

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE FATALITY REVIEW TEAM 2006 ANNUAL REPORT EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Domestic Violence Fatality Review Teams were first formed in Florida in the mid – 1990's. These teams began as local initiatives supported with federal grant funds. Their goal is to examine in-depth cases that result in a domestic violence fatality and identify changes in policy or procedure that might prevent future deaths. These teams work independently and are composed of representatives from municipal, county, state and federal agencies as well as individuals or organizations that are involved with or affected by a domestic violence fatality. The composition varies from team to team.

This year many of the teams were still recovering from the devastating hurricanes of 2004. This has prevented them from reviewing reports as usual which has impacted the Florida Domestic Violence Fatality Review Team Annual Report totals once again. New teams continue to join in participating in the DVDRC collection, one of which is Pasco County who will begin reviewing and submitting reports this year to the Florida Department of Law Enforcement's (FDLE) Domestic Violence Data Resource Center (DVDRC). The DVDRC is presently working with the Domestic Violence Fatality Review teams to enhance and broaden the types of Domestic Violence incidents that are reviewed and submitted.

The cases reviewed for this annual report during the calendar year January 1, 2005 through December 31, 2005, were independently selected by the fatality review team members and the fatalities occurred during different years. Due to the teams' differing methods of selecting incidents for review and the changing number of fatality review teams, the data are not provided as a year-to-year comparison. For the reasons noted above, caution should be taken before attempting to generalize or draw conclusions about state policy based on this limited and unscientific sample.

The data in this report are based on the reviews of 19 cases involving 23 decedents and 19 perpetrators and is not meant to statistically represent all domestic violence deaths in Florida. Three of the 19 cases reported involved multiple victims (three in one case and two in two cases). Eleven (57%) of the 19 cases occurred in/at the residence of the decedent and perpetrator. In 12 (63%) of the 19 cases, the parties lived together at time of death. In 8 (42%) of the 19 cases, prior incidents of domestic violence had been reported. In 12 (63%) of the 19 cases, the parties had experienced a significant change in the relationship. Profiles of the perpetrator and decedent are listed below.

Perpetrator

- 17 (89%) were male
- 2 (11%) were female
- 12 (63%) were white
- 7 (37%) were black
- 41** was the average age

Decedent

- 17 (74%) were female
- 6 (26%) were male
- 16 (70%) were white
- 7 (30%) were black
- 43** was the average age

In 2005 the Florida Legislature approved and Governor Bush signed House Bill 1921, Review under the Open Government Sunset Review Act. The bill expands the exemption from public records requirements for confidential or exempt information obtained by a domestic violence fatality review team to include information that identifies a victim or the children of the victim of domestic violence. All information a Domestic Violence Fatality Review Team acquires from individuals or entities shall now remain confidential.

The data were gathered from the Annual Summary Evaluation Forms that were provided to the DVDRC by the participating Domestic Violence Fatality Review Teams. These individual findings, changes and recommendations are summarized and can be found in Appendix A.

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DOMESTIC VIOLENCE FATALITY REVIEW TEAM 2006 ANNUAL REPORT

The 2006 annual report contains information collected from the past three years. FDLE's goal is to accurately report the information provided by the local teams. Due to the differing methods of selecting incidents for review, and the changing number of participating Fatality Review Teams (FRT), the data is not provided as a year-to-year comparison. Therefore, caution should be taken before attempting to generalize or draw conclusions regarding consistencies of patterns when reviewing the data for the three years provided on pages 8-25 of this report.

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE IN FLORIDA

According to the Uniform Crime Reports Annual Report, Crime in Florida, a total of 120,386 domestic violence incidents were reported in 2005. Domestic violence accounted for 39% of all comparably reported violent offenses and simple assault.

Domestic violence accounted for 176 (20%) of the State's 881 murders during the same reporting period. The spouse or live-in partner was the victim in 54% of these offenses. Children accounted for 7% of the victims.

Although the statistics for the Crime in Florida report are based on statewide participation of all law enforcement agencies and the Domestic Violence Fatality Review Team Annual report is based on a smaller selection of cases, a comparison of the Crime in Florida and Fatality Review Team data revealed similar values when computing the percentage of fatalities by the victim to offender relationship.

<u>Victim Relationship</u>	<u>Crime in Florida</u>	<u>Fatality Review Team</u>
Spouse	24%	30%
Parent	10%	4%
Child	7%	0%
Other Family/Sibling	14%	4%
Co-habitant	30%	30%
Other	15%	26%

As of May 8, 2006, there were 153,198 protection orders in the FDLE's Florida Crime Information Center's (FCIC) database.

DATA SUBMISSION FORM

Since the enactment of Section 741.316, Florida Statutes, effective July 1, 2000, the Domestic Violence Fatality Review Teams have used the standardized collection form provided by the FDLE to collect and record their findings of reported domestic violence related cases. In 2003 the standardized reporting form was revised and additional forms were created to capture multiple victim and perpetrator information. A by-stander form was created to capture secondary fatality victims who are not directly involved with the domestic violence incident. The teams began using the revised form and the newly developed multiple forms to record domestic violence fatality data beginning with the 2005 annual fatality report.

ANNUAL SUMMARY FORM

A Domestic Violence Fatality Review Team Annual Summary Form was provided to each team to ensure that the appropriate findings and recommendations, derived from the reviews that the teams conducted, were provided to the Governor, President of the Senate, Speaker of the House of Representatives and Chief Justice of the Supreme Court. This form provides a mechanism for teams to highlight findings and/or issues that might not come to the forefront when data from all reviews are summarized.

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE FATALITY REVIEW TEAM MEMBERS

Domestic Violence Fatality Review Teams currently consist of members representing the local law enforcement agencies, State Attorney's Office, Clerk of the Court, Court Administrator's Office, Medical Examiner's Office, Domestic Violence Centers, victim services, batterer's intervention program providers, Department of Children and Families (DCF), shelters, other state agencies, business entities, county probation and corrections, local animal shelter, local clergy, child death review teams and/or other involved parties. The composition varies from team to team.

FLORIDA'S DOMESTIC VIOLENCE FATALITY REVIEW TEAMS

In January 2005, the following counties had active Domestic Violence Fatality Review Teams: Bay, Brevard, Broward, Columbia (also reporting for Madison, Taylor, Lafayette, Dixie, Hamilton and Suwannee counties), Miami-Dade, Duval, Escambia, Lee, Orange, Palm Beach, Pinellas, Polk, Sarasota (also reporting for Manatee and Desoto counties) and Seminole. Pasco County has just organized a Domestic Violence Fatality Review Team and will be active for the 2006 year.

The following 10 teams submitted Domestic Violence Fatality Review Team Data Submission Forms in compliance with Florida Statute s. 741.316 for inclusion in the 2006 annual report. Additionally, these teams provided individual case review information and an overview of the critical findings resulting from the reviews conducted for this reporting period. The team and the number of reviews conducted and submitted are reflected below.

<u>TEAM</u>	<u>REVIEWS</u>
BAY	4
BREVARD	2
BROWARD	2
COLUMBIA	1
LEE	3
ORANGE	1
PALM BEACH	2
PINELLAS	2
POLK	1
SEMINOLE	1

The Escambia County Domestic Violence Review Team was not able to submit fatality review reports this year due to the continual efforts of recovery from the devastating storms of 2004.

The Putnam/Volusia County Domestic Violence Fatality Review Team and the Collier County Domestic Violence Review Team are currently inactive. The Duval County Domestic Violence Fatality Review Team provided only the summary information for their team due to the volunteer's heavy workload and their commitment to their county's annual report. The Miami-Dade County Domestic Violence Fatality Review Team provided only summary information for inclusion in the statewide report.

**Highlights of the 2006
Domestic Violence Fatality Report**

2006 Annual Domestic Violence Fatality Review Profile of Data

Date of Fatality	Decedent'(s)Race Sex & Age	Perpetrator'(s) Race Sex & Age	Decedent's Relationship to Perpetrator	Cause of Death	Domestic Violence History
07/22/2002	White male; 68	White male; 20	Grandfather	Gunshot	N/A
	White female; 68	Same as above	Grandmother	Gunshot	N/A
07/15/2004	White female; 41	White male; 51	Spouse	Gunshot	No
11/23/2004	White female; 25	White male; 27	Spouse	Gunshot	Yes
05/24/2001	White female; 37	White male; 39	Spouse	Gunshot	No
07/31/2004	White female; 40	White male; 29	Ex-spouse	Blunt Trauma	Yes
08/06/2004	Black male; 52	Black male; 22	Boyfriend	Strangulation	No
06/10/2004	White female; 29	White male; 51	Ex-co-habitant	Gunshot	No
03/20/2004	Black female; 21	Black male; 27	Co-habitant	Gunshot	No
02/13/2005	Black female; 40	White male; 32	Co-habitant	Strangulation	Unknown
07/27/2004	White male; 48	White female; 47	Co-habitant	Gunshot	Yes
09/19/2005	White female; 59	White male; 63	Brother/Sister	Gunshot	No
11/13/2001	White female; 88	White male; 83	Spouse	Stabbing	Yes
04/04/2001	White female; 11	White female; 60	Granddaughter	Asphyxiation	N/A
01/17/2004	White female; 21	Black male; 26	Ex-co-habitant	Gunshot	Yes
	White female; 53	Same as above	Mother of ex-girlfriend	Gunshot	No
12/14/2000	Black male; 33	Black male; 15	Parent	Gunshot	N/A
01/31/2005	Black female; 45	Black male; 55	Co-habitant	Gunshot	No
05/19/2005	Black female; 25	Black male; 29	Ex-spouse	Gunshot	Yes
10/17/2003	Black female; 46	Black male; 51	Ex-co-habitant	Gunshot	Yes
07/28/2003	White female; 42	White male; 45	Ex-spouse	Gunshot	Yes
	White male; 69	Same as above	Supervisor	Gunshot	N/A
	White male; 39	Same as above	Roommate	Gunshot	N/A

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE DATA REVIEW

The following data is from **19** cases provided to the FDLE's DVDRC by the participating Domestic Violence Fatality Review Teams. **The cases were not selected based on any specific date, time frame or circumstance. The data is from 10 teams covering only 15 counties, and the number of reviews completed by each team varies. Therefore, the reader is cautioned about drawing conclusions from this data.**

Complainant Information

Regarding the **19** domestic violence fatality reports reviewed for the **2006** reporting period, twenty-six percent of the calls were received from a family member of the perpetrator of the fatality and **23%** of the calls were received from a family member of the decedent. **Fifteen percent** of the calls were received from a neighbor. A maintenance man, a witness at a hotel, a deputy sheriff and the new intimate partner were reflected in the "other" category as the complainant of the fatality. **Nearly 70%** of the calls were received after the event.

Twenty-six telephone calls were received regarding the **19** domestic violence fatality reports reviewed for the **2006** reporting period. This was due to multiple complainants recorded in seven of the reports. The category of "**Other**" consists of: one anonymous caller, one bartender, one land lord, one warrants deputy and one homeland security officer.

Event Information

Of the **19** domestic violence fatality reports reviewed for the **2006** reporting period, there were three cases with multiple victims, resulting in a total of **23** fatalities. Firearms (**18**) accounted for **78%** of the **23** deaths. Over half of the decedents, **56%**, were killed in their own residences.

There were a total of **23 victims** in the **19 incidents** reviewed for the 2006 reporting period. The offense type category reflected that the perpetrator killed **multiple victims** in three of the fatality review reports. The review forms reflected **three victims** in one report and **two victims** in two reports.

Environment Information

Of the **19** domestic violence fatality reports reviewed for the **2006** reporting period, an active injunction was filed on the perpetrator in **16%** of the cases; previous injunctions had been present on the perpetrator in **16%** of the cases and in **one** case an injunction was requested by the decedent twice but withdrawn the next day, and in **one** case the perpetrator had returned to a previous relationship with the decedent while an active injunction was on file. One decedent had a previous injunction filed at the time of the fatality.

Relationship Information

Of the **23** domestic fatalities reviewed for the **2006** reporting period, the victim in **30%** of the fatalities was the spouse or ex-spouse of the perpetrator and in **35%** of the fatalities the victim was the ex-boyfriend, cohabitant or ex-cohabitant of the perpetrator.

Prior threats to kill the decedent occurred in **35%** of the fatalities. Previous incidents of domestic violence had been reported in **35%** of the fatalities. A significant change in the relationship between the decedent and perpetrator had occurred in **52%** of the fatalities.

Regarding the **23** domestic violence fatalities reviewed for the **2006** reporting period, the categories of spouse, ex-spouse, ex-boyfriend, co-habitant and ex-cohabitant made up **65%** of the relationships involved in the fatalities.

Contributing Factors To The Incident

The three major contributing factors to the fatalities identified by the Domestic Violence Fatality Review Teams were: 1) Decedent and perpetrator in process of separation at time of fatality 2) Perpetrator had/has abused alcohol and 3) Perpetrator alleged to have committed act to avenge a perceived wrongdoing by decedent. In **62%** of the reviewed fatalities, a separation was taking place or had already taken place in the relationship.

Escalating Circumstances

The three escalating circumstances that occurred most for the decedent were: 1) Expressing fear of physical danger to themselves and/or child (ren) 2) Exhibiting signs of depression, anger, low self esteem and suicidal thoughts 3) Having evidence of physical injury.

The three escalating circumstances that occurred most for the perpetrator were: 1) Using intimidation by instilling fear through looks and gestures 2) Keeping tabs on or stalking the decedent 3) Smashing objects and destroying property.

Services Requested, Ordered or Obtained

Of the four (4) primary categories; Domestic Violence Services, Criminal Justice/Legal Assistance, Health Care Provider and Children Services it was found that the decedent requested and received Criminal Justice/Legal Services the most frequently. It should be noted that only 13% of the decedents requested services under the category of Domestic Violence Services, 17% of which received services.

Of the four (4) primary categories; Domestic Violence Services, Criminal Justice/Legal Assistance, Health Care Provider and Children Services it was found that the perpetrator requested and received Criminal Justice/Legal Services the most frequently. It should be noted that Domestic Violence Services was neither requested nor received by or for the perpetrator in any of the cases.

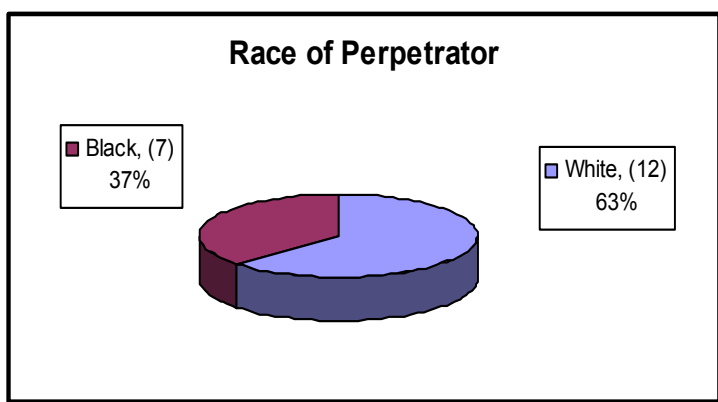
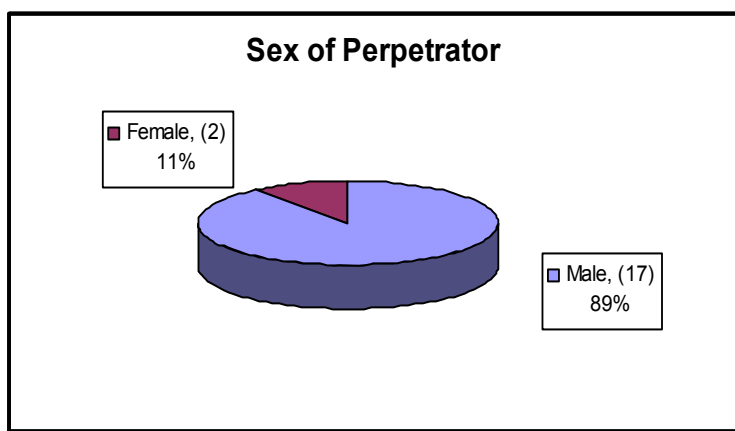
Lethality Indicators

The three most often lethalties indicated for the decedent were: 1) Possession of weapons 2) History of domestic violence 3) History of criminal activity.

The three most often lethalties indicated for the perpetrator were: 1) Possession of weapons 2) History of criminal activity 3) History of domestic violence.

Perpetrator Information

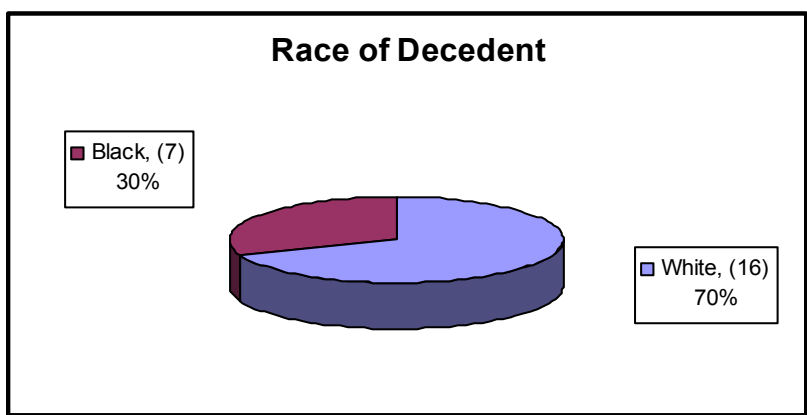
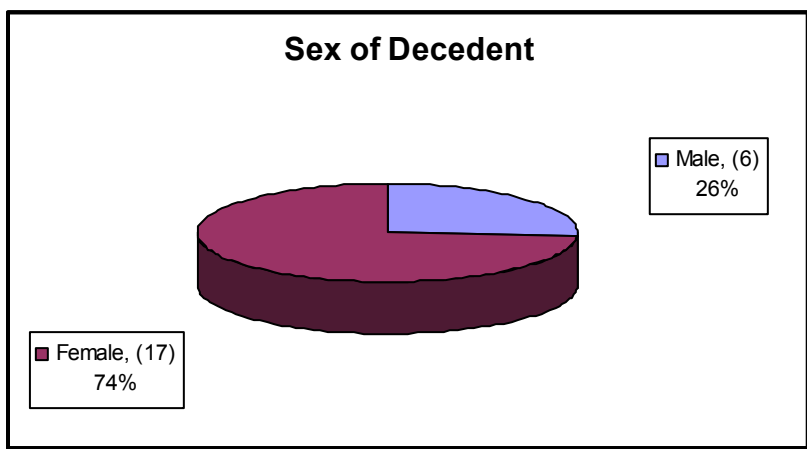
Of the **19** domestic violence fatality reports reviewed for the **2006** reporting period, **90%** of the perpetrators were male. The marital status indicated that **21%** of the perpetrators were married to the decedent at the time of the fatality. The racial breakdown of the cases reviewed reflected **63%** of the perpetrators were white. A total of **42%** of the perpetrators were employed at the time of the fatality. The perpetrators had **40** non-violent arrests, **21** domestic violence arrests and **37** arrests for other violent crimes. The perpetrator had a previous domestic violence incident with a different partner in **six** cases; in **four** cases, previous domestic violence charges against the perpetrator were dismissed. Known incidents of prior child abuse were reported in **six** cases. In **over half** of the cases either drugs, alcohol or medication were present. In **13** of the cases reviewed, other entities had knowledge of domestic violence in the life of the perpetrator.



Perpetrator Age	
1-10 years of age	0
11-20 years of age	2
21-30 years of age	6
31-40 years of age	2
41-50 years of age	2
51-60 years of age	5
61-70 years of age	1
71-80 years of age	0
81-90 years of age	1
Average Age	41

Decedent Information

Of the **19** cases reviewed **three** had multiple victims resulting in a total of **23** domestic violence fatalities reviewed for the **2006** reporting period, **74%** of the victims were female and **26%** were male. The marital status indicated that **four** of the victims were married to the perpetrator and **three** were divorced from the perpetrator. The racial breakdown of the cases reflected that **70%** of the victims were white and **30%** were black. A total of **35%** of the decedents were employed at the time of their death. The decedents had **34** non-violent arrests, **two** domestic violence arrests and **eight** arrests for other violent crimes. (It should be noted that one decedent was under age.) Police had responded to the residence for some reason in **six** cases. The decedent was the victim of another crime **six** times and had been the victim of previous domestic violence with a different partner **two** times. In **11** cases, others had knowledge of domestic violence in the life of the decedent.



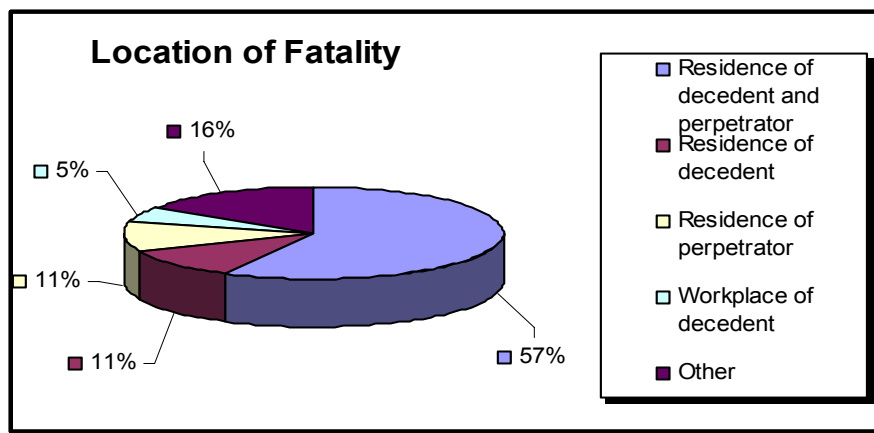
Decedent Age	
1-10 years of age	0
11-20 years of age	1
21-30 years of age	5
31-40 years of age	5
41-50 years of age	5
51-60 years of age	3
61-70 years of age	3
71-80 years of age	0
81-90 years of age	1
Average Age	43

Location of Fatality

Regarding the **23** domestic violence fatalities reviewed for the 2006 reporting period, the location “**Other**” comprises the following locations: one motel area, one public parking area, and two wooded areas.

Weapon Types

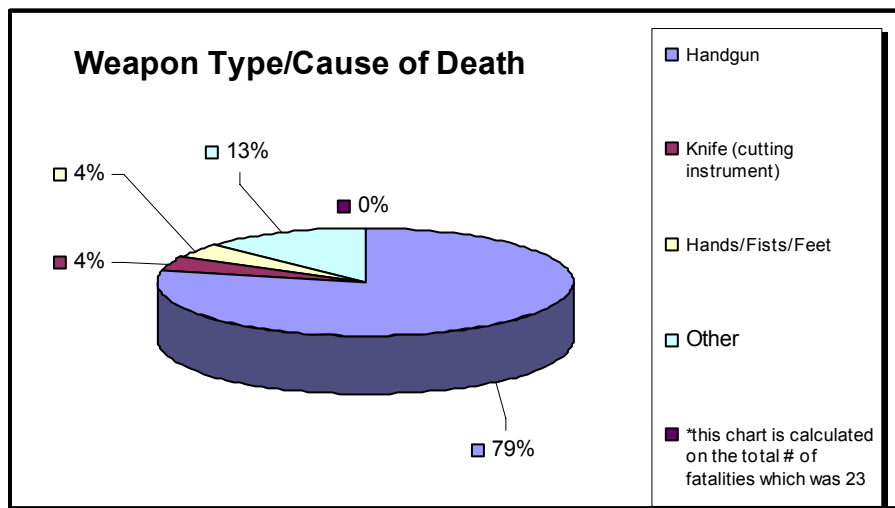
Of the **23 weapon** types used to carry out the fatality of the **23 victims** reflected in the **19 reports** reviewed for the 2006 reporting period, the category “**Other**” is comprised of the following: claw hammer, carbon monoxide and a belt.



This chart depicts the location of the fatality of each of the **23** victims.

Three of the 19 cases reported involved multiple victims (three in one case and two in two cases) totaling **23** fatalities.

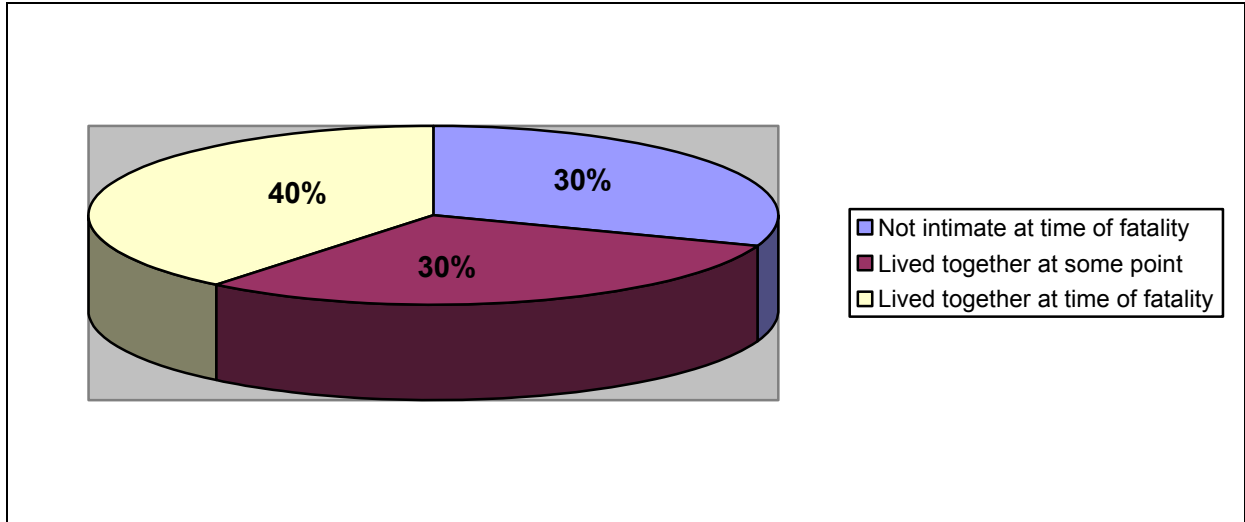
Eleven (57%) of the 19 cases, involving 12 (52%) of the 23 victims, occurred in/at the residence of the decedent and the perpetrator.



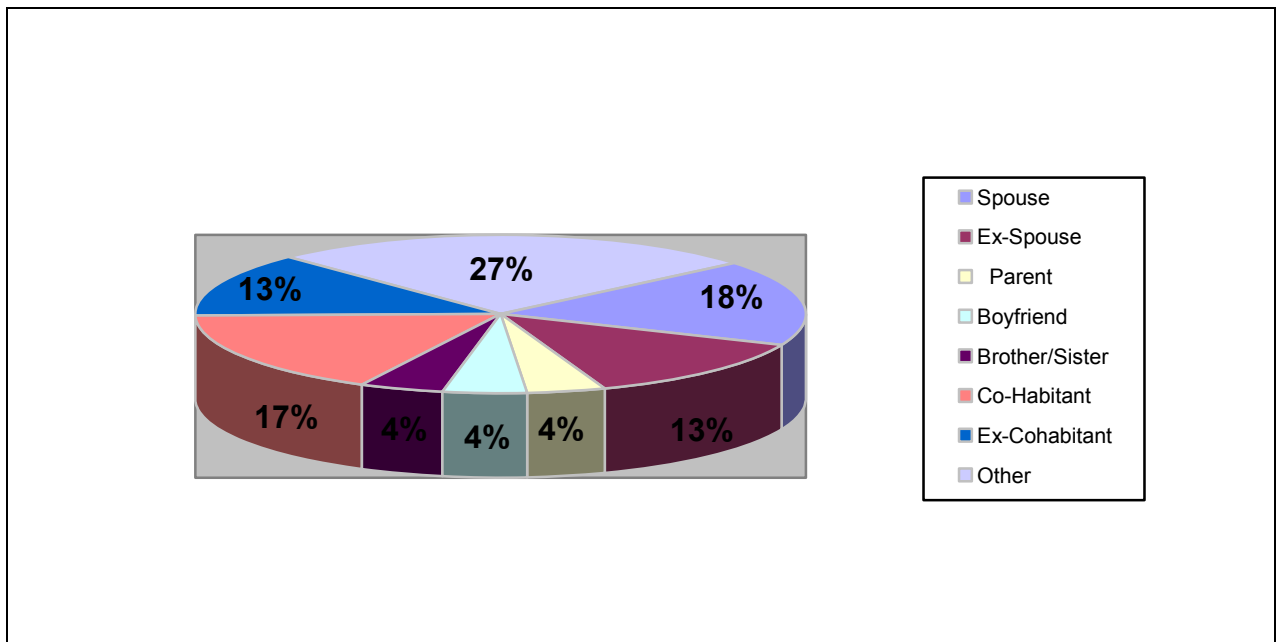
This chart depicts the type of weapon used to carry out the fatality of the **23** victims. Firearms accounted for **79%** of the **23** weapon types.

Relationship Issues Between Decedent and Perpetrator

* This chart depicts the three (3) distinguishing factors in the Relationship Issues Between the Decedent and Perpetrator.



Relationship Between Decedent and Perpetrator



**Highlights of the Domestic Violence Fatality Reports
for Years 2004-2006**

Highlights of the domestic violence fatality reports reviewed for the years 2004 -2006

Due to the use of differing sampling methods the data reflected in the following table are not provided as a year-to-year comparison. However, caution should be taken before attempting to generalize or draw conclusions regarding consistencies of patterns when reviewing the data for the three years.

Note: There were multiple victims in several cases resulting in more fatalities then report reviewed.

This chart uses the primary 19 fatalities when calculating data.

	2004	2005	2006
Average Age of Perpetrator	38	42	41
Average Age of Decedent	37	43	43
Sex of Perpetrators	46 male (87%) 7 female (13%)	22 male (92%) 2 female (8%)	17 male (89%) 2 female (11%)
Sex of Decedents	18 male (30%) 42 female (70%)	4 male (14%) 24 female (83%) 1 unknown* *unborn child (3%)	6 male (26%) 17 female (74%)
Race of Perpetrators	36 white (68%) 17 black (32%)	12 white (50%) 11 black (46%) 1 asian pacific (4%)	12 white (63%) 7 black (37%)
Race of Decedents	45 white (75%) 15 black (25%)	17 white (59%) 11 black (38%) 1 other (3%)	16 white (70%) 7 black (30%)
Location	27 of the 53 cases (51%) occurred in/at the residence of the decedent and perpetrator.	14 of the 24 cases (58%) occurred in/at the residence of the decedent and perpetrator.	11 of the 19 cases (57%) occurred in/at the residence of the decedent and perpetrator.
Weapons	In 32 of the 53 cases (60%), a firearm was involved in the fatality.	In 9 of the 24 cases (38%), a handgun was involved in the fatality. In 8 (33%) a knife was involved.	In 18 of the 19 cases (95%), a handgun was involved in the fatality.
Relationship	In 28 of the 53 cases (53%), the parties lived together at the time of fatality.	In 18 of the 24 cases (75%), the parties lived together at the time of the fatality.	In 12 of the 19 cases (63%), the parties lived together at the time of the fatality.
History	In 23 of the 53 cases (43%), prior incidents of domestic violence had been reported.	In 13 of the 24 cases (54%), prior incidents of domestic violence had been reported.	In 8 of the 19 cases (42%), prior incidents of domestic violence had been reported.

**Fatality Review Incident Information
for Years 2004-2006**

**THE FOLLOWING SECTIONS CONTAIN SUMMARIES OF DATA SUBMITTED BY THE TEAMS
ON THE STATEWIDE FATALITY REVIEW DATA SUBMISSION FORM.**

Due to the use of differing sampling methods the summary data in the following sections are not provided as a year to year comparison. However, caution should be taken before attempting to generalize or draw conclusions regarding consistencies of patterns when reviewing the data for the three years.

COMPLAINANT INFORMATION - This information relates to the notification of law enforcement when the fatality occurred and is taken from the dispatch data collected.

TIME FRAME	2004	2005	2006
12:01 AM to 06:00 AM	15	2	0
06:01 AM to 12:00 PM	7	9	8
12:01 PM to 06:00 PM	15	7	6
06:01 PM to 12:00 AM	13	5	5
Unknown	3	1	0
Total	53	24	19

CALL RECEIVED	2004	2005	2006
After fatality	36	18	12
During fatality	17	6	7
No information provided	0	0	0

CALL RECEIVED FROM*	2004	2005	2006
Decedent	1	2	1
Perpetrator	8	8	1
Family member of decedent	12	5	7
Family member of perpetrator	9	0	6
Neighbor	10	4	3
Co-worker	1	3	1
Acquaintance of decedent	9	0	1
Acquaintance of perpetrator	2	0	1
Medical professional	1	0	0
Unknown	3	0	0
Other	9	4	5
Total	65	26	26

***Note:** The Call Received From category contains multiple selection fields and the review forms may contain more than one response for this category.

Twenty-six telephone calls were received regarding the 19 domestic violence fatality reports reviewed for the 2006 reporting period. This was due to multiple complainants recorded in seven of the reports. The category of "Other" consists of: one anonymous caller, one bartender, one land lord, one warrants deputy and one homeland security officer.

EVENT INFORMATION - This information is a general overview of the fatality itself from the type of offense, activities, parties involved, weapon, injury types sustained during fatality (both to the decedent and the perpetrator) and the current status of the perpetrator of the offense. This information is available from the law enforcement initial offense or case report.

OFFENSE TYPE	2004	2005	2006
Homicide	31	17	6
Homicide / suicide	18	3	10
Multiple homicides	0	1	3
Multiple homicides / suicide	3	3	0
Hostage homicide / suicide	0	0	0
Hostage multiple homicides	1	0	0
Total	53	24	19

There were a total of 23 victims in the 19 incidents reviewed for the 2006 reporting period. The offense type category reflected that the perpetrator killed multiple victims in three of the fatality review reports. The review forms reflected three victims in one report and two victims in two reports.

EVENT TYPE (OF FATALITIES*	2004	2005	2006
Intimate partner	41	14	10
Ex-intimate partner	1	6	7
Familicide	0	2	1
Parricide	2	1	3
Fratricide and/or sororicide	0	0	1
Killing the competition	3	0	0
Killing of children by parents	5	2	0
Perpetrator kills batterer	3	0	0
Other	5	1	1
Total	60	26	23

*The Event Type (of Fatalities) category contained multiple selections in one of the cases reviewed for the 2006 reporting year. One of the fatality review cases in which a multiple selection was recorded reflected both ex-intimate partner and other.

**Ex- intimate Partner was captured in the Intimate Partner category in the 2003 reporting period.

“Killing of children by parents” includes one unborn child in the 2005 reporting period.

“Other” comprises the perpetrator killing the following: ex-intimate partner’s mother in the 2006 reporting period.

This category depicts the 23 weapon types used to carry out the fatality of the 23 victims reflected in the 19 reports reviewed for the 2006 reporting period.

WEAPON TYPES	2004	2005	2006
Handgun	34	9	18
Rifle	1	3	0
Shotgun	4	3	0
Firearm (<i>other/unknown</i>)	0	0	0
Knife /cutting instrument	11	8	1
Fire/incendiary	1	0	0
Blunt object	2	0	0
Hands/fists/feet	9	5	1
Drugs	0	0	0
Other	6	1	3
Total	68	29	23

“Other” comprises the following: claw hammer, carbon monoxide and belt in the 2006 reporting period.

This category depicts the 23 domestic violence fatality locations reviewed for the 2006 reporting period.

LOCATION OF FATALITY	2004	2005	2006
Residence of decedent and perpetrator	27	17	12
Residence of decedent	7	7	2
Residence of perpetrator	10	0	2
Residence of other family members	0	0	0
Workplace of decedent	2	2	3
Commercial	3	0	0
Other	11	3	4
Total	60	29	23

“Other” comprises the following locations: one motel area, one public parking area, and two wooded areas.

ENVIRONMENT PRIOR TO FATALITY - This information is related to the history of the perpetrator and the decedent as it related to children and domestic violence injunctions. This information is available from an investigative follow-up report done by the law enforcement agency.

INJUNCTION HISTORY OF PERPETRATOR	2004	2005	2006
Active injunction	8	2	3
Previous injunction	5	7	3
Injunction denied	0	1	0
Expired injunction	0	0	0
Unknown	1	0	1

INJUNCTION HISTORY OF DECEDENT	2004	2005	2006
Active injunction	1	0	0
Previous injunction	1	3	1
Unknown	3	0	0

DECEDENT INFORMATION - This information is related to the decedent of the offense. This information is available through law enforcement investigative reports, possible service agency reports, medical examiner reports, newspaper accounts and personal interviews with persons that knew the decedent.

Sex

Of the **19** cases reviewed for the **2006** reporting period, **three** had multiple victims resulting in a total of **23** decedents. Of the **23** decedents, **17** were female (**74%**) and **six** were male (**26%**).

Race

Of the **23** decedents, **16** were white (**70%**) and **7** were black (**30%**).

DECEDENT MARITAL STATUS	2004	2005	2006
Never married	17	8	7
Widowed	2	1	0
Not applicable (<i>decedent is a child</i>)	6	2	1
Married to perpetrator	14	7	4
Married to other	5	3	4
Separated from perpetrator	5	4	0
Divorced from perpetrator	3	0	3
Divorced from other	5	3	2
Unknown	0	1	0

“Not applicable” includes one 11 year old child in the 2006 reporting period.

DECEDENT EMPLOYMENT STATUS	2004	2005	2006
Employed	23	11	8
Unemployed	12	4	8
Retired	4	3	1
Not applicable (<i>decedent is a child</i>)	6	2	1
Unknown	13	9	3

“Not applicable” includes one 11 year old child in the 2006 reporting period.

DECEDENT CRIMINAL HISTORY*	2004	2005	2006
Non-violent crime arrest(s)	16	16	34
Domestic violence crime arrest(s)	8	3	2
Other violent crime arrest(s)	4	3	8

***Note: The Decedent Criminal History category contains multiple selection fields and the review forms may contain more than one response for these categories.**

DECEDENT OTHER RELATED HISTORY*	2004	2005	2006
Documented police response(s) to residence	25	11	6
Victim of other offense(s)	8	6	6
Previous incidents of domestic violence with different partner(s)	7	5	2
History of domestic violence known to other(s)	30	15	11

***Note: The Decedent Other Related History category contains multiple selection fields and the review forms may contain more than one response for these categories.**

PERPETRATOR INFORMATION - This information is related to the perpetrator of the fatality. This information is available through law enforcement investigative reports, possible service agency reports, medical examiner reports, newspaper accounts and personal interviews with persons that knew the perpetrator.

Sex

There were a total of **19** perpetrators in the **19** domestic fatality reports reviewed for the **2006** reporting period. Of the **19** perpetrators, **2** were female (**10%**) and **17** male (**90%**).

Race

Of the **19** perpetrators, **12** were white (**63%**), **7** were black (**37%**).

This category depicts the marital status of the 19 perpetrators involved in the domestic violence fatalities reviewed for the 2006 reporting period.

PERPETRATOR MARITAL STATUS	2004	2005	2006
Never married	21	11	8
Widowed	0	0	1
Not applicable (<i>decedent is a child</i>)	0	0	0
Married to decedent	14	7	4
Married to other	1	2	0
Separated from decedent	5	4	0
Separated from other	2	0	0
Divorced from decedent	3	0	3
Divorced from other	7	0	3
Unknown	0	0	0

PERPETRATOR EMPLOYMENT STATUS	2004	2005	2006
Employed	28	13	8
Unemployed	10	7	5
Retired	2	1	3
Unknown	13	3	2
Perpetrator underage	0	0	1

PERPETRATOR CRIMINAL HISTORY*	2004	2005	2006
Non-violent crime arrest(s)	31	16	40
Domestic violence crime arrest(s)	21	13	21
Other violent crime arrest(s)	19	12	37
Unknown	2	0	1

***Note: The Perpetrator Criminal History category contains multiple selection fields and the review forms may contain more than one response for these categories.**

PERPETRATOR OTHER RELATED HISTORY*	2004	2005	2006
Previous incidents of domestic violence with different partner	6	7	6
Previous history of suicide attempt	5	4	1
Known allegations of stalking	11	6	4
Previous participation in batterer's intervention program	2	3	4
Previous abuse of drugs	18	9	8
Previous abuse of alcohol	28	12	10
Under medication	7	3	5
Appeared in court for domestic violence offense	14	12	8
Domestic violence related charges were dismissed against the perpetrator	7	7	4
History of domestic violence known to other entities	30	19	13
Known incidents of prior child abuse	6	4	6
Suspected or charged in death of former intimate partner	0	1	1
Former intimate partner died in accident/mysterious manner	0	1	0
Previous incidents of animal abuse	0	0	2

***Note: The Perpetrator Other Related History category contains multiple selection fields and the review forms may contain more than one response for these categories.**

PERPETRATOR AS A BATTERED VICTIM - This information is collected in the event the perpetrator is the victim of a domestic violence battery by the decedent, e.g., the victim kills the batterer. This is available from the law enforcement agency's investigative report.

PERPETRATOR KILLED BATTERER	2004	2005	2006
	3	0	0

PERPETRATOR SUICIDE - This information is collected in the event the perpetrator of the fatality commits suicide as a part of the incident. This is available through the law enforcement agency's investigative report.

CAUSE OF DEATH	2004	2005	2006
Gunshot	18	3	8
Hanging	3	0	0
Drowning	0	1	0
Stabbing	0	1	0
Smoke inhalation	0	1	0
Other	0	0	2
Total	21	6	10

“Other” includes two asphyxiations

SUICIDE NOTE	2004	2005	2006
Suicide note left	8	0	6
Suicide appeared to be part of the homicide	15	4	6
Suicide separate and distinct incident from fatality	6	2	4

RELATIONSHIP AND ISSUES BETWEEN DECEDENT AND PERPETRATOR - This information explains the relationship and issues between the decedent and the perpetrator of the fatality. This is available from the law enforcement agency's investigative report.

DECEDENT RELATIONSHIP TO PERPETRATOR	2004	2005	2006
Spouse	19	10	4
Ex-spouse	3	0	3
Parent	2	3	1
Step parent	0	0	0
Child	5	2	0
Step child	0	0	0
Boyfriend	1	0	1
Ex-boyfriend	0	0	0
Child of boyfriend	0	0	0
Brother/sister	0	0	1
In-law	2	1	0
Co-habitant	10	7	4
Ex-cohabitant	12	4	3
Girlfriend	0	0	0
Ex-girlfriend	0	1	0
Child of girlfriend	0	0	0
Other (<i>known</i>)	6	1	6
Total	60	29	23

“Other Known” comprises two bystanders (roommate and supervisor), one mother of ex-girlfriend, one 11 year old granddaughter, one grandmother and one grandfather in the 2006 reporting period.

PRIOR THREATS TO DECEDENT BY PERPETRATOR*	2004	2005	2006
Threat to kill decedent	12	11	8
Threat to kill children or family member	3	2	4
Threat to commit suicide	8	8	3
Other/unknown	3	4	4

***The Prior Threats to Decedent by Perpetrator category contains multiple selection fields and the review forms may contain more than one response for these categories.**

Regarding the 19 domestic violence fatality reports reviewed for the 2006 reporting period, the category of “Other” consists of one known firing of handgun in residence, one mutual combatant and two unknowns.

RELATIONSHIP ISSUES*	2004	2005	2006
They lived together at some point	23	26	16
They lived together at the time of the fatality	28	18	12
They were intimate prior to the fatality	10	6	5
They had a child(ren) in common	13	7	7
They had a child(ren) in the household, but not in common	5	6	1
They always maintained separate dwellings	1	1	0
They had previous reported incidents of domestic violence	23	13	8
They had a significant change in the relationship	28	17	12

*** The Relationship Issues category contains multiple selection fields and the review forms may contain more than one response for these categories.**

CONTRIBUTING FACTORS TO THE INCIDENT - This information concerns the factors that may have contributed to the violence escalating to the point where a homicide occurred. The factors are given a numerical rating by the review teams, with a rating of one being the major contributing factor; the greater the numerical rating the less it contributed to the fatality. This information is available through law enforcement investigative reports, possible service agency reports, medical examiner reports, newspaper accounts and interviews with persons that knew the perpetrator and/or decedent.

Major Contributing Factors To The Fatalities were:

(The following factors were given a priority rating of one, two or three by team members as well as the total number for each priority.)

	Priority 1	Priority 2	Priority 3
<i>Relationship</i>			
Decedent and perpetrator in process of separation at time of fatality	5	1	
Decedent and perpetrator had separated	1		1
Decedent and perpetrator had divorced finalized	1		
Decedent had started a new relationship	1		
Perpetrator had started a new relationship		1	

<i>Other</i>			
Perpetrator alleged to have committed act to avenge a perceived wrongdoing by decedent	3	3	2
Perpetrator alleged to have committed act to avenge perceived wrongdoing by decedent's family member	1	1	

<i>Health/Mental</i>			
Perpetrator has/had mental health problems	2		
Perpetrator taking psychiatric medication at time of fatality		1	
Perpetrator attempted to commit suicide		1	
Medication prescribed for decedent at time of fatality			1

<i>Employment/Monetary</i>			
Perpetrator had loss of income recently	1	1	
Perpetrator had loss of income recently and blamed decedent	1		
Perpetrator had loss of employment recently		1	1

<i>Criminal Justice</i>			
Perpetrator arrested for domestic violence on another partner	1		
Decedent had filed an injunction on perpetrator			1
Perpetrator arrested for domestic violence on decedent			1

<i>Substance Abuse</i>			
Perpetrator had/has abused alcohol	1	2	2
Perpetrator had/has abused drugs		2	1
Decedent had abused alcohol			1

<i>Other Factors</i>			
Several warrants for arrests on fraud-was hiding out	1		
Perpetrator was tired of taking care of wife. May have been having an affair. Perpetrator was mean and hateful	1		
Daughter in abusive relationship with perpetrator	1		
Fight over bills	1		
Argued frequently and violently about perpetrator's abuse of alcohol		1	
Victim moved to another home		1	
Gambling			1
Decedent's mother passed away. Also, perpetrator had problems with the death and child was with other daughter			1

ESCALATING CIRCUMSTANCES - This information relates to the circumstances surrounding the fatality that might have caused the level of violence to escalate to the point where a homicide occurred. It also addresses the awareness that the violence was increasing in the relationship. This information is available through law enforcement investigative reports, possible service agency reports, medical examiner reports, newspaper accounts and personal interviews with persons that knew the perpetrator and/or decedent.

ESCALATING CIRCUMSTANCES (DECEDENT)*	2004	2005	2006
Express fear of physical danger to themselves and/or children	22	11	9
Express fear of losing custody of children	3	2	0
Isolate themselves from family and friends	4	1	1
Have evidence of physical injury	10	8	6
Exhibit signs of: depression, anger, low self esteem, suicidal thoughts	21	12	8
Express fear of involvement in the criminal justice system process	0	1	1
Show or express signs of sleeping difficulties	0	1	0
Express guilty feelings about the failed relationship	1	1	1
Show or express history of familial abuse	4	0	4
Express fear of being alone	1	1	1
Express fear of making a great life change	0	2	1
Express belief that perpetrator would change and/or stop abusive behavior	2	2	2

*The Escalating Circumstances Decedent category contains multiple selection fields and the review forms may contain more than one response for this category.

ESCALATING CIRCUMSTANCES (PERPETRATOR)*	2004	2005	2006
Abuse the decedent in public	8	6	4
Keep tabs on or stalk the decedent	12	6	6
Put down the decedent's friends and family	6	2	4
Tell the decedent, jealousy is a sign of love	1	1	2
Make all decisions in the relationship (including finances)	8	2	4
Blame decedent for abuse	2	4	3
Use intimidation by instilling fear through looks and gestures	7	7	6
Smash objects and destroy property	7	5	6
Tell the decedent their fears about the relationship were not important	0	1	1

*The Escalating Circumstances (Perpetrator) category contains multiple selection fields and the review forms may contain more than one response for this category.

SERVICES REQUESTED, ORDERED OR OBTAINED - This information relates to the decedents' and perpetrators' interactions with services, legal aid and medical organizations as they related to the domestic violence issues prior to the fatality. This information is available through the actual agency logs and service records maintained by the individual entities. Some of this information is available through interviews of persons that knew the perpetrator or decedent.

Services Requested, Ordered or Obtained						
	2004		2005		2006	
	Decedent	Perpetrator	Decedent	Perpetrator	Decedent	Perpetrator
Domestic Violence Services						
Requests/orders for service	6	4	4	2	3	0
Services provided	6	2	3	2	4	0
Criminal Justice Legal						
Requests/orders for service	45	46	23	15	26	15
Services provided	51	60	33	45	33	30
Health Care Provider						
Requests/orders for service	10	13	4	3	2	2
Services provided	11	13	16	12	3	2
Children/Family Services						
Requests/orders for service	7	3	2	2	3	3
Services provided	6	3	5	5	3	3

Some of the fatality review cases revealed that on occasion more services were provided than were requested or ordered for the decedent and/or perpetrator. Note: this can occur when services are offered/provided in accordance with a statutory requirement or a court order.

In cases where a minor and/or dependent child was present during the fatality, children/family services were requested for the child(ren) **two** times and provided **two** times in **2006**.

LETHALITY INDICATORS – These factors have been identified based on previously studied domestic violence fatalities and focus on elements considered to be the most prevalent in domestic homicides. This information is available through law enforcement investigative reports, possible service agency reports, medical examiner reports, newspaper accounts and personal interviews with persons that knew the perpetrator and decedent.

<i>Decedents' Emotional / Mental Deterioration*</i>	<i>2004</i>	<i>2005</i>	<i>2006</i>
Suicidal	1	2	0
Homicidal	3	0	1
Loss of day to day function	0	0	2
History of psychiatric problems	2	0	0
Poor compliance with taking medication	1	0	0
Depression	7	3	1
Economic loss	2	3	2
Loss of family support	1	3	2

<i>Perpetrators' Emotional / Mental Deterioration*</i>	<i>2004</i>	<i>2005</i>	<i>2006</i>
Suicidal	24	12	5
Homicidal	26	14	9
Loss of day to day function	2	4	3
History of psychiatric problems	2	3	3
Poor compliance with taking medication	1	1	1
Depression	13	5	3
Economic loss	4	5	5
Loss of family support	3	2	7

<i>Decedents' Antisocial Behavior*</i>	<i>2004</i>	<i>2005</i>	<i>2006</i>
History of domestic violence	9	3	5
History of assaults on others	5	2	1
History of criminal activity	8	6	3
History of stalking	2	0	0
History of substance abuse	15	8	2
Possession of weapons	3	3	6
History of abusing children(physically and/or sexually)	2	2	2
History of childhood abuse or witnessing violence	5	0	3

<i>Perpetrators' Antisocial Behavior*</i>	<i>2004</i>	<i>2005</i>	<i>2006</i>
History of domestic violence	30	17	10
History of assaults on others	18	10	9
History of criminal activity	22	15	12
History of stalking	14	6	4
History of substance abuse	31	13	9
Possession of weapons	28	10	13
History of abusing children(physically and/or sexually)	6	4	4
History of childhood abuse or witnessing violence	1	1	3

<i>Decedents' Failure of Community Control*</i>	<i>2004</i>	<i>2005</i>	<i>2006</i>
Violation(s) of restraining order	1	1	1
Violation(s) of probation	2	3	2
Arrest(s) for domestic violence	6	2	2
Failure to complete batterer's intervention program	1	0	0
Failure to complete substance abuse treatment	0	1	0
Failure to complete anger management program	1	0	0

<i>Perpetrators' Failure of Community Control*</i>	<i>2004</i>	<i>2005</i>	<i>2006</i>
Violation(s) of restraining order	4	2	3
Violation(s) of probation	6	4	4
Arrest(s) for domestic violence	10	9	9
Failure to complete batterer's intervention program	3	4	5
Failure to complete substance abuse treatment	0	1	2
Failure to complete anger management program	0	1	0

<i>Decedents' Severity of Violence*</i>	<i>2004</i>	<i>2005</i>	<i>2006</i>
Used a Weapon	2	2	2
Death threat	3	1	1
Unwanted sexual contact	0	0	0
Strangulation	0	0	1
Hurt pet	0	0	0
Severe injury	0	1	2
Sadistic / threatening act	2	0	1
Expressed concerns that she / he would be killed	11	8	6

<i>Perpetrators' Severity of Violence*</i>	<i>2004</i>	<i>2005</i>	<i>2006</i>
Used a weapon	21	9	9
Death threat	12	8	8
Unwanted sexual contact	2	2	2
Strangulation	4	2	1
Hurt pet	0	0	0
Severe injury	8	1	4
Sadistic / threatening act	5	3	4
Expressed concerns that she / he would be killed	2	0	0

<i>Decedents' Ownership / Centrality of Decedent to Perpetrator*</i>	<i>2004</i>	<i>2005</i>	<i>2006</i>
Obsessiveness about partner or family	2	0	1
Extreme jealousy	1	0	2
Access to victim and/or family members	2	1	0
Rage and/or depression over separation	0	0	0
Perceived betrayal	2	1	1
Perceived rejection after attempt to reconcile	0	0	0

<i>Perpetrators' Ownership / Centrality of Decedent to Perpetrator*</i>	<i>2004</i>	<i>2005</i>	<i>2006</i>
Obsessiveness about partner or family	18	11	8
Extreme jealousy	14	12	6
Access to victim and/or family members	21	11	5
Rage and/or depression over separation	19	9	6
Perceived betrayal	17	12	9
Perceived rejection after attempt to reconcile	11	9	3

***Lethality Indicators (Decedent and Perpetrator) categories contain multiple selection fields and the review forms may contain more than one response for these categories.**

FATALITY REVIEW TEAMS SUMMARY - This portion of the data collection process allows the Domestic Violence Fatality Review Team to summarize their overall findings and recommendations that relate to the specifically reviewed domestic violence fatality. This information is derived from a careful analysis of the information available during the review.

INDICATIONS THAT ABUSE WAS INCREASING	2004		2005		2006	
	VOLUME	%	VOLUME	%	VOLUME	%
Yes	29	55%	12	50%	10	53%
No	18	34%	8	33%	6	31%
Unknown	1	2%	4	17%	3	16%
No information provided	5	9%	0		0	

ENTITIES WITH KNOWLEDGE OF ABUSE*	2004	2005	2006
Law enforcement	26	11	7
Family	28	15	9
Acquaintance/neighbor	11	8	8
State/county	20	7	5
Employer/co-worker	2	7	3
Abuse center/shelter	2	1	1
Military	0	0	0
Friends	18	11	8
Medical	1	0	0
No known entities had knowledge of abuse	0	7	0
No information provided	12	0	2

* Entities with Knowledge of Abuse category contain multiple selection fields and the review forms may contain more than one response for this category.

Appendix A
Fatality Review Teams'
Changes, Findings, Recommendations
And Comments

The following changes were actions taken locally by individual Domestic Violence Fatality Review Teams based on information they gleaned from cases reviewed in 2005 for the 2006 Florida Domestic Violence Fatality Review Annual report.

- Participating agencies are doing internal and external training for various organizations.
- Teams respond to local newspapers regarding insensitive articles written about domestic violence cases. These responses are written to educate the editors and readers on the dynamics of domestic violence that contribute to domestic violence fatalities.
- Involved entities continue to link surviving family members with needed services as a result of the Team's work.
- There are now five police departments that have victim advocates with two departments adding them within the past eighteen months.
- Teams are working in conjunction with the Domestic Violence Councils to deliver training on domestic violence to area clergy.
- Domestic Violence posters and pamphlets have been delivered to hospitals and other healthcare facilities by team members.
- Teams are sharing findings and recommendations to the public and county domestic and sexual violence task forces, including professionals in the community that are involved in domestic violence issues and remedies.
- Several policies and procedures have been instituted by multiple justice systems and the community agencies. One such example is the implementation of lethality assessment by local law enforcement responding to domestic violence incidents. In these cases, the presence of a death threat is viewed as a risk factor and police respond accordingly.
- The DV Fatality Review Team implemented a procedure whereby all related agencies are immediately notified of all domestic violence-related fatality incidents.

The following findings were identified by the Domestic Violence Fatality Review Teams based on the cases reviewed for the 2006 reporting period. Findings are compiled from all reporting teams.

- Faith based counseling, although many times beneficial, was questioned in one case where the clergy had advised the victim to re-contact the perpetrator after an extended separation.
- A need for training between domestic violence, clergy and healthcare disciplines was seen during the reviews.
- Education awareness on lethality indicators including mental health and substance abuse is needed.
- Certain patterns/trends were seen; such as an age difference of six years or more, substance abuse was present in all cases reviewed, a prior criminal history for the perpetrator was found in all cases reviewed, and in 80% of the cases reviewed, prior domestic violence arrests had occurred.

- The majority of those perpetrators with prior criminal and domestic violence histories did not serve the now mandatory 85% of their sentences.
- There is a need for increased education, information, training, and outreach services throughout the judicial circuit.
- There is a need for improved coordinated community response to domestic violence in the judicial circuit and sharing of information between agencies.
- Alcohol abuse is often a leading factor in the motivation that caused the fatality; therefore it should be a requirement of the Batterer's Intervention Program to address this issue.
- Mental health issues and prior domestic violence history known to family members were found in the majority of cases reviewed.
- One team determined that in 60% of the cases they reviewed, the decedent had been a victim of domestic violence by the perpetrator prior to the fatal incident and in 60% of the cases reviewed records indicated the perpetrator had a history of substance abuse.
- In 65% of the cases reviewed the perpetrator was found to have a history of criminal activity.
- Public awareness is needed to target immigrants to educate them on domestic violence.
- Public awareness and education of increased lethal risk upon separation from an abusive relationship must be recognized and that safety indicator is needed.
- In many cases reviewed, perpetrators were mentally disturbed to lesser or greater extents; most of them were also under the influence of alcohol and/or drugs, exceptionally violent and involved up close and personal beatings.

The following recommendations were made by the Domestic Violence Fatality Review Teams based on the cases reviewed for the 2006 reporting period.

- Laws relating to judges ordering batterer intervention programs need to be more consistent. There needs to be a follow-up program to ascertain whether abusers are completing the program, particularly at the injunction for protection level.
- A standard for probation that will ensure timely referrals to court-ordered resources, competent follow-up by probation officers to ensure that services ordered are being followed and timely violations of probation when court ordered sanctions are not completed.
- Interdisciplinary training for professionals working within the substance abuse, health-care and domestic violence communities to ensure personal interface between the two treating entities needs to be mandated
- Create an early warning watchdog e-mail program on legislation which impacts Fatality Review interests so lobbying efforts could be focused and useful to the legislature.
- Batterers should not be given an option, but rather automatically qualify for a certified batterers intervention program when the crime is of a domestic violence nature.
- Near-fatalities and a loss of life as a result of a possible domestic violence situation should be reviewed to broaden the scope of cases reviewed and submitted to the Florida Department of Law Enforcement (FDLE) for the annual report.
- The teams recommended that the state issue written guidance regarding interviews of parties, friends, and relatives for the purposes of fatality review.

- Funding for mental health services and public awareness of these issues in relationship to domestic violence should be explored.
- If the perpetrator is attending a batterers' intervention program he/she should not be allowed to drink alcohol. A pre-sentence investigation for domestic violence cases to identify drug/alcohol, mental health, etc. issues that need to be addressed while on misdemeanor probation should be required.
- It would be beneficial for the Medical Examiner's Office to be staffed with a social worker that can provide crisis intervention and referrals to survivors.
- Mechanisms should be established statewide to identify children who are raised in high risk environments.
- Services that prevent future patterns of behavior and victimization should be implemented to assist the children and their families.
- Perform stand-by service in an effort to provide protection for potential victims while removing themselves, their children and/or pets and possessions from the home when domestic violence is feared or anticipated.
- Victim safety would benefit from domestic violence providers, law enforcement, and judicial access to a centralized database containing civil and criminal case information.

The following comments and concerns were expressed by the Domestic Violence Fatality Review Teams based on the cases reviewed for the 2006 reporting period.

- Teams feel that their in-depth review of the fatalities, including speaking to family members, puts a human face to the case and not just statistics.
- The continual supportive outreach network in many of the teams' communities encourages residents to ask for assistance when they suspect cases of domestic violence.
- In addition to policy changes, the work of the teams has produced results that while not necessarily quantifiable, are equally important.
- Many of the teams review near fatalities and find it very useful. These teams recommend using data from near fatalities in the annual report to provide understanding of the dynamics and the ability to identify red flags.
- Teams feel they should continue reviewing cases for the insight they provide in the issues of safety, lethality and continued cooperation between agencies.
- Teams are very receptive to the training and networking opportunities they have participated in with other teams and would like to see them continued.
- Due to high incidences of mental health issues, findings should be shared with mental health professionals and encourage continued education on the dynamics of domestic violence.

All data and recommendations are the products of the participating Domestic Violence Fatality Review Teams, compiled and reported by the FDLE in compliance with Section 741.316, Florida Statute.

The FDLE wishes to thank the Domestic Violence Fatality Review Teams upon whose work this report relies. Their assistance and cooperation have been extremely valuable.

This report will be posted on the FDLE web site at www.fdle.state.fl.us.

Appendix B

Fatality Review Teams

Fatality Review Team Contact Information

Bay County

Cheryl Murray
Bay County Health Department
597 West 11th Street
Panama City, FL 32401
(850) 872-4455 x175
Cheryl_Murray@doh.state.fl.us

Brevard County

Nancy Slater
Brevard County Criminal Justice Services
1040 South Florida Avenue
Rockledge, FL 32955
(321) 633-1981
Nancy.slater@brevardcounty.us

Broward County

Nancy Tanner
Victim Advocate Unit
State Attorney's Office
16 South East 6th Street
Fort Lauderdale, FL 33312
(954) 765-4133
Ntanner@sao17.state.fl.us

Columbia County*

Natalie Land
Domestic Violence Coordinator
Court Administration, Third Judicial Circuit
Live Oak, FL
(386) 754-7020
land.natalie@jud3.flcourts.org
*also reporting for Madison, Taylor,
Lafayette, Dixie, Hamilton and Suwannee

Duval County*

Libby Senterfitt
State Attorney's Office
330 East Bay Street, Room #504
Jacksonville, FL 32202
(904) 630-2502
libbys@coj.net
*summary only

Escambia County

Greg Marcille
State Attorney's Office
PO Box 12726
Pensacola, FL 32575
(850) 595-4200
Greg_marcille@co.escambia.fl.us

Lee County

Nica Boback
Abuse Counseling and Treatment, Inc.
PO Box 60401
Fort Myers, FL 33906
(239) 939-2553
nboback@sao.cjis20.org

Miami-Dade County*

Lauren Lazarus, Esquire
Administrative Office of the Courts
175 NW 1st Avenue, Room #1502
Miami, FL 33128
(305) 349-5555
llazuras@jud11.flcourts.org
*summary only

Orange County

Garnet Ahern
Orange County Corrections
PO Box 4970
Orlando, FL 32802
(407) 836-3013
Garnett_ahern@yahoo.com

Palm Beach County

Muriel Waldmann, MS
Victim Advocate Coordinator
Boynton Beach Police Department
100 East Boynton Boulevard
Boynton Beach, FL 33435
(561) 742-6108
WaldmannM@CI.Boynton-Beach.fl.us

Pasco County

Terri O'Brien
Sunrise Pasco County Organization
PO Box 928
Dade City, FL 33526
(352) 521-3358
Tobrien@sunrisepasco.org

Pinellas County

Frieda Widera
Largo Police Department
201 Highland Avenue
Largo, FL 33770
(727) 586-7481
fwidera@largo.com

Polk County

Cherie Simmers
PO Box 9000, J153
Bartow, FL 33831-9000
(863) 534-4173
CCSimmers@jud10.flcourts.org

Sarasota County*

Stephanie Woods, LMHC
SPARCC
2139 Main Street
Sarasota, FL 34239
(941) 365-0208
sparcc@gte.net
*also reporting for Manatee and DeSoto

Seminole County

Jeanne Gold
Executive Director
Safe House of Seminole
PO Box 2921
Sanford, FL 32772
(407) 302-5220 x225

Appendix C

Legislation 2000 - 2005

Legislation

2000

The Florida Legislature enacted Section 741.316, Florida Statutes, which recognized the work of these teams and called for the Florida Department of Law Enforcement (FDLE) to develop a standard data collection form, to gather information from the local Domestic Violence Fatality Review Teams, and to publish an annual state-level report.

2001

The Florida Legislature approved, and Governor Bush signed into law, the “Family Protection Act” which requires a 5-day mandatory jail term for any crime of domestic battery in which the perpetrator deliberately injures the victim. This law also makes a second battery crime a felony offense, which will effectively treat repeat offenders as serious criminals. The Family Protection Act also requires persons convicted of violent crimes to pay a \$201 surcharge to offset the costs of local incarceration and support domestic violence shelters.

2002

The Florida Legislature approved, and Governor Bush signed into law, Senate Bill 716 (s. 741.28, F.S.) which clarifies that people who have a child in common, or who are in a dating relationship, are not required to have resided together to be eligible for an injunction for protection against violence. Senate Bill 716 also eliminates the filing fee for protective orders (s. 741.30, F.S.) and allows certified domestic violence advocates, prosecution, or law enforcement advocates to be present during injunction hearings.

In the state’s continuing efforts to reduce domestic violence crimes, Governor Bush initiated Violence Free Florida! in 2002. This program is aimed at reducing domestic violence through greater public awareness of this crime, increasing services for its victims, and providing additional public/private partnerships for greater community involvement in these efforts.

2003

The Florida Legislature approved, and Governor Bush signed House Bill 1099, relating to Domestic Violence Centers. This bill removes the requirement that the Department of Children and Families approve or reject applications for funding received from domestic violence centers; provides for provision of technical assistance and distribution of funds for said centers by a statewide association whose primary purpose is to provide technical assistance to certified domestic violence centers; and provides requirements for contracts between said association and certified domestic violence centers. Since Fiscal Year 1998-99 funding for domestic violence shelters and their services has increased by nearly eighty percent.

2004

There were no bills relating to Domestic Violence Fatality Review Teams, passed in this year’s session.

2005

Statute 741.5165 was amended expanding the exemption from public records requirements for confidential or exempt information obtained by domestic violence fatality review teams to include information that identifies a victim of domestic violence or the children of a victim; expanding the exemption from public meetings requirements to exempt those portions of meetings at which confidential or exempt information is discussed; providing for review and repeal; providing a statement of public necessity; removing unnecessary language; making clarifying changes; providing an effective date.