

**DOMESTIC VIOLENCE FATALITY REVIEW  
2010 REPORT**

**An Examination of  
Domestic Violence Homicides  
in Duval County, Florida  
January 1, 2010 through December 31, 2010**

**and**

**An Analysis of Domestic Violence Homicides  
December 1996 through December 2010**

**September 2011**

**Submitted By**

**THE DUVAL COUNTY DOMESTIC VIOLENCE FATALITY  
REVIEW TEAM,  
A Subcommittee of the  
Domestic Violence Intervention Project**

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# TABLE OF CONTENTS

	<u>PAGE</u>
1. INTRODUCTION_____	5
2. METHODOLOGY_____	7
3. FINDINGS AND RECOMMENDATIONS_____	11
4. 2010 CASES_____	16
5. PATTERNS – 2010 ONLY_____	36
6. GRAPHS – 2010 ONLY_____	41
7. PATTERNS FOR 1997-2010_____	44
8. GRAPHS – 1997-2010_____	50
9. REFERENCES USED_____	55
10. GLOSSARY OF TERMS_____	56

## **INTRODUCTION**

The 2010 report of the Duval County Domestic Violence Fatality Review Team (DVFRT) examines and analyzes domestic violence homicides which occurred in Duval County (the consolidated city of Jacksonville), Florida, from January 1 through December 31, 2010. This report marks the fourteenth year that the DVFRT has reviewed all the domestic homicides occurring within Duval County. Therefore, this report also provides overall summary patterns on domestic violence homicides from 1997 through 2010.

The purpose of fatality reviews in general is to identify patterns and trends in deaths which might have been prevented. One expert notes that “[l]ike the reviews conducted after an airplane crash, a fatality review helps determine what went wrong and what could have been done differently to prevent the tragedy” (Websdale, 2003, p. 27). Domestic violence fatality reviews in particular seek to identify patterns and trends in homicides among intimate partners and/or family members which arise from domestic violence and which might be prevented in future through revised responses from criminal justice or other service providers in the local community. It is important to note that the approach used in fatality reviews is not to attach blame but, instead, to identify practices or policies which might be improved. The National Domestic Violence Fatality Review Initiative notes that “[e]rror recognition, responsibility, honesty, and systemic improvement should be the focus rather than denial, blame, and personalizing the review” (NDVfri at <http://www.ndvfri.org>).

For this reason a diversity of membership on the review team is valuable for ensuring that major local organizations involved in providing responses/services to domestic violence victims or families are also involved in assessing where improvements might be needed. The Duval County DVFRT is composed of a variety of representatives of key local agencies and independent experts in the field (see list, page 2), each of whom comes to the review process with the intent to examine how fatalities might be prevented in the future. The summary findings and recommendations which arise from this examination (see Section 2 herein) are intended to give local authorities guidelines for change. As one well-known expert in this area has observed, “ a fatality review identifies relevant social, economic, and policy realities that compromise the safety of battered women and their children” (Websdale, 2003, p.27). Such reviews may also examine deaths of third parties (e.g., friends, coworkers, neighbors) which happen to arise from violent domestic interactions even when the primary parties are not killed.

There are many uses for these annual fatality reviews, the most important of which is to inform the public about how the criminal justice system responds to incidents of domestic violence reported to police. By identifying areas of response which might be altered or improved, this review offers the possibility of preventing future deaths. These reviews are also instrumental in identifying lethal domestic violence patterns and securing federal or other assistance for local initiatives. For example, the DVFRT team notes that Jacksonville has been fortunate to have the InVEST (Intimate Violence Enhanced Services Team) program, a local initiative geared toward reducing intimate partner homicides through integrating victim services from a variety of criminal justice and social service agencies. During the three years prior to the start of the InVEST initiative in 1999, there had been a

steady increase in the number of intimate violence homicides in Duval County. However, since the beginning of that program, there has been a dramatic decline in intimate violence homicides among those domestic violence cases reported to police. It was in these cases that InVEST had an opportunity to intervene to try to prevent the violence from becoming lethal.

Research suggests that the nationwide drop in domestic violence homicides since the 1980s may be the result, at least in part, of improved services to victims and/or perpetrators (Brown & Williams, 1993; Brown et al., 1999; Dugan et al., 1999; Puzone et al., 2000). In Duval County, Florida, the reductions were so dramatic that the Florida Attorney General funded pilot InVEST initiatives in seven other Florida counties. The DVFRT believes that the proactive work done by InVEST in trying to intervene in intimate violence cases has had a positive impact on reducing domestic homicide cases in Duval County. These fatality reports also facilitated the receipt of a federal Arrest Grant that continues effective local collaborations, as well as funding for a new special misdemeanor domestic violence court in Duval County.

A copy of this report is provided to all Fourth Judicial Circuit judges, the local sheriff, the local state attorney's office, victim advocates, batterers' intervention programs, local legislators, the military and local media. A copy is also placed on the web for public access (see listing at the National Domestic Violence Fatality Review Initiative at [www.ndvfri.org](http://www.ndvfri.org)).

The DVFRT hopes that the reader will find this report informative and useful. Any comments or questions about this report or the work of the DVFRT may be directed to 2010 Chair Theresa Simak at 904-630-2502 or via email at [tsimak@coj.net](mailto:tsimak@coj.net)

## **METHODOLOGY**

The Duval County Domestic Violence Fatality Review Team hereafter referred to as DVFRT or the Team, was created in 1997 by the Duval County Domestic Violence Intervention Project Committee (DVIP). The Team exists for the purposes of annually collecting, reviewing and analyzing all domestic homicide cases within Duval County (Jacksonville), Florida, and issuing this report. The Team is composed of representatives of several governmental and non-profit agencies which deal directly with domestic homicide cases within the jurisdiction of Duval County, plus other local experts in this field. A complete list of the members of the Team for the 2010 analysis may be found on page two of this report.

Cases selected for review by this Team are those in which the key parties of the case (e.g., the primary offender and the primary victim) meet the definition of having a domestic relationship as set forth in Section 741.28 of the Florida Statutes. This defines domestic relationships as:

Spouses, former spouses, persons related by blood or marriage, persons who are presently residing together, as if a family, or who have resided together in the past, as if a family, and persons who have a child in common regardless of whether they have been married or have resided together at any time.

All homicide cases which meet this definition are flagged by the State Attorney's Office (SAO), Fourth Judicial Circuit, and are brought to the attention of the Team for review. In addition, the Homicide Division of the Jacksonville Sheriff's Office (JSO) flags cases which would not have been referred to the SAO for prosecution, such as murder-suicides. From time to time, the Team has wrestled with additional cases in which a dispute between domestic partners or family members has resulted in the death of a third party (but not a person who fits the Florida Statute definition above). The first challenge is to identify third party cases, since they are not identified as "domestic" homicides by the JSO, but it seems clear in such cases that a death would not have resulted except for a domestic altercation of some kind. In the last several years, the team has also sometimes included cases involving intimate partners that did not fit the domestic violence statute as written since the couple had not lived together nor had a child in common. However, these relationships had been of sufficient duration and the patterns were so similar that the team felt the case should be included to get a true picture of homicides among intimate couples. The Team did not identify nor include any such cases for the year 2010.

It should be noted that the Team excludes child deaths resulting from domestic violence, unless the child was killed as part of an attack on an adult that fits the Florida Statute definition, as there is a separate child death committee that reviews those fatalities.

In terms of procedure, the Team meets approximately monthly, normally beginning in January of each year, to review each identified case of domestic homicide from the previous year. It is important to note that--unlike many other fatality review teams--this

Team reviews and reports on **all** domestic homicide cases which occur within a given year of occurrence, regardless of the legal status of suspects at the time of the issuance of this report. Thus, this report accounts for all cases classified as domestic homicides in Duval County in 2010. For this reason, this report identifies cases by a number (e.g., 2010-01, 2010-02, etc.), an incident date, demographic facts, zip code, and police zone location only. No names of suspects or victims are used as some cases may still be pending. This approach provides a much more complete picture of domestic homicide in Duval County for any given year than is provided in those reports which include only closed cases. It also allows for more timely recommendations.

Case files are divided amongst Team members for intensive review in order to develop the elements of each case as presented herein. The documentary materials reviewed in each case include any the following:

1. Police reports involving the victim and suspect.
2. Department of Children and Families (DCF) referrals involving victim and/or suspect.
3. Shelter services, hotline contacts, court advocacy or other domestic violence services utilized by victim or suspect, when available.
4. Civil proceedings including Marchman and Baker Acts, Dissolutions of Marriage, paternity actions and Injunctions for Protection involving victim and/or suspect.
5. Criminal records of victim and suspect.
6. State Attorney files involving victim and/or suspect.
7. Batterers' intervention program (BIP) participation including performance, completion, violations and victim contact.
8. Helping At Risk Kids Program (HARK) attendance by children of the victim and/or suspect.
9. Animal abuse or neglect complaints, if available.
10. Other relevant known services provided to the victim and/or suspect.
11. Autopsy reports or other Medical Examiner's information.

The information which is sought about each case from these materials includes critical factors and sub-factors which are viewed as providing as complete a picture as possible about each of these tragic incidents. These factors and sub-factors are:



- I. CRIME
  - M Relationship of parties
  - M Case summary
  - M Children present at the scene
  - M Location of the crime (by zip code and police zone)
  
- II. CRIMINAL RECORDS AND REPORTS
  - M Domestic violence
  - M Non-domestic violent crimes
  - M Drug or alcohol related offenses
  - M Weapons offenses
  
- III. CIVIL RECORDS AND REPORTS
  - M Domestic Violence Injunctions
  - M Dissolutions of Marriage
  - M Department of Children and Families Referrals
  - M Baker Act and Marchman Act Commitments
  - M Paternity Actions
  
- IV. SERVICES
  - M Shelter services/hotline calls
  - M Helping at Risk Kids Program (HARK) attendance
  - M Batterers' intervention program (BIP) attendance
  - M Substance abuse program referral/attendance
  
- V. OTHER CONCERNS/INFORMATION
  - M Includes anything else pertinent to the cause of this incident that is not covered in the categories listed above.

Individual Team members develop case profiles for each case using these factors. The case profiles are then shared with, and analyzed by, the whole Team for a collective review of the case. Questions may lead to further research on the case. The key factors permit the Team to try to understand the dynamics of what happened and to ask in each case whether there was anything that reasonably could have been done to prevent those events from unfolding. That is, were there warning signs which were ignored? Were there opportunities for intervention which were missed? Were there services which could have been provided to either the victim or the offender which were not provided---or not adequately provided? The Team recognizes that ultimately offenders are responsible for their actions and the fatalities which ensue. However, the Team also recognizes that the dynamics underlying domestic violence are complex and that other parties often know about potential danger within domestic relationships, even if they do not report this to outside authorities who might intervene. Helping victims find assistance, and offenders find intervention, before domestic violence becomes lethal is the goal of the DVFRT.

In section 4 of this report, the reader will find the profiles developed for each of the cases in 2010. In addition to these profiles, this report also includes summary patterns for 2010

by gender, race, relationship, method of death, children present, criminal history of key actors, prior injunctions and other civil matters, prior child abuse referrals, shelter services extended to victims, services extended to children, interventions provided to abusers, prior alcohol/drug abuse by victims and suspects, mental health issues of suspects, and zip codes and law enforcement zones of the homicidal incident. Summary patterns for 1997-2010 are also provided. The Team uses these summaries to assess the long term patterns, as well as recurring problems and potential progress, in this area. It is from these long term and recurring patterns, as well as any unique event of the year, that the Team develops its annual findings and recommendations, which are set forth in the Findings and Recommendations.

## **FINDINGS AND RECOMMENDATIONS** **(1997-2010)**

This report reviewed domestic violence homicide cases from Duval County, Florida specifically for the year 2010. In addition, the entire period 1997-2010 during which the Domestic Violence Fatality Review Team (*DVFRT*) has been in operation was reviewed. A variety of patterns emerge from this data, both for 2010 alone (see this report sections 4-7) and for the full fourteen year time span (see this report sections 8-9).

Based on these patterns, the DVFRT made a number of findings and sets forth herein some recommendations based on those findings.

### **Finding #1**

Within the category of domestic homicide, the DVFRT distinguishes between intimate and non-intimate homicides (see Methodology, section 3). In 2010, less than half (43%) of the local domestic homicide cases (n=7) involved intimate partners. This was a considerable departure from the overall pattern over the previous thirteen years, in which the majority (78%) of domestic violence homicides in Jacksonville involved intimate partners. While one year does not necessarily herald a new trend, it is worth noting that intimate homicides have decreased nationally quite dramatically over the past decade, at least for male victims. Most experts believe this decrease is due, at least in part, to the increasing availability of alternate resources for resolving domestic violence, such as refuges for battered women and intervention programs for batterers (Brown & Williams, 1993; Brown et al., 1999; Dugan et al., 1999; Puzone et al., 2000).

**Recommendation: While the decrease in intimate domestic homicide fatalities is a favorable trend, more work needs to be done to help criminal justice personnel and the community at large realize that violence between intimate partners and family members can turn lethal at any time.**

### **Finding #2**

In 2010, the majority (71%) of both victims and suspects were black. This is similar to the data from our 2008 and 2009 report, but it is a clear departure from the prior decade. As this report shows, between 1997-2009 the race/ethnicity of victims tended to closely mirror that of the Jacksonville community at large. That is, in the past 54% of the victims were white, 42% of the victims were black, 3% were Asian, and 2% were Hispanic. This changed in 2008, when only 36% of the victims were white, while 64% of the victims were black. This disparity became even greater in 2009, when 33% of the victims were white and 70% were black. Thus, for the last three years blacks were the majority of both suspects and victims.

**Recommendation: Although domestic homicides affect all races/ethnicities, the DVFRT is concerned about the recent local increases (or lack of decreases) in black domestic homicides. This suggests that better intervention efforts may need to be extended to the local black community.**

### **Finding #3**

There continues to be a considerable gender disparity in who commits domestic violence homicides in Jacksonville. In 2010, six of the seven fatalities reviewed here involved male suspects (86%). These findings are consistent with the patterns of the past decade. For the whole 1997-2010 period covered in this report, males killed their female partners in 76% of intimate cases. In 83% of non-intimate cases, males killed other family members. In 86% of the overall homicide/suicide cases, the suspect was male. Lethal violence in Duval County on average is predominantly committed by males.

**Recommendation: Domestic violence is still highly gendered, meaning that male offenders disproportionately victimize females in a wide variety of ways, including fatally. Public awareness efforts about this gender disparity in lethal domestic violence still need to be increased, so that men displaying violence toward women may be referred for intervention more often and women may be prompted to take self-protective actions sooner.**

### **Finding #4**

In 2010, only 29% of both suspects and victims had prior domestic violence arrests. This is less than in 2009, when 44% of the cases involved men with domestic violence criminal histories, but in line with the overall period 1997-2009 in which 28% of suspects (36 males, 3 females) had such criminal histories. Viewed differently, this means that in 2010 the majority (71%) of the victims and suspects had **no** prior arrests for domestic violence which might have alerted authorities to the potential for fatal violence. Under these circumstances, there was no opportunity for the system to help prevent a homicide. This is the same pattern noted locally in previous years. This is also consistent with research showing that less than half of victims of attempted domestic homicide “report prior contact with a healthcare provider, law enforcement agency or domestic violence service agency. Thus, many victims have little prior opportunity for their risk to have been formally assessed” (Campbell et al., 2009).

In 2010 more victims (29%) than suspects (14%) were respondents to civil injunctions for protection or other civil matters relevant to the potential for violence, because one victim had a long history of violence. In the past, between 1997-2009, victims and suspects were about equally represented (9% vs. 8%) in terms of being such respondents. Over that thirteen year period, males were more likely than females to have injunctions against them while females were more likely than males to file injunctions, regardless of whether those males and females were victims or offenders.

**Recommendation: Whenever possible, police, domestic violence programs, victim advocates and courts need an opportunity to intervene in order to prevent domestic fatalities. The DVFRT recommends that all agencies dealing with domestic violence perpetrators and victims become more sensitive regarding records of prior violence, whether that prior violence was directed against the current victim or toward others. In particular, any history of violence should be taken very seriously whenever possible in the prosecution and sentencing of offenders.**

### **Finding #5**

It should be noted that family or friends are sometimes aware of existing family violence but do not alert authorities. In 33% of the 2009 cases and 70% of the 2008 cases there was an indication that family, friends or coworkers were aware of either past domestic violence, threats made against the victim, or fear by the victim for his/her safety. Though this was not mentioned in any of the 2010 cases, it is consistent with research showing that male offenders of intimate partner homicide or near-fatal assault could potentially be identified as high risk offenders prior to the homicide or attempted homicide, except that fewer than half (47%) “would come to the attention of the police, social services, or mental health system for domestic assault beforehand, where opportunities for risk assessment might exist” (Campbell et al., 2009, as cited in Eke et al., 2011, p. 214). It is vital that family, friends and co-workers recognize the importance of encouraging victims to seek help and of reporting suspected violence or threats of violence to appropriate authorities. Only then will there be an opportunity to intervene before violence turns fatal.

**Recommendation: The DVFRT concludes that there is still need for increased public awareness regarding the importance of reporting domestic violence or threats of violence. Unless every person (e.g., family members, friends, co-workers, neighbors, clergy) who suspects family violence or threats of violence encourages victims to seek help and anyone witnessing violence or threats of violence happening contacts police, we will continue to see domestic fatalities in our community.**

### **Finding #6**

In 2010, 43% of the suspects also had a history of substance abuse arrests. This is similar to the 2009 percentage of 44%, but slightly higher than the overall percentage of suspects with substance abuse arrests (34%) between 1997 and 2009. This suggests that the percentage of cases that involve substance abuse may be increasing.

**Recommendation: Violent individuals who abuse substances have two issues requiring treatment: the substance abuse and the domestic violence. Police officials should continue to note the substance abuse status of all individuals who are arrested for domestic violence incidents. In addition, substance abuse treatment programs should screen for domestic violence. Substance abuse should be viewed as a possible correlated problem to domestic violence.**

### **Finding #7**

In 2010, one third (33%) of the intimate fatalities involved couples who were not cohabiting. This is slightly less than the 44% of the intimate violence cases in 2009 in which the couples were separated at the time of the homicide. During the prior thirteen years, 35% of the couples were no longer living together at the time of the homicide. A considerable body of research has shown that threats or acts of separation are often precursors to lethal violence. It is important for victims and for system professionals to know that the danger does not go away just because the couple is no longer living together.

**Recommendation: The DVFRT recognizes the need for increased public and criminal justice personnel awareness of the fact that separation, or efforts to leave a violent household, may not alleviate the potential for fatal violence. It may even increase**

**the lethality of domestic violence. The criminal justice system should not assume that there is no longer a need for intervention efforts if the couple has separated or divorced.**

### **Finding #8**

Once again, the DVFRT team identified two main concerns regarding intervention for abusers. The first is that in 2010, only less than half (43%) of those suspects with prior police contact were ordered into some kind of intervention program designed to decrease violence (BIP or anger management programs, though anger management is not recommended in intimate violence cases). This is slightly higher than the pattern of the past thirteen years, in which the percentage of suspects so referred was only 34%. Nonetheless, this is a low proportion of offenders who have demonstrated some potential for domestic violence (and thus lethality) and who might be helped to avoid homicidal behavior if they receive intervention services.

The second concern is that in 2010 the one male suspect ordered into a BIP program failed to complete that program. This is similar to the overall period 1997-2009 in which only one (8%) of 13 suspects ordered into BIP ever completed the program. In short, it appears that local referrals to intervention for abusers need to be more closely monitored since completion percentages are so low and consequences for noncompliance are apparently lacking. It is important to note that the success rate for individuals who **do** complete batterers' intervention programs locally is high: 88% were not rearrested during a follow-up three-year tracking period, according to arrest records checks done by the State Attorney's Office. The DVFRT believes that referral to and successful completion of a BIP is an underutilized tool for preventing future homicides. Unfortunately, the number of abusers ordered to batterers' intervention has been slowly declining over the past few years. Local programs report that in 2008 the number of offenders in batterers' intervention was nearly 30% lower than a year ago, yet in 2009, according to the Florida Department of Law Enforcement (FDLE) statistics, the number of domestic violence police reports in Duval County was up by 9%. A certified batterers' intervention program appears to be an effective but underutilized means to reduce gender violence.

**Recommendation: The criminal justice system should make full use of batterers' intervention programs, and not only when mandated by statute. Furthermore, when batterers' intervention is ordered by the courts, penalties for noncompliance should be severe.**

**Finding #9:** In 2010, two of the seven cases (29%) of domestic fatality involved a total of eight minor children who were either present in, or directly witnessed, the homicides. This is consistent with the period 1997-2009 in which 27% of the cases involved a total of 88 children over the twelve year period. There is growing evidence that children who witness violence are at a higher risk for later involvement in delinquency or adult criminal behavior, including domestic violence (Hallet, 2003). Jacksonville has an intervention program (HARK) specially designed for children involved in domestic violence, but the DVFRT found extremely low rates of referral for these children to this program. In 2010, none of the eight children were referred to HARK, and in the preceding twelve years only three cases were referred. One reason for this low referral rate may be the result of the fact that,

if children whose home life has been disrupted by violence are placed in the care of other family (as opposed to state care), the Department of Children and Families closes out their cases. Consequently, there is no one to monitor the effects of violence on those children or to refer them to HARK.

**Recommendation: Given the deleterious effects on children who witness, or are involved in, violence within their own homes, it is important for such children to receive counseling or other relevant interventions. The low referral rates to HARK suggest that this is not now being done. All service providers who have contact with children in violent homes---police, advocates, shelters, lawyers, judges and court personnel---need to be proactive in referring such children to intervention programs which may be able to help them avoid future delinquency and violence themselves.**

Date of Homicide: 1/19/10

Victim: Black Female, 81

Suspect: Black Male, 53

**I. CRIME**

A. RELATIONSHIP: Mother/Son

B. CASE SUMMARY: On January 19, 2010, JSO was called to Victim's home for a wellness call. JSO found Victim's body outside the residence against the fence in the backyard. Death was caused by blunt force trauma to her head, which was severed from her body. Victim's 53 year old son, who resided with her, was arrested for her murder. Case Pending.

C. CHILDREN PRESENT: None

D. LOCATION: 32208 (Zone 5)

**II. CRIMINAL RECORDS AND REPORTS**

A. DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

1. Victim: No Record

2. Suspect: No Record

B. NON-DOMESTIC VIOLENT CRIMES

1. Victim: a) 08/9/77 – Assault/Battery, Adjudication Unknown 6 months probation.

2. Suspect: a) 04/17/91 – Arrested for sexual battery but pled guilty to indecent exposure, served 35 days.

C. DRUG OR ALCOHOL RELATED OFFENSES

1. Victim: No Record



- 2. Suspect: a) 02/15/79 – Possession of Marijuana under 5 grams, dismissed; Drinking on city property, adjudication withheld, \$28 court costs.

D. WEAPONS OFFENSES

- 1. Victim: No Record
- 2. Suspect: a) 02/11/84 – Carrying a Concealed Firearm, Acquitted due to insanity.

**III. CIVIL RECORDS AND REPORTS**

- A. Victim: None Found
- B. Suspect: a) 09/06 – Eviction.  
b) 10/6/09 – Baker Acted.

**IV. SERVICES**

- A. Victim: None Found
- B. Suspect: None Found

**V. OTHER CONCERNS:**

Suspect was Baker Acted on 10/6/09 by petition of Victim. Suspect was also arrested for carrying a concealed firearm in 1984 and was acquitted due to insanity. There is no information regarding treatment or services for mental illness.

Suspect was arrested once for alcohol and drug use, but there is no record of any further substance related arrests after 1979. There is also no record of any services or treatment for substance abuse or any information to determine if this was a factor in the crime.

Suspect also had two misdemeanors for resisting arrest without violence.

Date of Homicide: 1/31/10

Victim 1: Black Male, 18

Victim 2: Black Female, 22 - attempted homicide, injuries not fatal

Suspect: Black Male, 33

**I. CRIME**

A. RELATIONSHIP: Brother In-Law/Brother In-Law

B. CASE SUMMARY: On July 18, 2009 Suspect and his estranged wife, Victim 2, were outside of Victim 1 and Victim 2's residence. Suspect wanted Victim 2 to accompany him to the store and she refused. Upon refusal, Suspect produced a handgun and attempted to force Victim 2 into the car. Victim 2 was able to slip out of her shirt and get away and ran into her residence. Victim 2 ran inside to Victim 1's (her brother) room to get away from Suspect. While both Victims were inside the bedroom, Suspect entered the bedroom and both victims attempted to fight the gun away from Suspect. Suspect shot Victim 2 twice and then Victim 2 fled the area. Victim 1 tried to exit the area and was shot in the back by Suspect. On January 31, 2010 Victim 1 died due to complications from the gunshot wound received on July 18, 2009. Victim 2 survived her injuries.

C. CHILDREN PRESENT: There were five children listed as witnesses on the police report. Ages for the children were 1, 2, 7, 7 and 10. The children were listed as other family in relationship to the victim.

D. LOCATION: 32208 (Zone 5)

**II. CRIMINAL RECORDS AND REPORTS**

A. DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

1. Victim #1: No Record

2. Victim #2: No Record

3. Suspect: a) 01/08 – Domestic Battery; charges dropped.

b) 08/06 – Aggravated Assault with a deadly

weapon, Domestic Battery (not on victims) –  
nol pros.

c) 10/03 – Domestic Battery (not on victims) –  
pled no contest - probation, batterers’  
intervention (BIP) and no violent contact.

B. NON-DOMESTIC VIOLENT CRIMES

1. Victim #1: No Record
2. Victim # 2: a) 05/07 – Aggravated Battery Upon Pregnant Female – dropped.
3. Suspect: a) 07/93 – Aggravated Assault and Kidnapping (DeKalb County, Georgia).

C. DRUG OR ALCOHOL RELATED OFFENSES

1. Victim #1: No Record
2. Victim #2: No Record
3. Suspect: a) 09/05 – Possession of Cocaine and Sale or Delivery of Controlled Substance to person over 18 – 3 years probation.  
  
b) 05/05 – Possession of Marijuana and Possession of Cocaine – 2 days jail.  
  
c) 12/04 – Possession of Marijuana 20 grams or less; Possession of Crack Cocaine; Possession of unknown pills – 32 days jail.  
  
d) 10/99 – Sale or Delivery of Cocaine and Possession of Cocaine- sentenced to 18 months in prison.

D. WEAPONS OFFENSES

1. Victim #1: No Record
2. Victim #2: No Record
3. Suspect: a) 08/06 – Possession of a firearm or weapon by a convicted felon - Dropped

because he was committed to a state hospital.

b) 12/95 – Carrying Concealed Weapon - sentenced to 8 months and ordered into drug treatment.

### III. CIVIL RECORDS AND REPORTS

- A. Victim #1: None Found
- B. Victim #2:
  - a) 08/09 – Injunction for Protection against Suspect.
  - b) 12/04 – Neglect; DCF involved.
  - c) 8/03 – Neglect; DCF involved.
- C. Suspect:
  - a) 8/09 – Injunction for Protection (Suspect respondent, Victim #2 Petitioner).
  - b) 11/06 – Committed to state hospital, adjudged incompetent.

### IV. SERVICES

- A. Victim #1: None Found
- B. Victim #2:
  - a) 07/09 – Referred to InVEST after this incident.
- C. Suspect:
  - a) 11/03 – BIP, did not complete.
  - b) 07/09 – InVEST client (due to this incident).

### V. OTHER CONCERNS

At the time of the shooting, Victim 2 had a permanent Injunction for Protection against Domestic Violence against Suspect as a result of a previous domestic violence incident. Suspect had an extensive criminal history, including kidnapping and assault, was committed to a mental health facility and had not been sentenced to any substantial jail time. The Department of Children and Families was involved; however, there was no referral to Hubbard House or any programs that could help counsel Victim 2.

Date of Homicide: 4/5/10

Victim: White Male, 79

Suspect: White Male, 24

**I. CRIME**

- A. RELATIONSHIP: Grandfather/Grandson
- B. CASE SUMMARY: Victim (grandfather) and Suspect (grandson) all lived in the same residence, along with Suspect's father. On 4/5/10 Victim was on the phone with his daughter when Suspect came home and began yelling at him. Victim told his daughter that Suspect had broken windows, the television, and a cell phone. Victim also stated Suspect had hit him in the face. The daughter called police.

At that same time, Victim's son (Suspect's father) left to call police as Suspect had broken the cell phones. Victim went outside into the yard to allow Suspect to calm down and to wait for help. Suspect came outside and struck Victim in the side of the head knocking Victim to the ground. Victim was unable to get up on his own and after returning from calling the police his son found him still on the ground.

Police arrived and noted Victim had a cut on his arm and a bruise on each side of his face. Victim's son (Suspect's father) did not think Victim needed rescue so they were not called. Suspect was arrested that night for Aggravated Battery on a Person over the Age of 65 and drug charges.

Investigation revealed Suspect told relatives he was tired of cleaning up after Victim. Victim had health issues and Suspect was upset over the mess in the bathroom all the time.

On 4/7/10 Victim's son came home to find Victim in his bed unresponsive. Victim was pronounced dead at the scene. An autopsy revealed Victim died from the blunt force head trauma. Suspect was charged with Murder in the Second Degree but entered a plea of guilty to the lesser included offense of Manslaughter on August 26, 2010. Suspect was sentenced to 8 years in prison to be followed by 4 years of probation to complete 200 community service hours and maintain full time employment.

C. CHILDREN PRESENT: None

D. LOCATION: 32210 (Zone 4)

## II. CRIMINAL HISTORY

### A. DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

1. Victim: No Record

2. Suspect: No Record

### B. NON-DOMESTIC VIOLENT CRIMES

1. Victim: No Record

2. Suspect: No Record

### C. DRUG OR ALCOHOL RELATED OFFENSES

1. Victim: No Record

2. Suspect: a) 08/30/04 – Possession of Less Than 20 Grams of Cannabis - Adjudication Withheld/Time Served.

b) 04/5/10 – Possession of less than 20 Grams of Cannabis, Possession of Drug Paraphernalia and Possession of Drugs without a Prescription - dropped as part of Manslaughter plea agreement.

### D. WEAPONS OFFENSES

1. Victim: No Record

2. Suspect: No Record

## III. CIVIL RECORDS AND REPORTS

A. Victim: None Found

B. Suspect: a) 03/8/10 – Injunction for protection - dismissed for failure of respondent to appear

(not related to these parties).

**IV. SERVICES**

- A. Victim: None Found
- B. Suspect: None Found

**V. OTHER CONCERNS**

Rescue was not called because Victim's son did not believe it was necessary. DCF was not contacted regarding the elder abuse.

2010-04

Date of Homicide: 4/25/10

Victim: Black Female, 43

Suspect: Black Male, 21

**I. CRIME**

A. RELATIONSHIP: Mother/Son

B. CASE SUMMARY: Suspect and Victim lived together in the same residence as a family. Suspect was Victim's son. According to family members, Suspect had been acting "different" for the few weeks leading up to the murder, indicating some possible mental instability.

Victim was last seen alive on Saturday evening (4-24-10) by one of her other children. Later that evening, Suspect was seen walking in the neighborhood with a black bag. Victim's body was found in her home on Sunday morning (4-25-10). Victim had been stabbed, decapitated, and her eyes had been carved out of her face.

Investigation revealed that Suspect attacked his mother and stabbed her multiple times after a brief argument. Suspect cut the Victim's head off and put it in a bag. Suspect hid the bag at a nearby address, which was the same area in which he was seen walking the night before.

Suspect was arrested and eventually found to be mentally incompetent to stand trial. Suspect was placed in the Florida State Hospital in Chattahoochee, Florida.

C. CHILDREN PRESENT: None

D. LOCATION: 32209 (Zone 5)

**II. CRIMINAL HISTORY**

A. DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

1. Victim: No Record



2. Suspect: No Record

B. NON-DOMESTIC VIOLENT CRIMES

1. Victim: No Record

2. Suspect: No Record

C. DRUG OR ALCOHOL RELATED OFFENSES

1. Victim: No Record

2. Suspect: No Record

D. WEAPONS OFFENSES

1. Victim: No Record

2. Suspect: No Record

**III. CIVIL RECORDS AND REPORTS**

A. Victim: None Found

B. Suspect: None Found

**IV. SERVICES**

A. Victim: None Found

B. Suspect: None Found

**V. OTHER CONCERNS**

According to the family, Suspect had recently begun to act in a bizarre manner and was evicted from his father's house. Suspect subsequently moved in with Victim, where he continued to act out of character. Prior to the murder Suspect was never examined or evaluated for mental problems despite the recent change of behavior.

Date of Homicide: 5/23/10

Victim: Black Male, 34

Suspect: Black Female, 39

**I. CRIME**

- A. RELATIONSHIP: Boyfriend/Girlfriend (cohabiting)
- B. CASE SUMMARY: Victim and Suspect were living together as a family at the time of the homicide. Suspect's children also lived in the home. On May 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2010, Victim and Suspect were arguing over financial issues. At some point, Victim pushed Suspect. Suspect went to the kitchen and Victim followed her. Suspect grabbed a knife, and stabbed Victim in the chest. Suspect waited for police to arrive, and admitted to patrol that she stabbed Victim. Suspect never disclosed a history of domestic violence between Victim and herself, however, the children later indicated to the Department of Children and Families a history of domestic violence between Victim and Suspect. In February Suspect pled guilty to manslaughter and was sentenced to 12 months in county jail.
- C. CHILDREN PRESENT: Three children were present, ages 7, 10, and 15 years old.
- D. LOCATION: 32254 (Zone 5)

**II. CRIMINAL RECORDS AND REPORTS**

A. DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

- 1. Victim:
  - a) 12/06 – Arrested for Aggravated Battery Domestic (not against suspect) -pled no contest to misdemeanor Battery/Domestic- Transferred to county court-Adjudicated Guilty- 120 days jail, BIP, No victim Contact, 12 months probation.
  - b) 5/15/07 – Violation of Probation for new arrest, not attending BIP, nonpayment- probation extended to 2/08 for completion of conditions.

c) 10/17/07 – Violation of Probation-probation revoked and sentenced to 135 days in jail with 135 days credit.

d) 04/06 – Aggravated Battery Domestic & Possession of a firearm (not on Suspect). Disposition unknown.

e) 07/02 – Arrested for Aggravated Battery on Pregnant Female (not on Suspect) -10/2/02 pled guilty to lesser misdemeanor Battery/Domestic - 98 days in jail with 98 days credit.

f) 06/02 – Aggravated Battery on Pregnant Female (not on suspect). Disposition unknown.

g) 06/98 – Domestic Battery (not on Suspect) - pled no contest - 22 days jail with 22 days credit.

h) 05/97 – Domestic Battery (not on Suspect) - pled no contest - 10 days jail with 2 days credit.

2. Suspect: a) 07/03 – Domestic Battery (not on Victim) - probation with anger management.

## B. NON-DOMESTIC VIOLENT CRIMES

1. Victim:
- a) 11/2/04 – Aggravated Assault (Dating Violence-same victim as above-tried to run Victim over with car)-dropped 3/31/05.
  - b) 10/24/04 – Incident of Aggravated Stalking (Dating Violence - Suspect “distraught” over break up). 4/7/05-pled Guilty to misdemeanor stalking - 12 months jail.
  - c) 11/02 – Battery, Petty Theft, Resisting- Disposition unknown.
  - d) 10/00 – Violation of Probation on Robbery (2 counties).

e) 01/97 – Aggravated Assault and Armed Burglary - dropped.

f) 07/96 – Robbery with a Weapon (JSO and SJCSO) - Defendant returned to St. Johns County.

g) 12/95 – Violation of Probation - No other information.

h) 11/95 – Inciting a Riot - Disposition unknown.

i) 06/93 – Armed Robbery-Disposition unknown.

2. Suspect: No Record

C. DRUG OR ALCOHOL RELATED OFFENSES

1. Victim: a) 12/06 – Possession of Cannabis-pled no contest - 2 days jail and 2 days probation.

b) 1995 – Sale of Cocaine.

2. Suspect: No Record

D. WEAPONS OFFENSES

1. Victim: No Record

2. Suspect: No Record

**III. CIVIL RECORDS AND REPORTS**

A. Victim: a) 6/2/02 – DCF report - Victim was the Perpetrator of domestic violence against his paramour; children exposed; mother claimed history of unreported domestic violence.

b) 4/16/06 – Victim was the perpetrator of domestic violence against child's mother-after the DV incident he fled with the child.

- c) 01/09 – Paternity and Child Support.
- d) 08/08 – Termination of Parental Rights.
- e) 04/05 – Contempt - Child Support.
- f) 11/04 – Petition for Injunction - Dismissed (not Suspect).
- g) 10/04 – Petition for Injunction against Dating Violence Dismissed (not Suspect).
- h) 07/02-Final Injunction for Repeat Violence (not Suspect).
- i) 04/01 – Final Injunction for Protection Against Domestic Violence (not Suspect).

B. Suspect:

- a) 06/09 – Paternity and Child Support (not Victim).
- b) 2009 – DCF report - neglect-closed with no indicators.
- c) 04/1/06 – DCF report - exposure to domestic violence.
- d) 2003 – DCF report - threatened harm and family violence.
- e) 07/18/02 – DCF report of physical abuse.

**IV. SERVICES**

A. Victim:

- a) 02/07– BIP - Violated for attending only 1 class-probation extended- was violated again and sentenced to 135 days with 135 days credit.
- b) 02/07 – DCF case plan accepted.

B. Suspect:

- a) 07/03 – Anger management.

## **V. OTHER CONCERNS**

Victim had an extensive criminal career, including numerous reports of violence against women. Victim was incarcerated in Florida State Prison from 8/31/93 to 4/12/94 and from 10/30/07 to 6/30/09, which explains why no crimes committed during those times. The Victim has numerous other arrests and prosecutions that did not meet the above criteria so they were not mentioned. In addition to the arrests listed above, there were several violations of injunctions and other police reports/incidents that did not result in arrest or prosecution.

Suspect's teenage son was arrested for carrying a firearm and told the Judge he was carrying the gun because he feared for his mother's safety. He advised the Judge that Suspect called him numerous times about domestic violence incidents perpetrated by Victim on Suspect, and told him she was afraid of Victim. In addition, on 5/23/10- the children indicated to DCF that they had witnessed the homicide and that there was a history of domestic violence between Victim and Suspect.

Date of Homicide/Suicide: 6/7/10

Victim: White Female, 78

Suspect: White Male, 74

**I. CRIME**

A. RELATIONSHIP: Husband/Wife (cohabiting)

B. CASE SUMMARY: On June 7, 2010, police were called by the complainant (a friend of the decedents) who reported that she had received a letter which had been mailed on June 5, 2010 from the decedents advising her that they would be found dead in their home and she should call police and use a key enclosed in the letter to gain access to the house. Police responded and found the home secure. Upon entry, police found Victim and Suspect seated together on a blue tarp-covered futon, both deceased from gunshot wounds to their heads. The letter, apparently written by Suspect but signed by both, included the couple's funeral plans, wills, directions for disposal of their property, and listed the complainant as their executor. The letter also indicated that the couple had health issues and "extreme" pain, which were the reasons for their "voluntary euthanasia" (relatives indicated that both had terminal cancer.) The couple wrote that they had elected to die "peacefully and in the comfort and familiarity of our home." A second similar letter had been sent to a relative, and a third letter was sent to Sheriff Rutherford indicating that Suspect had helped Victim shoot herself because she was not strong enough to hold the handgun herself, and he then shot himself. Autopsy findings were consistent with this scenario. Other evidence at the scene suggested that they may have planned to take their own lives for several months, though there was no independent evidence that the wife was actually a willing participant. The case was determined to be exceptionally cleared by reason of the death of the offender.

C. CHILDREN PRESENT: None

D. LOCATION: 32207 (Zone 3)

**II. CRIMINAL RECORDS AND REPORTS**

A. DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

1. Victim: No Record

2. Suspect: No Record

B. NON-DOMESTIC VIOLENT CRIMES

1. Victim: No Record

2. Suspect: No Record

C. DRUG OR ALCOHOL RELATED OFFENSES

1. Victim: No Record

2. Suspect: No Record

D. WEAPONS OFFENSES

1. Victim: No Record

2. Suspect: No Record

**III. CIVIL RECORDS AND REPORTS**

A. Victim: None Found

B. Suspect: None Found

**IV. SERVICES**

A. Victim: None Found

B. Suspect: None Found

**V. OTHER CONCERNS**

Letters from the decedents suggested that, due to terminal illnesses suffered by both, they saw no better alternative than taking their own lives. These letters were apparently signed by Victim as well as Suspect; however, there is no affirmative evidence that the wife was truly a willing participant, since the couple did not confide their plans to any friends or relatives in advance. This is consistent with murder-suicide patterns among the sick elderly, but raises concerns about availability of (or knowledge about) local ameliorative or hospice services which might prevent such actions.



Date of Homicide: 12/21/10

Victim: Black Female, 26

Suspect: Black Male, 26

**I. CRIME**

- A. RELATIONSHIP: Boyfriend/Girlfriend (not cohabiting)
- B. CASE SUMMARY: On December 21, 2010, Victim and Suspect were at Victim's apartment on the west side of Jacksonville. Suspect stated that he and Victim had an argument and Suspect stabbed Victim. The Suspect admitted to forcing Victim to drive around on the north side of town. While Victim and Suspect were driving around, they began to argue again, at which time Suspect reached over from the passenger side and began to strangle Victim until she lost consciousness. The vehicle began to leave the roadway, and Suspect jumped from the vehicle before it crashed between trees. Victim was found dead from strangulation with her cell phone in her hand. Suspect was later arrested and charged with murder. The case was pending at the time of this report.
- C. CHILDREN PRESENT: There were no children present at the time of the homicide.
- D. LOCATION: 32218 (Zone 4)

**II. CRIMINAL RECORDS AND REPORTS**

- A. DOMESTIC VIOLENCE
  - 1. Victim: a) 9/22/07 – Domestic Battery (against children's father, not Suspect) - two days jail, court costs.
  - 2. Suspect: No Record
- B. NON-DOMESTIC VIOLENT CRIMES
  - 1. Victim: No Record

- 2. Suspect:
  - a) 9/16/10 – Violation of Probation burglary, dwelling occupied (Victim’s home) - 18 months probation, no contact with Victim.
  - b) 10/09/09 – Burglary, dwelling not occupied – Probation, 18 months.
  - c) 7/02/09 – False Imprisonment against Victim, child abuse against Victim’s children, damage property, unauthorized use of a motor vehicle- all charges dropped.
  - d) 2/9/05 – Robbery/deadly weapon, robbery carjacking – dropped.

C. DRUG OR ALCOHOL RELATED OFFENSES

- 1. Victim: No Record
- 2. Suspect: No Record

D. WEAPONS OFFENSES

- 1. Victim: No Record
- 2. Suspect: No Record

**III. CIVIL RECORDS AND REPORTS**

- A. Victim:
  - a) 7/9/10 – DCF report made against Victim for child abuse against her daughter. Case closed with no indication of physical abuse.
  - b) 7/26/06 – Respondent to injunction for protection against Victim from another party (not Suspect).
- B. Suspect:
  - a) 6/23/09 – DCF report made against Suspect for domestic violence against Victim and Victim’s daughter. Case closed with some indication for child safety.

**IV. SERVICES**

- A. Victim:
  - a) Referral to Hubbard House (not

regarding the Suspect), declined services.

B. Suspect:

a) Referral to anger management.

**V. OTHER CONCERNS**

At the time of the murder, Suspect was on order by the courts to have no contact with Victim as a result of a violation of probation in which he burglarized Victim's home. Victim was abused in the past by her children's father (not Suspect) and was charged with domestic battery against him. The Department of Children and Families responded to the home of Victim for numerous allegations of abuse, but did not deem it necessary to remove the children. Victim was charged with aggravated battery against the father of her children but there was no indication of a referral to the Department of Children and Families.

# **PATTERNS/2010 ONLY**

## **GENDER (BY NUMBER OF PEOPLE)**

- ! Male suspects: (n=6 cases, 86% of cases)
  - o 2 males killed female partners; one of these males also committed suicide
  - o 2 males killed their mothers
  - o 1 male killed his brother-in-law and attempted to murder his wife
  - o 1 male killed his grandfather
  
- ! Female suspects: (n=1, 14%)
  - o 1 female killed her male partner

Male victims (n=3, 43%)

Female victims (n=4, 57%)

Among all suspects, six males represented a vast majority (86%) compared to the one female (14%). Among all victims, four females represented a slight majority (57%) compared to the three males (43%).

## **RACE (BY NUMBER OF PEOPLE)**

- ! Victims (n=7)
  - o 2 White (29% of cases, 29% of victims)
  - o 5 Black (71% of cases, 71% of victims)
  
- ! Suspects (n=7)
  - o 2 White (29% of cases, 29% of suspects)
  - o 5 Black (71% of cases, 71% of suspects)

Domestic homicides generally tend to be intra-racial (occurring between persons of the same race/ethnicity). This was true of the Duval County cases this year. However, there is a disproportionate number of cases involving black offenders/victims compared to white offenders/victims, which does not reflect local population race/ethnicity distributions.

## **RELATIONSHIP (BY NUMBER OF CASES)**

- ! Intimate homicides (n=3 cases, 43% of cases)
  - o In 1 case (33% of intimate cases), the parties were married and cohabiting at the time of the homicide/suicide.
  - o In 1 cases (33% of intimate cases), the parties were not married but cohabiting at the time of the homicide.
  - o In 1 case (33% of intimate cases), the parties were not married and were not cohabiting at the time of the homicide.
  
- ! Non-Intimate homicides (n=4 cases, 57% of cases)
  - o 2 males killed their mothers.
  - o 1 male killed his grandfather.
  - o 1 male killed his brother-in-law.

Intimate homicides usually outnumber non-intimate homicides, though this was not true for 2010. However, one of the non-intimate homicides occurred during the attempted homicide of an intimate partner.

## **METHOD (BY NUMBER OF VICTIMS)**

Of the 7 total cases:

- ! 2 gunshot wounds (28.5%)
- ! 2 knife wounds (28.5%)
- ! 1 strangulation (14%)
- ! 2 blunt force trauma (28.5%)

Though murders in the United States generally tend to involve mostly firearms (67%, see FBI, Table 7), domestic homicides are more likely to also involve a variety of other fatal methods, which was true for these cases in 2010.

## **CHILDREN (BY NUMBER OF CASES)**

In two of the seven cases (29%), minor children were present at the scene and/or witnessed the homicide. In one case, there were three children present, while in the second case there were five children present.

## **CRIMINAL HISTORY: DOMESTIC VIOLENCE (BY NUMBER OF PEOPLE)**

Only those cases in which victims and suspects were previously arrested for domestic violence are included below. (n=3 cases).

- ! Victims (n= 2, 29% of total cases, 29% of victims)
  - o 1 female with 1 domestic violence arrest
  - o 1 male with 8 domestic violence arrests
- ! Suspects (n=2, 29% of total cases, 29% of suspects)
  - o 1 male with 3 domestic violence arrests
  - o 1 female with 1 domestic violence arrest

Though prior arrest for domestic violence is considered a high risk indicator for possible lethal behavior (see Campbell, et al., 2007), only a minority of cases in 2010 involved offenders or victims who had previously been arrested for this offense. This does not mean that the other cases did not involve prior domestic violence; only that it did not come to the attention of the police.

## **INJUNCTIONS AND OTHER CIVIL MATTERS (BY NUMBER OF PEOPLE)**

Only those cases in which victims and suspects had prior injunctions or other civil matters are included below. (n=4 cases).

- ! Victims (29% of total cases, 29% of victims)
  - o 1 female was the respondent to an injunction by a different victim.
  - o 1 male was the respondent to 2 injunctions and 2 petitions that were dismissed and one final injunction (not involving suspect).
- ! Suspects (29% of total cases, 29% of suspects)
  - o 1 male was the respondent to an injunction, involving a different victim, that was dismissed because petitioner failed to appear.

- 1 male was the respondent to an injunction involving a victim that was injured but not killed.

Both victims and suspects had been respondents to injunctions for protection prior to the 2010 homicidal incident.

### **CHILD ABUSE REFERRALS (BY NUMBER OF PEOPLE)**

Only victims and suspects with prior child abuse referrals are included below. (n=2 cases).

Child Abuse Referrals (29% of total cases)

- ! Victims:
  - 1 victim had 2 DCF reports involving a child/children witnessing domestic violence
  - 1 victim had 1 DCF report of suspected abuse. Case closed.
- ! Suspects:
  - 1 suspect had 4 DCF reports: exposure to domestic violence, threatened harm, neglect, and physical abuse.
  - 1 suspect had 1 DCF report of abuse against child and victim.

Both victims and suspects in 2010 had been previously referred to DCF for concerns about abuse or exposure to domestic violence in the home.

### **SHELTER SERVICES (BY NUMBER OF PEOPLE)**

- ! 1 female victim was referred for services but declined services.

Most victims in 2010 had never been referred to shelter services prior to the homicidal incident.

### **Help for At Risk Kids SERVICES (BY NUMBER OF CASES)**

- ! There were no children involved in these cases that received HARK services either before or after the homicide cases reviewed this year.

Though there were several cases which involved prior domestic violence arrests or DCF referrals, and such situations are known to be high-risk indicators for future child delinquency or violence (see Hallet, 2003), none of these children received services which might prevent or reduce such future bad outcomes.

### **INTERVENTION (BY NUMBER OF PEOPLE)**

Only victims and suspects who were ordered to complete a batterers' intervention program (BIP) or other interventions are included below (n=3 cases).

- ! Victims (14% of cases, 14% of suspects)
  - 1 male ordered to a BIP but did not attend
- ! Suspects (43% of cases, 43% of suspects)
  - 1 male was ordered to a BIP, but did not complete.
  - 1 male was ordered to anger management.
  - 1 female was ordered to anger management.

Neither of the two individuals ordered by the court to batterers' intervention programs successfully attended or completed those programs prior to the lethal incident.

### **ALCOHOL/DRUG ABUSE (BY NUMBER OF PEOPLE)**

Only victims and suspects who were previously arrested for substance abuse are included below. (n=4 cases).

- ! Victims (14% of total cases, 14% of victims)
  - o 1 male with 2 substance abuse arrests
  
- ! Suspects (43% of total cases, 43% of suspects)
  - o 1 male with 1 substance abuse arrest
  - o 1 male with 2 substance abuse arrests
  - o 1 male with 4 substance abuse arrests

Though alcohol and drug abuse are not considered causal to domestic violence, they are known to be correlated with such violence. Almost half of all suspects in 2010 had prior substance abuse arrests, but it is unclear whether they were referred for intervention programs or screened for domestic violence in the home.

### **MENTAL HEALTH ISSUES (BY NUMBER OF PEOPLE)**

Only victims and suspects with prior documented mental health issues are included below. (n=2 cases).

- ! Victims (no cases)
  
- ! Suspects (29% of total cases, 29% of suspects)
  - o 2 males had documented mental health issues

Though prior mental health problems are a known predictor for domestic violence, only two cases this year involved suspects with pre-existing documented mental health issues. Most domestic homicides are not related to mental illness (see Campbell, et al., 2007).

### **ZIP CODES**

Zip codes where the homicide occurred (n=7)

- ! 32207 - 1 (14% of cases)
- ! 32208 - 2 (29% of cases)
- ! 32209 - 1 (14% of cases)
- ! 32210 - 1 (14% of cases)
- ! 32218 - 1 (14% of cases)
- ! 32254 - 1 (14% of cases)

### **LAW ENFORCEMENT ZONES**

Law Enforcement Zones where the homicide occurred (n=7).

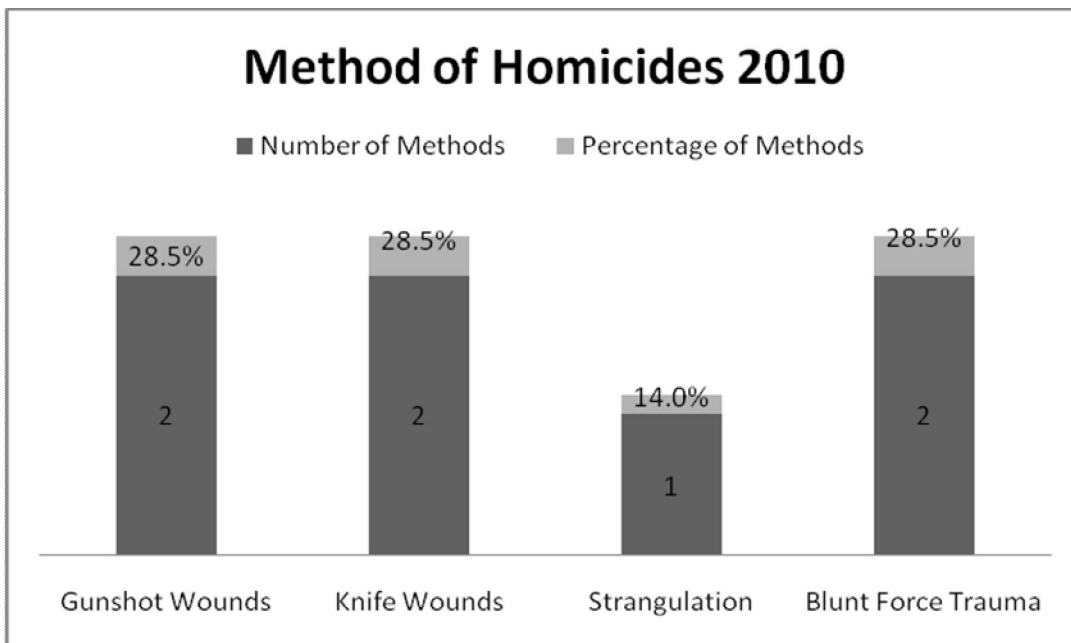
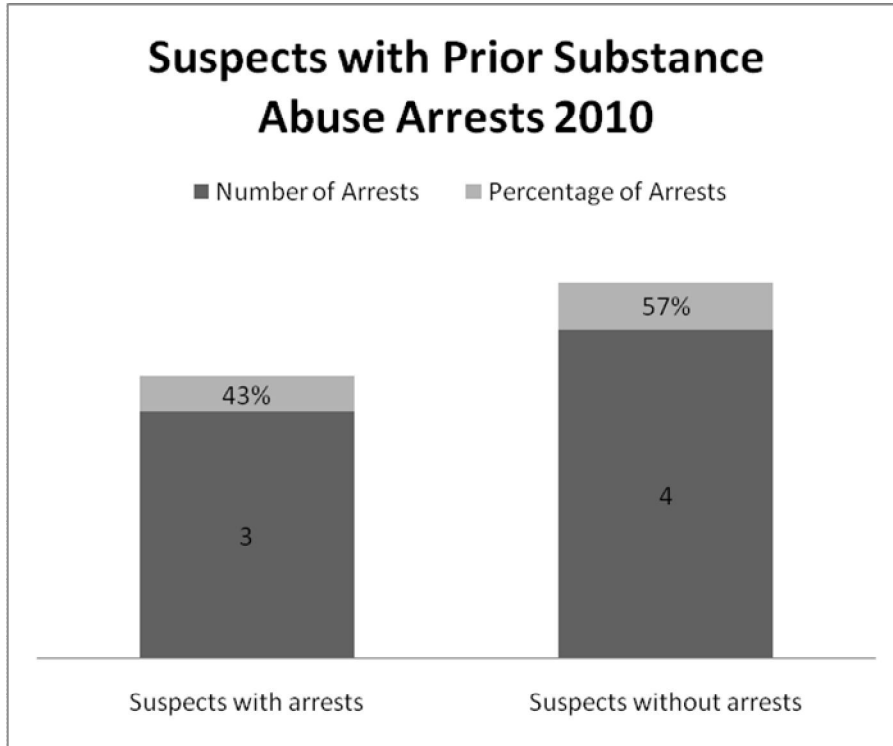
- Zone 1 B 0 (0% of cases)
- Zone 2 B 0 (0% of cases)

Zone 3 B 1 (14% of cases)  
Zone 4 B 2 (29% of cases)  
Zone 5 B 4 (57% of cases)  
Zone 6 B 0 (0% of cases)

These distributions of cases indicate that, while domestic homicides can—and have—occurred anywhere in the city, there was some clustering of cases in Zones 4 and 5 this year.

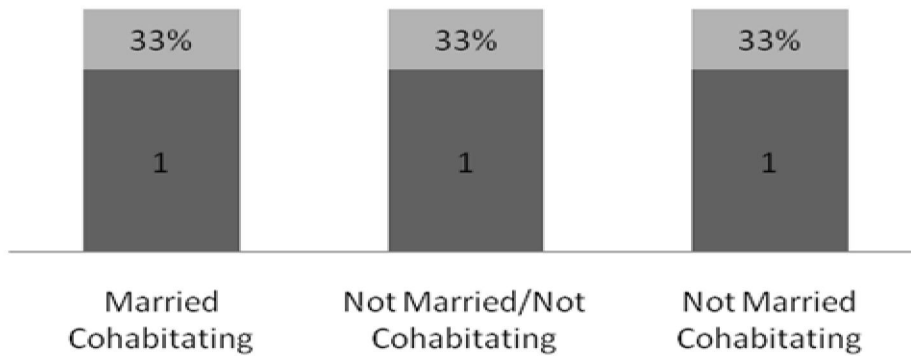


# GRAPHS 2010 ONLY



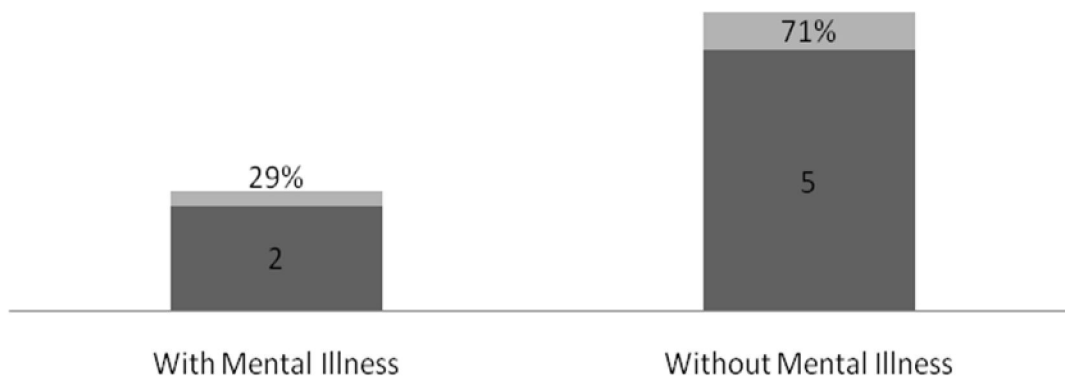
## Relationship Status of Intimate Homicides 2010

■ Total Number ■ Percentage



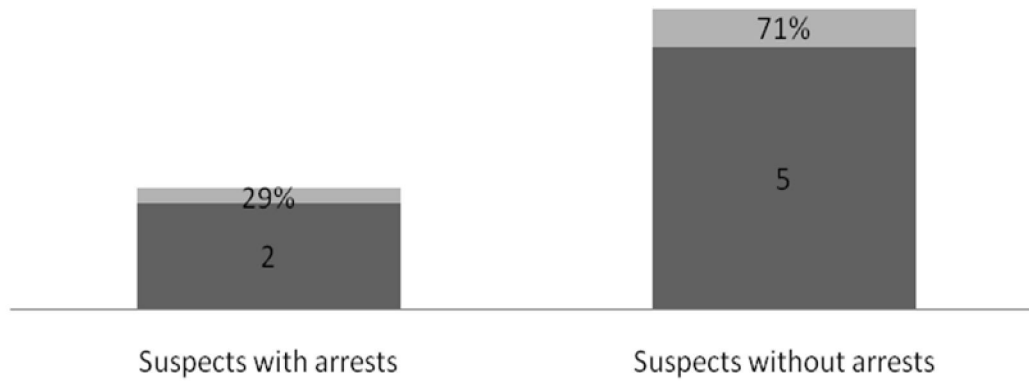
## Suspects with Documented Mental Illness 2010

■ Total Number ■ Percentage



## Suspects with Prior Domestic Violence Arrests 2010

■ Total Number ■ Percentage



## **PATTERNS (1997 - 2010)**

(169 Months, Including December 1996)

144 Cases, 110 of these Intimate Cases (76%)  
158 Murders, 121 of these Intimate Murders (77%)  
31 Suicides (21%)

### **GENDER (BY NUMBER OF PEOPLE)**

Intimate homicides (110 cases with 121 murders, 76% of cases)

- ! 83 males killed their female partners resulting in 94 murders (75% of intimate cases)
  - o 2 also killed the wife's boyfriend
  - o 1 also killed his grown daughter and son-in-law
  - o 1 also killed his ex-girlfriend's minor daughter and current boyfriend
  - o 1 also killed his father-in-law and brother-in-law
  - o 1 also killed their ex-girlfriends
  - o 1 also killed his ex-girlfriend's father
  - o 1 also killed his wife's adult son
  
- ! 25 females killed their male partners resulting 25 murders (23% of intimate cases)
  - o In one case the current boyfriend was also a suspect
  
- ! 2 males killed same sex partners (2% of intimate cases)

Non-Intimate homicides (34 cases with 37 murders, 24% of cases)

- ! 29 males killed other family members resulting in 32 murders (85% of non-intimate cases)
- ! 4 females killed other family members resulting in 4 murders (12% of non-intimate cases)
- ! 1 male killed a non-family member during an attack on an intimate partner.

Above cases involving Homicide/Suicides (3 cases, 22% of cases)

- ! 27 males committed suicide (87% of suicides)
- ! 4 females committed suicide (13% of suicides)

### **RACE (BY NUMBER OF PEOPLE)**

- ! Victims (total 158)
  - o 83 White (53% of victims)
  - o 69 Black (47% of victims)
  - o 4 Asian (3% of victims)
  - o 2 Hispanic (<2% of victims)
  
- ! Suspects (total 146)
  - o 73 White (50% of suspects)
  - o 69 Black (47% of suspects)

- 3 Asian (2% of suspects)
- 1 Hispanic (<1% of suspects)

## **RELATIONSHIP**

- ! 110 cases with 121 victims involved intimate relationships
- ! In 72 cases (65% of intimate cases), the parties were cohabiting at the time of the homicide.
  - 37 married and cohabiting (34% of intimate cases)
  - 32 not married and cohabiting (29% of intimate cases)
  - 3 divorced and cohabiting (3% of intimate cases)
- ! In 38 cases (35% of intimate cases), the parties were separated or divorced at the time of the homicide.
  - 16 married and not cohabiting (15% of intimate cases)
  - 21 not married and not cohabiting (19% of intimate cases)
  - 1 divorced and not cohabiting (1% of intimate cases)
- ! 34 cases with 37 victims involved non-intimate relationships
  - 16 males killed parents/step-parents/grandparents (47% of non-intimate cases)
    - 3 cases where son killed both parents
    - 5 cases where son killed their mother
    - 2 cases where son killed their father
    - 2 cases where step-son killed step-father
    - 4 cases where grandson killed grandparent, one also killed companion
  - 6 males killed children/step-children (18% of non-intimate cases)
    - 1 case where step-father killed step-son
    - 1 case where step-father killed step-daughter
    - 1 case where ex-boyfriend killed ex-girlfriend's son
    - 1 case where father killed infant son
    - 2 cases where father killed adult son
  - 3 males killed their brothers (9% of non-intimate cases)
  - 1 male killed brother-in-law (3% of cases)
  - 2 cases where father killed adult son (6% of non-intimate cases)
  - 1 male killed sister-in-law (3% of non-intimate cases)
  - 1 female killed mother (3% of non-intimate cases)
  - 1 female killed her son (3% of non-intimate cases)
  - 2 female killed their brother (6% of non-intimate cases)
  - 1 male killed his ex-mother-in-law (3% of non-intimate cases)
  - 1 male killed his niece (3% of non-intimate cases)
  - 1 male killed his ex-wife's boyfriend during an attack on ex-wife (3% of cases)

## **METHOD (BY NUMBER OF VICTIMS)**

Of the total cases (n=158):

- ! 86 gunshot wounds (54% of victims)
- ! 35 knife wounds (22% of victims)
- ! 15 strangulations (9% of victims)

- ! 14 blunt trauma (9% of victims)
- ! 8 other (5% of victims)
  - o 1 thrown off bridge
  - o 1 died of a heart attack during the crime
  - o 1 rectal trauma
  - o 1 bombing
  - o 1 hit by car
  - o 2 asphyxiation (one during a wrestling restraint)
  - o 1 complications caused by paralysis after a broken neck

## **CHILDREN (BY NUMBER OF CASES)**

! In 39 cases (27% of cases), a total of at least 88 children were present during and/or witnessed the homicide. All were intimate cases. (1997 and 1998 reports did not always list the number of children but would list child or children so when the plural form was used we counted it as only two children, though the number could be greater.)

- ! In 2 cases (<2% of cases), the children were killed during an attack on an adult.
  - " In one case victim-s 16 year old daughter was killed
  - " In one case suspect killed infant son

## **CRIMINAL HISTORY B DOMESTIC VIOLENCE**

*Only victims and suspects who were previously arrested for domestic violence are included below.*

- ! Victims (n=28, 18% of cases)
  - " 18 males had prior arrests for domestic violence
  - " 10 females had prior arrests for domestic violence
- ! Suspects (n=41, 26% of cases)
  - " 37 males had prior arrests for domestic violence
  - " 4 females had prior arrest(s) for domestic violence

## **INJUNCTIONS AND OTHER CIVIL MATTERS (BY NUMBER OF PEOPLE)**

*Only victims and suspects with prior injunctions or other civil matters are included below.*

- ! Victims (9% of victims had an injunction against Suspect at the time of the homicide)
  - " 12 females had injunctions in place
    - 2 reported violations
  - " 1 female had a prior injunction
  - " 1 female had a temporary injunction dismissed for failure to appear
  - " 1 female had an injunction against her husband's ex-girlfriend
  - " 1 female filed for an injunction against suspect's ex-wife - denied
  - " 1 female filed for an injunction against former boyfriend - but was denied
  - " 1 female was respondent of one injunction by a different person
  - " 2 males were respondents of one injunction each (not by Suspect)
  - " 2 males were respondents of two injunctions (not by Suspect). One also had two injunctions that were dismissed and one final injunction entered.
  - " 1 male had injunction against mother-s ex-boyfriend (Suspect)
  - " 2 females had one dissolution of marriage each (not to Suspect)

- " 2 females had one dissolution of marriage each to Suspect (one of them pending at the time of homicide)
- ! Suspects (8% of suspects filed for or were respondents to injunctions at the time of the homicide)
  - " 1 female filed for injunction against male victim's son and girlfriend - both were denied
  - " 3 females had injunctions against Victim
  - " 1 female had an injunction against an ex-boyfriend
  - " 8 males were respondents of an injunction
  - " 5 males were respondents of injunctions (not by Victim); one was denied, one was dismissed because petitioner failed to appear.
  - " 1 male was respondent of multiple injunctions by multiple females.
    - This male also petitioned for an injunction multiple times, but was denied
  - " 1 male had one dissolution of marriage (not to Victim)
  - " 2 males had one dissolution of marriage each to the victim (one was pending at the time of the homicide)

### **CHILD ABUSE REFERRALS (BY NUMBER OF PEOPLE)**

*Only victims and suspects with prior child abuse referrals are included below.*

- ! Victims (8% of victims)
  - " 8 females had referrals to the Department of Children and Families
  - " 4 males had referrals to the Department of Children and Families
- ! Suspects (10% of suspects)
  - " 4 females had referrals to the Department of Children and Families
  - " 11 males had referrals to the Department of Children and Families

### **SHELTER SERVICES (BY NUMBER OF PEOPLE)**

*Only victims and suspects that received prior services are included below.*

- ! Victims (7% received some services)
  - " 3 females stayed briefly in shelters years before homicide
  - " 5 females were provided court advocacy services (including two who were sheltered as noted above)
  - " 2 females received safety planning
  - " 1 female received services through InVEST for police report involving different suspect
- ! Suspects (2% received some services)
  - " 1 female went through domestic violence education class
  - " 2 females received outreach services

### **HARK (BY NUMBER OF CASES)**

- ! Of the 39 cases (27%) where children (88 children) were actually present and/or witnessed the homicide, HARK referrals were made in only three cases (8%).

## **INTERVENTION (BY NUMBER OF PEOPLE)**

*Only victims and suspects who were ordered to complete BIP, ordered to anger management or counseling are included below.*

- ! Victims (n=15, 9% of victims)
  - " 10 males were ordered into batterers' intervention programs as a result of domestic violence arrests.
    - 1 completed
    - 1 ordered twice, completed twice
    - 2 ordered twice, each completed once
  - " 2 males ordered to anger management as part of earlier domestic violence cases
  - " 1 male ordered to counseling for previous domestic battery
  - " 1 female was ordered and completed batterers- intervention program
  - " 1 female received marriage counseling
  
- ! Suspects (n=26, 18% of suspects)
  - " 14 males ordered into batterers' intervention programs
    - 1 ordered twice and did not complete either time
    - 1 ordered twice, but completed once
    - 1 also ordered to anger management years earlier
  - " 1 male ordered to marriage counseling as part of injunction
  - o 10 males ordered to anger management
    - 1 on morning of the homicide
  - " 1 female ordered to anger management

## **ALCOHOL/DRUG ABUSE (BY NUMBER OF PEOPLE)**

*Only victims and suspects who were previously arrested for substance abuse are included below.*

- ! Victims (n=28, 18% of victims)
  - " 18 males with substance abuse arrests
  - " 10 females with substance abuse arrests
  
- ! Suspects (n=50, 34% of suspects)
  - " 45 males with substance abuse arrests
  - " 5 females with substance abuse arrests

## **MENTAL HEALTH ISSUES (BY NUMBER OF PEOPLE)**

*Only victims and suspects with prior documented mental health issues are included below.*

- ! Victim (n=2, <1% of victims)
  - " 2 females with mental health issues
  
- ! Suspects (n=14, 8% of suspects)
  - " 12 males with mental health issues
  - " 2 females with mental health issues



## **ZIP CODES (BY NUMBER OF CASES 2006-2010)**

*Zip codes where the homicide occurred. (n=52)*

- ! 32205 - 4 (8% of cases)
- ! 32206 - 4 (8% of cases)
- ! 32207 - 3 (6% of cases)
- ! 32208 - 4 (8% of cases)
- ! 32209 - 3 (6% of cases)
- ! 32210 - 4 (8% of cases)
- ! 32211 - 2 (4% of cases)
- ! 32212 - 1 (2% of cases)
- ! 32216 - 2 (4% of cases)
- ! 32217 - 1 (2% of cases)
- ! 32218 - 3 (6% of cases)
- ! 32219 - 2 (4% of cases)
- ! 32220 - 1 (2% of cases)
- ! 32221 - 2 (4% of cases)
- ! 32224 - 1 (2% of cases)
- ! 32225 - 2 (4% of cases)
- ! 32233 - 1 (2% of cases)
- ! 32244 - 3 (6% of cases)
- ! 32246 - 1 (2% of cases)
- ! 32250 - 2 (4% of cases)
- ! 32254 - 2 (4% of cases)
- ! 32256 - 1 (2% of cases)
- ! 32257 - 1 (2% of cases)
- ! 32258 - 1 (2% of cases)
- ! 32277 - 1 (2% of cases)

## **LAW ENFORCEMENT ZONES (BY NUMBER OF CASES 2006-2010)**

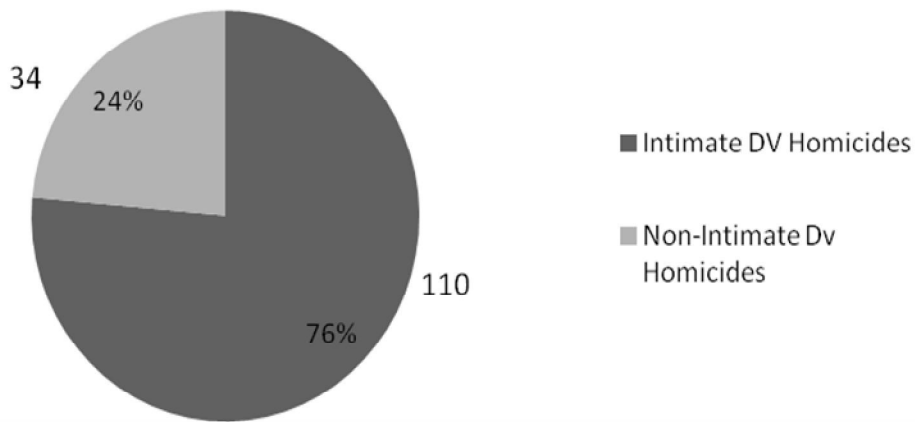
*Law Enforcement Zones where the homicide occurred (n=52).*

- ! Zone 1 - 5 (10% of cases)
- ! Zone 2 - 4 (8% of cases)
- ! Zone 3 - 13 (25% of cases)
- ! Zone 4 - 17 (33% of cases)
- ! Zone 5 - 11 (21% of cases)
- ! Zone 6 - 1 (2% of cases)
- ! Jacksonville Beach - 1 (2 % of cases)

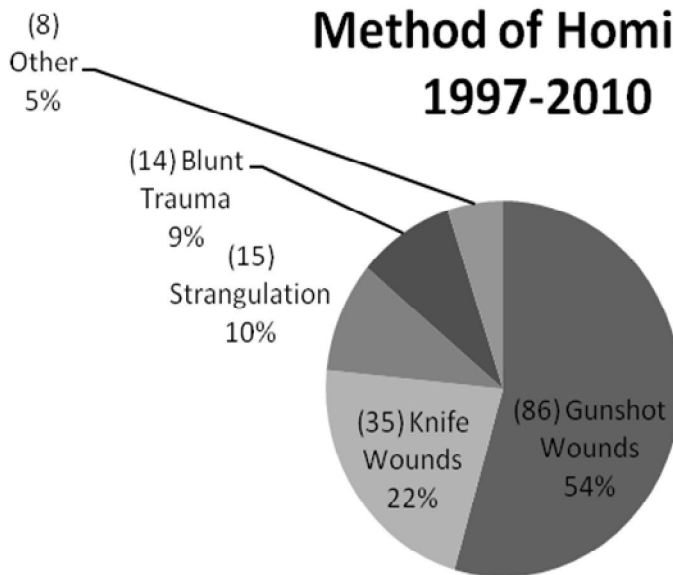
# GRAPHS

## 1997 THROUGH 2010

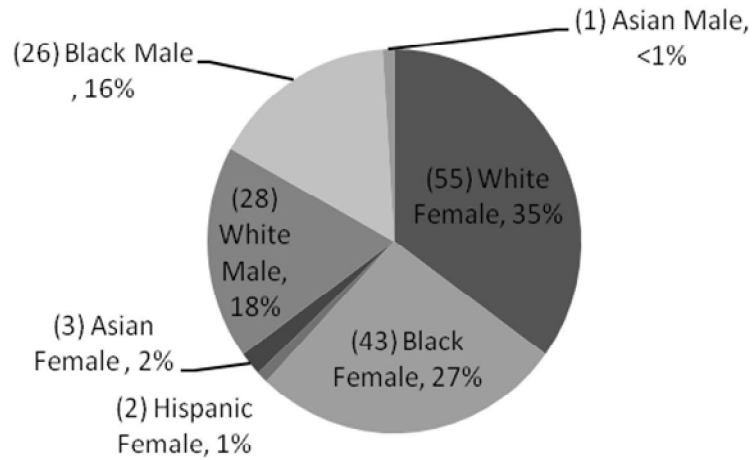
### Intimate and Non-Intimate Domestic Violence Homicides 1997-2010



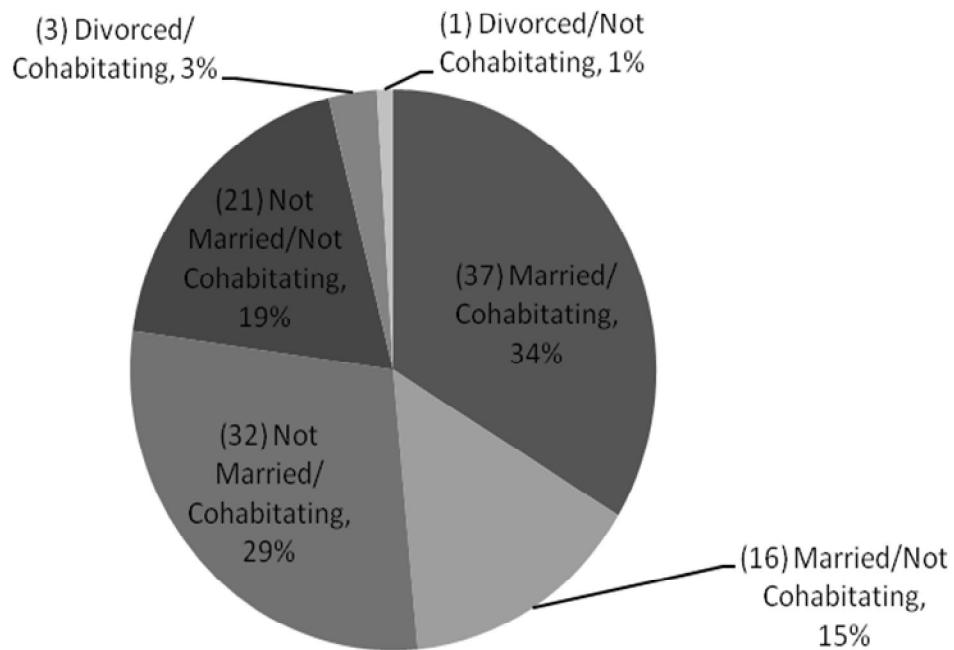
### Method of Homicide 1997-2010



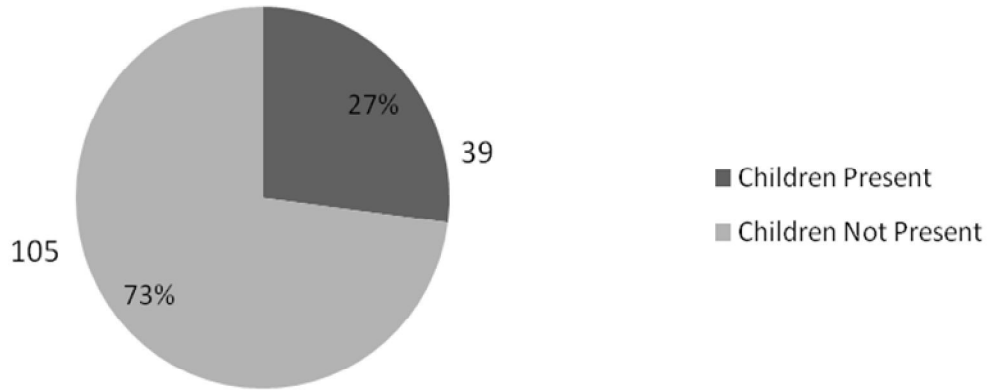
## Race and Gender of Domestic Homicide Victims 1997-2010



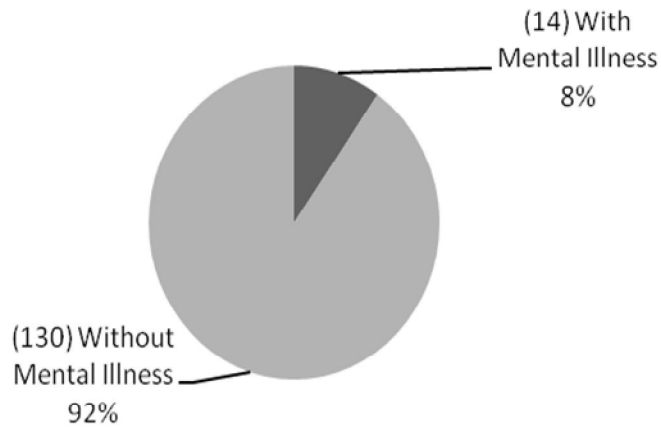
## Relationship Status of Intimate Homicides 1997-2010



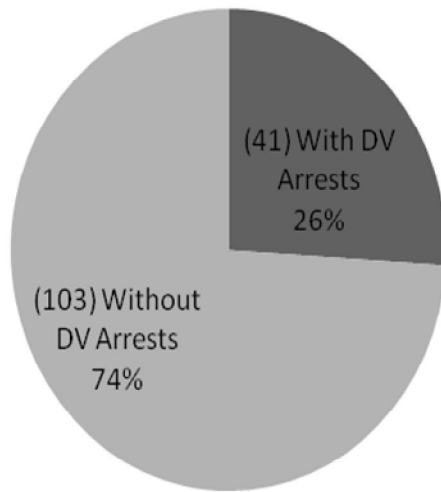
### Cases Where Children Were Present During the Homicide 1997-2010



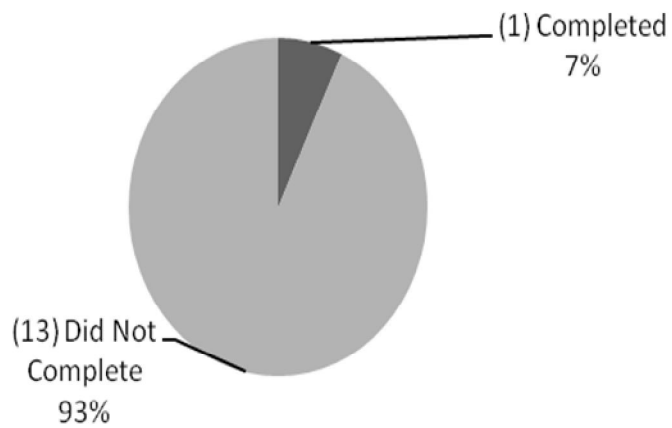
### Suspects with Documented Mental Illness 1997-2010



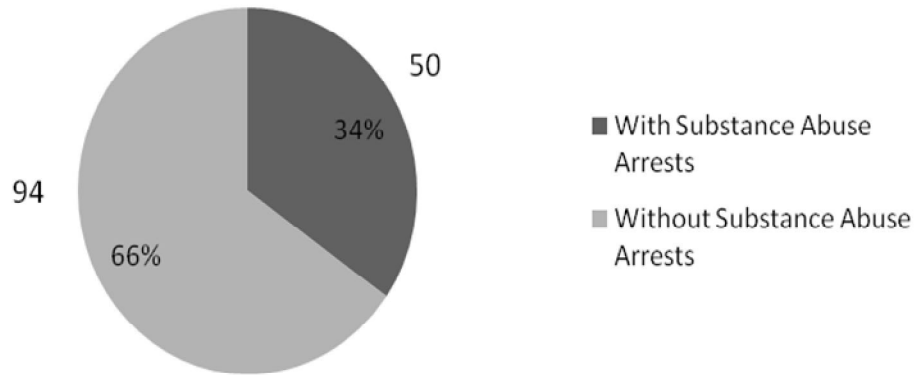
### Suspects with Prior Domestic Violence Arrests 1997-2010



### Suspects Ordered and Completing Batterers' Intervention Program 1997-2010



## Suspects with Prior Substance Abuse Arrests 1997 - 2010



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## **GLOSSARY**

**Baker Act** – a means of providing individuals with emergency services and temporary detention for mental health evaluation and treatment when required, either on a voluntary or an involuntary basis.

**BIP** – Batterers' Intervention Program refers to a state certified 26 week curriculum for men who had committed acts of violence against an intimate partner. The weekly group helps those ordered to accept responsibility for the violence and to learn skills that will help them replace existing power and control behaviors inflicted on their victims with appropriate, nonviolent behaviors that promote equality in their relationships. As used in this report, it may also refer to a comparable, but separate, local 26 week program for women who have committed acts of violence against an intimate partner.

**DCF** – Department of Children and Families is a state organization which works hard to protect the vulnerable, promote strong and economically self-sufficient families, and advance personal and family recovery and resiliency. The Department provides a number of different services including: food stamps, temporary cash assistance, access to substance abuse and mental health treatment.

**DVFRT** – Domestic Homicide Fatality Review Team is a team comprised of local law enforcement, social service organization and officers of the court who examines and analyzes domestic violence homicides to gain a better understanding of the causes and recommend possible solutions to help decrease the number and effects of domestic violence homicides in Duval County.

**Family Nurturing Center** – An organization which works to create a warm, compassionate environment where children can safely meet their parents for supervised visitations and exchange and to help adults learn to be better parents with comprehensive support and educational programs offered throughout the area.

**FDLE** – Florida Department of Law Enforcement is a state department which works to promote public safety and strengthen domestic security by providing services in partnership with local, state, and federal criminal justice agencies to prevent, investigate, and solve crimes while protecting Florida's citizens and visitors.

**HARK** – Helping At Risk Kids is a therapeutic intervention and prevention program designed to empower children from abusive homes, consisting of a 12-week course. Heavy emphasis is placed on breaking the cycle of violence by teaching anger management, non-violent conflict resolution, and respect for others. The program is sponsored by Hubbard House.

**Hubbard House** – a local organization which strives to provide safety for victims and their children, empower victims, and enact social change through education and advocacy.



**InVEST** – Intimate Violence Enhanced Services Team – A local initiative geared toward reducing intimate partner homicides through integrating victim services from a variety of criminal justice and social services agencies.

**JALA** – Jacksonville Area Legal Aid, Inc. is a non-profit law firm that specializes in providing civil legal assistance to low income persons.

**JSO** – Jacksonville Sheriff's Office strives to preserve the peace of Jacksonville Community and to prevent crime and disorder while constantly guarding personal liberties as prescribed by law.

**Marchman Act** – a means of providing an individual in need of substance abuse services with emergency services and temporary detention for substance abuse evaluation and treatment when required, either on a voluntary or involuntary basis.

**SAO** – State Attorney's Office is responsible for the prosecution of all crimes committed in Duval, Clay and Nassau Counties in Northeast Florida.