“Florida’s crime rate is now at an historic low, but there is still work to make our communities safer. I applaud the great work that the Florida Coalition Against Domestic Violence is doing to end domestic violence in Florida and keep families in the Sunshine State healthy and safe.”
—Governor Rick Scott

“Sadly, domestic violence affects families throughout our state. My office is committed to working with the Florida Coalition Against Domestic Violence, Florida’s 42 certified domestic violence centers and their many community partners to reduce these tragic incidences, provide services for victims and their children, and hold their batterers accountable.”
—Attorney General Pam Bondi

“For every act of family violence there should be a solution within the community, and DCF strives to engage community partners in creating those solutions.”
—Interim Secretary Esther Jacobo
ONE MISSION, ONE MESSAGE
END DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

True change in addressing domestic violence comes when a team of dedicated partners speak with a single voice, share a single message, and work together to end domestic violence. These partnerships recognize that no single organization, state agency, or community resource holds every answer, but that by working collectively and collaboratively we will find long term and lasting solutions.

Last year’s annual report focused on the partnerships associated with Florida’s statewide domestic violence team; a team that is built on the recognition that government and the private sector, through their specific roles, share the responsibility of ending domestic violence in our state. The Florida Coalition Against Domestic Violence (FCADV) serves as the private lead agency and the Department of Children and Families (DCF) Domestic Violence Program Office is the public entity responsible for general oversight. This unique statewide public-private partnership is recognized as a national model for the provision of domestic violence services, while ensuring fiscal and programmatic accountability through continuous evaluation, training, and technical assistance. This unique statewide public-private partnership is recognized as a national model for the provision of domestic violence services, while ensuring fiscal and programmatic accountability through continuous evaluation, training, and technical assistance.

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Florida’s ability to serve as a national leader in the creation of groundbreaking domestic violence programs and public policies is driven by the philosophy that domestic violence survivors, certified domestic violence centers and their community partners are actively engaged with the statewide team. Therefore, this year we highlight our local partners that inform the statewide team and ensure that all services, programming, and policies are created to meet the needs of domestic violence survivors and their children. Listening, understanding, and implementing input from domestic violence survivors is essential to providing them safety, independence, and a future free from violence. Most often, programming and policy is created from a top down approach without consideration of participant feedback. Florida is proud of our approach which ensures that input from the primary recipients of services forms the foundation of statewide domestic violence programs and policy. The work in the field and on the ground is fundamental to ending domestic violence in our communities, our state, and our country.

2012-2013 Annual Report

Florida law requires FCADV to produce an annual report to the Florida Legislature designed to provide a statewide status report on domestic violence.¹ 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, federal and state funding sources, and data collected from Florida’s 42 certified domestic violence centers, and state and local domestic violence fatality review teams.

¹Pursuant to Florida Statute 39.904
What is Domestic Violence?

Domestic violence is a pattern of coercive and controlling behaviors, violence or threats of violence, that one person uses to establish power over an intimate partner, or former partner, in order to control that person’s actions and activities. Domestic violence is not a disagreement, a marital spat, or an anger management problem. Domestic violence is abusive, disrespectful, and hurtful actions that one intimate partner chooses to use against the other partner. 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, or intimidation.

Domestic Violence Defined in Statute

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.2

Critical Domestic Violence Facts

Domestic Violence Crime in Florida3 January – December 2012

- Overall crime decreased by 5.7%, reported domestic violence offenses decreased by 3.3%
- 108,046 domestic violence offenses were reported to law enforcement
- 202 individuals died as a result of domestic violence, representing approximately 20% of all homicides in Florida
- Domestic violence homicides increased 5.2%
- Law enforcement made 65,107 arrests for domestic violence crimes

“Each woman, child and man who lost their life at the hands of someone who was supposed to love them had a name, a face, and a story. The increase in domestic violence homicides reminds us that there is much work left to do to eradicate this horrific crime in our state.”

—Tiffany Carr, President/CEO, Florida Coalition Against Domestic Violence
AT A GLANCE

Individuals Seeking Services
Fiscal Year 2012-2013
• 15,677 individuals received emergency shelter at a certified domestic violence center
• Domestic violence survivors and their children spent 501,509 nights in shelter
• Advocates answered 117,231 hotline calls
• 86,317 safety plans were provided to survivors
• 32,953 women, children and men received outreach services
• 2,118 requests for emergency shelter went unmet due to lack of capacity and resources

Prioritizing the Needs of Domestic Violence Survivors and their Children
• The Governor and Florida Legislature provided an additional $12.7 million for emergency shelter, transitional housing, direct services, and programs for domestic violence survivors and their children.
• $10 million in capital outlay funded from the National Mortgage Settlement will create an additional 278 beds in Florida’s certified domestic violence centers located throughout the state
• $2.5 million in recurring revenue to address the increase in demand for emergency life saving services
• $200,000 in non-recurring revenue to expand the InVest homicide reduction project

National Domestic Violence Statistics
• An estimated 1.3 million women are victims of physical assault by an intimate partner each year.4
• On average more than three women a day are murdered by their husbands or Boyfriends in the United States.5
• Almost one-third of female homicide victims that are reported in police records are killed by an intimate partner.6
• The cost of intimate partner violence exceeds $5.8 billion each year, $4.1 billion of which is for direct health care services.7
• In 2012, a 24-hour survey of domestic violence programs across the nation found that a total of 64,324 victims were served in one day. Unfortunately, due to a lack of resources there were 10,471 unmet requests for services.8

2Pursuant to Florida Statute 741.28
3Information from FDLE’s 2012 Annual Crime Report, http://www.fdle.state.fl.us/Content/getdoc/f3df823d-a2b8-40d6-8ee5-d09614df22b0/CIF_annual12.aspx
Florida’s Statewide Domestic Violence Team

Florida’s domestic violence team includes a diverse group of public and private organizations, law enforcement agencies, State Attorney’s Offices, advocates, and a variety of direct service providers that work to keep survivors and their children safe while holding abusers accountable for their actions. The team is led by FCADV and DCF in partnership with state and local stakeholders, and provides the blueprint for strengthening services, leveraging resources, ensuring batterers are held accountable, and creating strong statewide public policy with the goal of reducing domestic violence crimes.

The Florida Coalition Against Domestic Violence

FCADV is the private nonprofit organization that serves as the statewide professional association for Florida’s 42 certified domestic violence centers. In this role, FCADV provides leadership, advocacy, education, training, technical assistance, and support to Florida’s certified domestic violence centers, their community partners, and other statewide professionals to improve services, practices, and policies related to domestic violence. FCADV is statutorily required to implement, evaluate, and fund the state’s domestic violence services. As such, the organization conducts annual monitoring of Florida’s certified domestic violence centers to ensure the provision of quality services and fiscal accountability. FCADV also serves as the primary voice for survivors of domestic violence and their children in the public policy arena. The Coalition works closely with the Executive and Legislative branches of government to create and implement cutting edge public policy that enhances safety for survivors, strengthens penalties for batterers, and increases financial resources for Florida’s certified domestic violence centers. In addition, FCADV operates the Florida Domestic Violence Hotline (1-800-500-1119), a statewide crisis line, providing multilingual services 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, linking callers to their nearest certified domestic violence center and providing support, advocacy, information, and referral services to survivors of domestic violence, their children, family, and friends. For more information about FCADV’s programs, initiatives and trainings, please see page 12.

Department of Children and Families

The DCF Domestic Violence Program is the state office designated as the repository for state and federal funding dedicated specifically for domestic violence services and programs in Florida. The Program Office is responsible for the initial certification of new domestic violence centers and provides general program oversight. DCF and FCADV possess a long history of working together to recommend and implement strong public policy measures to reduce domestic violence and increase resources for survivors and their children. DCF is statutorily mandated to contract with FCADV for the delivery and management of services for the state’s domestic violence program.
The Governor and Florida Legislature

Survivors of domestic violence and their children are safer today because the Governor and Legislature have consistently supported a comprehensive approach to addressing domestic violence crime, and prioritizing their needs by ensuring that life saving shelter, services, and programs remain available and accessible. To address the continuous increase in demand for emergency shelter, critical services and programs, and transitional housing, the Florida Legislature continues to prioritize funding for Florida’s 42 certified domestic violence centers in an effort to meet the needs of domestic violence survivors and their children.

Office of the Attorney General

The Office of the Attorney General (OAG) co-chairs, with FCADV, the Statewide Domestic Violence Fatality Review Team and assumed a strong leadership role in support of fatality reviews and programs focused on reducing domestic violence homicides. Additionally, the OAG manages the address confidentiality program\(^9\) and the relocation assistance program\(^{10}\) for survivors of domestic violence. The OAG is the state agency designated to administer the federal Victims of Crime Act (VOCA) grant program designed to fund community partners that respond to the needs of crime victims. The OAG also contracts with FCADV to conduct monitoring of the fiscal, administrative, and programmatic functions of certified domestic violence centers who are recipients of VOCA grants. For more information about the Statewide Domestic Violence Fatality Review Team and local teams, please see page 22.

Additional Partners

Florida’s statewide domestic violence team includes additional entities that focus on their respective areas of expertise in the implementation of initiatives where their areas impact reducing and eliminating domestic violence in our state. These partnerships include, but are not limited to, state agencies such as the Florida Department of Education, Florida Department of Health, Florida Department of Law Enforcement, Florida Department of Juvenile Justice and Florida Department of Corrections. In addition, FCADV partners with private statewide associations and nonprofits that include the Florida Sheriffs Association, Florida Police Chiefs Association, Healthy Families Florida, Florida Prosecuting Attorneys Association and Florida Legal Services, Inc. While this list is not exhaustive, it provides examples of the multitude of statewide partners working together to provide services and create intervention and prevention programming, and public policy to enhance services to domestic violence survivors and their children while increasing accountability measures for perpetrators.

\(^9\)Pursuant to Florida Statute 39.9035  
\(^{10}\)Pursuant to Florida Statute 39.903  
\(^{11}\)Pursuant to Florida Statutes 741.401-741.465  
\(^{12}\)Pursuant to Florida Statute 960.198
Florida’s 42 Certified Domestic Violence Centers

Florida’s 42 certified domestic violence centers are located throughout the state, serving all 67 counties, and providing emergency shelter, services, and programs for domestic violence survivors and their children. Certified domestic violence centers represent the first line of defense to achieving safety and independence by providing a place for survivors and their children to flee from violent perpetrators. Centers are designed to provide temporary emergency shelter for approximately six weeks in facilities that range in size from 14 to 132-beds, totaling 1,942 beds available statewide. During fiscal year 2012-2013, certified centers provided 501,509 nights of emergency shelter to 15,677 individuals escaping a violent home. Many fled with children, who represent more than 46 percent of those receiving emergency shelter services. Most nights centers operate at or beyond capacity; last year 2,118 survivors and their children were unable to receive immediate shelter due to lack of available bed space.

In addition to emergency shelter, certified domestic violence centers are statutorily required to provide an array of services that include, but are not limited to, a 24-hour hotline, counseling and case management services, child assessment and children’s services, information and referral services, training for law enforcement personnel, and community education and awareness.13 During the past fiscal year, advocates in Florida’s centers provided a total of 451,871 hours of counseling and advocacy, created 86,317 individually tailored safety plans and offered 597,469 direct service information and referrals to survivors, family members, and friends seeking assistance. In addition, advocates spent 140,197 hours on child and youth specific activities, and provided youth targeted community education to a total of 140,845 participants. Centers provided education and training programs to 86,225 adults in their respective communities.

Florida’s certified domestic violence centers continue to provide intervention services that provide safety and resources to survivors while increasing accountability for perpetrators. During the past eight years, centers also prioritized prevention of domestic violence by creating comprehensive strategies and primary and secondary prevention programs. Community education and awareness, along with programs that focus on preventing violence before it initially occurs, are also vital in the overall work to end domestic violence.

13Pursuant to Florida Statute 39.905
Florida’s 42 certified centers and the counties they serve

Abuse and Counseling Treatment: Lee, Hendry, Glades 1
Aid to Victims of Domestic Abuse: Palm Beach 2
Another Way: Columbia, Dixie, Gilchrist, Hamilton, Lafayette, Levy 3
Center for Abuse and Rape Emergencies, Inc.: Charlotte 4
Community Action Stops Abuse: Pinellas 5
Citrus County Abuse Shelter Association: Citrus 6
Dawn Center of Hernando County: Hernando 7
Domestic Abuse Council: Volusia 8
Domestic Abuse Shelter: Monroe 9
Family Life Center: Flagler 10
FavorHouse of Northwest Florida, Inc.: Escambia, Santa Rosa 11
Harbor House of Central Florida: Orange 12
Haven of Lake and Sumter Counties: Lake, Sumter 13
Help Now of Osceola: Osceola 14
Hope Family Services: Manatee 15
Hubbard House: Duval, Baker 16
Lee Conlee House: Putnam 17
Martha’s House: Okeechobee 18
Miami-Dade Advocates for Victims (Safespace North and South): Miami-Dade 19
Micah’s Place: Nassau 20
Ocala Domestic Violence/Sexual Assault Center (Creative Services, Inc.): Marion 21
Peace River Center Domestic Violence Shelter: Polk, Hardee, Highlands 22
Peaceful Paths: Alachua, Bradford, Union 23
Quigley House: Clay 24
Refuge House: Leon, Franklin, Gadsden, Jefferson, Liberty, Madison, Taylor, Wakulla 25
Safe Place and Rape Crisis Center: Sarasota, DeSoto 26
SafeHouse of Seminole: Seminole 27
Safespace, Inc.: Martin, St. Lucie, Indian River 28
Safety Shelter of St. Johns County (Betty Griffin House): St. Johns 29
Salvation Army Brevard County Domestic Violence Program: Brevard 30
Salvation Army of Panama City Domestic Violence and Rape Crisis Program: Bay, Calhoun, Gulf, Holmes, Jackson, Washington 31
Salvation Army Domestic Violence Program of West Pasco: Pasco 32
Serene Harbor: Brevard 33
The Shelter for Abused Women and Children: Collier 34
Shelter House: Okaloosa, Walton 35
Sunrise Domestic Violence and Sexual Violence Center: Pasco 36
The Haven of RCS: Pinellas 37
The Spring of Tampa Bay: Hillsborough 38
Vivid Visions: Suwannee 39
Women in Distress: Broward 40
YWCA-Harmony House: Palm Beach 41
Victim Response, Inc. (The Lodge): Miami-Dade 42
In a single year

**RECEIVED** 117,231 hotline calls

**SHELTERED** 15,677 in emergency shelter

**PROVIDED** outreach to 32,953 adults and children

In a single day\(^{14}\)

**RECEIVED** 714 hotline calls

**SHELTERED** 1,926 in emergency shelter

**PROVIDED** outreach and counseling to 1,164 adults and children

Domestic violence occurs in every community regardless of ethnicity, culture, religion, age, marital status or socioeconomic status. Florida’s certified domestic violence centers are committed to providing culturally appropriate services tailored to each individual and family seeking assistance.

**Diversity of Individuals Served**

**Served in Shelter**

- Middle Eastern: 84
- Haitian: 281
- Did not declare: 904
- White, non-Hispanic: 5,961
- Hispanic: 3,086
- Black, non-Hispanic: 5,171
- Native American: 62
- Asian American: 128

**Served in Outreach**

- Middle Eastern: 174
- Haitian: 333
- Did not declare: 1,198
- White, non-Hispanic: 15,936
- Hispanic: 7,064
- Black, non-Hispanic: 7,852
- Native American: 103
- Asian American: 293
Local Community Collaborations

Florida’s certified domestic violence centers are engaged with countless organizations, agencies, and individuals that share the mission of ending domestic violence through the provision of services, programs, advocacy, outreach, and education, while raising awareness about the impact of domestic violence on families and communities. These community based partnerships include, but are not limited to: law enforcement agencies, prosecutors and judicial organizations, faith-based community organizations, health care providers, legal services organizations, colleges/universities/schools, local domestic violence task forces, community based care organizations, housing organizations, private nonprofits and local corporations. Every year, centers leverage public and private funding to maximize resources available for domestic violence services through the creation of new and innovative community partnerships.

FCADV: Working to Create a Violence Free Future

As the statutorily designated entity responsible for delivering, managing, and monitoring domestic violence services in the state, FCADV works closely with certified domestic violence centers and their local partners to create and implement programs and initiatives designed to ensure quality services, maximize safety for domestic violence survivors and their children, and hold perpetrators accountable for their actions. In fact, most every program and initiative that FCADV supports consists of important partnerships and collaborations designed to achieve the most effective outcomes.

FCADV utilizes the Statewide Survivor Listening Project which focuses on securing input from domestic violence survivors regarding gaps in services, challenges with systems, and critical issues that impact their ability to achieve independence and live violence free. FCADV conducts these survivor listening groups at certified domestic violence centers that represent both urban and rural geographic areas and include a diverse population. Input gathered through this project serves as the foundation for the creation of statewide programming and policy.

Certified Domestic Violence Centers, the Survivors they Serve, and Local Partnerships Inform the Creation of FCADV’s Programs and Initiatives

The following FCADV programs, projects and initiatives are highlighted as examples of local collaborations with certified domestic violence centers and their community partners; and many reflect programming and policy garnered from feedback through the Statewide Survivor Listening Project. For a complete listing of FCADV programs, please visit: www.fcadv.org.

Safety, Services and Intervention

Burn and Trauma Medical Advocacy Project

Created to address the increasing number of women being severely burned by their abusive partners, this project is designed to establish and promote best practices for assisting and responding to the needs of domestic violence survivors in a medical setting with emphasis on burn and trauma centers.

Partners:

- Miami-Jackson Hospital, Nurse Educators
- Certified Domestic Violence Centers: Haven of RCS, Harbor House of Central Florida, Sunrise Domestic and Sexual Violence Center, Victim Response, Inc./The Lodge

Domestic Violence and Disabilities Program/Domestic Violence in Later Life Program

FCADV supports certified domestic violence centers in creating accessible services, complying with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), and effectively serving survivors living with a disability. In addition, FCADV provides training and technical assistance for certified centers to effectively address complexities associated with abuse in later life.

Partners:

- Ability 1st- The Center for Independent Living of North Florida, Adult Protective Services Northwest and Suncoast Regions, Center for Independent Living West Palm, Department of Elder Affairs, Elder Source, Empire Justice Center, National Clearinghouse on Abuse in Later Life, National Center on Trauma Informed Care, Rural Women’s Health Project
Florida’s Statewide Domestic Violence and Legal Hotlines

FCADV operates the Florida Domestic Violence Hotline that provides multilingual services 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. Hotline advocates provide support, advocacy, information, and referral services for survivors of domestic violence, their children, families, and friends. FCADV also administers the Domestic Violence Legal Hotline which provides comprehensive legal advice, information, and referrals.

Legal Hotline Partner:
Florida Legal Services, Inc.

Law Enforcement Training Initiative

This initiative is designed to increase perpetrator accountability in domestic violence cases. FCADV provides training on best practices in evidence collection and prosecution of domestic violence perpetrators, appropriate protocol for responding to domestic violence calls, confidentiality of survivor information, and assessing risk for potential lethality.

Partners:
Florida Police Chiefs Association, Florida Sheriffs Association

Legal Initiative

Legal assistance is continually identified by survivors as a significant need to permanently remain independent and live a violence free life. FCADV created a Statewide Legal Clearinghouse which includes both private attorneys and legal service providers that conduct representation for domestic violence, sexual assault, and stalking survivors in civil injunction for protection hearings. FCADV provides annual training on cutting edge issues for lawyers participating in the Statewide Legal Clearinghouse.

Partner:
Statewide Legal Clearinghouse consisting of 21 legal service providers

Linguistically and Culturally Specific Services Projects

These projects collaborate with community based organizations whose primary purpose is to provide culturally appropriate services to underserved populations to address issues of family violence among Latino families, increase services for farmworker survivors of domestic violence who are involved in the child welfare system, and provide outreach to farmworker communities.

Partners:
Collier County DCF/CPI Office (Immokalee), Putnam County DCF/CPI Office, Redlands Christian Migrant Association, St. Andrews Episcopal Church, Florida Farmworkers Association

Certified Domestic Violence Centers: Lee Conlee House, Shelter for Abused Women and Children

Peace of Mind Florida

This collaborative project is designed to address the needs of survivors of domestic violence living with a traumatic brain injury through creating and implementing best practices, policies, and protocols tailored to meet the complex needs of these survivors.

Partner:
Brain Injury Association of Florida

Rural Statewide Initiative

This Statewide Initiative focuses on expanding services and enhancing the safety of the most geographically isolated survivors in our state.

Partners:
Boys and Girls Club of Tampa Bay, Community Legal Services of Mid-Florida, Crescent City High School, DCF-Fort Pierce, Harvest Food and Outreach Center, House of Hope of Indian Town, Putnam County Clerk of Courts, Redlands Christian Migrant Association, Rural Women’s Health Project, VIDA Legal Assistance, Inc.

Certified Domestic Violence Centers: Haven of Lake and Sumter Counties, Lee Conlee House, Micah’s Place, SafeSpace, Sunrise Domestic and Sexual Violence Center

Technology and Safety Program

This program provides advocates with training regarding the intersection of intimate partner violence and high-tech stalking. Issues such as cyber-stalking, the safe use of technology, and security of survivor data is addressed by bringing together a trained domestic violence advocate and an information technology professional to bridge the gap between advocacy and technology.

Partner:
The Office of the Attorney General
Bilingual Domestic Violence Outreach Project
This project focuses on tailoring intervention services including the provision of support groups through the utilization of bilingual advocates for survivors of domestic violence residing in the rural underserved areas of Indian River and Martin counties.

Partners:
- Farmworkers Association, Treasure Coast Community Health, Legacy Behavioral Center
- Certified Domestic Violence Center: SafeSpace

Bilingual Sexual Violence Outreach Project
This project is designed to increase access to survivors of sexual assault living in the rural and underserved communities of South Miami Dade County. This project is also designed to provide individual therapy and trauma-informed support groups, both of which are conducted in Spanish for survivors of sexual assault.

Partners:
- Banyan Street Community Center, Homestead Police Department, Legal Aid Society, Project SOS, VIDA Legal Assistance, Inc.
- Certified Sexual Assault Center: M.U.J.E.R

Farmworker Outreach Project
This project focuses on direct service provision and community outreach, through the utilization of bilingual advocates, to survivors living in farmworker communities in Manatee County to address geographic isolation and issues that compound the barriers faced by survivors in these rural and underserved communities.

Partners:
- East Coast Migrant Head Start Project, Farmworker Education and Services Program, Healthy Start Manatee, Manatee County Sheriff’s Office, Manatee Technical Institute, Redlands Christian Migrant Association, Mary Simpson Strong Full Service Center
- Certified Domestic Violence Center: Hope Family Services

Community-Based Collaborative Projects

Comprehensive Mental Health Services for Survivors of Domestic Violence
This project closes gaps in service delivery and addresses the lack of access to services for survivors of domestic violence who are also living with mental health complexities. A co-located, licensed therapist provides intensive one-on-one intervention to address the mental health needs of survivors who request such services.

Partners:
- Lakeside Behavioral Healthcare
- Certified Domestic Violence Center: Harbor House of Central Florida

Enhanced Services for Survivors of Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault in Later Life
Project partners work collaboratively as a part of a local task force to create a comprehensive service delivery model when survivors experience the co-occurrence of sexual assault and domestic violence in later life. The team also conducts community trainings on the intersection of sexual assault and elder abuse.

Partners:
- ElderSource
- Certified Domestic Violence Center: Hubbard House
- Certified Rape Crisis Center: Women’s Center of Jacksonville

Palm Beach Anti-Stalking Collaborative
This collaborative created a multi-disciplinary, coordinated community response to address the increase of stalking in Palm Beach County. To ensure appropriate identification of stalking victims and create a seamless service delivery approach, the team created community specific resources such as law enforcement palm cards, brochures, and an Anti-Stalking Toolkit.

Partners:
- Legal Aid Society of Palm Beach County, Investigative Support Specialists, Florida Atlantic University, Ocean Ridge Police Department, Palm Beach County Sheriff’s Office, Palm Beach County Victim Services, State Attorney Office Palm Beach County
- Certified Domestic Violence Center: Aid to Victims of Domestic Abuse
Child Welfare Initiatives

Child Protection Investigation (CPI) Project

The CPI Project exists in ten communities and focuses on enhancing survivor safety and perpetrator accountability among families experiencing domestic violence who are involved in the child welfare system. Each project co-locates a domestic violence advocate within CPI units to provide consultation, assistance and case staffing on domestic violence issues. In FY 2012-13, FCADV’s CPI projects were able to create and utilize a holistic seamless system of wrap around services which allowed 4,166 children, whose families were involved in the child welfare system as a result of domestic violence, to remain in the home with the non-offending parent. This effort significantly reduced the need for foster care services and produced a potential cost savings of $10,723,284.

Partners:
- DCF Program (Bay County), Battering’s Intervention Program (Manatee County), Bay County DCF/CPI Office, Big Bend Community Based Care, Broward County Sheriff’s Office, Calhoun County DCF/CPI Office, Children’s Network of Southwest Florida, Citrus County DCF/CPI Office, Community Partnership for Children, Domestic Violence Task Force of Polk County, Eckerd Community Alternatives (Hillsborough), Gulf County DCF/CPI Office, Manatee County Probation, Manatee County Sheriff’s Office, Miami-Dade County DCF/CPI Office, Our Kids of Miami-Dade/Monroe, Pasco County Sheriff’s Office, Pinellas County Sheriff’s Office, Safe Children Coalition, Safe at Home (Pasco County)

Certified Domestic Violence Centers: CASA St. Petersburg, Citrus CASA, Hope Family Services, Salvation Army of West Pasco, Salvation Army Domestic Violence and Rape Crisis Program, The Spring of Tampa Bay, Victim Response, Inc./The Lodge, Women In Distress

Economic Justice

Allstate Economic Justice Programs

With financial independence consistently recognized as a top need by survivors, FCADV leveraged funding from the Allstate Foundation to launch two programs that focus on financial empowerment. The projects work closely with survivors to provide microloans, micro enterprises, and matched savings accounts.

Partners:
- Allstate Foundation

Certified Domestic Violence Centers: Peaceful Paths, Shelter for Abused Women and Children

DCF Economic Justice Initiative

This initiative provides capacity-building for incorporating economic justice initiatives into certified domestic violence centers. FCADV facilitates an annual Economic Justice Institute that includes topics on career empowerment, innovative programming with youth, workplace policies that support economic justice, and utilizing community credit unions as a resource for survivors who do not possess a bank account. FCADV is working with the Department of Economic Opportunity to provide training at their statewide academy which will include participation by Local Workforce Boards. Additionally, by hosting regional meetings for local workforce employees and local domestic violence center advocates, FCADV is encouraging collaboration and capacity building regarding each other’s respective fields in an effort to better serve survivors.

Partners:
- Department of Children and Families
- Department of Economic Opportunity

Certified Domestic Violence Centers: Aid to Victims of Domestic Abuse (AVDA), Another Way, CASA St. Petersburg, Domestic Abuse Shelter, Hope Family Services, Peaceful Paths, Safe Place and Rape Crisis Center (SPARCC), Serene Harbor, Shelter for Abused Women and Children, Shelter House, Women In Distress, Victim Response, Inc./The Lodge
Homicide Reduction

Fatality Review Teams

Domestic violence fatality review is recognized as an important process to identify gaps in service delivery and potential systemic breakdowns, while creating strategies that improve and increase responses to keep survivors and their children safe and hold batterers accountable. Florida’s local fatality review teams submit qualitative and quantitative data from domestic violence homicide reviews that are conducted in their local communities. The Statewide Domestic Violence Fatality Review Team analyzes the data to determine statewide trends. Each year, the statewide and local teams work together, in a coordinated approach, to render recommendations to reduce domestic violence homicides in Florida.


Local Domestic Violence Fatality Review Teams: Alachua, Bay, Brevard, Broward, Collier, Duval, Highlands, Hillsborough, Indian River, Martin, St. Lucie, Okeechobee, Lee, Leon, Manatee, Miami-Dade, Orange, Palm Beach, Pasco, Pinellas, Polk, Sarasota, Seminole

Intimate Violence Enhanced Service Team (InVEST)

Created specifically to reduce and prevent domestic violence homicides in Florida. FCADV and the OAG identified 13 Florida communities with the highest rates of domestic violence homicide to provide funding for the implementation of a coordinated community response to prevent and reduce the number of homicides. InVEST partnerships have implemented batterer accountability measures and provided enhanced advocacy for more than 3,000 survivors per year who are at high risk of being murdered by their intimate partner.

Law Enforcement Partners: Alachua County Sheriff’s Office, Bay County Sheriff’s Office, Broward County Sheriff’s Office, Clearwater Police Department, Collier County Sheriff’s Office, Ft. Pierce Police Department, Gainesville Police Department, Hillsborough County Sheriff’s Office, Jacksonville Sheriff’s Office, Largo Police Department, Orlando Police Department, Pasco County Sheriff’s Office, Polk County Sheriff’s Office, Seminole County Sheriff’s Office, Sarasota County Sheriff’s Office

Certified Domestic Violence Centers: Harbor House of Central Florida, Haven of RCS, Hubbard House, Peaceful Paths, Peace River Center, Safehouse of Seminole, SafeSpace, Salvation Army Domestic Violence and Rape Crisis Program, Shelter for Abused Women and Children, Safe Place and Rape Crisis Center, Sunrise Domestic and Sexual Violence Center, The Spring of Tampa Bay, Women in Distress

Prevention

Primary Prevention Initiative

These initiatives focus on strategies to prevent the first time occurrence of intimate partner violence through engaging community stakeholders and providing educational programming for youth. Each certified domestic violence center engages in primary prevention programming and focus on five areas: community partnerships with non-traditional partners, prevention activities with youth, increasing organizational capacity, program evaluation, and sustainability. All aspects of primary prevention
programming address risk and protective factors for perpetration and victimization of domestic violence.

**Partners:**
Each of the 42 certified domestic violence centers are required to engage Community Action Teams which include community stakeholders who work collaboratively with each center to address primary prevention in their communities. Community partners vary for each certified domestic violence center but generally include: local schools, youth, faith leaders, law enforcement, health care providers, victim advocates, State Attorney’s Offices, local business owners, Legal Aid, and other social service partners such as the Boys and Girls Club, Centers for Independent Living, Head Start, housing authorities, local United Ways, local DCF offices.

**DELTA FOCUS\(^{16}\) Initiative**
After a successful ten year partnership with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), Florida is one of only ten states selected to continue to conduct this intimate partner violence primary prevention initiative at the state and local levels. The Initiative is designed to inform primary prevention policies and practices nationally through the creation of innovative programs and strategies and intensive evaluation. The new DELTA FOCUS Initiative expands primary prevention partners to include leaders in health care and law enforcement in addition to current partners listed below.

**Statewide Leadership Team Members (Advisory Board)**

**Certified Domestic Violence Centers:** Harbor House of Central Florida, Sunrise Domestic and Sexual Violence Center

**Engaging Men and Boys Prevention Project**
This project focuses on the development and implementation of a culturally specific public education campaign and mentoring youth program to engage men and boys ages 12-17 in the work to prevent domestic and dating violence. The project is designed to change community attitudes about teen dating violence and foster healthy relationships.

**Partners:**
Men Against Domestic Violence Advisory Group, Youth Advisory Group, both comprised of community volunteers

**Certified Domestic Violence Center:** Martha’s House

**Domestic Violence and Home Visitors Project**
This multi-year partnership between FCADV and Healthy Families Florida includes providing educational resources, assessment tools, and trainings for Healthy Families Florida staff on addressing domestic violence when conducting home visits. FCADV, in collaboration with Healthy Families Florida, updated and implemented the mandatory training for all their staff on domestic violence.

**Partner:**
Healthy Families Florida

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\(^{15}\)Pursuant to Florida Statutes 39.903 and 39.9035

\(^{16}\)Domestic Violence Prevention Enhancements and Leadership Through Alliances, Focusing on Outcomes for Communities in the United States
Training and Technical Assistance

In addition to the programs and initiatives discussed on the previous pages, FCADV provides technical assistance and onsite and/or electronic trainings to certified domestic violence centers, collaborative community partners and agencies, and service providers throughout the state to ensure high quality programs and services. Thousands of hours of technical assistance and trainings are provided each year to increase knowledge of emerging issues, enhance contract and monitoring efficiency and standards, and build capacity to best serve domestic violence survivors and their children.

FCADV offers 42 specific trainings and numerous others that are tailored to the unique needs of each certified domestic violence center, the training participants, organizations, local communities, and collaborative partners. The following is not an exhaustive list and only represents a limited example of the type and diversity of trainings offered.

- Advanced Domestic Violence Training for Law Enforcement
- Advocacy, Technology, and Safety
- Batterer Accountability in the Criminal Justice System
- Building Your Agency’s Children and Youth Program
- Domestic Violence and Disabilities
- Domestic Violence in Later Life
- Domestic Violence in the Military
- Effects of Domestic Violence on Children and Youth
- Human Trafficking
- Sexual Assault Within the Context of Intimate Partner Violence
- Lethality Assessment and Safety Planning
- Medical Advocacy Projects: Tools and Training Methods
- Organizing in Rural Communities to Prevent Domestic Violence
- Primary Prevention of Domestic Violence
- Social Media in the Digital Age
- Teen Dating Violence and Technology

During fiscal year 2012-2013 FCADV:

- Responded to 7,774 technical assistance requests from certified domestic violence centers, collaborative partners, and other agencies
- Conducted 188 onsite technical assistance visits and trainings for domestic violence center staff, Boards of Directors, collaborative partners, and other agencies
- Conducted 109 regional training events throughout Florida
- Conducted 95 webinars and 24 statewide training events and/or conferences
- Administered and managed 132 contracts
FCADV Resources Produced During Fiscal Year 2012-2013

• Faces of Fatality, III Statewide Domestic Violence Fatality Review Team annual report
• Florida’s Domestic Violence Team, Making a Difference, Changing Lives Annual Report to the Legislature
• The BottomLine on Domestic Violence newsletter – designed to engage the business and corporate community
• Domestic Violence in the Workplace training video
• Domestic Violence in the Workplace business poster
• Florida Voice newsletter, Fiscal Year Review and New Legislation newsletter
• Disability Resource Guide for certified domestic violence centers
• Safety Planning Brochures for survivors of abuse who are later in life
• InVEST Guidelines Manual
• Photographing Domestic Violence Evidence training video and companion guidelines document
• Social Media and Advocacy Training Curriculum
• Safety Planning around Technology: A Guide for Survivors of Domestic and Dating Violence (English and Spanish)
• Safety Planning around Technology: A Resource Guide for Domestic Violence Advocates (English and Spanish)
• Electronic resources for survivors experiencing high-tech stalking (updated)
• Universal Peace Calendar
• Youth Activist Toolkit: Preventing Teen Dating Violence
• Florida Economic Justice Needs Assessment Report
• Florida Child Welfare, Substance Abuse, Mental Health, and Domestic Violence Service Integration Final Report and Statewide Recommendations
• Best Practices Hotline Manual for Domestic Violence Centers
• Web Based Training: Best Practices and Collaborative Efforts to Reducing Intimate Partner Homicides
• Medical Advocacy: Public Service Announcement and Screening Badge
• Supporting Survivors and their Children through the Healing Process Activity Manual
• Outreach to Haitian Survivors of Domestic Violence: Public Service Announcement
• Survivors of Domestic Violence from Culturally and Linguistically Diverse Communities: A Needs Assessment Report
• Improving Access to Justice for Immigrant Survivors of Domestic Violence Training Video
• Improving Access to Justice for Immigrant Survivors of Domestic Violence Guide
• Survivor Listening Project Report

DID YOU KNOW?
A woman is battered every 15 seconds in the United States.

For more information and referrals call the

Florida Domestic Violence Hotline

1-800-500-1119

www.fcadv.org
Domestic Violence Crime in Florida

While statewide incidences of reported domestic violence crimes decreased slightly, seven Florida counties experienced a 20 percent or more increase, and six counties decreased by 20 percent or more. Overall, 41 of Florida’s 67 counties reported decreases in domestic violence, 25 reported increases, and 1 remained constant. It should be noted that the data in this report and reflected in the UCR represent only domestic violence offenses reported to Florida’s law enforcement agencies, and it is widely recognized that domestic violence is a significantly underreported crime. In fact, an estimated 27 percent of women and 13.5 percent of men who are physically assaulted, and less than 20 percent of women who are raped by an intimate partner, report these domestic violence crimes to law enforcement.

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.

### The Crimes

#### TOP 10 Counties (by % of population): Domestic Violence Offenses, 2012

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>County</th>
<th>Population</th>
<th>Murder</th>
<th>Manslaughter</th>
<th>Rape</th>
<th>Sodomy</th>
<th>Forcible Forcing</th>
<th>Aggravated Assault</th>
<th>Aggravated Fondling</th>
<th>Simple Threat/Assault</th>
<th>Threat/Intimidation</th>
<th>Stalking</th>
<th>Total</th>
<th>% of Population</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Escambia</td>
<td>299,511</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>75</td>
<td>449</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>2,885</td>
<td>123</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>3,527</td>
<td>1.18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Walton</td>
<td>56,965</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>97</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>427</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>564</td>
<td>0.99</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Putnam</td>
<td>73,158</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>124</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>555</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>694</td>
<td>0.95</td>
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<tr>
<td>Okaloosa</td>
<td>187,280</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>215</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>1,452</td>
<td>38</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>1,726</td>
<td>0.72</td>
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<tr>
<td>Okeechobee</td>
<td>39,805</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>332</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>309</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>361</td>
<td>0.91</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bay</td>
<td>169,392</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>179</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1,473</td>
<td>27</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>1,473</td>
<td>0.87</td>
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<tr>
<td>Osceola</td>
<td>280,866</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>21</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>418</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>1,372</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>26</td>
<td>2,136</td>
<td>0.82</td>
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<tr>
<td>Marion</td>
<td>332,989</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>579</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>2,078</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>2,080</td>
<td>0.81</td>
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<tr>
<td>Duval</td>
<td>869,729</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>41</td>
<td>28</td>
<td>727</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>5,964</td>
<td>135</td>
<td>23</td>
<td>6,970</td>
<td>0.80</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Polk</td>
<td>406,888</td>
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<td>0</td>
<td>36</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>477</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>4,036</td>
<td>28</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>4,066</td>
<td>0.80</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Florida</td>
<td>19,074,434</td>
<td>191</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>981</td>
<td>377</td>
<td>16,828</td>
<td>192</td>
<td>85,729</td>
<td>2,209</td>
<td>397</td>
<td>108,046</td>
<td>0.57</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>


### Counties that experienced 20%+ Increase in Domestic Violence Offenses, 2012

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>County</th>
<th>Population</th>
<th>Murder</th>
<th>Manslaughter</th>
<th>Rape</th>
<th>Sodomy</th>
<th>Forcible Forcing</th>
<th>Aggravated Assault</th>
<th>Aggravated Fondling</th>
<th>Simple Threat/Assault</th>
<th>Threat/Intimidation</th>
<th>Stalking</th>
<th>Total</th>
<th>% Change 11/12*</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Baker</td>
<td>26,938</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>45</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>45</td>
<td>55.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dixie</td>
<td>16,298</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>74</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>74</td>
<td>46.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Glades</td>
<td>12,671</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>63</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>93</td>
<td>93</td>
<td>52.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lafayette</td>
<td>8,663</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>700.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Taylor</td>
<td>33,879</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>80</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>98</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>180</td>
<td>180</td>
<td>52.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Union</td>
<td>15,510</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>26</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>33</td>
<td>33</td>
<td>37.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Walton</td>
<td>56,965</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>97</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>427</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>564</td>
<td>34.6</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* 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.


### Counties that experienced 20%+ Decrease

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>County</th>
<th>Population</th>
<th>Murder</th>
<th>Manslaughter</th>
<th>Rape</th>
<th>Sodomy</th>
<th>Forcible Forcing</th>
<th>Aggravated Assault</th>
<th>Aggravated Fondling</th>
<th>Simple Threat/Assault</th>
<th>Threat/Intimidation</th>
<th>Stalking</th>
<th>Total</th>
<th>% Change 11/12*</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Gilchrist</td>
<td>16,946</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>34</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>44</td>
<td>-47.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gulf</td>
<td>15,925</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>-86.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hamilton</td>
<td>14,826</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>42</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>51</td>
<td>-21.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jefferson</td>
<td>14,478</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>22</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>37</td>
<td>-31.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Levy</td>
<td>40,339</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>181</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>215</td>
<td>-32.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Madison</td>
<td>19,222</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>43</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>52</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>52</td>
<td>-24.8</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* 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.


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**www.fcadv.org ANNUAL REPORT TO THE LEGISLATURE 21**
In 2000, the Florida Legislature passed the initial legislation that governs the establishment of domestic violence fatality review teams. During the 2013 Legislative Session, the Florida Legislature provided funding to expand the InVEST program in two additional counties which increased the total number of counties with local fatality review teams to 23. Florida’s 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 homicides. Attorney General Pam Bondi assumed a leadership role in maintaining the agency’s commitment to reducing and preventing domestic violence homicides by co-chairing the Statewide Domestic Violence Fatality Review Team and providing funding for InVEST projects in selected communities. The diverse team of professionals that comprise the Statewide Team is charged with conducting reviews of domestic violence fatalities and near fatalities, and analyzing data collected by local fatality review teams in an effort to identify statewide trends, gaps in the availability of services, and to render recommendations for systemic changes. To that end, the team produces an annual Faces of Fatality report. For the 2013 report, local teams submitted 35 reviews of fatal or near-fatal domestic violence incidents in Florida that occurred between 2006 and 2012.
Key Findings Include:

- The perpetrators were predominately male (86%) and had prior criminal histories generally (66%) and for domestic violence specifically (43%).
- In the majority of cases, the perpetrator and decedent were living together at the time of the homicide (67%) and most of the incidents occurred in either a joint residence or in the home of either the decedent or perpetrator (78%).
- There was known contact with the Florida Department of Children and Families in 23% of the cases, and two decedents had known contact with a domestic violence shelter.
- There was record of one perpetrator having been enrolled in a Batterers’ Intervention Program.
- Following the attack, perpetrators committed or attempted to commit suicide 52% of the time.
- Nearly half of all incidents included child witnesses or additional victims other than the decedent (43%).

Key 2013 Recommendations

- Continue training state and local partners on the critical need to hold domestic violence perpetrators accountable within the criminal justice system.
- Identify a county to consider replicating the Palm Beach County Domestic Violence Information System (DVIS).
- Continue to provide training to judges, service providers, and other personnel involved with drug and dependency issues, and domestic violence and family courts on the unique correlations between substance abuse and domestic violence.

RELATIONSHIP TYPE

- Spouse 40%
- Intimate partner 15%
- Former intimate partner 15%
- Parent 3%

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19Pursuant to Florida Statute 741.316 and 741.3165
20Domestic violence murder increased 15.6% and domestic violence manslaughter increased 71.4% as reflected in the 2009 Uniform Crime Report: http://www.fdle.state.fl.us/Content/getdoc/563b1fa3-3c7b-4787-ac6d-96c8f6ea73dcd/CIF_Annual09.aspx
21Copies of these reports are available at: www.fcadv.org/publications
22In 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.
23DVIS provides a centralized repository for information about domestic violence perpetrators and victims and promotes collaboration among the courts, law enforcement, child protective services, and local social service providers. This community partnership increases batterer accountability and facilitates more effective interventions for victims and their children.
Funding
Responding to Domestic Violence

Domestic Violence Trust Fund and General Revenue
The primary source of state funding for domestic violence emergency shelter, services, programs, and training is through the Domestic Violence Trust Fund (DVTF). These funds are distributed to Florida’s 42 certified domestic violence centers to provide critical life saving programs and services to domestic violence survivors and their children. 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. Legislation passed in 2000 that created this first in the nation program; in the same year domestic violence centers were forced to turn away 7,896 survivors and their children due to the lack of bed space. During this past fiscal year, the number of unmet requests for emergency shelter totaled 2,118, reflecting an overall reduction of approximately 73 percent. The 2013 Legislature provided 10 million dollars in capital funding to create an additional 278 beds statewide to decrease the number of survivors and their children turned away due to lack of capacity and bed space.
Family Violence Prevention and Services Act (FVPSA) Grant Program

FVPSA is the first and only federal funding dedicated specifically for domestic violence centers for the operation of emergency shelter and other critical services. The grant program also 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.

Violence Against Women Act (VAWA) Grant Program

The FCADV and DCF administer two grants provided by the federal Violence Against Women Act, an annual formula grant, STOP (Services, Training, Officers and Prosecution), and the discretionary 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. The 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 perpetrators accountable for their crimes.
Funding

Responding to Domestic Violence

TOTAL: $30,361,871

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

FEDERAL SOURCES
$18,231,878
60%

STATE SOURCES
$12,129,993
40%

TOTAL: $30,361,871
Domestic violence does not go away by looking away. It stops when we stand up together. It stops when we say it must, and not just one of us, but all of us.

“We cannot change the outcome for the 202 women, children and men who died at the hands of someone who they loved and trusted, but when we work together – when we stand up together and say that domestic violence must stop, we can change and save the lives of thousands who experience domestic violence in our state. We appreciate the leadership of Governor Scott, Attorney General Bondi, the Florida Legislature, the Department of Children and Families and each and every state and community partner who work tirelessly to ensure that life saving shelter and services remain available and accessible for survivors of domestic violence and their children and that the perpetrators of that violence are held accountable. Together we offer safety and hope for a violence free future.”

—Tiffany Carr, President/CEO Florida Coalition Against Domestic Violence