

SANTA CLARA COUNTY DOMESTIC VIOLENCE COUNCIL

***DOMESTIC VIOLENCE
DEATH REVIEW COMMITTEE***



**ANNUAL
REPORT**

JANUARY 1 – DECEMBER 31, 2012

SPEAK UP - SAVE LIVES

Santa Clara County Domestic Violence Council Website: <http://dvc.sccgov.org>

TABLE OF CONTENTS

<u>SECTION</u>	<u>PAGE</u>
I. List of Domestic Violence Death Review Committee Members	2
II. Introduction to the Domestic Violence Death Review Committee	3
III. Overview of the Domestic Violence Related Deaths in 2012	5
IV. Case Summaries	6
V. Statistical Analysis	8
VI. Red Flags and Character Traits for Potential Lethal Situations	11
VII. A Message to Victims of Domestic Violence: SEEK HELP!	13
VIII. A Message to Friends, Families, and Community Members: SPEAK UP - SAVE LIVES	14
IX. Domestic Violence Death Review Committee's Response – Tasks Accomplished in 2012	15
X. Community Responses to Domestic Violence	16
XI. Recommendations by the Domestic Violence Death Review Committee to Community Leaders	18
XII. Conclusion	21
XIII. Attachments	
1. Copy of the DVDRC's Confidentiality Agreement	22
2. Domestic Violence Related Death Review Log Since 2000	23
3. Police Agencies in Santa Clara County	24
4. Campus Police and Security Agencies	25
5. Victim Advocacy Agencies	26
6. Crisis Hotlines and Referral Agencies	27

**DOMESTIC VIOLENCE DEATH REVIEW COMMITTEE MEMBERS
SANTA CLARA COUNTY, CALIFORNIA
JANUARY 1, 2012 - DECEMBER 31, 2012**

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ANNUAL REPORT
DOMESTIC VIOLENCE DEATH REVIEW COMMITTEE
JANUARY 1, 2012 – DECEMBER 31, 2012
by Steven Dick, Chair

The Santa Clara County Domestic Violence Death Review Committee (**DVDRC**) is a multi-disciplinary committee of experts that investigates and reviews all domestic violence related deaths that occur in Santa Clara County. The DVDRC provides monthly reports to the Santa Clara County Domestic Violence Council and prepares an annual report that the Domestic Violence Council posts on its website.

[Mandate](#)

The DVDRC investigates and reviews domestic violence related deaths in order to make recommendations aimed at preventing deaths in similar circumstances and reducing domestic violence in general. The DVDRC examines lives of the victims and perpetrators lives with a special focus on any contact the individuals may have had with the justice system, mental health services, or other social service programs. A comprehensive database of victims, perpetrators, and the circumstances surrounding the deaths is created to help identify trends and risk factors. The DVDRC has reviewed 241 deaths since 1994.

Recommendations for effective intervention and prevention strategies are prepared if problems, gaps or shortcomings are discovered. The recommendations are distributed to relevant organizations and agencies by the Chair of the DVDRC and are included in the DVDRC's Annual Report. The Annual Report is given to the Santa Clara County Board of Supervisors and is published on the Santa Clara County Domestic Violence Council's website.

Discovered information is only used to accomplish the constructive work of advocating for system-wide change and protecting future victims. The committee's job is not to point fingers or place blame. The members of the DVDRC firmly believe that many lives have been saved as a result of the committee's work.

[Recommendations](#)

Organizations and agencies are asked to respond back to the Chair on the status of implementation of recommendations within one year of distribution. The recommendations developed by the DVDRC are not legally binding and there is no obligation for agencies and organizations to implement or respond to them.

[Creation of the DVDRC](#)

In early 1994, a representative of the United States Department of Justice visited the Santa Clara County Domestic Violence Council and requested that the Council create a domestic violence related death review committee. The DVDRC was established by the Santa Clara County Domestic Violence Council in October 1994 in response to this request. Santa Clara County was one of the first counties to establish a death review team.

In 1995, the California Legislature enacted Penal Code section 11163.3 which allowed all California counties to establish an interagency domestic violence death review team. These teams were mandated to coordinate and integrate state and local efforts to address fatal domestic violence incidents and create a body of information which would help prevent domestic violence deaths.

In 1996, the California Legislature expanded Penal Code section 11163.3. As a result of the new legislation, information shared in death review committee meetings was to be confidential and not subject to disclosure or discovery by a third party. Recommendations may be disclosed at the discretion of a majority of the team members.

Confidentiality

DVDRC members sign an agreement requiring that all information discussed in committee meetings remain confidential. The only agreed upon public disclosure of cases involves statistics and fact patterns. The names of particular victims and perpetrators are removed out of respect for victims, family members, and survivors. The signed agreement is kept on file by the committee chair. A copy of the agreement is provided in Attachment 1.

Membership

DVDRC membership consists of a cross-section of all the organizations and disciplines in Santa Clara County that interact with domestic violence victims, perpetrators, and their children. Committee members come from the Office of the District Attorney, local law enforcement agencies, the therapeutic community, victim advocacy agencies, the Probation Department, the Department of Corrections, Pretrial Services, the Department of Family and Children's Services, Adult Protective Services, Family Court Services, Family Law Bar, Asian Pacific Family Communities Against Domestic Violence, Victim Witness, County Mental Health, the LGBT community, batterer's intervention programs, the Department of Public Health, and the Medical Examiner/Coroner's Office.

Definition of "Domestic Violence Related Death"

The DVDRC defines a "domestic violence related death" as a death that occurs when the perpetrator and victim were involved in an intimate relationship, either at the time of death or prior to the death. A time of separation between the parties does not preclude a review of an incident if domestic violence was the catalyst for the death(s). A domestic violence related death also includes the death of a family member(s), friend(s), and community member(s) if the motivation for the homicide was domestic violence. Domestic violence related deaths include homicides, homicide/suicides, suicides, fatal accidents, and blue suicides. Blue suicides occur when an individual threatens to kill police officers, verbally or by use of a weapon, and intends that the police will respond by firing upon the individual.

Each decedent is counted separately and given their own number, even if multiple people die during one incident.

**OVERVIEW OF THE
DOMESTIC VIOLENCE RELATED DEATHS
IN SANTA CLARA COUNTY IN 2012**

The DVDRC identified six (6) domestic violence related incidents which resulted in nine (9) deaths during 2012. This is a decrease from the eleven (11) incidents and seventeen (17) deaths in 2011.

The nine (9) domestic violence related deaths in 2012 included six (6) homicide victims and three (3) people who committed suicide. This is a decrease from 2011 when there were twelve (12) individuals who were murdered and five (5) who committed suicide. In 2010 there were five (5) domestic violence related deaths; three (3) people were murdered and two (2) committed suicide. Attachment 2 lists the domestic violence related deaths in Santa Clara County since 2000.

In 2012, the Santa Clara County District Attorney's Office filed criminal complaints alleging a violation of Penal Code section 187, Murder, against three (3) defendants in domestic violence related incidents.

There were no children murdered this year in domestic violence related incidents.

In two separate incidents, four (4) minor children were left without a parent. In one incident there was a double homicide and the other incident involved a homicide/suicide.

There were five (5) male perpetrators and one (1) female perpetrator.

There were no perpetrators or victims from the LGBT community.

The average age of the six (6) perpetrators was approximately thirty-seven (37). The average age of the six (6) homicide victims was forty-one (41).

The ethnic background of the decedents included four (4) Asians, three (3) Caucasians, and two (2) Hispanics.

The ethnic background of the perpetrators included three (3) Asians, two (2) Caucasians, and one (1) Hispanic.

The perpetrators and victims came from different socio-economic backgrounds.

Six (6) of the nine (9) decedents died due to firearms. One (1) was killed from blunt force trauma, one (1) was murdered by being burned, and one (1) committed suicide by taking an overdose of sleeping pills.

The main theme that came out of the DVDRC's analysis is that domestic violence affects every aspect of our community. It is not just a problem for those in a particular economic class, ethnicity, religious group, age or gender. Domestic violence permeates all aspects of our community and we must be vigilant in acting to protect everyone from this violence.

2012 CASE SUMMARIES

CASE 232: Blue Suicide

The perpetrator, age 42, was killed after he kidnapped his ex-girlfriend's teenage daughter at gun point. The perpetrator took the child to his apartment and waited for the police to arrive. When they arrived he opened fire at the police. The officers at the scene shielded the victim, removed her from the home during the gun fight, and brought her to safety. The perpetrator died at the scene. The decedent had a long criminal history including convictions for domestic violence and violations of restraining orders. He had previously taken a 52-week batterer's treatment program and had completed probation. The decedent had been drinking that evening.

CASE 233/234: Homicide/Suicide

The perpetrator, age 32, and homicide victim, age 39, briefly had a romantic relationship which ended after less than one year. They had one child together who was 17-months old at the time of the incident. The two were engaged in a family law case involving custody over the child. A few weeks before the final decision was to be rendered in the civil case, the perpetrator shot and killed the victim and then shot himself. The incident occurred in the middle of the day during an exchange of their child in a McDonald's parking lot. The perpetrator shot the victim three times, and then he carried the child to his car before shooting himself. The perpetrator left a suicide note in the car. The perpetrator did not have a criminal record and it appears that he was about to be awarded full custody of the child. The victim had a lengthy record including multiple convictions for fraud and theft.

CASE 235: Homicide

The perpetrator, age 49, was married to the victim, age 64, for approximately six years. They were homeless and did not have any children together. The victim was intoxicated when the perpetrator put her on a chair and set her on fire. The perpetrator tried to increase the flames by placing blankets and other flammable materials on top of the victim. This occurred in a public parking lot at night.

CASE 236/237: Double Homicide

The perpetrator, age 31, killed his ex-girlfriend, age 31, and the ex-girlfriend's long-term boyfriend and father of her three children, age 29. The two victims had dated each other on and off for close to 10 years and had three children together. During one of their separations, the perpetrator dated the female victim for a short period of time. The perpetrator and male victim had been friends for a few years. The two victims reconciled and the female victim terminated her relationship with the perpetrator. The perpetrator arrived at their house very early one morning. He first shot and killed the male victim at close range. He then shot the female victim while she was running into another room. The murders were observed by at least one of the children. The perpetrator is known but has not been apprehended.

CASE 238: Homicide

Case from 2011. This incident was not analyzed for the 2012 DVDRC report.

CASE 239: Homicide

The perpetrator, age 21, killed her husband, age 26. The perpetrator and victim had been married for one year and did not have any children. There was no known history of violence.

The perpetrator and victim were visiting Santa Clara County from Sacramento County to attend a relative's birthday party. The perpetrator and victim had been drinking during the day and at one point the victim showed the perpetrator his gun and demonstrated how to use it. During an argument later that evening, the perpetrator took out the gun that had been stored in a pillowcase and pulled the top slide of the handgun backwards. The victim tried to grab the gun, a struggle ensued, and the victim was shot in the stomach.

CASE 240/241: Homicide/Suicide

The perpetrator, age 50, killed his wife, age 54, by hitting her in the head with a candlestick, and then committed suicide the next day by taking an overdose of sleeping pills. The perpetrator and victim had been married for over 29 years and did not have any children. There had been strife in the marriage and the victim had been discussing filing for divorce. The perpetrator contacted the victim's brother and apologized for killing his wife hours before committing suicide. The perpetrator said that he lost his temper, blacked out, and then hit her with the candlestick. He also said that he was about to commit suicide. There is no known history of violence in the relationship.

STATISTICAL ANALYSIS

I. OVERVIEW

Decedents:	9
Number of Incidents:	6
Homicide Victims:	6
Suicides:	3

II MANNER OF DEATHS

Gun Shot:	6
Stabbing:	0
Blunt Force Trauma:	1
Fire/Arson:	1
Overdose of Pills:	1

III. LOCATIONS OF DEATHS

Victim's Residence:	2
Perpetrator's Residence:	1
Victim and Perpetrator's Joint Residence:	1
Friend's Residence:	1
Public Place:	4

IV. POLICE AGENCIES INVOLVED

1. 9 deaths investigated by San Jose Police Department
2. 0 deaths investigated by Mountain View Police Department
3. 0 deaths investigated by California Highway Patrol
4. 0 deaths investigated by Campbell Police Department
5. 0 deaths investigated by Gilroy Police Department
6. 0 deaths investigated by Los Altos Police Department
7. 0 deaths investigated by Los Gatos-Monte Sereno Police Department
8. 0 deaths investigated by Milpitas Police Department
9. 0 deaths investigated by Morgan Hill Police Department
10. 0 deaths investigated by Palo Alto Police Department
11. 0 deaths investigated by Santa Clara County Sheriff's Office
12. 0 deaths investigated by Santa Clara Police Department
13. 0 deaths investigated by Sunnyvale Department of Public Safety

V. SOCIAL IDENTIFIERS

1. **Ages**

Female Homicide Victims: 31, 40, 54, 64
Male Homicide Victims: 25, 29
Male Perpetrators: 30, 32, 36, 50, 50
Female Homicide Perpetrators: 20
Male Suicide: 32, 42, 50

2. **Race/Ethnicity of Decedents**

Asian: 4
Caucasian: 3
Hispanic: 2

3. **Race/Ethnicity of Perpetrators**

Asian: 3
Hispanic: 1
Caucasian: 2

4. **Gender of Decedents**

Female: 4
Male: 5

5. **Gender of Perpetrators**

Female: 1
Male: 5

6. **Same Gender Couples**

Zero (0)

VI. CHILDREN

1. **Number of Biological Children Perpetrator and Victim had in Common**

Four (4)

2. **Number of Children who were Homicide Victims**

Zero (0)

3. **Minor Children Present at Time of Incident**

Three (3) children were present at the time of the death in three (3) different incidents.

4. **Number of Children Whose Parents were Decedents**

Four (4) children lost both of their parents.

VI. RELATIONSHIP HISTORY AND CURRENT STATUS OF PARTIES

1. **Type of Relationship at Time of Death (Recorded per Incident)**

Married:	2
Divorced:	0
Married and filed for divorce:	0
Married and discussed separation:	1
Married and separated:	0
Dating:	0
No longer dating:	3

2. **Length of Relationship**

The length of relationship ranged from a few months to 30 years.

3. **Prior Police Reports of Domestic Violence**

Two (2) known incidents involved a perpetrator with prior acts of domestic violence that had been reported to law enforcement.

4. **Restraining Orders**

The DVDRC is not aware of any case in 2012 where the parties had a protective order.

5. **Known Occupations of Homicide Victims**

Two (2) homicide victims were unemployed and one (1) victim was on disability.

6. **Known Occupations of Perpetrators**

One (1) perpetrator was a telemarketer, one (1) worked in construction, and two (2) were unemployed.

7. **Immigrant Victim**

The DVDRC defines an immigrant as a person who has been in the United States for 10 years or fewer. We do not look at legal status.

It does not appear that any of the decedents in 2012 were immigrants.

RED FLAGS AND CHARACTER TRAITS FOR POTENTIAL LETHAL SITUATIONS

In many instances, domestic violence homicides are about an individual's desire to have power and control over their intimate partner. When a perpetrator begins to feel that power eroding, they may do whatever they can to regain power, including killing the people they seek to control. In the end, the perpetrator ensures that the victim cannot leave and start a new life.

The risk may also escalate when the victim challenges the perpetrator's control by trying to end the relationship, file for divorce, or begin a relationship with another person. It is critical that safety planning is a part of the process of terminating a relationship and that the safety planning continues even after the relationship ends.

Children, other family members, neighbors, co-workers, and innocent bystanders are all put at risk if they are nearby when the violence erupts. We must continue to educate the public on these issues and help people understand that reporting domestic violence saves lives and that intervention is necessary.

The DVDRC has identified numerous "red flags," or factors that may precede a domestic violence related death. These factors have been reported and discussed in multiple studies.¹ These red flags may not apply in every situation but may signal that a person is at risk. We hope that people will recognize these risk factors and seek help before it is too late.

Risk factors may include:

- (1) Prior acts of intimate partner violence.
- (2) Separation or talk of ending the relationship.
- (3) Access to firearms or failing to relinquish firearms after being served a protective order.
- (4) Controlling behaviors which may include social isolation, financial dependency by restricting access to money and information about finances, threats to take away children, or threats involving deportation.
- (5) Stalking behavior including monitoring of daily activities.
- (6) Threats of suicide and/or homicide.
- (7) Kidnapping or imprisoning someone against their will.
- (8) Lack of any, or very few, friends outside the relationship.
- (9) Untreated and inadequately treated mental health conditions, or illnesses including depression, anxiety, and related conditions. Issues may stem from early childhood trauma, abuse, neglect or abandonment.
- (10) Previous use of weapons or threat of using weapons.

¹ See:

Campbell J.C. (2005) Assessing dangerousness in domestic violence cases: history, challenges and opportunities. *Criminology and Public Policy*, 4 (4), 653-672;

Campbell, J.C., Glass, N., Sharps, P.W., Laughon, K., & Bloom, T. (2007). Intimate partner homicide: Review and implications of research and policy. *Trauma, Violence, & Abuse*, 8, 246-269;

Knopp, P.R., & Gibas, A. (2010) The spousal assault risk assessment guide (SARA). In R.K. Otto & K.S. Douglass (Eds.), *Handbook of Violence Risk Assessment*, 227-250.

- (11) Extreme jealousy and/or possessiveness.
- (12) Prior strangulation and choking.
- (13) Aging related diseases (like dementia) which may exacerbate abusive or violent behavior.
- (14) A sense of entitlement, self-centeredness, or a lack of empathy for others (including children).
- (15) Illicit drug use or alcohol consumption.

A MESSAGE TO VICTIMS OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE: “SEEK HELP!”

The DVDRRC studies domestic violence related deaths within the context of both lethal and non-lethal acts of domestic violence. In 2012, law enforcement officers referred approximately 3,962 non-lethal cases of domestic violence to the Santa Clara County District Attorney’s office for review. The Domestic Violence Death Review Committee discussed numerous controlling behaviors that are commonly seen in these domestic violence incidents and encourage individuals to seek help if your partner:

- (1) Physically abuses you in any way.
- (2) Threatens you. All threats must be taken seriously, whether or not you feel the perpetrator has the means to follow through on them or says that the threats were just a joke.
- (3) Does not want you to have a life outside of the relationship, including isolating you from friends and family members.
- (4) Becomes emotionally intense and frightening. Listen to your inner voice that says there may be a problem.
- (5) Keeps you on an emotional roller coaster.
- (6) Does not, cannot, or will not accept you ending the relationship.
- (7) Uses force, coercion, or threats to control you.
- (8) Apologizes profusely for “bad” conduct but then repeats the conduct on other occasions.
- (9) Shows anger not in proportion to the incident.
- (10) Never takes responsibility for the problems in the relationship and minimizes, denies, or blames you for the perpetrator’s behavior.
- (11) Hides or stows items such as firearms or weapons, and keeps important documents from you.
- (12) Monitors your phone calls, text messages, emails, letters, and computer usage.
- (13) Is extremely jealous and always wants to know your location.
- (14) Wants to have control over your financial situation and restricts your financial independence.
- (15) Wants to know everything about you from the moment you meet, including phone numbers, access codes, and computer passwords.

A MESSAGE TO FRIENDS, FAMILIES, CO-WORKERS
AND COMMUNITY MEMBERS:
“SPEAK UP - SAVE LIVES”

Numerous fatalities studied by the DVDRC since 1994 have involved situations where family members, co-workers, friends, and community members were aware of serious problems in a relationship but did not intervene. Intervention and support is necessary when someone may be a victim of domestic violence. Domestic violence does not get better on its own. Calling 911 or seeking professional assistance could save a life!

The DVDRC recognizes that a person may not know what to do when they suspect a person is a victim of domestic violence or if a child is at risk. The DVDRC recommends that one or more of the following actions be taken:

- (1) Call 911.
- (2) Contact a victim advocacy agency and inquire about ways to help the victim. The names and numbers of local agencies can be found on page 26 of this report.
- (3) Ask victims if they are fearful of the perpetrator and why. Let them know that you are there for them.
- (4) Determine if there are deadly weapons in the home and contact local law enforcement or advocacy agencies about the threat of the use of these weapons.
- (5) Assist victims in calling a domestic violence advocacy agency to create a safety plan, obtain a restraining order, or seek domestic violence counseling. This is especially important if the victim wishes to end the relationship.
- (6) Take all threats seriously even if the victim says that the perpetrator is just “blowing off steam.”
- (7) Protect children. Do not be afraid to tell victims that domestic violence is harming their children. When necessary, contact the Child Abuse Hotline at the Department of Children and Family Services.
- (8) Learn about domestic violence and share the information with others.

The DVDRC has also studied numerous instances where a child has been killed. When a child expresses real fear of a parent or if a child is living in dangerous conditions and is subjected to abuse or neglect, action must be taken. Please contact the Child Abuse Hotline at the Department of Family and Children Services (DFCS) at 408-299-2071 or a local law enforcement agency immediately.

A phone call can save a loved one’s life!

SPEAK UP - SAVE LIVES

**DOMESTIC VIOLENCE DEATH REVIEW COMMITTEE'S RESPONSE –
TASKS ACCOMPLISHED IN 2012**

The DVDRC is committed to informing the general public about domestic violence and its deadly consequences. In 2012, DVDRC members made presentations at various conferences and workshops in Santa Clara County and throughout California. These presentations were made to professional and lay groups, medical personnel, law students, college students, high school students, and parent/teacher organizations.

The DVDRC also worked closely with the Court Systems Committee, Police Victim Relations Committee, and the Executive Committee of the Domestic Violence Council in creating policies and procedures to combat domestic violence.

The DVDRC made a concerted effort in 2012 to create programs and procedures that help remove firearms from perpetrators of domestic violence. The DVDRC discovered significant issues regarding the removal of firearms from domestic violence perpetrators who had been served protective orders. The DVDRC worked with Senator Elaine Alquist to help prepare and advocate for SB1433. The Chair of the DVDRC, and domestic violence victim Carmen Harmady-Dao testified in Sacramento regarding SB1433. Governor Jerry Brown signed SB1433 into law in September, 2012. This new law requires judges to determine if a person has a registered firearm when issuing a civil protective order, mandates law enforcement officers to request firearms when serving a civil restraining order, allows officers to seize firearms that are in plain view at a domestic violence incident or upon serving a restraining order, and mandates that a restrained party must show proof of surrender of their firearms to the Court and local law enforcement agencies within 48 hours of being served a protective order.

The DVDRC also worked with the Court System's Firearm Sub-committee on creating a county-wide protocol for Family Law judges when issuing protective orders. This was incorporated into the 2013 Santa Clara County Law Enforcement Protocol.

The DVDRC continues to work with victim advocacy agencies and law enforcement agencies to develop programs and policies to protect victims who are in high risk situations. These programs include conducting lethality assessment surveys, quickly connecting victims to advocacy agencies, and conducting follow-up telephone contact when appropriate.

We will continue to track and study domestic violence related deaths and seek ways to end domestic violence and domestic violence related deaths.

COMMUNITY RESPONSES TO DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

Numerous agencies throughout Santa Clara County work to protect domestic violence victims, their families, and their friends. There are also numerous organizations that help prosecute and rehabilitate perpetrators of domestic violence. The DVDRC believes that the work of these agencies and organizations contributes to improving the lives of Santa Clara County citizens.

There are many examples of the outstanding work performed in our community. For example, the thirteen (13) law enforcement agencies in Santa Clara County signed and adhered to the 2012 Domestic Violence Law Enforcement Protocol. The Domestic Violence Law Enforcement Protocol recognizes domestic violence as a crime and contains a “shall arrest policy.” A “shall arrest policy” means where probable cause exists to believe a person committed an act of domestic violence, an arrest shall be made by the responding law enforcement officer. The Domestic Violence Law Enforcement Protocol is reviewed and updated yearly by members of all thirteen (13) local law enforcement agencies, social workers, victim advocates, and other community leaders. Attachment 3 lists the law enforcement agencies that signed the Domestic Violence Law Enforcement Protocol in 2011. Attachment 4 lists some of the local college campus police agencies and security agencies that are involved with protecting domestic violence victims. A copy of the Domestic Violence Law Enforcement Protocol can be found on the Domestic Violence Council’s website, dvc.sccgov.org.

The Santa Clara County District Attorney’s Office issued 1,849 misdemeanor and 410 felony complaints in 2012, and the Family Violence Criminal Courts issued protective orders in each of these cases. Santa Clara County Family Law and Civil Courts issued 1,996 restraining orders in domestic violence cases after hearing in 2012, which is a decrease from the 2,646 restraining orders issued in 2011.

Community service providers, legal services, batterer intervention groups, and other professionals worked to actively combat domestic violence in 2012. These agencies provided services to thousands of victims, perpetrators, and their children. They offered counseling to help families build lives without violence, created safety plans, and helped explain the legal process. These agencies likely work with more victims than law enforcement because some victims do not call the police when they are being abused. Attachment 5 lists local victim advocacy agencies. Attachment 6 lists numerous crisis hotline numbers and referral agencies.

The DVDRC wishes to commend all those who work to improve the lives of domestic violence victims, perpetrators, and their families. The DVDRC wishes to specifically commend the following aspects of domestic violence advocacy, community support, law enforcement, and prosecution in Santa Clara County:

- (1) Continued reporting of non-lethal domestic violence incidents by individuals within the county.
- (2) Confiscation of guns at domestic violence incidents by police officers.
- (3) Arrest and thorough follow-up by well trained law enforcement officers.
- (4) Prosecution by the District Attorney’s Office.
- (5) Thorough investigation by the Office of Pretrial Services.
- (6) Advocacy support for victims and their children.

- (7) Appropriate sentences and orders for perpetrators imposed by judges and enforced by the Probation Department.
- (8) Counseling provided to victims, children and perpetrators.
- (9) Community campaigns on domestic violence.
- (10) In-custody and community intervention programs.
- (11) Increased community awareness through educational programs.
- (12) Collaboration among the government agencies, victim advocacy agencies, and community based organizations on domestic violence issues.
- (13) Collaborations among county agencies, including Adult Protective Services, Pretrial Services, Family Court Services, Probation, Department of Family and Children Services, and the District Attorney's Office.
- (14) Workplace violence policies implemented by corporations and businesses which include early detection, intervention, and protection of victims.
- (15) Attorneys appointed to advocate for children when domestic violence is discovered.

It is our belief that Santa Clara County's cutting-edge policies and procedures have helped improve the lives many people, even during difficult economic times. The DVDRC recommends that the Board of Supervisors continue to support these and other programs that help improve lives.

RECOMMENDATIONS BY THE DVDRC TO COMMUNITY LEADERS

The DVDRC has compiled a list of recommendations for numerous agencies throughout Santa Clara County. We believe that these reforms and policy changes are necessary in our efforts to fight domestic violence.

SANTA CLARA COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

- (1) Coordinate with the Board of Education and local education agencies to address the issues of domestic violence, dating violence, and stalking. Curriculum should be developed in how to prevent violent and controlling behavior and enhance emotional health and positive relationships. Schools should amend their policies and procedures to create a safe environment that encourages children and youth to report abuse, to ensure teachers and other staff members are appropriately trained, and to require administrators to regularly assess the appropriateness of the school's efforts to address domestic violence.
- (2) Protect funding and staffing for agencies that counsel, create safety plans, and offer secure living facilities for victims and children; and for agencies that work with perpetrators of domestic violence.
- (3) Protect funding and staffing for law enforcement agencies that investigate and prosecute domestic violence cases.
- (4) Make available monies for mental health and legal services for children exposed to domestic violence, victims of domestic violence, and for those individuals who commit acts of domestic violence, including domestic violence evaluations for patients being treated in our mental health facilities. Mental health professionals should receive extensive training on the identification of domestic violence and how to address it.
- (5) Release and distribute this report to the public.

SANTA CLARA COURT SYSTEMS

- (1) Create, implement, and monitor safety measures to obtain and collect firearms from perpetrators.
- (2) Develop an annual educational program about domestic violence and child abuse. This training should be targeted to judges who work with families that may have suffered violence or traumatic conditions; and attorneys involved with family law matters, custody disputes, and divorce proceedings.
- (3) Ensure that parents and guardians obtain counseling for children who have been exposed to domestic violence.

VICTIM ADVOCACY AGENCIES

- (1) Develop procedures to evaluate and classify high risk lethal situations. Advocates should receive special training on how to create safety plans for potentially lethal situations.
- (2) Contact victims on a regular basis who are classified as being in high risk lethality relationships. The agency should create a safe word with the victim when contact is initially made. The committee recommends that each agency have a policy to maximize the safety of each client that they serve.

LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCIES

- (1) Fully staff and train Family Violence Units.
- (2) Designate at least one person to attend meetings of the Domestic Violence Death Review Committee, Domestic Violence Law Enforcement Protocol Team, and Police-Victim Advocacy Team.
- (3) Implement and use the High Lethality Assessment Investigation Tool as described in the Santa Clara County Domestic Violence Law Enforcement Protocol.
- (4) Train all officers regarding changes in the policies and procedures in safely securing firearms at the scene of a domestic violence incident and upon serving a protective order.

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE COUNCIL

- (1) Create a Public Service Awareness Campaign. The campaign should be targeted to a multi-ethnic and multi-lingual audiences and explain the dangers of domestic violence towards the victim, children, and family members. Information about where to turn for safety and advice should be included. Efforts should be made to reach out to immigrants, seniors, ethnic minorities, the disabled, as well as members of the LGBT community. This campaign should be coordinated with the Board of Supervisors and local city councils.

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE INFORMATION AND RESOURCE COMMITTEE

- (1) Schedule an outreach program for the homeless community. Education regarding domestic violence reporting and safety planning should be provided to service providers.

CITY COUNCILS

- (1) Protect funding and staffing for law enforcement agencies that investigate and prosecute domestic violence cases. The DVDRC recognizes that City Councils may have budget restraints; however, failing to adequately provide field officers or a fully staffed Family Violence Detective Team places domestic violence victims and children at risk.
- (2) Protect funding and staffing for agencies that counsel, create safety plans, and offer secure living facilities for victims and children; and for agencies that counsel perpetrators in order to prevent future acts of domestic violence.

COMMUNITY AT LARGE

- (1) Encourage victims, friends, family members, co-workers, and community members to speak up and report domestic violence.
- (2) Encourage all public and private agencies who deal with families in traumatic situations to assess for domestic violence and engage in early intervention programs.
- (3) Encourage victims to get restraining orders and enforce them appropriately.

SPEAK UP - SAVE LIVES

CONCLUSION

Domestic violence impacts every aspect of our community regardless of socio-economic status, ethnicity, religious beliefs, age, immigration status, or sexual orientation. Domestic violence and abuse will not end on its own. Family members, co-workers, and neighbors who are aware of the serious problems in relationships and recognize domestic violence, should report the abuse and let victims know that there are options available.

Our community must continue to educate itself about all forms of domestic violence and realize that these situations may turn deadly. Law enforcement, the courts, pretrial services, probation, victim advocacy agencies, batterer treatment programs, and victims need the help of the community to combat domestic violence. We must all make a concerted effort to become more knowledgeable about domestic violence and to speak up when we know something is wrong. The community must get involved before another victim loses their life.

We end this report with a final message: Everyone in the domestic violence community is working tirelessly on behalf of victims of domestic violence. We want to see an end to domestic violence in our lifetime. We want peace in our homes. Help us by remembering to:

SPEAK UP – SAVE LIVES

Respectfully Submitted: The Domestic Violence Death Review Committee 2012

Attachment 1: Copy of the DVDRC's Confidentiality Agreement

CONFIDENTIALITY AGREEMENT

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

DEATH REVIEW COMMITTEE

I, as a member of the Domestic Violence Death Review Committee, agree to keep confidential all information discussed at the death review meetings. I also agree to return all outside case information received in the meeting involving decedents to the Chairperson of the Death Review Committee upon my resignation from the Committee.

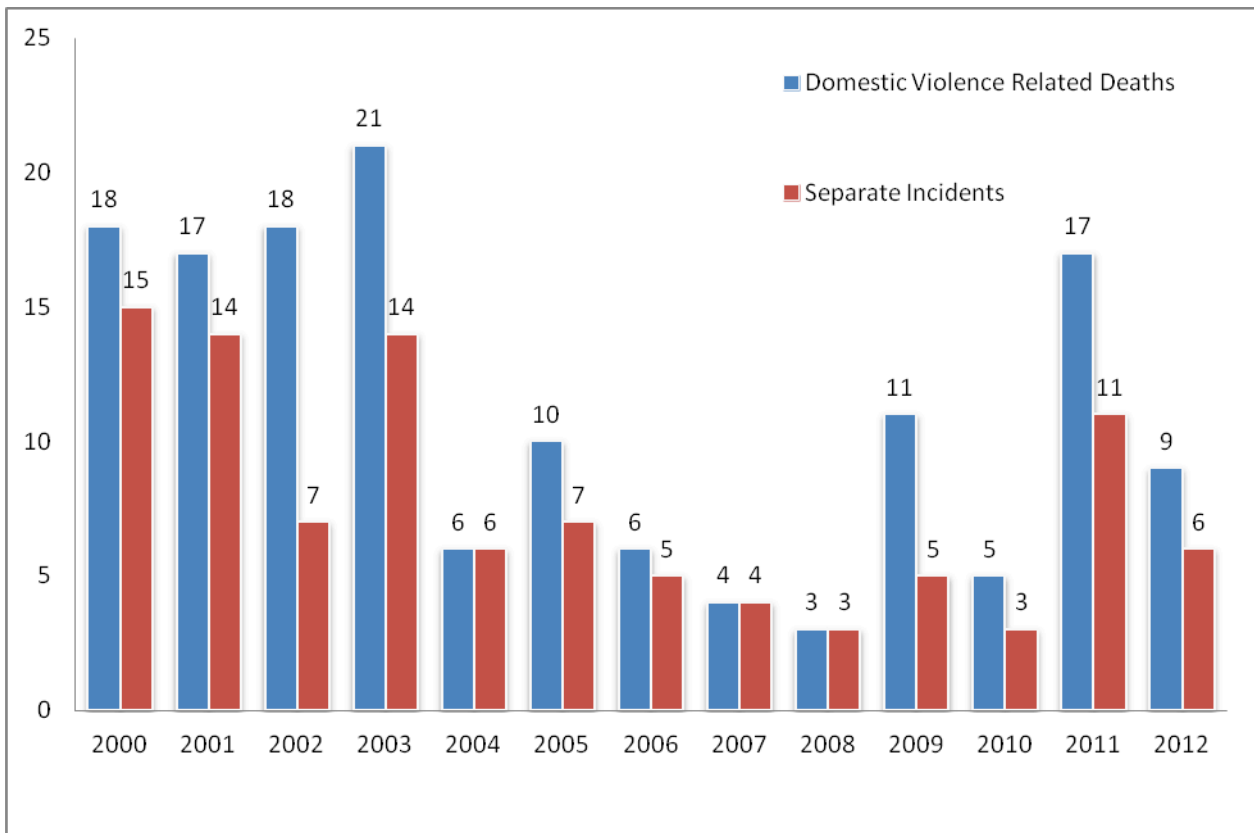
Dated

Printed Name

Signature

Attachment 2: Domestic Violence Related Death Review Log Since 2000

2000 - 8 domestic violence related deaths (15 separate incidents)
2001 - 17 domestic violence related deaths (14 separate incidents)
2002 - 18 domestic violence related deaths (7 separate incidents)
2003 - 21 domestic violence related deaths (14 separate incidents)
2004 - 6 domestic violence related deaths (6 separate incidents)
2005 - 10 domestic violence related deaths (7 separate incidents)
2006 - 6 domestic violence related deaths (5 separate incidents)
2007 - 4 domestic violence related deaths (4 separate incidents)
2008 - 3 domestic violence related deaths (3 separate incidents)
2009 - 11 domestic violence related deaths (5 separate incidents)
2010 - 5 domestic violence related deaths (3 separate incidents)
2011 - 17 domestic violence related deaths (11 separate incidents)
2012 - 9 domestic violence related deaths (6 separate incidents)



Attachment 3: Police Agencies in Santa Clara County

California Highway Patrol	(408) 467-5400
Campbell Police Department	(408) 866-2121 (408) 378-8161*
Gilroy Police Department	(408) 846-0300
Los Altos Police Department	(650) 947-2770 (650) 947-2779*
Los Gatos-Monte Sereno Police Department	(408) 354-8600
Milpitas Police Department	(408) 586-2400 (408) 263-1212*
Morgan Hill Police Department	(408) 776-7300 (408) 799-2102*
Mountain View Police Department	(650) 903-6344 (650) 903-6922*
Palo Alto Police Department	(650) 329-2406
Santa Clara County Sheriff's Office	(408) 299-2311
San Jose Police Department	(408) 277-5300 (408) 277-8911*
Santa Clara Police Department	(408) 615-4700
Sunnyvale Department of Public Safety	(408) 730-7100 (408) 736-2644*

CALL 911 FOR ALL EMERGENCIES

* Some of the Law Enforcement Agencies in Santa Clara County have direct emergency telephone numbers that can be programmed into a person's cellular telephone. These numbers are provided by the DVDRC for those individuals who may need these numbers as part of their safety planning. The DVDRC recommends that individuals call 911 for all emergencies.

Attachment 4: Campus Police and Security Agencies

De Anza Community College Campus Safety and Security Department 7 a.m. – 12 midnight	(408) 864-5555
Evergreen Valley Community College Police Department 8 a.m. – 11 p.m. Monday-Friday and 8 a.m. – 4 p.m. business line only	(408) 270-6468
Foothill Community College Police Department 7 a.m. – 11 p.m. business line 7 a.m. – 11 p.m. emergency line	(650) 949-7313 (650) 949-7911
Gavilan College Security Department 8 a.m. – 11 p.m. Monday-Friday business line only	(408) 848-4703
Mission Community College Police Department 7 a.m. – 11 p.m. business line After hours dispatch line	(408) 748-2797 (408) 299-2311
San Jose City College Police Department 7 a.m. – 3 p.m. dispatch line only; will connect to Evergreen Police Department after 3 p.m.	(408) 288-3735
San Jose State University Department of Public Safety 8 a.m. – 5 p.m. business line 24 hour dispatch line	(408) 924-2185 (408) 924-2222
Santa Clara University Department of Public Safety 24 hour business and dispatch line	(408) 554-4441
Stanford University Department of Public Safety 8 a.m. – 5 p.m. Monday-Friday business line 24 hour non-emergency dispatch line	(650) 723-9633 (650) 329-2413
West Valley Community College Police Department 7 a.m. – 11 p.m. business line After hours dispatch line Investigations Bureau	(408) 741-2092 (408) 299-2311 (408) 741-2068

Attachment 5: Victim Advocacy Agencies

Asian Americans for Community Involvement (AACI) www.AACI.org	(408) 975-2730
Community Solutions www.community_solutions.org	(877) 363-7238
MAITRI www.maitri.org/contact.html	(888) 862-4874
Next Door Solutions to Domestic Violence www.nextdoor.org	(408) 279-2962
SV Faces – Victim/Witness Assistance Program www.svfaces.org	(408) 295-2656
Women-of-Means Escape Network, Silicon Valley www.losaltoscf.org/womensv	(650) 996-2200
YWCA Silicon Valley Support Network Program www.YWCA-SV.org	(800) 572-2782

Attachment 6: Crisis Hotlines and Referral Agencies

EMERGENCY POLICE RESPONSE - 911

Adult Protective Services www.sccgov.org/aps	(800) 414-2002
Asian Americans for Community Involvement (AACI) www.AACI.org	(408) 975-2739
Bay Area Legal Aid www.baylegal.org	(408) 850-7066
Billy DeFrank Center www.defrankcenter.org	(408) 293-3040
Child Abuse Neglect and Reporting Hotline www.sccgov.org	(408) 299-2071 (408) 683-0601
Community Solutions (South County) www.community_solutions.org	(877) 363-7238
CONTACT (Hotline for all hotlines) www.BillWilsonCenter.org	(408) 850-6125
Domestic Violence Intervention Collaborative www.dvintervention.org	(408) 294-0006
Family Court www.sccourt.org	(408) 534-5600
Family Court Self Help Center www.courtinfo.ca.gov	(408) 882-2900
Legal Advocates for Children and Youth (LACY) www.lawfoundation.org/lacy.asp	(408) 280-24146
MAITRI www.maitri.org/contact.html	(888) 862-4874
National Domestic Violence Hotline www.thehotline.org	(800) 799-7233 (SAFE)
Next Door Solutions to Domestic Violence www.nextdoor.org	(408) 279-2962
Pro Bono Project www.probonoproject.org	(408) 998-5298

Restraining Order Self Help Center www.courtinfo.ca.gov	(408) 534-5709
San Jose State Counseling Service (SJSU students) www.sjsu.edu/counseling	(408) 924-5910
Senior Adult Legal Services www.sala.org	(408) 295-5991
SJPD Family Violence Center www.sjpd.org/boi/fvc	(408) 277-3700
Suicide Crisis Service www.suicidehotlines.com/california	(408) 279-3312
	North County (650) 494-8420
	South County (408) 683-2482
SV Faces - Victim Witness Assistance www.svfaces.org	8:30 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. (408) 295-2656
Victim Notification System (Victims can register and be informed when a defendant is to be released.) www.vinelink.com	(800) 464-3568
YWCA Rape Crisis Center www.YWCA-SV.org	(408) 287-3000
YWCA of Silicon Valley Support Network Program www.YWCA-SV.org	(408) 295-4011
	English/Spanish (800) 572-2782
	TDD (650) 490-7857