion of domestic violence incidents with a suspect arrest increased steadily and significantly from a low of 29% in 2005 to a high of 49% in 2008. In 2009, 43% of domestic violence incidents resulted in a suspect arrest. See **Figure T15**.



#### J. Crisis/Hotline Calls to Domestic Violence Service Providers

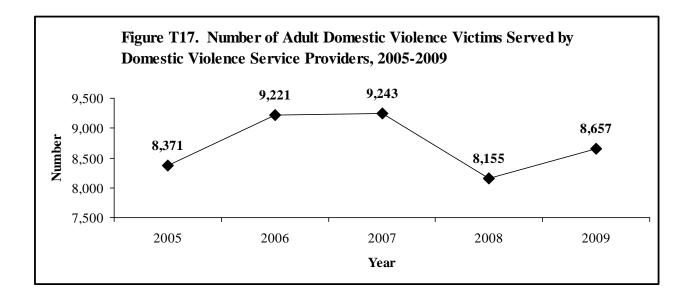
An average 20,192 crisis calls were handled by domestic violence service providers each year from 2005-2009. In 2008, there were 23,517 crisis calls, the most of any year, followed by 22,389 in 2009. See **Figure T16**.



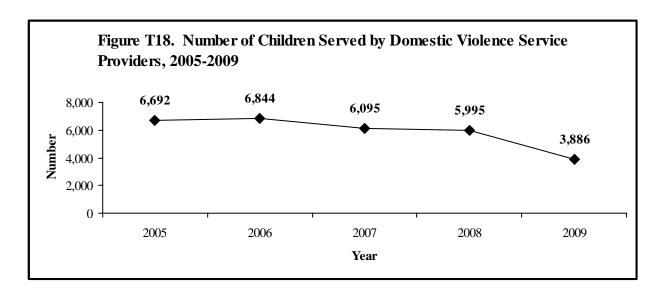
#### K. Adult Victims, Children, and Offenders Served by Domestic Violence Service Providers

There was an average of 8,729 domestic violence adult victims served each year from 2005-2009 by statewide domestic violence service providers. The number of victims served increased each year from 2005 (8,371) to 2007 (9243), but decreased significantly to 8,155 in 2008 before increasing again in 2009 (8,657). See **Figure T17**.

An average 93% of adult victims served each year from 2005-2009 were female.



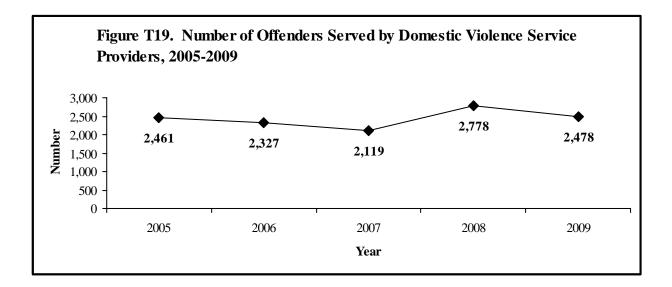
Between 2005 and 2009, an average 5,902 children were served by statewide domestic violence service providers. From a high in 2006 of 6,844 children served, the number of children decreased in each of the next three years. In 2009, a low of 3,886 children received services. See **Figure T18**.



An equal proportion of the children served each year (50%) were male and female.

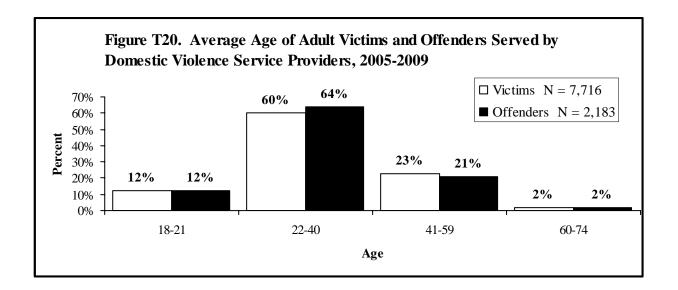
From 2005 to 2009 there was an average 2,433 offenders served by statewide domestic violence service providers. The number of offenders served decreased each year from 2,461 in 2005 to 2,119 in 2007. There was a significant increase in the number of offenders served in 2008 (2,778), but 2009 had an 11% decrease in the number of offenders served (2,478). See **Figure T19**.

An average 85% of offenders served each year from 2005-2009 were male.

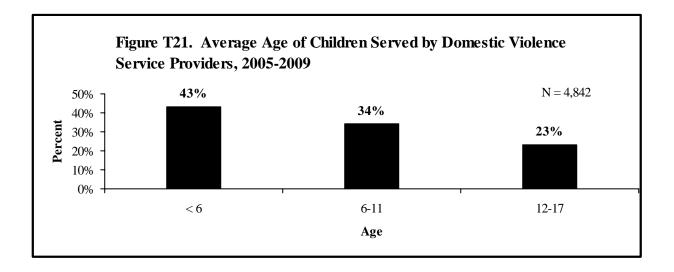


#### L. Ages of Adult Victims, Children, and Offenders Served by Domestic Violence Service Providers

The average age of most adult victims served by domestic violence service providers from 2005-2009 was 22-40 (60%), followed by victims 41-59 (23%) and victims 18-21 (12%). See **Figure T20**. Similarly, the average age of most offenders served by domestic violence service providers from 2005-2009 was 22-40 (64%), followed by offenders 41-59 (21%) and offenders 18-21 (12%). Offenders 60-74 comprised 2% of all offenders served. Refer to Figure T20.

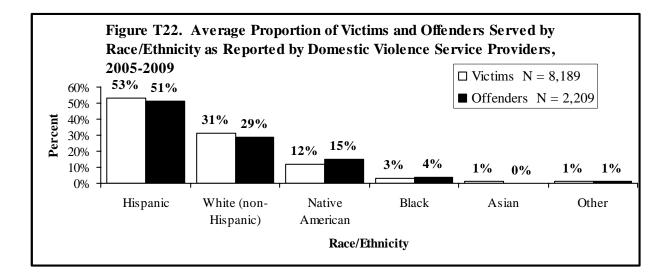


The average age of most children served by domestic violence service providers from 2005-2009 was <6 (43%), followed by children 6-11 (34%) and children 12-17 (23%). See Figure T21.



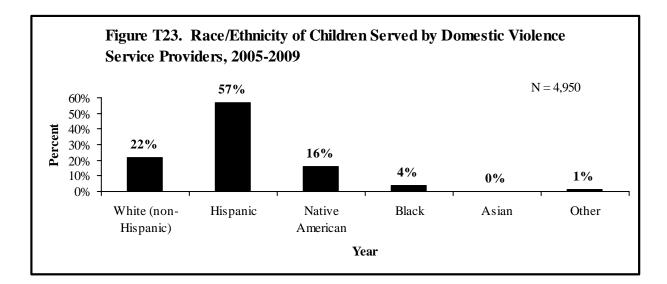
#### M. Race/Ethnicity of Adult Victims, Children, and Offenders Served by Domestic Violence Service Providers

Most adult victims served by domestic violence service providers are *Hispanic*, an average 53% each year from 2005-2009, followed by *Whites (non-Hispanics)* (31%), *Native Americans* (12%), *Blacks* (3%) and 1% respectively of *Asians* and victims of *other* races. See **Figure T22**. For adult victims, there were negligible differences from year-to-year in their representation among each of the races/ethnicities.

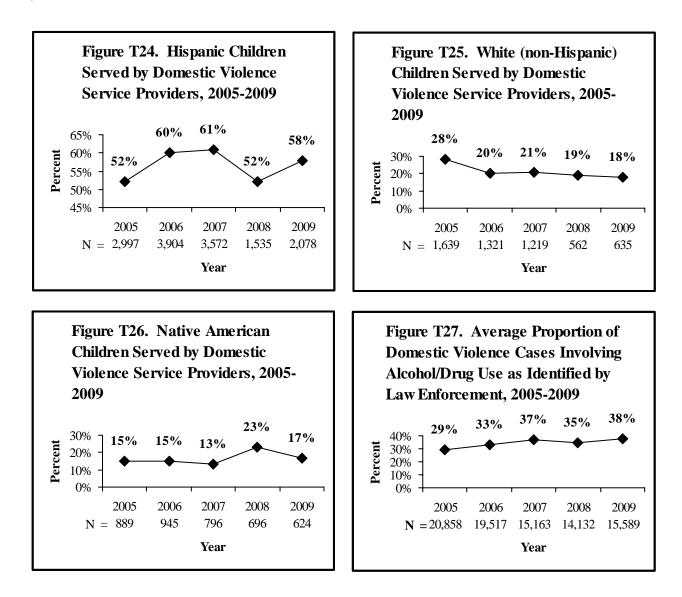


Similarly, most offenders served by domestic violence service providers are *Hispanic*, an average 51% each year from 2005-2009, followed by *Whites (non-Hispanics)* (29%), *Native Americans* (15%), *Blacks* (4%) and victims of *other* races (1%). Refer to Figure T22. For offenders, there were negligible differences from year-to-year in their representation among each of the races/ethnicities.

Between 2005 and 2009, most children served by domestic violence service providers were *Hispanic* (57%), followed by *White (non-Hispanics)* (22%), *Native Americans* (16%), *Blacks* (4%) and children of *other* races (1%). See **Figure T23**.



There was significant fluctuation in the races/ethnicities of the children served from 2005-2009 among *Hispanic*, *White (non-Hispanic)* and *Native American* children. The proportion of *Hispanic* children served ranged from a high in 2007 (61%) to a low 52% respectively in 2005 and 2008. See **Figure T24**. The proportion of *White (non-Hispanic)* children served ranged from a high in 2005 (28%) to a low of 18% in 2009 (see **Figure T25**). The proportion of *Native American* children served ranged from a low in 2007 (13%) to a high in 2008 (23%). See **Figure T26**.

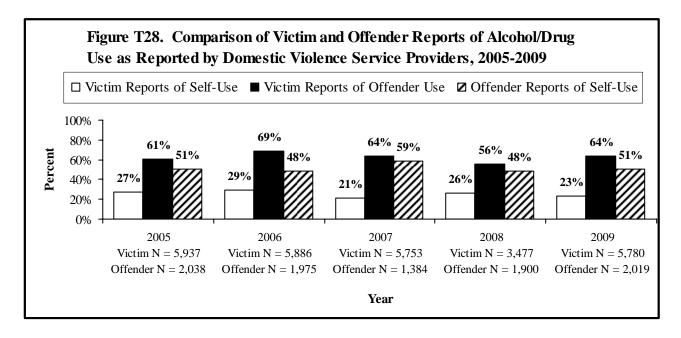


#### N. Domestic Violence and Alcohol/Drug Use

From 2005-2009, an average one-third (34%) of domestic violence incidents reported by law enforcement involved alcohol/drug use. Alcohol/drug use increased each year from 2005 (29%) to 2007 (37%), decreased slightly in 2008 (35%) and increased to its highest level in 2009 (38%). See **Figure T27**.

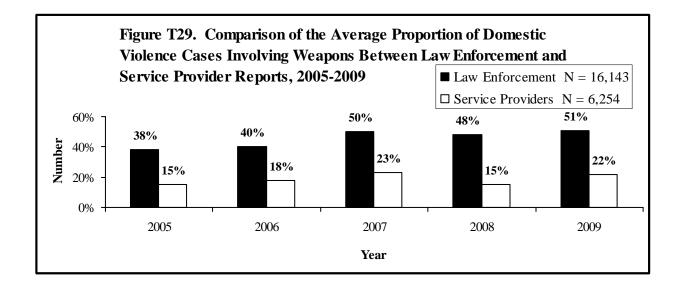
One-quarter (25%) of the adult victims served by domestic violence service providers each year from 2005-2009 reported using alcohol/drugs during their domestic violence incident. The greatest proportion of adult victims using alcohol/drugs was in 2006 (29%), while the fewest using alcohol/drugs was reported in

2009 (23%). See **Figure T28**. Adult victim and offenders report significant differences in offender alcohol/drug use. Adult victims reported an average two-thirds (63%) of their offenders used alcohol/drugs during their domestic violence incidents between 2005 and 2009, with the highest proportion of victim reported offender use in 2006 (69%). Conversely, offender reports of self-use found an average 51% of offenders reported using alcohol/drugs each year during their domestic violence incidents. Refer to Figure T28.



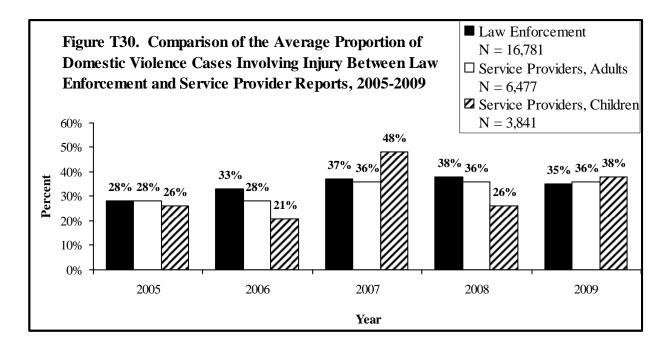
#### O. Domestic Violence and Weapon Use

Law Enforcement reported an average 45% of domestic violence incidents each year from 2005-2009 involved a weapon. Weapon use was the highest in 2009 (51%) which is a significant increase (13%) from 2005 (38%). See **Figure T29**. An average 7% of domestic violence incidents each year involved a *knife*, and 3% each year involved a *gun*. By contrast, adult victims served by domestic violence service providers reported an average 19% of their cases involved a weapon. Refer to Figure T29.



#### P. Injury from Domestic Violence Incidents

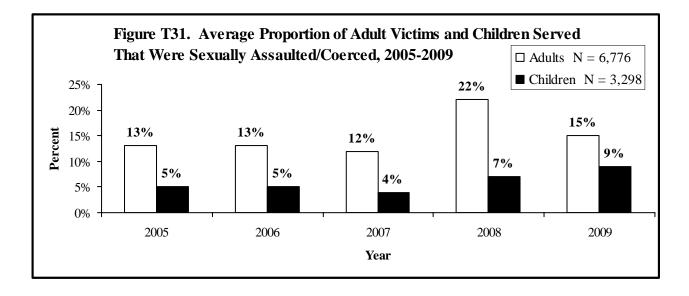
Law Enforcement reported an average 34% of domestic violence incidents resulted in victim injury. There was a 7% increase in the percent of domestic violence incidents that resulted in victim injury from 2005 (28%) to 2009 (35%). 2008 had the highest proportion of domestic violence incidents that resulted in victim injury (38%). See **Figure T30**. Similarly, service providers reported that an average 34% of adult victims served from 2005-2009 were injured during their victimization. Victim injuries among adults served increased 8% from 2005 (28%) to 2009 (36%). Refer to Figure T30. Additionally, an average one-third (32%) of children each year among those receiving services, were injured by the adult victim's offender. Refer to Figure T30.



Law enforcement agencies documented the type of victim injuries sustained. From 2005-2009, an average 89% of victim injuries each year were *minor injuries*, followed by 5% *severe lacerations*, 2% *major injuries*, and 1% respectively, injuries involving *broken bones, internal injuries*, or *unconsciousness*.

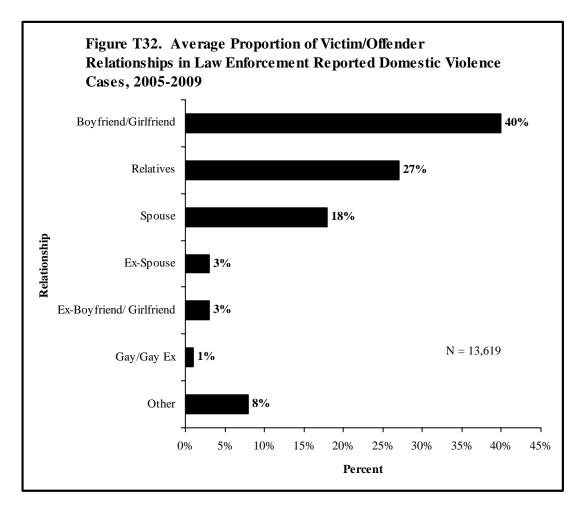
#### Q. Domestic Violence Involving Sexual Assault

Between 2005 and 2009, an average 15% of adult victims served by statewide service providers each year were *sexually assaulted/coerced* by their offenders. The 15% of adult victims sexually assaulted/coerced in 2009 represent a 7% decrease from that reported in 2008 (22%), which is the highest rate of sexual assault among victims served in the five-year period analyzed. In the same time frame, an average 6% of children served each year experienced sexual abuse from the domestic violence offenders of the adult victims. The 9% of children sexually abused in 2009 represents the greatest proportion of adult victim reports involving sexually abused children over the five years studied. See **Figure T31**.

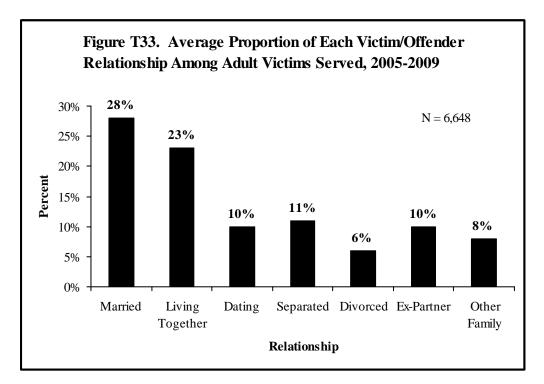


#### R. Victim/Offender Relationship

From 2005-2009, *boyfriend/girlfriend* was the relationship involved in the most law enforcement reported domestic violence incidents, an average 40% of incidents each year, followed by *family/ relatives* (27%) and *spouses* (18%). *Ex-spouses* and *ex-boyfriends/girlfriends* comprised 3%, respectively of the relationships in domestic violence incidents each year, and *gay/gay ex-partner* comprised 1%. See **Figure T32**. In the five-year period, there were negligible differences in the percent of domestic violence incidents each relationship comprised.



Among service provider reports, those who were *intimate but not married* comprised the relationships with the most domestic violence cases, 33%: 23% living together and 10% dating. *Married* couples defined the relationship comprising the second most domestic violence cases among those served (28%), followed by *exintimate partners*, 27%: separated (11%), divorced (6%) and ex-partner (10%). See **Figure T33**.

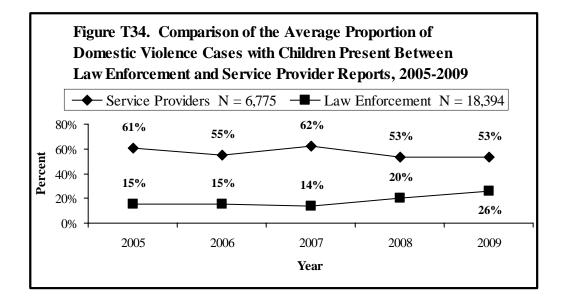


#### S. Children Present In Domestic Violence Situations

From 2005-2009, service providers reported that children were present as the scene of an average 57% of the adult victims' domestic violence incidents each year. Children present at the scene of 53% of adult victim cases in 2009 equals that reported in 2008 and is a 9% decrease from that reported in 2007 (62%), the year with the most adult victim cases with children present. See **Figure T34**. Conversely, law enforcement reported an average 18% of domestic violence cases each year from 2005-2009 had children present. The 26% of law enforcement cases with children present reported in 2009 represents a 6% increase over that reported in 2008 (20%), an 11% increase over that reported in 2005 (15%), and is the year with the most law enforcement reported cases with children present. Refer to Figure T34.

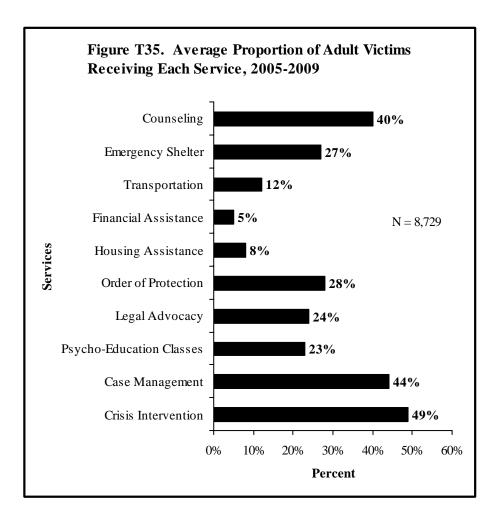
#### T. Past Abuse Among Offenders and Victims

Between 2005 and 2009, over half (an average 55%) of adult victims receiving services each year reported experiencing or witnessing abuse as a child. Among offenders served, an average 43% each year reported experiencing or witnessing abuse as a child. It is interesting to note that an average 62% of adult victims served in this time period reported that their offender experienced or witnessed abuse as a child. Additionally, between 2005 and 2009 two-thirds (an average 64%) of adult victims reported experiencing a prior domestic violence incident as an adult.

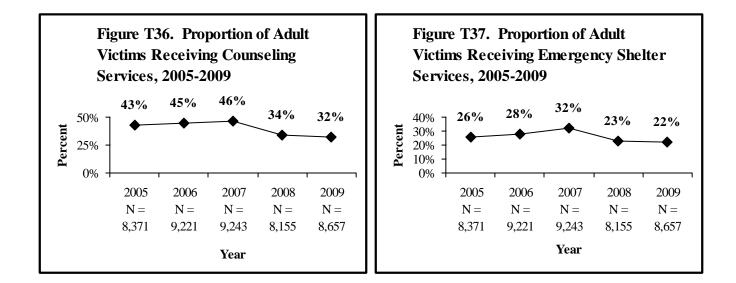


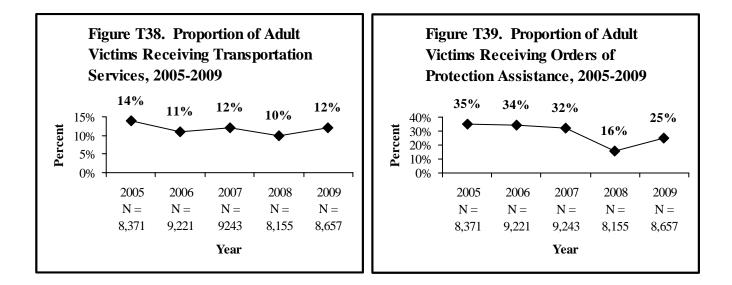
#### U. Services Received by Adult Victims

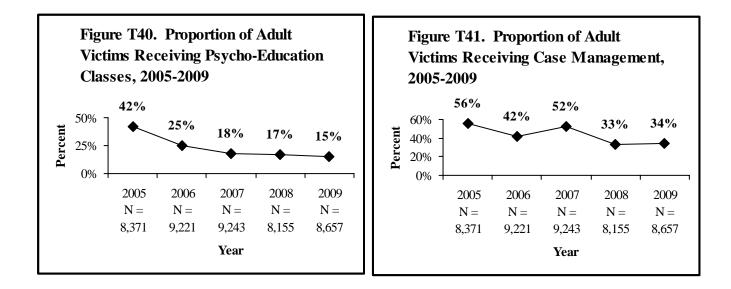
From 2005-2009, most adult victims received *crisis intervention* services (an average 49% each year) followed by *case management* (44%) and *counseling* services (40%). Approximately one quarter of adult victims received *orders of protection* (28%) each year, followed by *emergency shelter* (27%), *legal advocacy* services (24%) and *psycho-education classes* (23%). From 2005-2009 the fewest adult victims (5%) received *financial support* each year, followed by *housing assistance* (8%) and *transportation* (12%). See **Figure T35**.

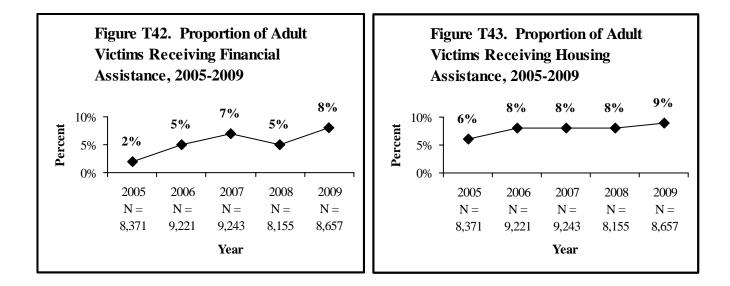


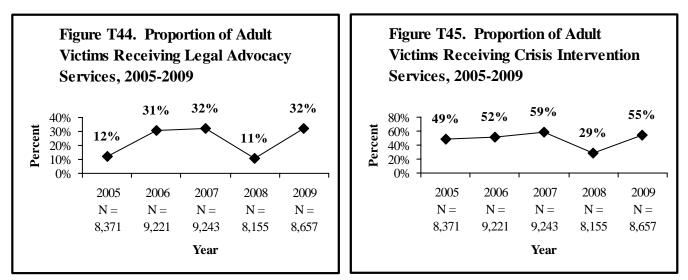
An examination of services received by adult victims shows decreases from 2005 to 2009 in the proportion of victims receiving *counseling* (11% decrease), *emergency shelter* (4% decrease), *transportation* (2% decrease), *orders of protection* (10% decrease), *psycho-education classes* (27% decrease) and *case management* (22% decrease). See **Figures T36-T41**, respectively. Conversely, from 2005 to 2009, there were increases in the proportion of victims receiving *financial support* (6% increase), *housing assistance* (3% increase), *legal advocacy* services (20% increase) and *crises intervention* (6% increase). See **Figures T42-T45**, respectively.





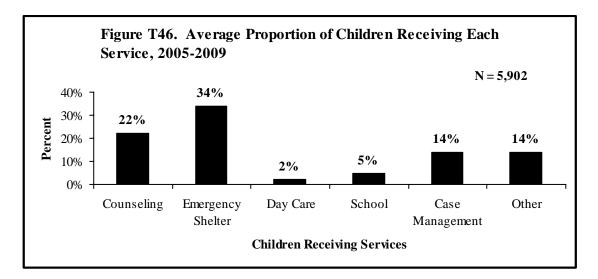


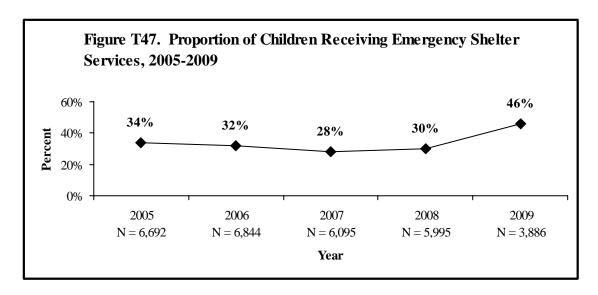




#### V. Services Received by Children

From 2005-2009, most children received *emergency shelter* services (an average 34% each year) followed by *counseling* (22%) and *case management* (14%). Very few children each year received *day care* (2%) or *school* services (5%). See **Figure T46**. The proportion of children receiving each service remained relatively unchanged from 2005 to 2009 except for the proportion receiving *emergency shelter* which increased significantly from 34% in 2005 to 46% in 2009. See **Figure T47**.

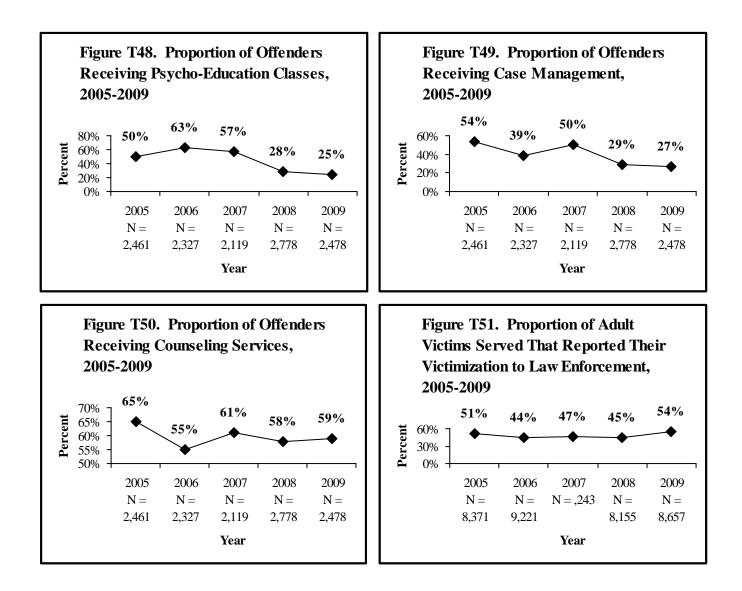




#### W. Services Received by Offenders

Between 2005 and 2009, an average 60% of offenders each year received *counseling services*, followed by *psycho-education classes* (45%) and *case management* (40%).

An examination of services received shows significant decreases from 2005 to 2009 in the proportion of offenders receiving *psycho-education classes* (25% decrease) and *case management* (27% decrease); and a 6% decrease in the proportion of offenders receiving *counseling services*. See **Figures T48-T50**, respectively.

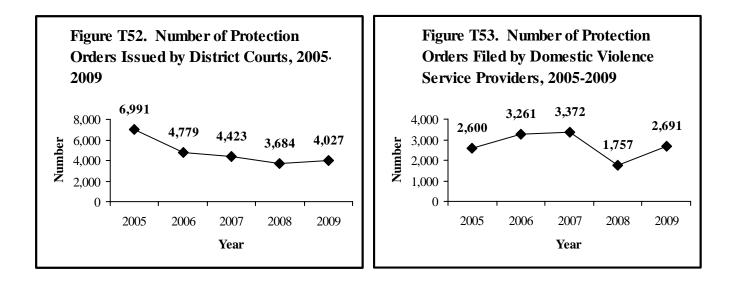


#### X. Adult Victims That Reported Their Victimization to Law Enforcement

An average 48% of adult victims each year from 2005-2009 reported their domestic violence victimization to law enforcement. In 2009, 54% of adult victims reported their victimization to law enforcement, the most in the five year period. See **Figure T51**.

#### Y. Protection Orders Filed

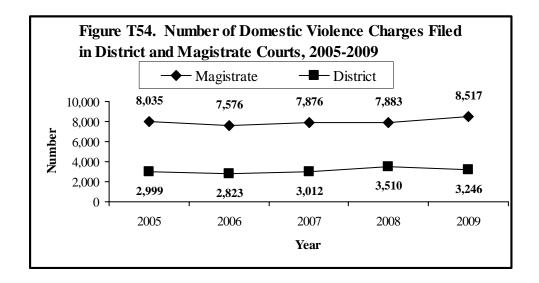
There was an average 4,781 protection orders issued for domestic violence each year between 2005 and 2009 by statewide district courts. The 4,027 issued for domestic violence in 2009 represents a 42% decrease from the number issued in 2005 (6,991). It should be noted that in 2006, the Administrative Office of the Courts changed its codes for capturing protection orders issued for domestic violence. This resulted in a 32% decrease from 2005 to 2006 (4,779). However, the 4,027 protection orders issued in 2009 represent a 16% decrease since 2006 when the change was implemented. See **Figure T52**.



From 2005-2009 service providers filed an average 2,736 protection orders for the adult victims they served. The most protection orders were filed by service providers in 2007 (3,372) a 30% increase over the number filed in 2005 (2,600). However, the number of protection orders filed by service providers decreased dramatically (48%) from 2007 to 2008 (1,757) before returning to 2,691 filings in 2009. See **Figure T53**.

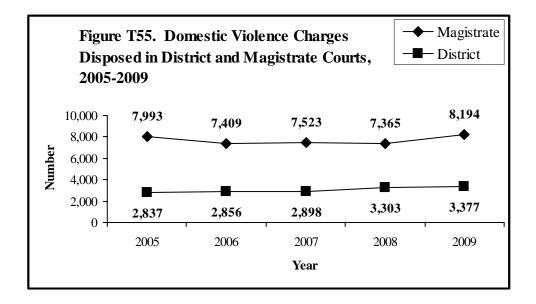
#### Z. Domestic Violence in District and Magistrate Courts

An average 7,977 domestic violence charges were filed in magistrate courts from 2005-2009. This number does not include Bernalillo County Metropolitan Court as they do not report to the Central Repository. The 8,517 filings in 2009 represent an 8% increase over 2008 filings (7,883) and are the most filings in the five-year period. See **Figure T54**. There was an average 3,118 charges of domestic violence filed in district courts from 2005-2009. The 3,246 filings in 2009 represent a 7.5% decrease from that filed in 2008 (3,510) the most filings during the five-year period. Refer to Figure T54.

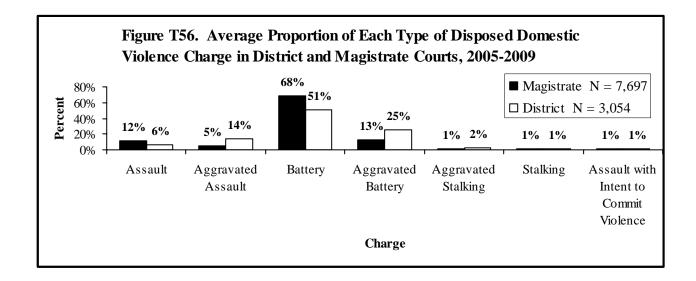


From 2005-2009, an average 7,697 charges of domestic violence were disposed in magistrate courts each year. The 8,194 domestic violence charges disposed in magistrate court in 2009 represent an 11% over 2008 dispositions (7,365) and were the most domestic violence charges disposed in the five-year period. See

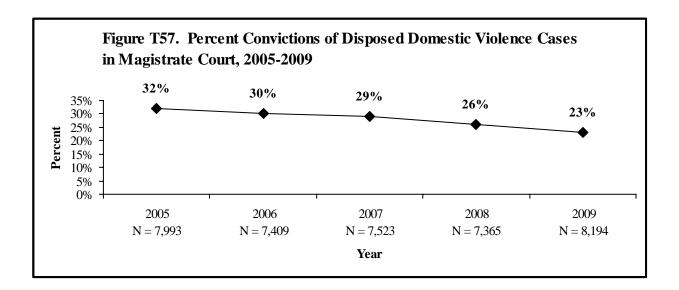
**Figure T55**. Similarly, an average 3,054 charges of domestic violence were disposed in district courts each year. The 3,377 domestic violence charges disposed in district court in 2009 represent an 2% increase over 2008 dispositions (3,303) and were the most domestic violence charges disposed in the five-year period. Refer to Figure T55.



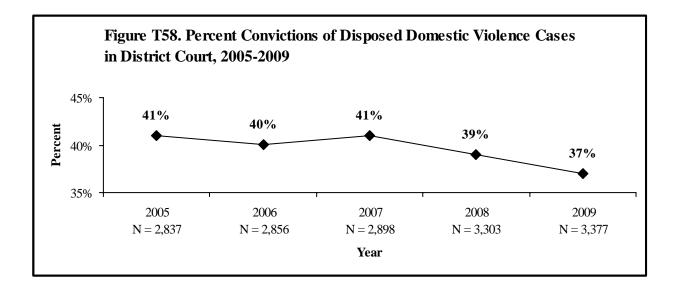
The type of charge most disposed in the magistrate courts was *battery*, an average 68% of domestic violence charges disposed each year from 2005-2009, followed by *aggravated battery* (13%), *assault* (12%) and *aggravated assault* (5%). *Stalking, aggravated stalking*, and *assault with intent to commit violent felony* averaged 1% of domestic violence charges disposed in magistrate courts in each of the five years analyzed. See **Figure T56**. Similarly, the type of charge most disposed in the district courts was *battery*, an average 51% of domestic violence charges disposed each year from 2005-2009, followed by *aggravated battery* (25%), *aggravated assault* (14%) and *assault* (6%). *Aggravated stalking* comprised an average 2% of disposed domestic violence charges in district courts each year. *Stalking* and *assault with intent to commit violent felony* averaged 1% of domestic violence charges disposed in district courts in each of the five years analyzed. Refer to Figure T56.



There was an average 28% conviction rate of domestic violence charges disposed in magistrate courts each year from 2005-2009. The conviction rate in 2009 (23%) represents a 3% decrease from that in 2008 (26%) and a 9% decrease since 2005 (32%). See **Figure T57**.



Similarly, there was an average 40% conviction rate of domestic violence charges disposed in district courts each year from 2005-2009. The conviction rate in 2009 (37%) represents a 2% decrease from that in 2008 (39%) and a 4% decrease since 2005 (41%). See **Figure T58**.



## **IV. IMPLICATIONS OF THE FINDINGS**

#### A. Evidence Supporting a Reduction in the Incidence of Domestic Violence

Without an annual statewide victimization survey it is not possible to measure change in the rate of domestic violence incidence that captures reported and unreported cases. It is only possible to capture changes in *reported* domestic violence. Our best indicator for measuring change in reported incidents is the number of domestic violence cases reported to statewide law enforcement agencies. From 2005-2009, there was a 29% decrease in the number of domestic violence incidents reported to statewide law enforcement agencies while the number of law enforcement agencies reporting to the Central Repository (an average 102 each year) and the proportion of the state population represented by participating law enforcement agencies (an average 92%) have remained relatively constant. This is welcome news as it indicates that prevention initiatives over the last five years are making a difference.

#### B. Law Enforcement Response to Domestic Violence: Improvements and Challenges

#### 1. At the Scene Offense Reporting

The proportion of victims and suspects of each age group has remained relatively unchanged from 2005-2009 but there has been dramatic improvement in the number of law enforcement reports documenting victim and suspect ages. There has been much emphasis over the last five years on more detailed documentation from law enforcement officers on offense incident reports; and more recently, a bill was introduced in the 2010 legislative session for law enforcement to adopt an offense report specifically for domestic violence cases. While the bill did not pass, the discussions regarding better documentation involved law enforcement representatives from APD and several other agencies throughout the state and may have contributed to the increase in reporting victim and suspect ages more consistently. From 2005-2007 law enforcement reported victim ages on an average 52% of domestic violence victims. In 2008 and 2009, ages were reported on an average 48% of domestic violence suspects. In 2008 and 2009, ages were reported on an average 48% of domestic violence suspects.

#### 2. Identifying Victims and Suspects

In 2005, the *Statewide Violence Victimization Survey* (SVV) identified twice as many victims (36,594) than were identified by law enforcement (19,570) in that year. Training of law enforcement on identifying the *primary aggressor* in domestic violence incidents to better identify the victim and offender in each case was introduced. Findings from this five-year analysis of Central Repository data demonstrate that there has been a 48% increase from 2005 (66%) to 2009 (114%) in the number of domestic violence incidents where a victim was identified. Similarly, offender identification has significantly improved. There was a 46% increase from 2005 (58%) to 2009 (104%) in the number of domestic violence incidents where a suspect was identified.

#### 3. Improvements in Suspect Arrests

The motivation to accurately identify a *primary aggressor* in violent situations is to obtain better outcomes for the victim and children (safety and referrals for services); and to separate the offender from those at risk for harm. Perhaps an unintended benefit to the improved ability of officers to identify the primary aggressor in a violent situation is an increase in the number of domestic violence incidents that resulted in a suspect arrest. The proportion of domestic violence incidents with in a suspect arrest increased significantly

(20%), from a low in 2005 (29%) to a high in 2008 (49%). In 2009, 43% of domestic violence incidents resulted in a suspect arrest, as well.

#### 4. Stalking Technology, Training and Victim Referral

Even with new stalking policies, there are still too few cases of stalking recognized and charged as such by law enforcement agencies throughout the state. In 2005, the SVV identified 17,177 stalking victims and each experienced an average of 14.3 incidents throughout the year. In the same year, New Mexico law enforcement agencies identified 206 incidents of stalking. There are numerous administrative and procedural issues that affect accurate reporting of domestic violence and stalking incidents ranging from whether and how police offense incident reports are written, and how these reports are entered into law enforcement databases or otherwise counted.

The issues surrounding identification of stalking incidents and victims are particularly worrisome. One possible explanation is that most stalking cases are labeled other crimes (harassment, vandalism, destruction of property, arson, trespassing, car theft, etc.) and are therefore not captured. The inability to differentiate between stalking victims and victims of isolated crimes means that stalking victims are not getting referred for appropriate services. This is a significant problem as the SVV found that 87% of stalking victims also reported being a victim of domestic violence, other physical attack, and/or sexual assault. These victims and their children are at greater health and safety risk and need to be referred for appropriate services; and these types of referrals are not likely to happen as a result of a trespass, vandalism, or other similarly labeled isolated crime incident. It is imperative to provide necessary training to all law enforcement officers, administrative personnel, and executive personnel whose policies guide law enforcement procedure regarding the description, documentation and data entry of stalking crimes. In 2010, APD and a few other law enforcement agencies implemented new technology for officers at the scene to access information regarding prior offenses and protection order information. It is hoped that this technology will improve identification and referral of stalking victims and the documentation of stalking incidents.

#### C. Mixed Findings Regarding Domestic Violence Services

There is some evidence that more domestic violence victims are aware that helping services exist and are seeking services. In 2005, those that went to statewide domestic violence service providers comprised only 30% of the number of domestic violence incidents reported that year to law enforcement . In 2009 however, those that went for services comprised 43% of the number of incidents reported. While this information is welcomed, it is tempered by the fact that too many victims that need services are making crisis calls but still not following up with more comprehensive assistance. From 2005-2007, the average proportion of crisis calls represented by the number of victims served was 49%, while more recently, from 2008-2009, the average proportion of callers seeking further services was only 37%. So, while community education about domestic violence is making victims aware of the existence of hotline assistance, not enough of these victims are following through seeking critical services. To make matters worse, there is evidence to suggest that when victims do follow through, significantly fewer of them are receiving each type of service offered by statewide service providers.

While there was an 11% decrease in the proportion of victims receiving *counseling* services, an a 10% decrease in the proportion of victims obtaining assistance with an order of protection, of particular concern is the significant drop in the proportion of victims that receive *education classes* (27% decrease) and *case management* (22% decrease). The reasons for the drop in the number of victims that receive each of these services is unclear in the face of dramatic *increases* in the proportion of victims that received *legal advocacy services* (20%), and more mild increases in the proportion that received *financial support* (6%), *crisis intervention* (6%) and *housing assistance* (3%).

As discussed earlier, relative to the number of law enforcement reported incidents of domestic violence, more adult victims than ever before are seeking services. The same cannot be said for children.

Fewer children are accessing domestic violence services. There was a significant decrease from 2005 (6,692) to 2009 (3,886) in the number of children served by statewide domestic violence service providers. The number of children served in 2009, represent a 43% drop since 2006. When children did access services, the proportion of them that received *counseling* (22%), *case management* (14%), *day care* (2%), and *school* (5%) remained relatively unchanged, while the proportion that received *emergency shelter*, increased 12% from 2005 (34%) to 2009 (46%). This evidence suggests that children are obtaining emergency respite from a violent situation, but are not benefiting from other assistance.

#### D. Evidence Supporting the Focus on Early Intervention to Prevent Domestic Violence

Between 2005 and 2009, two-thirds (an average 65%) of the law enforcement incidents documenting the victim/offender relationship, were perpetrated by a current or former intimate partner, 44% of these by current or former boyfriends/girlfriends who are or were dating or living together. Similarly, 88% of adult victims who sought services from a domestic violence service provider were assaulted by a current or former intimate partner, one-third of these were dating or living together. The SSV found that two-thirds (66.5%) of domestic violence incidents were perpetrated by current or former intimate partners, one-third of these were dating or living together. The SSV found that two-thirds (66.5%) of domestic violence incidents were perpetrated by current or former intimate partners, one-third of these were dating or living together. Further, stalking behaviors begin in adolescence and the incidence of adolescent stalking is almost twice that of adolescent intimate partner violence. The high proportion of interpersonal violence cases perpetrated by those not yet married, demonstrate that true prevention requires early education initiatives on building healthy relationships during adolescence.

#### E. Alcohol and Drug Education and Treatment in the Prevention of Domestic Violence

From 2005-2009, alcohol and/or other drug use was documented in an average 34% of law enforcement incidents with the highest proportion of cases in 2009 (38%). For the five-year analysis, an average 93% of the law enforcement cases involving alcohol/drug use involved *suspect* use of alcohol/drugs and 34% involved *victim* use of alcohol/drugs. Additionally, an average 25% of adult victims served by domestic violence service providers reported being under the influence of alcohol/drugs at the time of their incident. Findings from the SVV revealed that alcohol/drug use is significantly more likely among male victims and offenders than female victims and offenders. Implications for treatment for both victims and offenders include alcohol and drug prevention education and rehabilitation services with particular focus on males.

# F. Sexual Assault Prevention and Treatment for Domestic Violence Child and Adult Victims

From 2005-2009, 1 in every 5 incidents of domestic violence reported by law enforcement involved a child witness and an average of two children were present at each. Additionally, at least one child was present in 1 out of every 1.7 adult victim cases handled by domestic violence service providers. Too many children experienced sexual abuse (an average 6% each year) at the hands of their adult-victim's offender.

Similarly, from 2005-2009, an average 15% of adult domestic violence victims were sexually assaulted by their offender.

The rates of sexual abuse of adults and children are grossly underreported. Findings from the SVV reveal that almost half of the adults in New Mexico who were ever a victim of domestic violence, intimate partner violence or stalking were also sexually assaulted. Of those that were sexually assaulted, 45% were

victimized by the age of 12. This suggests that effective prevention and treatment programs for domestic violence victims must include components of sexual assault prevention and treatment or must provide referrals to appropriate sexual assault services.

# G. Evidence Supporting the Need to Identify Domestic Violence Victims in the Healthcare Setting

From 2005-2009, law enforcement reported that an average one-third (34%) of adult victims were physically injured as a result of domestic violence. Similarly, statewide service providers reported that one-third respectively, of adults (34%) and children (32%) were physically injured by the adult victim's offender. The SVV found that 44% of domestic violence victims were injured and over one-third of them sought medical treatment. This suggests that increased accuracy in reporting domestic violence incidents and identifying victims for referral to needed interventions requires interpersonal violence surveillance initiatives in New Mexico healthcare facilities.

Patients that are seen in the healthcare/emergency room setting with a domestic violence-related injury are typically not reported to law enforcement and represent a substantial gap in reporting. While many healthcare facilities use screening tools to identify patients who are victims of domestic violence, no standardized monitoring system to reliably document the number of these individuals currently exists. Methods to determine healthcare utilization by victims of violence through e-codes or billing databases have been unsuccessful and are unreliable at best, due to definitional problems of the codes, practitioner discretion and inconsistencies in naming injuries, and the insurance related intentions of billing databases. The need to rectify these problems is underscored by findings from the SVV which revealed substantial co-morbidity with domestic violence victims with regard to serious disabling injury and chronic mental health problems.

#### H. Evidence Supporting the Need for Better Court Data on Domestic Violence

It is not at all clear why the Administrative Office of the Courts (AOC) changed the set of codes that defined domestic violence protection orders in 2006. This change omitted three previous codes from the definition set. The result in 2006 was a 32% drop in the number of protection orders related to domestic violence from the previous year. However, from 2006-2009, the definition set has been consistent and still, there was a 16% decrease in the number of protection orders issued by district courts in that time period.

The Bernalillo County Metropolitan Court data is not standardized with data from other magistrate courts across the state and is separate from data captured at the AOC. While the AOC reports magistrate court data to the Central Repository, BCMC does not. Since BCMC is the largest jurisdiction in the state, there is no way to measure how closely the Central Repository's findings on magistrate court dispositions and convictions correspond to actual practices regarding the adjudication of domestic violence cases.

It is important to obtain better court data because evidence of currently available data demonstrates that while there has been an increase in the number of domestic violence charges filed in district (8%) and magistrate courts (6%) and an increase in the number of domestic violence charges disposed in district (19%) and magistrate courts (3%), there has been a steady *decrease* in the rate of domestic violence convictions in district (4%) and magistrate courts (9%).

Without better data from the courts, too much vital information remains unknown: 1) how many new domestic violence charges get dismissed and why; 2) why the rate of conviction for domestic violence cases is so low; 3) what the typical sentence is for misdemeanor and felony domestic violence charges; and 4) what the average length of incarceration is for domestic violence felonies compared to other felonies. Answers to these questions will serve to improve the efficacy of legal advocacy for domestic violence victims.

The AOC has "three staff attorneys who serve as the point of contact for designated subject matter areas: water, access to justice, and child welfare and juvenile justice". Currently, there is an initiative proposed by the Violence Against Women Act (VAWA) Implementation Team to provide a grant to create another point of contact attorney within the AOC for violence against women issues. This point of contact would among other things, "work to improve communication among key stakeholders and promote best practices". Specifically he/she would "explore the need for and make recommendations regarding standard policies, practices and procedures for processing domestic violence, sexual assault and stalking cases. There has never been a greater need for this position. It is hoped that this point of contact will include as part of his/her charge, the challenge of addressing these data issues. The scope of domestic violence includes much more charges than what currently define it in the courts, typically battery and aggravated battery, assault and aggravated assault. Without a greater scope of definition and communication of case information, we will not be equipped to address the obstacles to improved legal advocacy for domestic violence victims.

## **APPENDIX A. DEFINITIONS**

Domestic violence incidence as determined by law enforcement include all incidents of assault, aggravated assault, battery, and aggravated battery as outlined in the "Crimes Against Household Members Act" as follows:

#### 30-3-10. Short Title.

This act (30-3-10 to 30-3-16 NMSA 1978) may be cited as the "Crimes Against Household Members Act".

#### **30-3-11.** Definitions

As used in the Crimes Against Household Members Act (30-3-10 to 30-3-16 NMSA 1978), "household member" means spouse, former spouse or family member, including a relative, parent, present or former step-parent, present or former in-law, a co-parent of a child or a person with whom a person has had a continuing personal relationship. Cohabitation is not necessary to be deemed a household member for the purposes of the Crimes Against Household Members Act.

#### 30-3-12. Assault against a household member.

- A. Assault against a household member consists of:
  - (1) an attempt to commit a battery against a household member; or
  - (2) any unlawful act, threat or menacing conduct that causes a household member to reasonably believe that he is in danger of receiving an immediate battery.
- B. Whoever commits assault against a household member is guilty of a petty misdemeanor.

#### 30-3-13. Aggravated assault against a household member.

- A. Aggravated assault against a household member consists of:
  - (1) unlawfully assaulting or striking at a household member with a deadly weapon; or
  - (2) willfully and intentionally assaulting a household member with intent to commit any felony.
- B. Whoever commits aggravated assault against a household member is guilty of a fourth degree felony.

# **30-3-14.** Assault against a household member with intent to commit a violent felony.

- A. Assault against a household member with intent to commit a violent felony consists of any person assaulting a household member with intent to kill or commit any murder, mayhem, criminal sexual penetration in the first, second or third degree, robbery, kidnapping, false imprisonment or burglary.
- B. Whoever commits assault against a household member with intent to commit a violent felony is guilty of a third degree felony.

#### 30-3-15. Battery against a household member.

- A. Battery against a household member consists of the unlawful, intentional touching or application of force to the person of a household member, when done in a rude, insolent or angry manner.
- B. Whoever commits battery against a household member is guilty of a petty misdemeanor.

#### 30-3-16. Aggravated battery against a household member.

- A. Aggravated battery against a household member consists of the unlawful touching or application of force to the person of a household member with intent to injure that person or another.
- B. Whoever commits aggravated battery against a household member by inflicting an injury to that person that is not likely to cause death or great bodily harm, but that does cause painful temporary disfigurement or temporary loss or impairment of the functions of any member or organ of the body, is guilty of a misdemeanor.
- C. Whoever commits aggravated battery against a household member by inflicting great bodily harm or doing so with a deadly weapon or doing so in any manner whereby great bodily harm or death can be inflicted, is guilty of a third degree felony.

Appendix B. Law Enforcement <i>Domestic Violence</i> Data Collection Form Y09
1 A compression
2. Quarter Reporting $1^{st} \square 2^{nd} \square 3^{rd} \square 4^{th} \square$ Year: <u>2009</u>
3.aNumber of Stalking Incidents 3b Number of Stalking Incidents resulting in a homicide
<ul> <li>4.aNumber of Domestic Violence (DV) Incidents for the quarter (Based on offense incident reports)</li> <li>bNumber of Domestic Violence Incidents resulting in a homicide</li> <li>cTotal number of DV homicide victims (#female homicide victims# male homicide victims)</li> </ul>
5Number of male DV victimsNumber of female DV victimsNumber DV victims gender unknown
<ul> <li>6. Number of DV victims per age group</li> <li>Number of DV suspects per age group</li> </ul>
$\underline{0-6}$
7-127-12
13-1813-18
<u>19-25</u> <u>19-25</u>
30-4330-20-4330-20-4330-20-4330-20-20-20-20-20-20-20-20-20-20-20-20-20
10 00 56-65
66+ # victims age unknown 66+ # suspects age unknown
7. Number of DV victims per each ethnicity Number of DV suspects per each ethnicity
CaucasianCaucasian
HispanicHispanic
Native AmericanNative American
Asian/Pacific IslanderAsian/Pacific IslanderBlack
Dheck
8Number of DV male suspectsNumber of DV female suspectsNumber DV gender unknown
9aNumber of domestic violence incidents involving injury         9b Of those in 8a, how many involved: victim injury suspect injury police officer injury
10. Number of DV incidents with each type of injury:       B (apparent broken bone)       I (possible internal injury)         L (severe laceration)       M (apparent minor injury)       O (other major injury)         T (loss of teeth)       U (unconscious)       Unknown
11Number of DV incidents a weapon was used
12. Number of DV <u>incidents</u> in which each type of weapon was used:gunknifeother
13. Number of each type of relationship of suspect/abuser to victim. Suspect/Offender was a spouseboyfriendex-boyfriendrelativegay partner ex-spousegirlfriendex-girlfriendothergay ex-partnerunknown
14a Number of DV incidents where alcohol/drugs were used.         14b Number of DV incidents alcohol/drugs used by: victim only suspect only both
15 Number of DV <i>incidents</i> where children were at the scene
16a Total number of <i>children</i> at the scene of domestic violence incidents
16b Number of children per each age group:0-56-910-1213-17 18-21unknown
<ul> <li>17. Number of DV incidents where:only <i>suspect</i> arrestedonly <i>victim</i> arrestedboth arres</li></ul>
Please send reports to: NMIPVDCR, 3909 Juan Tabo, Suite 6, Albuquerque, NM 87111 or fax to (505) 883-7530

Reports due on April 15<sup>th</sup>, July 15<sup>th</sup>, October 15<sup>th</sup>, and January 15<sup>th</sup>, 2010. Call Betty Caponera, 883-8020 for questions.

Appendix C.			Y09
		ervice Agencies	
Quarterly Report To The <b>NM Interper</b>	sonal Violence	Data Central Repository	
Agency Name:	est —	andard	.th
Year: <u>2009</u> Quarter Reporting (check of	one): $1^{st} \square$	$2^{nd} \square \qquad 3^{rd} \square \qquad 4$	↓ <sup>th</sup> □
Please report aggregate numbers for the data on <u>new</u> clients served (during the re			questions. Only
1a. <i>Number of new clients served</i> : Victims/S (does <u>not</u> include number of crises/hotling		Children As Victim Witnesses	Offenders
b. Number of crises/hotline phone calls hand	lled for the quar	rter	
2. <u>Number of each Gender served:</u> Victims/	-	Children As Victim Witnesses	Offenders
			<u> </u>
Males Females			
3. Number served in each Age Group: Victin	ns/ <u>Survivors</u>	Children/Victim Witnesses	Offenders
0-5			
6-11			
12			
13 14			
14			
16			
17			
18-21			
22-40 41-59			
60-74			
75 and older			
Unknown			
4. Number served in each Ethnic Group: Vi	ctims/Survivor	s <u>Children/Victim Witnesses</u>	Offenders
White-Non-Hispanic			
Hispanic American Indian			
Black			
Asian			
Other			
Unknown			
5. <u>Number from each Referral Source</u>	<u>Survivors</u>	Children/Victim Witnesses	Offenders
CYFD Protective Services			
CYFD Juvenile Justice Division Tribal Government/Agency			
Family/Relative			
Self			
School			
Juvenile Court System			
Adult Court System Law Enforcement Agency			
Friend	·		
Client or Former Client			
Employer			
Other Unknown			

6. Number of new clients receiving each service:

Adults/Victims	Children		Offenders	
Counseling (indiv/group)        Emergency Shelter        Transportation        Financial Support        Housing Assistance        Order of Protection        Legal Advocacy Other Than O        Psychoeducation Classes (pare)        Case Management        Other:        Other:	rder of Protection nting, anger mana	Shelter ngements gement	Counseling (indiv/group) Psychoeducation Classes Case Management Other	
7. Number for each Survivor/Offender         Dating       Living To         Separated       Divorced	<i>Relationship categ</i> getherMa	rriedFam	nily Member	
8. Number for each Length of Relation          0 months - 11mos.        1          6 - 10 yrs.        1	year - 2 yrs 1 - 20 yrs	3 - 5 yrs. 21+ years	<i>ms:</i> _ Unknown	
<ol> <li>Number of New Clients Who Were A Adult Victims (as reported by adult Number Yes Number No</li> </ol>	victims): Unknown	Offenders (as report Number Yes Offenders (as report	ed by adult victims): Number No Unknown ed by offenders in treatment): Number No Unknown	
10. Use of Alcohol/Drugs At The Time of Adult Victims (as reported by adult	victims):	Offenders (as repor		
Number Yes Number No	Unknown	Offenders (as repor	Number No       Unknown         ted by offenders in treatment):         Number No       Unknown	
11. Number of adult victims/survivors who	reported their incide	ent to law enforcement		
12. Number of adult victims/survivors who	reported that childre	n were present at the ti	me of the presenting incident	
13. Number of adult victims/survivors who	reported that a weap	oon was involved in the	presenting incident	
14. Number of incidents resulting in a crimi	nal complaint as rep	orted by adult victims		
15. Number of incidents resulting in the filing	ng of a protective or	der as reported by adul	t victims	
16. Number of adult victims/survivors who experienced domestic violence in the past				
17. Number of adult victims/survivors who experienced a physical injury as a result of the presenting incident				
18. Number of adult victims/survivors who experienced forced or coerced sexual activity from current offender				
19. Number of children/victim witnesses wh	10 ever experienced	physical abuse from cu	rrent offender	
20. Number of children/victim witnesses wh	10 ever experienced	sexual abuse from curr	ent offender	
21. Number of immigrant victims/survivors	: adults	children		
22. Number of adult/survivors with a menta	l or physical disabili	ty		
<b>Submit completed forms for each quarter</b> 1 <sup>st</sup> quarter (January through March) by 2 <sup>nd</sup> quarter (April through June) by July 3 <sup>rd</sup> quarter (July through September) by 4 <sup>th</sup> quarter (October through December	April 15 <sup>th</sup> 7 15 <sup>th</sup> 7 October 15 <sup>th</sup>	or FAX To:	NMCSAAS 3909 Juan Tabo, Suite 6 Albuquerque, NM 87111 (505) 883-7530 50000000000000000000000000000000000	