Together we can end domestic violence

“The safety and well being of Florida families is a top priority, and that is why I am proud of the work the Florida Department of Children and Families and the Florida Coalition Against Domestic Violence do together for victims of abuse. Their work in support of certified domestic violence centers allows impacted individuals to get the support they need.

I will continue to work with these organizations to ensure families are protected so that every Floridian can pursue their dreams in the Sunshine State.”

—Governor Rick Scott

“The Office of the Attorney General is proud to partner with the Florida Coalition Against Domestic Violence and Florida’s Domestic Violence Team as we work together to provide services and programs for survivors and hold those who commit these crimes accountable. I am particularly pleased with the work of the Statewide Domestic Violence Fatality Review Team that the OAG and FCADV co-chair; this group of professionals makes recommendations for systemic change and seeks solutions to eliminate domestic violence fatalities. This is just one example of a collaboration that goes hand in hand with the theme of this year’s report - Making a Difference and Changing Lives!”

—Attorney General Pam Bondi

“DCF is committed to help end domestic violence by seeking partnerships that promote local programs designed to strengthen families.”

—David Wilkins,
Secretary Department of Children and Families
Societal attitudes and behaviors associated with the perpetration of domestic violence will only change when a team of dedicated individuals partnering at the statewide level focus on creating policies and programs for local communities and providers to implement. Successful implementation of such is driven from leadership within our communities. Local stakeholders who come together and collectively identify problems while creating solutions are uniquely positioned to tailor policies, programs, and services to meet the specific needs of domestic violence survivors and their children within their communities. The foundational belief that it takes inclusive partnerships at both statewide and community levels has established Florida as a national leader in policy creation and implementation as well as in the provision of high quality services to domestic violence survivors and their children. The Governor, Legislature, Department of Children and Families (DCF), Florida’s Attorney General, and the Florida Coalition Against Domestic Violence (FCADV) has a long-held philosophy that both government and the private sector have a very specific role in ending domestic violence in our state. To that end, Florida has a demonstrated history of utilizing government funding to leverage private resources to ensure that the state and our local communities have a demonstrated commitment to reducing the crime of domestic violence, while providing for the appropriate resources and services for domestic violence survivors and their children.

Florida Statute requires FCADV to produce an annual report to the Florida Legislature designed to provide a statewide status report on domestic violence. The information contained in this report includes recent statistical data regarding domestic violence, a description of services and programs available to survivors of domestic violence and their children, a description of government funding sources, and data collected from state and local domestic violence fatality review teams.

This year’s annual report also provides a summary of current programming, trending, and policies implemented during fiscal year 2011-2012. We thank Governor Scott, Secretary Wilkins, Attorney General Bondi, and the Florida Legislature for their willingness to prioritize policy and funding initiatives that focus on creating seamless services in our state. Because of the leadership from Florida’s 42 certified domestic violence centers and their community partners, Florida remains a leader in the cause to end domestic violence.

Tiffany Carr, President/CEO
Florida Coalition Against Domestic Violence

Pursuant to Florida Statute 39.904
Florida defines domestic violence as any assault, aggravated assault, battery, aggravated battery, sexual assault, sexual battery, stalking, aggravated stalking, kidnapping, false imprisonment, or any criminal offense resulting in physical injury or death of one family or household member by another family or household member. However, we all know that domestic violence is more than physical assault. It is a pattern of behaviors that individuals use against their intimate partners or former partners to establish power and control. It may include physical, sexual, emotional, spiritual, or economic abuse, as well as the use of threats, isolation, pet abuse, using children as pawns, and a variety of other behaviors to maintain power over one’s partner through violence, fear, and intimidation.

**Domestic Violence Crime in Florida**

January – December 2011

- 111,681 domestic violence offenses were reported to law enforcement
- 192 individuals died as a result of domestic violence, representing approximately 19.5% of all homicides in Florida during the past year
- Stalking (aggravated and simple) offenses totaled 864, an increase of 66.5%
- Law enforcement made 68,001 arrests for domestic violence crimes
- FDLE’s recently released 2012 semi-annual crime report reflected that while overall domestic violence offenses decreased 5.4%, domestic violence murder increased 29.5%.

“The number of women, children, and men being murdered by the person that is supposed to love them the most is haunting.”

—Tiffany Carr, President/CEO FCADV

**Individuals Seeking Services Fiscal Year 2011-2012**

- 15,997 individuals received shelter at a certified domestic violence center
- Domestic violence survivors and their children spent 485,727 nights in shelter
- Advocates received 125,631 hotline calls
- 90,129 safety plans were provided to survivors
- 36,389 women, children and men received outreach services
- 3,471 requests for emergency shelter went unmet due to lack of resources
National Domestic Violence Statistics

- Three women are killed by a current or former intimate partner each day in America, on average.6
- Nearly 3 in 10 women and 1 in 10 men in the United States have experienced physical violence, rape or stalking by a partner.7
- The cost of intimate partner violence annually exceeds $5.8 billion, including $4.1 billion in direct health care costs.8
- An estimated 27% of women and 13.5% of men who are physically assaulted, and less than 20% of women, who are raped by an intimate partner, report these domestic violence crimes to law enforcement.9
- Domestic violence is estimated to cost employers in the United States approximately $13 billion each year.10
- In 2011, a 24-hour survey of domestic violence programs across the nation found that a total of 67,399 victims were served in only one day. Unfortunately, that same day, due to a lack of resources, there were also 10,581 unmet requests for critical services.11

2Florida Statute 741.28
3Information from FDLE’s 2011 Annual Uniform Crime Report: www.fdle.state.fl.us/Content/getdoc/594fa00a-35bb-4e79-ad95-ba8bb0f-c67f5/CF_Annual11.aspx
4Stalking is a common precursor to domestic violence/dating violence homicide and is widely recognized as an underreported offense.
Florida’s Statewide Domestic Violence Team

It is critical to possess a vital understanding of the multi-faceted complexities and challenges that domestic violence survivors and their children face to ensure that each response is tailored according to their unique situation and/or circumstances. Survivors of domestic violence experience a multitude of co-occurring issues for both them and their children which require that partnerships are established both statewide and locally. We know that no one organization can meet every need; it takes all stakeholders and coordinated leadership to implement successful domestic violence programming and policy. Florida’s Domestic Violence Team is led by FCADV, in partnership with DCF, to create the blueprint for strengthening service provision, leveraging additional resources, and creating appropriate statewide policy.

Florida’s Domestic Violence Team includes a diverse group of public and private partners, advocates, law enforcement, and service providers that work to keep survivors and their children safe while holding their abusers accountable for their crimes. This unique statewide collaboration is recognized nationally as an example of an efficient and effective public private partnership that streamlines service delivery, ensures fiscal and programmatic accountability, and promotes strong community alliances. Through this model, the State of Florida serves as a leader in the creation of groundbreaking domestic violence programming, policies and services for survivors and their children.

The Statewide Team

The Florida Coalition Against Domestic Violence

FCADV is a private nonprofit organization that serves as the statewide professional association for Florida’s 42 certified domestic violence centers. Additionally, FCADV is responsible for the oversight of Florida’s certified domestic violence centers to ensure implementation of appropriate service provision to survivors of domestic violence and their children. In that role, FCADV provides intensive contract management and monitoring of administrative, fiscal, and programmatic functions of each domestic violence center. The organization is also responsible for conducting training associated with statutorily mandated requirements for domestic violence center staff and volunteers regarding a myriad of domestic violence related topic areas. FCADV staff is available 24 hours a day, seven days a week to provide technical assistance to the 42 centers or their community based partners. As the statewide entity responsible for the creation of programming and provision of technical assistance, FCADV operates the statewide 24 hour, seven day a week domestic violence hotline which is often the first connection for survivors and their family calling to receive help, safety, information, and lifesaving services.

FCADV serves as the lead entity responsible for establishing the statewide direction for domestic violence services and policies; provision of technical assistance and training to domestic violence centers and statewide/local partnering agencies; advocating for systemic and policy changes; and the creation of policies and practices related to domestic violence. Each year, the organization conducts listening sessions with survivors and engages in...
statewide policy analysis to identify trending and create solutions to address barriers in gaps and services for domestic violence survivors and their children in Florida.

**Department of Children and Families**

The DCF Domestic Violence Program Office operates as the central clearinghouse for state and federal funding sources dedicated specifically for domestic violence services in Florida. The Program’s primary responsibility is the general oversight of funding and the initial certification of any newly formed domestic violence centers. DCF contracts with FCADV to execute contracts, distribute funding, conduct training and technical assistance, and monitor providers for administrative, programmatic, and annual certification requirements. The Domestic Violence Program is required to partner with FCADV to mandate the statutorily created Capital Improvement Grant Program. DCF and FCADV possess a long history of working side by side to reduce domestic violence and increase resources for survivors and their children.

**The Governor and Florida Legislature**

The State of Florida is also recognized nationally as a leader in efforts to reduce domestic violence because of the consistent support from Florida’s highest elected leaders. Florida’s domestic violence survivors and their children have greatly benefited from a Governor and Legislature that prioritizes creating a comprehensive approach to addressing the crime of domestic violence. With the primary responsibility for creating public policy and appropriating funds, the Governor and Legislature are key partners in ensuring the availability of services and resources for those most affected by domestic violence; and for holding perpetrators accountable for their crimes.

Recognizing the need to increase services for domestic violence survivors and their children, the Florida Legislature allocated an additional 1 million dollars in recurring general revenue during the 2012 Legislative Session to partially address this unmet need. All funds allocated for domestic violence services are distributed to Florida’s certified domestic violence centers through a funding formula that includes factors such as demographics, geographic composition, population, rural markers, and funding stream elements.

**Office of the Attorney General, Department of Legal Affairs**

The Office of the Attorney General (OAG) is responsible for the administration of the federal Victim of Crime Act (VOCA) grant program that is designed to fund local community providers to respond to the emotional and physical needs of crime victims and assist victims in stabilizing their lives after a crime. Additionally, the OAG manages the Address Confidentiality Program for Victims of Domestic Violence, relocation assistance for victims of domestic violence, and co-chairs, with FCADV, the Statewide Domestic Violence Fatality Review Team. In an effort to respond to the fast pace of technology and the role it plays in the lives of survivors, the OAG and FCADV created the first training program in the nation that brings together a domestic violence advocate and an information technology specialist to bridge the gap between advocacy and technology as a part of core victim

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12Pursuant to Florida Statutes 39.9055.
13Pursuant to Florida Statutes 741.401 – 741.465.
14Pursuant to Florida Statute 960.198.
services training. The OAG contracts with FCADV to conduct comprehensive monitoring of fiscal, administrative, and programmatic functions of domestic violence centers who are recipients of VOCA grants.

Florida Department of Health

Florida’s Department of Health (DOH) is an active partner in statewide primary prevention efforts through the Domestic Violence Prevention Enhancement and Leadership Through Alliances (DELTA) program. DOH specifically supports data monitoring and analysis as required by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. FCADV actively participates in the DOH Sexual Violence Prevention Program State Prevention Team. Through joint participation in parallel leadership teams, DOH and FCADV have ensured that strategic plans are complementary with aligned goals and activities.

Florida Department of Education

FCADV works collaboratively with the Florida Department of Education (DOE) on a prevention initiative to promote statewide teen dating violence (TDV) education. The project was initiated after Florida passed legislation that requires school districts to: adopt a TDV policy, provide training on policies for faculty and staff, and provide TDV education for seventh through twelfth graders.15 To help meet the statutory requirements, FCADV, in collaboration with local certified domestic violence centers and with support from DOE, developed three resource curricula and a companion teacher training.

Florida Department of Law Enforcement (FDLE)

In an effort to increase survivor safety, FCADV and FDLE are partnering on a project that will promote improved communication with law enforcement regarding no contact orders within the criminal justice system. This initiative will provide law enforcement access to updated information regarding protection orders by recommending that no contact orders issued as a condition of pre-trial release be entered into the Florida Crime Information Center and National Crime Information Centers databases. Inclusion in this searchable database would provide law enforcement with access to updated information resulting in enhanced ability to support survivor safety and ensure batterer accountability.

Florida Sheriffs Association/Florida Police Chiefs Association

FCADV has partnered with the Florida Police Chiefs, Sheriffs and their executive staff to assess their agencies current response to crimes of violence against women and identify strategies to meet the needs of their community. Modeled after the International Association of Chiefs of Police National Law Enforcement Leadership Initiative, this training builds the expertise on violence against women crimes while building the leadership capacity of sworn law enforcement executives across Florida.

15Pursuant to Florida Statutes 1006.148 and 1003.42.
Florida’s Team

Florida Prosecuting Attorneys Association (FPAA)/local State Attorney Offices

These partnerships help to promote a coordinated and multidisciplinary approach to improving the criminal justice system’s response to domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, and stalking crimes. The FPAA is the professional association for elected State Attorneys and their Assistant State Attorneys and provides education, information and technical support to its members. The FPAA presents seminars that provide free training to Assistant State Attorneys, victim’s advocates and law enforcement personnel throughout the State of Florida. Copies of the course presentations and materials are provided to all State Attorney offices.

Florida Legal Services, Inc. (FLS)

FLS and FCADV have a long-standing partnership designed to ensure that domestic violence survivors and their children who may not have the financial resources to hire an attorney are provided with equal access to justice and the legal system. FLS is a nonprofit organization founded in 1973 to provide civil legal assistance to indigent persons who would not otherwise have the means to obtain a lawyer. FCADV works closely with FLS on the Legal Clearinghouse Project, which provides legal representation for civil injunction proceedings to survivors of domestic and dating violence, sexual assault, and stalking; and contracts with FLS for legal services related to Florida’s Domestic Violence Legal Hotline.

Judiciary/Office of State Courts Administrator (OSCA)

OSCA oversees court initiatives and administrative functions for the Florida Supreme Court including the Office of Court Improvement—that includes the group responsible for addressing domestic violence. This group has assisted domestic violence courts in increasing court efficiency, enhancing batterer accountability, and improving victim safety in more than 110,000 domestic violence cases heard throughout the state. The domestic violence team within Florida State Courts works to enhance participants’ understanding of the injunction process, provide training to judges and court staff, assist in enhancing court efficiency, and increase the safety of Floridians.

No one organization can meet every need; it takes all stakeholders and coordinated leadership to implement successful domestic violence programming and policy.

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16Information from fiscal year 2009-2010: www.flcourts.org/gen_public/family/index.shtml
Florida’s 42 certified domestic violence centers are the first line of defense in achieving safety and independence for domestic violence survivors and their children by providing a place to flee from their violent homes. Our domestic violence centers are located throughout the state, providing services in all 67 counties, and range from 14 to 132-bed facilities, totaling 1,942 beds statewide for survivors and their children in imminent danger. In addition to emergency shelter, certified centers provide an array of services such as: a 24-hour hotline, safety planning, counseling, referral, case management, child assessment, children services, food, clothing, outreach services, community education, connection with substance abuse and mental health services, and other basic necessities. Florida’s certified centers also provide a host of additional services such as: transportation, rent and utility assistance, relocation assistance, transitional housing, work skills and placement, training and educational programs, and legal and court advocacy. Florida Statute 39.905 outlines basic requirements necessary to meet the certification standards to be included as a domestic violence center recognized by the State of Florida.

During Fiscal Year 2011-12, Florida’s 42 certified domestic violence centers provided emergency shelter to 15,997 individuals for 485,727 nights for those escaping a violent home. Children, who fled with a parent, primarily their mother, accounted for 47 percent of shelter residents. Most nights centers operate at/or beyond capacity; last year, 3,471 survivors were unable to receive immediate shelter due to lack of available bed space and staffing to provide appropriate services.

Florida continues to experience a consistently high number of requests for outreach services. During the past fiscal year, advocates in the certified centers provided a total of 455,994 hours of outreach and counseling to 59,953 participants, created 90,129 tailored safety plans and offered 659,035 direct service, information and referrals to survivors, family members, and friends seeking assistance. Florida’s domestic violence centers provide a lifeline of hope and healing for domestic violence survivors and their children. Simply put, Florida’s domestic violence centers save the lives of women, children, and men every day.
Florida’s 42 certified centers and the counties they serve

Abuse and Counseling Treatment: Lee, Hendry, Glades
Aid to Victims of Domestic Abuse: Palm Beach
Another Way: Columbia, Dixie, Gilchrist, Hamilton, Lafayette, Levy
Center for Abuse and Rape Emergencies, Inc.: Charlotte
Community Action Stops Abuse: Pinellas
Citrus County Abuse Shelter Association: Citrus
Dawn Center of Hernando County: Hernando
Domestic Abuse Council: Volusia
Domestic Abuse Shelter: Monroe
Family Life Center: Flagler
FavorHouse of Northwest Florida, Inc.: Escambia, Santa Rosa
Harbor House of Central Florida: Orange
Haven of Lake and Sumter Counties: Lake, Sumter
Help Now of Osceola: Osceola
Hope Family Services: Manatee
Hubbard House: Duval, Baker
Lee Conlee House: Putnam
Martha’s House: Okeechobee
Miami-Dade Advocates for Victims (Safespace North and South): Miami-Dade
Micah’s Place: Nassau
Ocala Domestic Violence/Sexual Assault Center (Creative Services, Inc.): Marion
Peace River Center Domestic Violence Shelter: Polk, Hardee, Highlands
Peaceful Paths: Alachua, Bradford, Union
Quigley House: Clay
Refuge House: Leon, Franklin, Gadsden, Jefferson, Liberty, Madison, Taylor, Wakulla
Safe Place and Rape Crisis Center: Sarasota, DeSoto
SafeHouse of Seminole: Seminole
Safespace, Inc.: Martin, St. Lucie, Indian River
Safety Shelter of St. Johns County (Betty Griffin House): St. Johns
Salvation Army Brevard County Domestic Violence Program: Brevard
Salvation Army of Panama City Domestic Violence and Rape Crisis Program: Bay, Calhoun, Gulf, Holmes, Jackson, Washington
Salvation Army Domestic Violence Program of West Pasco: Pasco
Serene Harbor: Brevard
The Shelter for Abused Women and Children: Collier
Shelter House: Okaloosa, Walton
Sunrise Domestic Violence and Sexual Violence Center: Pasco
The Haven of RCS: Pinellas
The Spring of Tampa Bay: Hillsborough
Vivid Visions: Suwannee
Women in Distress: Broward
YWCA-Harmony House: Palm Beach
Victim Response, Inc. (The Lodge): Miami-Dade
Certified Centers

IN A SINGLE YEAR

RECEIVED
125,631 hotline calls

SHELTERED
15,997 in emergency shelter

PROVIDED
outreach and counseling to
59,953 adults and children

IN A SINGLE DAY

RECEIVED
687 hotline calls

SHELTERED
1,926 in emergency shelter

PROVIDED
outreach and counseling to
1,240 adults and children

Domestic violence occurs regardless of ethnicity, age, religion, culture, or socioeconomic status. As Florida continues to address the diverse nature of its 67 counties, certified domestic violence centers provide services specifically tailored to each family. The Florida Domestic Violence Hotline includes a feature that permits advocates to provide assistance in multiple languages. FCADV and certified centers are committed to ensuring all survivors and their children receive culturally appropriate services.

Diversity of Individuals Served
Within Florida’s communities, there are countless organizations, agencies and individuals that are committed to the issue of domestic violence either through the provision of services, programs, advocacy and outreach or in raising awareness about domestic violence and the effects on families and communities. Florida’s certified domestic violence centers are engaged in both individual and collective partnerships with entities that impact the lives of domestic violence survivors and their children. Community based partnerships include, but are not limited to: faith-based community organizations, health care providers, legal service organizations, colleges/universities/schools, Batterer Intervention Programs, community-wide Domestic Violence Task Forces, Community Based Care organizations, housing organizations, law enforcement, prosecutors, and judicial organizations, and private companies. Each year, Florida’s domestic violence centers create new and innovative community based partnerships to enhance services to domestic violence survivors and their children. Centers are experienced at leveraging both public and private funding to maximize resources available for domestic violence survivors and their children.

FCADV: MAKING A DIFFERENCE AND CHANGING LIVES

FCADV is statutorily responsible for delivering and managing services for the state’s domestic violence program. To efficiently and effectively meet that responsibility, FCADV works closely with Florida’s Statewide Domestic Violence Team to create and implement programs and initiatives designed to ensure quality services for survivors of domestic violence and their children.

FCADV provides training and technical assistance annually on topics ranging from how to create and sustain a coordinated community response to learning how to provide trauma-informed services for survivors of domestic violence. Technical assistance is considered the provision of expert knowledge and best practices to increase the capacity of local certified domestic violence centers and allied organizations to best serve survivors of domestic violence and their children. Delivery methods may include electronic communication such as a webinar or onsite visits which is a method often requested by domestic violence centers and their partnering organizations.

FCADV offers 41 specific trainings and numerous tailored trainings to meet the diverse needs of centers, communities and organizations. The following is just a limited example of types of training and technical assistance offered:

- Critical Incident Debriefing – How to Help Sustain Advocates During Crisis
- Domestic Violence Medical Advocacy for Healthcare Providers
- Domestic Violence in the Workplace
- The Effects of Domestic Violence on Children and Youth
- Sexual Violence in the Context of an Intimate Partner Relationship
- Vicarious Trauma, Compassion Fatigue and Self Care

“As one of the 42 state certified domestic violence centers in Florida, AVDA is most appreciative of the training and technical assistance provided to us by FCADV. A great benefit of being part of such a strong collaboration is the outcome of excellent, survivor centered services we provide to hundreds of adults and children each year. The feedback we receive from adults who use our services tells us that they appreciate the sense of safety, respect and high quality services provided by our center. Other funders who monitor our program services commend us for our excellent services, which we directly attribute to the invaluable training and technical assistance that is provided to us by FCADV. FCADV provides this service in a more cost-effective manner than if we were having to conduct this training and technical assistance through our own organization. This efficiency helps us to use 90% of all of our revenue for direct services. Our heart-felt thanks go out to FCADV!”

Pamela A. O’Brien, M.S.W., J.D.
President & CEO
Aid to Victims of Domestic Abuse

During fiscal year 2011-2012 FCADV:

- Responded to 10,921 requests for technical assistance from domestic violence centers and partnering agencies and organizations
- Conducted 177 onsite technical assistance visits for domestic violence centers and partnering agencies
- Conducted 45 statewide events throughout Florida
- Conducted 45 statewide trainings at other agencies’ local, regional or statewide conferences

Pursuant to Florida Statutes 39.903 and 39.9035.
FCADV Resources Produced during Fiscal year 2011-2012

- Statewide Domestic Violence Fatality Review Team published annual report
- The BottomLine on Domestic Violence newsletter – designed to engage the business and corporate community
- Audio and video (30 and 60 second) public service announcements designed to provide awareness of the Florida Domestic Violence Hotline
- Advocacy, Technology, and Safety Curriculum
- Safety Planning around Technology: A Guide for Survivors of Domestic and Dating Violence (English and Spanish)
- CD-ROMs with numerous electronic resources for survivors experiencing high-tech stalking
- A mobile version of the FCADV agency website which includes, but is not limited to, safety planning resources and contact information for Florida’s certified domestic violence centers
- A video in American Sign Language describing services provided at Florida’s certified domestic violence centers
- A fotonovela designed for Spanish speaking Deaf or Hard of Hearing survivors of domestic violence
- Audio media file of safety planning resources in English and Spanish for survivors of domestic violence who are blind or have low vision
- Advocacy Training game which helps advocates better understand cognitive disabilities
- Online Resource Guide for working with survivors who are Deaf or Hard of Hearing
- Culturally specific posters and brochures for InVEST (English, Spanish, Haitian Creole)
- Web-based training on appropriate use of risk assessments for high lethality
- Rural Outreach brochure (English and Spanish)
- Outreach video for Hispanic/Latina survivors of domestic violence
- Resource Guide for Hispanic/Latina survivors of domestic violence
- Palm card booklet for outreach to Hispanic/Latina survivors of domestic violence
- Community Action Brochure for Prevention staff to utilize in their community

FCADV Programs and Initiatives

InVEST: A partnership between FCADV and the OAG

The Intimate Violence Enhanced Service Team (InVEST) is a coordinated community response effort designed to reduce the number of intimate partner homicides in participating counties by simultaneously increasing domestic violence services available to and offered for survivors identified in high lethality domestic violence situations, while increasing perpetrator accountability throughout the criminal justice process. The InVEST Program is comprised of members from law enforcement, domestic violence centers, child welfare agencies, courts, and other partners that move beyond traditional approaches to advocacy and response by identifying high-risk cases and ensuring that all systems specifically tailor their response to address the unique needs of each survivor. To date, InVEST teams provided enhanced advocacy for more than 3,000 survivors per year who are experiencing high-risk indicators.

Statewide Domestic Violence Fatality Review Team: A partnership between FCADV and the OAG

FCADV and the OAG co-chair the Statewide Domestic Violence Fatality Review Team. Pursuant to legislation that passed during the 2012 Session, Florida’s domestic violence fatality review teams were assigned to FCADV for administration and oversight.19

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19 Legislation passed as House Bill 7093 and pursuant to Florida Statute 741.316.
Domestic Violence Fatality Review Teams

In 2000, the Florida Legislature passed laws governing the establishment of domestic violence fatality review teams. Currently 21 counties have created local fatality review teams. The Statewide Domestic Violence Fatality Review Team was created in 2009 by then Attorney General Bill McCollum in response to a dramatic increase in domestic violence murder (15.6%) and domestic violence manslaughter (71.4%). The team is funded by a federal grant through the Department of Children and Families, and is comprised of representatives of domestic violence centers, legal and direct service providers, state agencies, a faith-based organization, probation, parole, corrections, law enforcement, health care, the military, the court system, prosecutors, the defense bar and a survivor. The team is charged with conducting reviews of domestic violence fatalities and near fatalities, analyzing the data collected by local fatality review teams to identify statewide trends, service provision gaps, and make recommendations for systemic change. In this regard, the team has issued two reports, Faces of Fatality in 2011 and Faces of Fatality II in 2012.

In the most recent report, local teams submitted 64 reviews of intimate partner homicides and near homicides that occurred between 2005-2011.

Key findings included:
- The perpetrators were predominately male (83%) and had prior criminal histories generally (60%) and for domestic violence specifically (48%).
- The perpetrators and decedents were primarily White, followed by Black, and to a lesser degree, Hispanic.

PERPETRATOR RACE-ETHNICITY

Gender
Perpetrator: 83% male 17% female
Decedent: 83% female 17% male

DECEDEDENT RACE-ETHNICITY

RELATIONSHIP TYPE

20Pursuant to Florida Statute 741.36 and 741.365
21As reflected in the 2009 FDLE Uniform Crime Report: www.fdle.state.fl.us/Content/getdoc/563b1fa3-3c7b-4787-ac6d-96c8ea73dcdlCIF_Annual09.aspx
22Copies of these reports may be found at: www.fcadv.org/publications
23In many cases local teams review homicides only after the case is completely closed, therefore there may be a delay of several years between the homicide and the fatality review.
The decedents were predominately female (83%) and at some point lived with their abuser full time (67%). At the time of the incident, 30% of the decedents were separated from the perpetrator.

Substance abuse by the perpetrator was identified in 44% of the cases and mental health disorders in 28%.

Perpetrators committed or attempted to commit suicide in 59% of cases.

16% of the incidents included a collateral victim (i.e. a victim other than the decedent; does not include perpetrator suicides).

There were known child witnesses in 13% of the cases.

In 21% of cases there were known allegations by the decedent of stalking on the part of the perpetrator.

FCADV Programming

FCADV conducts listening groups with domestic violence survivors to obtain feedback regarding their most pressing needs, concerns regarding systemic response, and learning what currently works. Survivor feedback informs FCADV’s planning for the creation of programming and policy priorities for the upcoming year. In addition, FCADV and its statewide partners periodically convene to identify current trending with systems that require a particular focus on a specific issue that is permeating the lives of domestic violence survivors and their children. Therefore, FCADV partners with the appropriate entities to create cutting edge programming and policy development to address the needs identified by survivors and partnering agencies.

Burn and Trauma Medical Advocacy Project: a partnership between FCADV, Burn Centers and Hospitals

Women across the State of Florida are being severely burned by their abusive partners at alarming rates and the risk for lethality of burn victims is high. This new initiative is designed to establish and promote best practices regarding assessing, understanding, responding to domestic violence in a medical setting, and referring survivors to certified domestic violence centers. FCADV and a statewide workgroup consisting of medical personnel and domestic violence advocates are developing materials for burn unit medical professionals that will address: screenings, trainings for medical personnel and hospital social workers; documentation of domestic violence in patients’ medical records; hospital policies and procedures related to domestic violence for patients and personnel of the hospital; and referrals and relationship building with local domestic violence centers.

Child Welfare Initiative: a partnership between FCADV and DCF

FCADV provides intensive support to domestic violence centers, Community Based Care agencies, and local Department of Children and Families offices. After years of partnership, DCF and FCADV possess a clear understanding that early involvement of domestic violence advocates in cases where child abuse and domestic violence co-occur can reduce risk to children by providing immediate resource and referral information and safety planning for survivors and their children. Domestic violence advocates possess an empowerment-based philosophy which provides them the necessary skill sets to identify family strengths. This leads to increasing and strengthening protective factors already existing in the home.

FCADV provides training and technical assistance to domestic violence center staff that are working with Child Protective Investigators (CPIs) to assist them with identifying batterers’ patterns of coercive control and garner a greater understanding of the impact of the batterer’s behaviors on the children. FCADV provides training to CPIs and CBC case managers focused on holding perpetrators accountable and partnering with the non-offending parent in domestic violence cases to best protect the children.

(Continued on page 18)
CHILD PROTECTION INVESTIGATORS INITIATIVES: A PARTNERSHIP BETWEEN FCADV, DCF, AND OAG

This initiative represents a collaborative effort between FCADV, DCF, the OAG, local certified domestic violence centers, community based care agencies, and other child welfare professionals that provide an optimal coordinated community response to families experiencing the co-occurrence of domestic violence and child abuse. The ultimate goal of the projects is to bridge the gap between child welfare and domestic violence service providers to enhance family safety, create permanency for children, reduce removal of the child from the non-offending parent, and hold perpetrators accountable. Foster care costs the state a minimum of $400 per month. From October 1, 2011 through September 30, 2012, FCADV’s CPI programs helped 3,917 children to remain safely in the care of the non-offending parent. The State of Florida experienced an approximate savings of $9,400,800 if these children were instead removed from their home and placed in foster care. The partnership between FCADV and DCF represents a model approach of reducing the number of children removed from their homes while achieving a significant cost savings to the state.

COMMUNITY-BASED COLLABORATIVE INITIATIVES: PARTNERSHIPS WITH LOCAL COMMUNITY PROVIDERS

This past year, FCADV provided funding and programmatic guidance for three pilot projects based in a coordinated community response to violence. FCADV’s new Community Collaborative Initiative, Community Collaborative Responses to Increase Access to Services for Victims and Survivors of Domestic Violence, Dating Violence, Sexual Assault and Stalking, supports training, cross training, capacity building, and direct services. Each of these projects focus on developing intensive collaborative community efforts to maximize resources, and ensure that survivors are identified and referred to appropriate services. These collaborative efforts will create community infrastructures that prioritize the safety of survivors.

During the past fiscal year, FCADV provided intensive input and support on the development of Palm Beach County Anti-Stalking Multidisciplinary Collaborative’s Anti-Stalking Toolkit, Memorandum of Understanding, Countywide Gaps Analysis, Strategic Plan, Safety Plan, Focus Groups with Stakeholders and Victims of Stalking, Danger Assessment, and Stalking Incident Documentation (Evidence Collection) Log.

CORE COMPETENCY BASED TRAININGS

FCADV conducts Core Competency Based Trainings that provide center advocates and volunteers with 24 of the required 30 hours necessary to obtain victim/advocate privilege.²⁴ The trainings include the foundational elements for center staff to understand the dynamics of domestic violence and how to engage in empowerment-based advocacy with survivors participating in center services. The uniformity of core services, including the initial training each advocate receives, is important because it ensures survivors throughout the state are receiving the same quality of services no matter where they seek life saving services.

DISABILITY PROGRAMS

Americans with Disabilities Act Compliance

FCADV supports certified domestic violence centers in establishing accessible services and effectively serving survivors living with disabilities. The program provides training and technical assistance to each center to ensure compliance with all the Americans with Disabilities Act and DCF requirements related to providing services to individuals living with a disability. Training is also provided to centers and community partners on effective communication with people who are Deaf or Hard of Hearing.

Peace of Mind Florida: A partnership between FCADV and Brain Injury Association

Peace of Mind Florida is a collaborative project between FCADV and the Brain Injury Association of Florida that addresses the intersection of survivors of domestic violence living with a traumatic brain injury. Through internal capacity

²⁴Pursuant to Florida Statute 90.5036.
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building and the development of a needs assessment, a strategic plan will be developed with tools, best practice policies, and protocols designed to meet the complex needs of these domestic violence survivors.

ECONOMIC JUSTICE INITIATIVE

In 1996, when the Temporary Assistance to Needy Families was created after dissolving the Aide to Families with Dependent Children, FCADV assumed a leadership role in providing information, resources, and conducting comprehensive training for economic service workers to assist communities with establishing relationships between Workforce Boards and domestic violence centers, and to address the economic conditions that create barriers to long-term independence and safety for survivors of domestic violence and their children. This program provides ongoing capacity-building for incorporating economic justice initiatives into domestic violence center services.

Survivors continue to express their top need as achieving financial independence and long-term housing for them and their children. As such, FCADV leveraged private funding from the Allstate Foundation to launch pilot projects with two certified domestic violence centers regarding ensuring economic empowerment of survivors of domestic violence. The projects focus on working closely with survivors to provide microloans, micro enterprises, and matched savings accounts. In addition, FCADV provides onsite and webinar training on VAWA Housing protections for survivors.

Annually, FCADV facilitates the Economic Justice Institute where topics are discussed including career empowerment, innovative programming with youth, workplace policies that support economic justice, and utilizing community credit unions as a resource for survivors that do not possess a bank account.

FLORIDA’S STATEWIDE DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AND LEGAL HOTLINES

FCADV operates and manages the Florida Domestic Violence Hotline, which provides multilingual services on a 24-hour basis, seven days a week, 365 days a year. Hotline advocates provide support, advocacy, information, and referral services for survivors of domestic violence, their children, families, and friends. Callers in need of emergency shelter, support groups, additional outreach and ongoing advocacy are connected directly to the certified domestic violence center in their community.

Through a subcontract with Florida Legal Services, Inc., FCADV administers the Domestic Violence Legal Hotline which provides legal advice, information, and referrals to survivors.

LAW ENFORCEMENT TRAINING INITIATIVE

In response to increasing requests for domestic violence training from law enforcement entities, and in an effort to foster community collaborations, FCADV provides intensive training for officers and prosecutors on best practices in evidence collection and prosecution of domestic violence perpetrators. Training also focuses on appropriate law enforcement protocol for responding to domestic violence calls, confidentiality of survivor information, assessing risk for lethality, and perpetrator accountability. FCADV provides onsite technical support with bridging communications between the domestic violence centers and their criminal justice partners.

LEGAL INITIATIVE – A PARTNERSHIP BETWEEN FCADV AND FLORIDA LEGAL SERVICES

Domestic violence survivors continue to identify the need for legal assistance as one of their top tier needs for them and their children to live safely. In 1997, FCADV created the Legal Clearinghouse Project, the first in the nation to establish a statewide program to provide free legal representation for civil injunction proceedings to survivors of domestic and dating violence, sexual assault, and stalking. This program was established on the foundation of utilizing government funding to leverage additional financial resources. For example, to receive funding from FCADV to provide legal services, the provider must provide matching legal service. FCADV also provides comprehensive training and technical assistance to Clearinghouse attorneys and center staff to increase their knowledge and share information about legal issues related to serving survivors. FCADV provides assistance on appeals.

(Continued on page 20)
amicus briefs, parenting coordination, and technical assistance on related issues to other organizations around the country.

**Primary Prevention Initiatives**

Primary prevention initiatives focus on strategies to prevent the occurrence of first-time perpetration and first-time victimization of intimate partner violence. FCADV has a proven history of creating and implementing successful and innovative prevention initiatives throughout Florida. As such, each of Florida’s certified domestic violence centers implement programs that focus on preventing intimate partner violence through engaging community stakeholders and providing educational programming for youth.

This past year, FCADV launched the Iamcourageous.org website. The site contains information on teen dating violence, including a bystander social marketing campaign, PSAs from across the state, and additional informational components for teens and adults. The website features a calendar highlighting prevention events across the State of Florida. All the content for Iamcourageous.org included guidance provided by FCADV’s statewide Youth Advisory Board.

**DELTA Project – A partnership with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention**

FCADV is in its tenth year of successful participation in the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) funded Domestic Violence Prevention Enhancement and Leadership Through Alliances (DELTA) Program. Each of the six participating sites established a coordinated community response team responsible for primary prevention work in their community. The past year focused on implementing an enhanced program evaluation component and developing evaluation reports to share with stakeholders. Each center also implemented a Continuous Quality Improvement Plan that outlines the methodology that will be utilized to apply results of program evaluations to improve primary prevention programs in the future.

One of the many highlights of this past year’s DELTA program included FCADV’s collaboration with a local DELTA site on creating unique and nontraditional opportunities to engage community members in primary prevention efforts. The site worked with a local choreographer to conduct a flash mob at a local mall. The flash mob featured the song “Respect” made popular by Aretha Franklin. During the flash mob, youth held signs with different messages about healthy relationships around the dancers and singers as the public watched. Another DELTA site created a non-violent language dictionary in an attempt to shift language from violent phrases and words to non-violent alternatives. FCADV provided technical assistance to develop a campaign for young men between the ages of 11 and 17, including technical assistance regarding appropriate facilitation of focus groups and the development of an evaluation instrument and planning document.

**Teen Dating Violence Resource Curriculum: A partnership with the Florida Department of Education**

Through collaboration with the Florida Department of Education (FDOE) and certified centers, FCADV developed a teen dating violence prevention curriculum that meets the statutory requirements for comprehensive health education for seventh through twelfth grades. Three evidence-informed curricula were developed based on three age groupings: seventh and eighth grades, ninth and tenth grades and eleventh and twelfth grades. For more information about this resource, visit: www.fcadv.org/educators.

**Programs Tailored to Florida’s Underserved Communities**

**Later in Life Abuse: A partnership with the Department of Elder Affairs**

FCADV provides domestic violence center staff and their community partners with the National Clearinghouse Abuse in Later Life Victim Services trainings. These trainings focus on local collaborations among law enforcement, domestic and sexual violence programs, and aging services to expand services to the later in life population. Through collaboration with

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25Pursuant to Florida Statutes 1006.148 and 1003.42
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the Department of Elder Affairs, training on financial exploitation of the elderly is provided on an ongoing basis.

**Linguistically and Culturally Specific Services Projects**

FCADV’s culturally and linguistically specific initiatives are implemented by community-based organizations whose primary purpose is to provide culturally appropriate services to underserved populations. Through FCADV’s *Increasing Critical Direct Services for Victims and Survivors of Domestic Violence, Dating Violence, Sexual Assault and Stalking Residing in Florida’s Rural and Underserved Communities Initiative* programs are provided that:

- Address issues of family violence among Latino families
- Increase services for farmworker survivors of domestic violence
- Provide outreach to farmworker communities

**Rural Initiatives and Underserved Communities**

The focus of FCADV’s Rural Initiatives is to provide for the safety of the most geographically isolated survivors in rural areas of Florida. These initiatives are based on a community organizing model designed to address the unique needs and challenges that rural survivors face. Established in 1996, the Rural Initiative is responsible for establishing domestic violence and sexual assault outreach services in 19 rural counties where none previously existed. FCADV utilized seed funding from the Violence Against Women Act (VAWA) to establish these outreach services utilizing a community based model that focused on creating financially sustainable services in our most isolated counties. All 19 counties where services were established no longer rely on VAWA funding and are financially self-sustaining. Currently, FCADV provides funding for five of Florida’s certified domestic violence centers that serve some of Florida’s most isolated rural communities where increasing access to services is imperative.

**Technology and Safety Program: a partnership with the OAG**

Through a partnership with the OAG, training and technical assistance is provided to advocates across the state regarding the intersection of intimate partner violence and high-tech stalking. The program addresses issues such as cyber stalking, safe use of technology and security of survivor data by bringing together a trained domestic violence advocate and an information technology specialist to bridge the gap between advocacy and technology.
The Crimes

Headlines around our state tell the story

Florida Today
August 6, 2012

Melbourne police have identified a man they said killed his ex-girlfriend.

Melbourne police have identified a man they said killed his ex-girlfriend.

Orlando Sentinel
October 16, 2012

Spate of domestic violence leads to deaths in recent weeks.

The Miami Herald
July 29, 2012

Miami police search for gunman wanted in wounding of girlfriend’s relatives.

Excerpted from newspaper articles

26Percent changes in number and rate should be interpreted with caution. In small counties with low numbers of crime, a small increase in crime can produce a large percent change.
TOP 10 COUNTIES
(BY % OF POPULATION):
DOMESTIC VIOLENCE OFFENSES, 2011

[Table of data: County Population Murder Manslaughter Forcible Rape Forcible Sodomy Aggravated Assault Aggravated Fondling Simple Assault "Threat/Intimidation" Stalking Total % of Population]


TOP COUNTIES
THAT EXPERIENCED 20%+
INCREASE IN OFFENSES
IN 2011

[Table of data: County Population Murder Manslaughter Forcible Rape Forcible Sodomy Forcible Fondling Aggravated Assault Aggravated Stalking Simple Assault "Threat/Intimidation" Stalking Total Rate Per 100,000 Rate Change % Change Rate Change 10/11*]

* Percent changes in number and rate should be interpreted with caution. In small counties with low numbers of crime, a small increase in crime can produce a large percent change.

Funding Domestic Violence In Florida

Domestic Violence Trust Fund and General Revenue
The primary source of state funding for domestic violence emergency shelter, services, training, and programs is through the Domestic Violence Trust Fund (DVTF). Funds provide for the operation of Florida’s 42 certified domestic violence centers and the provision of safety and services to survivors and their children to help rebuild their lives. The DVTF receives funds from a portion of both marriage license and dissolution of marriage fees, fines for domestic violence crime convictions, and any general revenue appropriated during the annual Legislative Session.

Domestic Violence Diversion Program, Temporary Assistance for Needy Families
Federal and state legislators recognized that survivors of domestic violence may need temporary economic assistance to escape a violent partner and thus created the Domestic Violence Diversion Program. Florida’s program is modeled after federal law and provides support services to survivors unable to temporarily participate in training or work requirements due to safety considerations or the residual effects of domestic violence.

Capital Improvement Grant Program
Pursuant to legislative appropriations and the requirements of Florida Statute 39.9055, certified domestic violence centers may apply to DCF for a capital improvement grant to construct, repair, improve or upgrade systems, facilities or equipment. In 2000, Florida’s 42 certified domestic violence centers were forced to turn away 7,896 survivors and their children. During fiscal year 2011-2012, Florida’s centers turned away 3,441 representing an approximate 43.6% decrease in the number of domestic violence survivors and their children turned away due to overcapacity. Florida created the first statewide program in the nation to address the number of survivors and their children who were unable to receive emergency shelter services due to lack of bed space.
Funding

Family Violence Prevention and Services Act (FVPSA) Grant Program

FVPSA is the first and only federal funding dedicated directly to domestic violence centers for operations and essential services. Further, this grant program provides funding to State Coalitions for the provision of training and technical assistance to member programs to ensure quality of service provision to survivors and their children. The Legislature allocates these funds to provide emergency shelter, 24-hour crisis hotline, training and technical assistance, and essential and compressive services and programs to domestic violence survivors and their children.

Violence Against Women Act (VAWA) Grant Program

The FCADV and DCF administer two grants under the federal Violence Against Women Act, an annual formula grant, the STOP (Services, Training, Officers and Prosecution) grant, and a discretionary grant, Grants to Encourage Arrest. The STOP grant promotes a coordinated multidisciplinary approach to enhancing advocacy and improving the criminal justice system’s response to violent crimes against women. VAWA requires that funding is distributed to each respective discipline by percentages: 30 percent to victim services, 25 percent to law enforcement, 25 percent to prosecutors, 5 percent to courts, and 15 percent discretionary (Florida generally applies discretionary funds to victim services). Federal regulations require the funding be allocated geographically based on identified needs and availability of resources.

The Grants to Encourage Arrest is competitive nationally and designed to encourage governments to treat domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, and stalking as serious violations of criminal law that require a coordinated response from the entire criminal justice system. The program works to ensure the safety of domestic violence survivors and their children, and to hold their perpetrators accountable for their crimes.

We thank Governor Scott and the Florida Legislature for their willingness to prioritize policy and funding that focuses on creating seamless services.
Highlights of Governmental Funding Sources Dedicated to Core Services for Domestic Violence Survivors and Their Children

VAWA: Violence Against Women Act
FVPSA: Family Violence Prevention Services Act
TANF: Temporary Assistance for Needy Families
DVTF: Domestic Violence Trust Fund
GR: General Revenue

STATE SOURCES
$11,050,213
38%

FEDERAL SOURCES
$18,145,627
62%

TOTAL: $29,195,840
Together we can end domestic violence

“The continued commitment from Florida’s domestic violence team is a testament to the dedication of those working to end domestic violence. Our efforts are emboldened by the leadership offered by Governor Scott, Attorney General Bondi, the Florida Legislature, and our primary partner the Department of Children and Families. The Florida Coalition Against Domestic Violence is honored to work with this amazing team of individuals, organizations and agencies to make a difference and change lives.

Our successes must always be tempered by remembering those whose lives have been lost and whose families are forever broken. Together we will face these tragedies and redouble our efforts to offer survivors and their children hope for a future free from violence.”

—Tiffany Carr, President/CEO
Florida Coalition Against Domestic Violence
Sponsored by the Florida Coalition Against Domestic Violence and the State of Florida, Department of Children and Families.

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