

NEW YORK CITY DOMESTIC VIOLENCE FATALITY REVIEW COMMITTEE:

2014 ANNUAL REPORT



Bill de Blasio
Mayor

**Mayor's Office to
Combat Domestic
Violence**

Rosemonde Pierre-Louis
Commissioner



Introduction

This report is the ninth annual report of the New York City Domestic Violence Fatality Review Committee (FRC). The FRC was established in 2005 through Local Law 61, which requires the FRC to summarize information pertaining to family-related homicides (also called domestic violence homicides) in aggregate and to develop recommendations for the coordination and improvement of services for victims of family-related violence in New York City. The FRC is chaired by the Commissioner of the Mayor's Office to Combat Domestic Violence and includes staff from 10 City agencies, two representatives from social services agencies and two survivors of domestic violence.

This report describes the 851 domestic violence homicides that occurred in New York City from 2002 through 2013, with regards to demographic factors (e.g., age, gender, race, ethnicity, and neighborhood), victim and perpetrator contact with City agencies and the community-level socioeconomic circumstances that intersect with family-related violence. There were 881 perpetrators involved in these homicides.

In 2013, there were 62 family-related homicides, accounting for almost 1 out of every 5 homicides in New York City. Homicide reflects the most extreme outcome of family-related violence, and makes up only a small fraction of all crimes that are classified as family-related. A broader indicator of the impact of domestic violence in the City is the number of domestic violence incidents recorded by the police. In 2013, the police responded to 284,660 domestic violence incidents.

The pervasiveness of domestic violence and its effect on individuals, children, families, businesses and communities manifest in many ways, beyond crime indicators. Family-related violence has enduring impacts on a community and frequently occurs in a social context characterized by poverty, unemployment, limited educational attainment, and poor health. For example, we know that domestic violence is one of the leading causes of homelessness and often co-occurs in homes where child abuse is present.

An overview of new initiatives and recommendations to improve prevention and public education strategies, as well as policy recommendations for actions in order to create greater support to end domestic violence, are included on page 9.

Key Findings

[Compared to 2002, Family-Related Homicides Have Declined:](#) Family-related homicides have declined by almost 20% - from 76 in 2002 to 62 in 2013. Homicides involving intimate partner relationships, a subgroup within family-related, declined by 10% during the same time period - from 41 in 2002 to 37 in 2013.

[Family-Related Homicides Occur More Frequently in Neighborhoods with Low Socioeconomic Indicators:](#) Since 2004, 42% (265 out of 626) occurred in neighborhoods with very low socioeconomic statistics - high rates of poverty and unemployment, low median household income and low high school graduation rates.

[The Majority of Family-Related Homicide Victims Never Have Contact with the New York City Police Department:](#) Over half of family-related homicide victims (57%, 358 out of 634) had contact with at least one City agency prior to the homicide, however, less than one third (27%, 171 out of 634) had prior contact with the New York City Police Department.

What is Domestic Violence?

Domestic violence is a pattern of coercive and abusive behavior to gain and maintain power and control over another person. Abusive behaviors can include physical violence (e.g., hitting, punching, strangling, grabbing); economic control (e.g., taking a pay check, threatening to end financial support, forcing to quit work); emotional abuse (e.g., humiliating, insulting, blaming or making to feel guilty); sexual abuse (e.g., coercing or forcing sexual activity, refusing to practice safe sex); intimidation or threats (e.g., threatening to commit suicide, threatening to harm or kill a person, child or pet, or immigration-related threats); or isolation or extreme jealousy/possessiveness (e.g., stalking, accusing of cheating, isolating from friends/family).

Domestic violence relationships include intimate partners (married, divorced, dating, children in common, domestic partner) and other family members (parent/child, grandparent/grandchild, siblings and cousins). From 2002 through 2013, intimate partners accounted for **52%** (442 out of 851) of all family-related homicides. Homicides involving the death of a child accounted for **24%** (204 out of 851) and homicides involving other family members accounted for **24%** (205 out of 851) of family-related homicides.

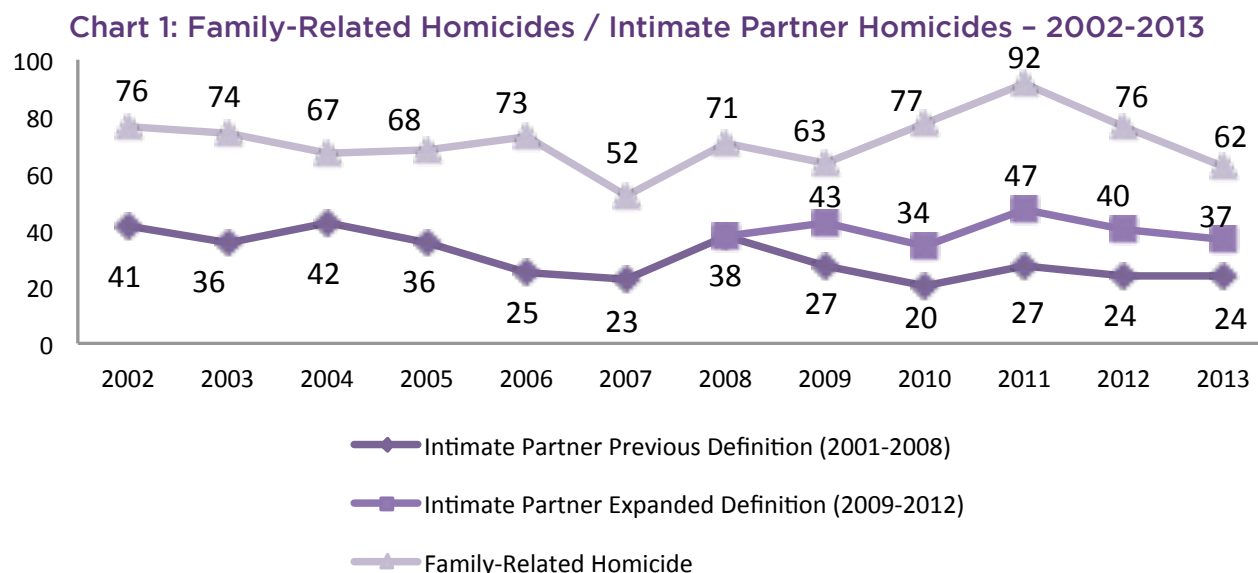
In 2008, based on an amendment to New York State law, the definition of family law offense (referred to in the report as family-related) was expanded to include individuals in current or former boyfriend/girlfriend intimate partner relationships. Intimate partner relationships is a subgroup within the definition of family-related and refers to individuals who are married, divorced, dating or have a child in common. This change first appears in the 2009 data.

From 2002-2013

- The number of family-related homicides decreased by 36%, from 76 in 2002 to 49 in 2013, using the pre-2009 definition.^{1,2}
- Family-related homicides involving intimate partners of the victims also declined by 10% - from 41 in 2002 to 37 in 2013. The decline is even more pronounced when applying a narrower definition of intimate partners that excludes dating partners, 41% decline, from 41 in 2002 to 24 in 2013.

From 2012-2013

- The number of family-related homicides decreased by 18% from 76 in 2012 to 62 in 2013. Family-related homicides involving intimate partners of the victims also declined by 7.5% - from 40 in 2012 to 37 in 2013.



¹Family-related homicide counts fluctuated in the intervening years with no discernable upward or downward trend.

²In 2008, based on an amendment to New York State law, the definition of family law offenses was expanded to include individuals in current or former boyfriend/girlfriend intimate relationships.

2002-2013: Family-Related Homicides Disproportionately Impact Females, Blacks, and Women Age 25 to 45

- Sixty-seven percent (437 out of 651) of adult family-related homicide victims were female, while 52% (104 out of 200) of child family-related homicide victims were male.
- Forty-nine percent (415 out of 851) of adult and child family-related homicide victims were Black. Blacks were disproportionately affected by family-related homicides, as only 23% of New York City’s population is Black.
- Thirty-nine percent (335 out of 851) of family-related homicide victims were between the ages of 25 and 45; 33% of New York City’s population is 25-45 years old.
- Children, age 10 and under, accounted for 21% (179 out of 851) of family-related homicide victims; 13% of New York City’s population is age 10 and under.

Table 1: Demographics of Family-Related Homicides – 2002-2013

Gender	%(Number)	% NYC Population	Age	%(Number)	% NYC Population
Male Child	12.2% (104)	11.1%	0 - <1	9.3% (79)	1.3%
Male Adult	25.1% (214)	36.5%	1-10	11.8% (100)	11.9%
Female Child	11.3% (96)	10.6%	11-17	2.6% (22)	8.35%
Female Adult	51.4% (437)	42.0%	18-24	10.5% (89)	10.6%
			25-45	39.4% (335)	32.6%
Race/Ethnicity	%(Number)	% NYC Population	46-59	16.4% (139)	17.9%
Black	49% (415)	23%	60+	10.1% (86)	17.2%
Hispanic	29% (247)	29%			
White	14% (122)	33%			
Asian/Indian	7% (62)	13%			
Other	<1% (5)	2%			

Brooklyn and the Bronx Have a Disproportionate Number of Family-Related Homicides

- One out of every 4 family-related homicides (25%, 212 out of 851) occurred in the Bronx, while only 17% of the City’s population resides there.
- Thirty-six percent (306 out of 851) of family-related homicides occurred in Brooklyn, while 31% of the City’s population resides in that borough.

Table 2: Family-Related Homicides by Borough – 2002-2013

Borough	# Family-Related Homicides	% Family-Related Homicides	% of Citywide Population
Brooklyn	306	36%	31%
Bronx	212	25%	17%
Queens	114	13%	27%
Manhattan	181	21%	19%
Staten Island	38	4%	6%

Family-Related Homicides Are Concentrated in a Few NYC Communities

- Since 2002, more than 40% (365 out of 851) of family-related homicides occurred in just 15 of the 77 police precincts: six in Brooklyn (67th, 70th, 73rd, 75th, 77th and 81st), five in the Bronx (43rd, 44th, 46th, 47th and 52nd), three in Queens (103rd, 105th and 113th) and one in Staten Island (120th).
- In 2013, these 15 same precincts accounted for 40% (112,213 out of 284,660) domestic incidents recorded by the New York City Police Department (NYPD).

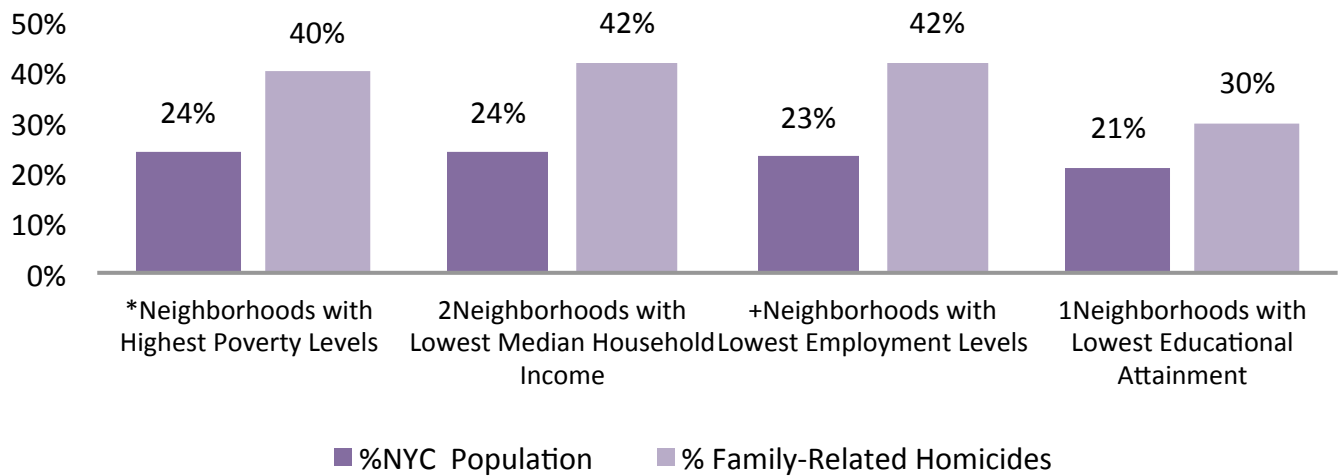
Table 3: Family-Related Homicides: 15 Precincts with Highest Frequency - 2002-2013

Police Precinct	# Family-Related Homicides	Police Precinct	# Family-Related Homicides	Police Precinct	# Family-Related Homicides
Brooklyn		Bronx		Queens	
67	23	43	31	103	20
70	22	44	25	105	23
73	36	46	30	113	19
75	33	47	24		
77	19	52	20	Staten Island	
81	20			120	20

Approximately 4 Out of Every 10 Family-Related Homicides Occur in Neighborhoods with Very Low Socioeconomic Status

- Since 2004, 42% (287 out of 688) of family related homicides occurred in neighborhoods with very low socioeconomic status - high rates of poverty and unemployment, low median household income and low high school graduate rates.
- Forty-one percent (281 of 688) of the family-related homicide victims resided in communities with a high percentage of the population (more than 27.4%) living below the poverty level, yet 24% of the City's population live in these communities.
- Forty-two percent (289 of 688) of family-related homicide victims resided in communities with low median household income levels of less than \$37,992 annually, yet 25% of the City's population live in these lowest median household income communities. A similar disparity is seen in neighborhoods with the lowest employment levels.
- Thirty-one percent (210 of 688) of the family-related homicide victims resided in communities where more than 28.4% of the residents age 25 or older have never received a high school diploma. In contrast, only 21% of the City's population age 25 or over never obtained a high school diploma.

Chart 2: Family-Related Homicides 2004-2013: Percentage in NYC Vulnerable Neighborhoods

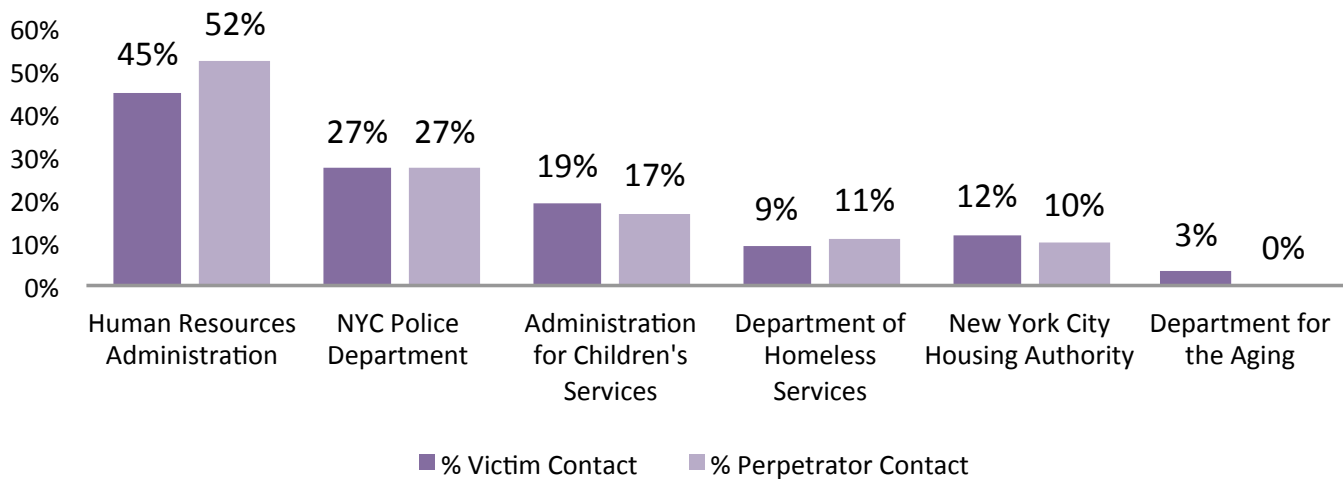


Since 2005, Few Family-Related Homicide Victims Had Previous Contact with the Police³

- Over half of family-related homicide victims (57%, 358 out of 634) had contact with at least one City agency prior to the homicide; however, less than one third (27%, 171 out of 634) had prior contact with the New York City Police Department.
- Forty-six percent (290 out of 634) of the victims had documented contact with the Human Resources Administration (HRA) for services including cash assistance, food stamps, or Medicaid. Only 5% of victims, (34 out of 634) accessed domestic violence related services from HRA. More than half of the perpetrators (52%, 328 out of 632) had contact with the HRA.
- The Administration for Children’s Services (ACS) had contact with 20% (129 out of 634) of victims and 17% of perpetrators (106 out of 632). Since 2005, only 25 of the families, in which a family-related homicide occurred, ever came to the attention of ACS, specifically, for domestic violence allegations. Other cases came to the attention of ACS for a range of issues including educational neglect, inadequate guardianship and substance abuse.
- Twelve percent (77 out of 634) of the victims and 10% (61 out of 634) of the perpetrators were residing in New York City Housing Authority (NYCHA) developments at the time of the homicide.
- The Department of Homeless Services had contact with 9% (55 out of 634) of the victims and 11% (70 out of 632) of the perpetrators.
- The Department for the Aging (DFTA) had contact with only two of 62 family-related homicides, involving victims 60 years of age or older. They did not have any contact with the perpetrators in these cases.

³This section provides information on the pre-incident contacts between City agencies and family-related homicide victims and perpetrators based on information provided by City agencies regarding the 634 victims and 632 perpetrators of family-related homicides that occurred since 2005.

Chart 3: Agency Contact for Victims/Perpetrators of Family-Related Homicides (within previous calendar year of homicide): 2005-2013



Mayor's Office to Combat Domestic Violence: New Homicide Prevention Initiatives

New York City Housing Authority Domestic Violence Response Team (NYCHA DVRT): NYCHA DVRT operates in 15 public housing developments, throughout New York City, in collaboration with the New York City Housing Authority and seeks to reduce the incidence of homicide by providing rapid response to high risk cases of intimate partner violence, as well as conducting outreach to raise awareness about domestic violence and linking residents directly to services at the New York City Family Justice Centers. The NYCHA DVRT program is operated by OCDV and is part of the Mayor's Action Plan (MAP) for Neighborhood Safety.

Coordinated Approach to Preventing Stalking (CAPS): CAPS seeks to increase the identification and reporting of intimate partner stalking cases, enhance stalking arrests and prosecutions, and link victims directly to appropriate services through the Staten Island Domestic Violence Response Team. Currently, the CAPS program is operated in Staten Island, in collaboration with the New York City Police Department and the Richmond County District Attorney's Office.

Mayor's Office to Combat Domestic Violence: Prevention and Public Education Initiatives

New York City Family Justice Centers: The New York City Family Justice Centers (FJCs) provide comprehensive multi-agency services for victims of domestic violence, elder abuse, and sex trafficking. Located in the Bronx, Brooklyn, Manhattan and Queens, the Centers are co-located with the local District Attorney's Office and have New York City Police Department Domestic Violence Prevention Officers (DVPOs) and staff from over 35 community partners, on-site, to offer counseling services for adults and children, civil legal assistance, immigration assistance, economic empowerment, and supportive services. The FJCs safe, caring environments, the services are free and confidential, and all are welcome regardless of language, income, immigration status, gender identity or sexual orientation. The Staten Island Family Justice Center is currently under development.

Clinical Psychiatric Services and Psychopharmacologic Treatment at the Bronx Family Justice Center:

In 2014, our Bronx FJC became the first FJC in the world to have on-site clinical psychiatric services and psychopharmacologic treatment. This public-private partnership was made possible by support from the Chapman Perelman Foundation, the Department of Psychiatry at Columbia University Medical Center, and the Mayor's Fund to Advance New York City.

New York City Healthy Relationship Training Academy: The NYC Healthy Relationship Training Academy offers interactive workshops on dating violence and cyber abuse for adolescents, young adults, parents and service providers. Workshops are facilitated by trained peer educators who encourage discussion and critical thinking about these challenging topics. On-site workshops are free and offered in English and Spanish, year-round, throughout the City.

UpStander Campaign to Engage all New Yorkers to Take a Stand Against Gender Based Violence: Domestic Violence Awareness Month culminated with the City's Inaugural UpStander Awards, hosted by First Lady Chirlane McCray, which honored and thanked individuals who made a difference by shining a light on how we can live free of violence, championing the rights of survivors of violence and inspiring others to do the same. This Award event included the launch the City's UpStander campaign to encourage all New Yorkers to play a role in ending domestic violence. The campaign was featured in a PSA featuring city leaders speaking about being an UpStander.

New Domestic Violence Related Initiatives by Other NYC Agencies

Department for the Aging's (DFTA) Grandparent Resource Center (GRC) Expansion Through Mayor's Action Plan for Safe Neighborhoods: In New York City, the Department for the Aging's (DFTA) Grandparent Resource Center (GRC) has been advocating for the needs of grandparent (and other relative) caregivers by providing information, case assistance, advocacy, training and other necessary referrals and interventions. The GRC program expanded in 2014 as part of the Mayor's Action Plan (MAP) which will provide a DFTA Community Advocate in 15 NYCHA developments to inform residents about the services and benefits available to grandparent caregivers. Through the initiative, grandparent caregivers will receive grandparenting education, trainings, and peer support on how to raise children in today's urban society.

In addition, for Fiscal Year 2015, an additional 1 million in discretionary dollars was allocated to increase services to elder abuse victims in New York City. These funds were allocated to the Department's current elder abuse service providers. A small portion of these funds were also used as seed money to help a number of domestic violence programs expand their services to include elder abuse victims.

Living in Communities Rental Assistance Program: The Living in Communities (LINC) Rental Assistance programs was created to help move families out of shelter and into stable housing. The LINC III Rental assistance program specifically helps families in shelter whose lives have been affected by domestic violence. The LINC III program helps domestic violence victims in Department of Homeless Services (DHS) homeless shelters and Human Resources Administration (HRA) domestic violence shelters obtain stable housing in the community, as quickly as possible, by subsidizing a portion of their rent for one year and, thereafter, based on continued need for up to five (5) years.

HRA LINC Up Program- LINC Aftercare for Domestic Violence Survivors: The LINC Up Aftercare program targets families expected to move into the community from both HRA domestic violence shelters and DHS shelters through the LINC housing program. The program will provide the following services to survivors living in LINC subsidized apartments: economic empowerment, legal, immigration, support around Public Assistance, and referral to any other services that the LINC family may need to be maintained safely in permanent housing.

Recommendations

Public Awareness

- Continue to increase public education and outreach efforts across New York City by working with City agencies, non-profit community based organizations and City Council members and other elected officials.

Prevention and Intervention

- Expand on-site clinical psychiatric and psychopharmacologic treatment currently available at the Bronx Family Justice Center to other New York City Family Justice Centers.
- Implement universal training for all City employees that provide frontline direct services.
- Review and evaluate domestic violence screening practices at City agencies. Implement appropriate screening tools at agencies that currently do not screen their clients for domestic violence. Also create a procedure to flag high risk cases for a multi-agency coordinated response.
- Expand the Coordinated Approach to Preventing Stalking (CAPS) program to other boroughs.
- Expand the capacity of the New York City Healthy Relationship Training Academy.

Data Sources:

NYPD Data: The New York City Police Department maintains information on family-related homicides and provided the NYC Domestic Violence Fatality Review Committee with the location of each homicide and demographic information related to each victim and perpetrator. Analysis of these data involved computation of percent change in family-related homicides from 2002 through 2013 and construction of confidence intervals around counts. Overlapping confidence intervals suggest no statistical difference in counts. After pooling the data from 2002 through 2013, chi square tests were used to compare distribution of family-related homicides across select subgroups (e.g., gender and age).

Contact with City Agencies: The NYC Fatality Review Committee provided each FRC member agency with identifiers (name, date of birth, address) for the victims and perpetrators of family-related homicides that occurred in 2013 and the agencies independently cross-referenced that list with agency files, and reported if the victim and/or perpetrator had any contact with the victim or perpetrator during the calendar year in which the homicide occurred and the calendar year prior to the homicide.

United States Census Population Estimates and the American Community Survey Multi-Year Estimates: The population data used in this report reflect 2010 Census data obtained from the United States Census Bureau and the New York City Department of City Planning (City Planning). Individual level indicators

of socioeconomic status (SES) for victims and perpetrators were not available. Instead, City Planning provided United States Census poverty, median income, unemployment and educational attainment data at the neighborhood community district level reflecting American Community Survey (ACS) multi-year estimates for 2009-2011, the most current data available for neighborhood-level analyses.

Interpreting Report Findings: Comparisons of NYPD's homicide counts over time and between subgroups must be interpreted with caution. While noteworthy changes from 2002 to 2013 are highlighted in this report, no changes over time were statistically significant. For other sub-group analyses, fluctuations in the intervening years reflect no discernible upward or downward trend. In addition, differences in select subgroup analyses were found not to be statistically significant. Statements about higher frequencies of homicide in certain subgroups compared between points in time indicate possible associations, but must not be interpreted as statements about causation.

FRC Committee Members: Rosemonde Pierre-Louis, Commissioner, Mayor's Office to Combat Domestic Violence, Gladys Carrión, Esq., Commissioner, Administration for Children's Services (Designee: Denise Walden-Greene, Senior Policy Analyst), Donna M. Corrado, PhD, Commissioner, Department for the Aging (Designee: Aurora Salamone, Director, Elderly Crime Victims Resource Center), Daniel Nigro, Commissioner, New York City Fire Department (Designee: Christina Mazzola, Deputy Chief, EMS Operations), Gilbert Taylor, Commissioner, Department for Homeless Services (Designee: Dova Marder, MD, Agency Medical Director), Daniel M. Donovan, Jr., Richmond County District Attorney's Office (Designee: Wanda DeOliveira, Chief Sex Crime and Special Victims Bureau), Steven Banks, Esq., Commissioner, Human Resources Administration (Designee: Marie Philip, Deputy Commissioner, Emergency and Intervention Services, Office of Domestic Violence), Department of Health and Mental Hygiene (Designee: Catherine Stayton, DrPH, MPH, Director, Injury and Violence Prevention Program), Robert T. Johnson, Bronx County District Attorney's Office (Designee: Penny Santana, Chief Domestic Violence Bureau), William Bratton, Commissioner, New York City Police Department (Designee: Juanita Holmes, Deputy Chief, Domestic Violence Unit), Shola Olatoye, Chair and Chief Executive Officer, New York City Housing Authority (Designee: Nora Reissig, Director, Family Services Department)

Family-Related Homicides Data by Year: 2002-2013

Years/Characteristics	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	Total
Total Family-Related Homicides	76	74	67	68	73	52	71	63	77	92	76	62	851
Victims by Gender													
Child Female	8	11	5	4	18	9	6	1	16	6	8	4	96
Adult Female	43	40	37	38	32	25	30	34	36	48	40	34	437
Child Male	9	6	8	13	9	8	10	7	9	9	10	6	104
Adult Male	16	17	17	13	14	10	25	21	16	29	18	18	214
Victim by Age													
<1	8	9	7	6	5	11	8	4	8	7	4	2	79
1-10	8	8	5	9	17	5	5	3	13	7	12	8	100
11-17	1	0	1	2	5	1	3	1	4	1	2	1	22
18-24	8	11	8	11	3	2	7	6	4	17	8	4	89
25-45	37	28	31	25	27	20	31	25	25	31	27	28	335
46-59	5	10	8	12	7	7	10	21	15	16	15	13	139
60+	9	8	7	3	9	6	7	3	8	13	8	5	86
Victims by Race													
Black	41	38	32	28	30	26	29	29	49	42	37	34	415
Hispanic	25	18	20	22	35	10	24	21	12	29	18	13	247
White	3	10	9	9	6	12	15	8	12	17	14	7	122
Asian/Indian	7	7	5	9	2	4	3	5	4	4	7	5	62
Other/Unknown	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	5
Perpetrators by Age													
<1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
1-10	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
11-17	2	2	1	1	7	3	2	0	2	2	1	1	24
18-24	14	17	13	12	12	13	14	11	14	23	13	11	167
25-45	52	43	44	43	49	31	48	37	43	47	44	38	519
46-59	5	10	4	11	10	8	13	11	14	18	11	11	116
60+	3	4	4	3	1	2	3	6	2	5	6	3	42
Unknown	0	2	2	0	0	0	0	1	2	0	2	0	9
Perpetrator to Victim Relationship													
<i>Intimate Partner</i>													
Spouse/Live-In	17	14	19	16	9	13	16	11	9	9	16	8	156
Common Law	17	14	15	14	11	8	10	6	4	11	6	8	125
Child in Common	7	7	7	6	4	2	9	9	6	3	0	7	67
Boyfriends/Girlfriend	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	16	15	20	16	13	80
Same Sex	0	1	1	0	1	0	3	1	0	4	2	1	14
<i>Other</i>													
Parent	17	20	15	17	27	21	15	8	21	23	15	5	204
Child	8	4	6	3	11	7	7	3	9	12	5	7	82
Other Family	10	15	5	14	16	6	20	11	11	13	9	10	140
Other/Unknown	0	3	0	0	0	0	0	1	2	0	8	5	19
Years/Characteristics													
Total Family-Related Homicides	76	74	67	68	73	52	71	63	77	92	76	62	851
Total Family-Related by Borough													
Brooklyn	37	28	24	19	27	18	25	19	28	31	24	26	306
Bronx	15	10	18	23	23	9	18	11	18	27	24	16	212
Manhattan	9	12	10	12	12	4	7	10	8	15	10	5	114
Queens	15	23	13	10	8	15	18	20	15	16	15	13	181
Staten Island	0	1	2	4	3	6	3	3	8	3	3	2	38
Homicide Method/Weapon													
Cutting/Knife	26	19	23	19	31	6	32	29	30	38	28	32	313
Firearm	22	16	20	21	13	19	13	18	9	16	15	12	194
Blunt Trauma	11	9	9	10	11	16	13	9	18	17	13	10	146
Asphyxiation/Strangulation	9	13	9	10	6	5	6	5	11	11	7	5	97
Other/Known	8	17	6	8	12	6	7	2	9	10	13	3	101



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**Mayor's Office to
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