

NEW YORK CITY DOMESTIC VIOLENCE FATALITY REVIEW COMMITTEE:

2021 ANNUAL REPORT



Bill de Blasio
Mayor

Mayor's Office to End Domestic and Gender-Based Violence

Cecile Noel
Commissioner



Note from Our Survivor Members

Late in 2020, I was appointed by the Mayor to be one of two survivor members of the NYC Domestic Violence Fatality Review Committee. It was an assignment I requested. I have been reading the report each year since it first came out and I find that the work is important and necessary. And yet, as a survivor, there is a peculiar dissonance in reading the statistics. Our committee deals solely with the numbers of fatalities. We do not review individual cases or conduct case studies. It can feel reductive to read that Black women account for 30 percent of intimate partner homicides in NYC. Unless, perhaps, the reader is a Black woman who is very conscious that but for the help she received, she may have been one of those counted in that percentage. These numbers are not at all abstract. They are the lives of women, children and men who did not deserve to die as they did. And too many survivors can look at these numbers and fear to see themselves reflected in next year's statistics. My second meeting with the Fatality Review Committee, I told them about these thoughts. I told them that my wish is that we bring about the policy changes necessary to ensure that there are no more domestic violence fatalities, and that the agencies and people who work on the front lines have all of the resources they need to ensure that everyone in need of help is able to find it safety. While you read these numbers imagine the lives that are behind them, all of the individual stories that ended too soon and become a part of the work to make Domestic Violence Fatality Review Committees a part of our recent history.

Valencia Craig, Survivor Representative

I requested to be appointed to the NYC Domestic Violence Fatality Review Committee in 2020, and I was one of two survivors to be appointed. As a domestic violence survivor, I believed it was my duty to be the voice for those that have perished. With my past domestic violence situation involving my ex , he was offered what he called a "sweet deal" in criminal court After being offered this deal with the district attorney's office he felt empowered to do whatever he wanted. He texted and left me a voicemail threatening my life if I continued to cooperate with the District Attorney's office regarding the criminal case against him. After the ADA received this evidence, which is witness tampering, the deal remained on the table. He felt so empowered that he continued to threaten my life because he felt that he could get away with it.

As a survivor, when I read the reports and see the number of homicide victims I wonder how many lives were lost because of the bravery of these victims who chose to make police reports to law enforcement and / or coopered with their local District Attorney's offices.

As a committee, I think that we should also spend some time brainstorming about how the systems in place to protect and to assist survivors can work together to keep survivors and their children safe.

When a survivor decides to be brave and get help from law enforcement and then cooperates with the judicial system, their lives and the lives of their children are placed in jeopardy. So, when you are reading these reports with statistics remember that these statistics represent individuals and families whose stories should not have ended the way they did.

Doreen Jones, Survivor Representative and Chairperson of VOICES

Preface: The Impact of the COVID-19 Pandemic on Domestic Violence in New York City

With over 400,000 confirmed cases, over 67,000 hospitalizations and over 20,000 deaths, due to COVID-19 occurring in New York City in 2020, the COVID-19 global pandemic has impacted the lives of everyone in our City and in the world.ⁱ The pandemic has intensified inequalities and risk factors for survivors of domestic and gender-based violence (DGBV).ⁱⁱ As New Yorkers were urged to stay at home to prevent the spread of COVID-19, there was widespread concern among DGBV service providers and policy makers about how sheltering in place with an abusive partner or family member could put survivors of DGBV at even greater risk, further isolating them from critical support systems and access to services. In fact, when you compare the first week of NYS on PAUSE to the week priorⁱⁱⁱ (compares week of 3/15-3/21 to 3/22-3/28):

- New York City Domestic Violence Hotline calls were down by 7.5% (95 fewer calls)
- Unique requests for domestic violence shelter were down by 10.5% (19 fewer unique requests)
- Domestic violence major felonies reported to the NYPD were down by 10.5% (18 fewer felonies)
- Domestic violence arrests by the NYPD were down by 26.0% (182 fewer arrests)

Given the impact of shelter-in-place orders and the immediate decline in survivors seeking assistance, many DGBV providers immediately shifted to working remotely when New York State's stay-at-home orders were issued in order to help connect survivors to services. ENDGBV, other City agencies and community-based service providers collaborated to raise awareness about the availability of remote services, launched public awareness campaigns, and created new programming to assist survivors impacted by COVID-19, including urgent financial needs.^{iv} Within weeks of the emergency orders, the number of survivors reaching out for assistance increased:

- Call volume to the New York City Domestic Violence Hotline, operated by Safe Horizon, increased by 17% during the pandemic - 96,096 calls during 3/16/20-3/15/21 compared to 82,017 in the previous year.
- The number of survivors accessing services for the first-time at the New York City Family Justice Centers (FJCs) increased by 35.8% - 12,243 first-time clients during 3/16/20-3/15/21 compared to 9,012 in the previous year.
- Visits to the NYC HOPE website increased 267% - 119,900 during 3/16/20-3/15/21 compared to 32,725 in the previous year.

While the COVID-19 pandemic and the resulting emergency orders clearly had an impact on survivors reaching out for assistance, it does not appear to have had an immediate, discernible impact on domestic violence homicides. While domestic violence homicides decreased by 9.4% - from 64 in 2019, to 58 in 2020, there was an increase in intimate partner homicides by 11.5% - from 26 in 2019 to 29 in 2020. However, the 29 intimate partner homicides last year are almost equal to the previous five-year average (29.8) of annual intimate partner homicides in New York City. The other component of domestic violence homicides, other family-homicides, decreased by 23.7% - from 38 in 2019, to 29 in 2020. While the COVID-19 pandemic did not lead to an immediate increase in domestic violence homicides, the neighborhoods with the highest number of intimate partner homicides are also the neighborhoods most impacted by the pandemic.^v Long-term impacts of the pandemic on domestic violence homicides remain to be seen.

Introduction

From 2010 through 2020, in New York City there were 672 domestic violence homicide incidents involving 721 victims; these victims account for 17.2% of all homicides (721 of 4,198) that occurred in New York City. During this 11-year period, the annual average count of domestic violence homicides was 66. Capturing the most extreme outcome, domestic violence homicides make up only a small fraction of all domestic violence-related offenses.

This report begins with a comparison of 2020 intimate partner homicides with 2019 intimate partner homicides, focusing on their demographic and incident characteristics, including borough and weapon used. In addition, this report pools data from 2010 to 2020 to examine patterns of domestic violence homicide and sub-types – that is, intimate partner homicide and other family homicide – by summarizing victim and perpetrator age, sex, race/ethnicity as well as incident characteristics.

New York City Police Department (NYPD) data on domestic violence homicide victims' and perpetrators' sex and race/ethnicity are collected and reported by the Fatality Review Committee. These demographic data elements may not accurately capture the affected individuals self-identified gender and race/ethnicity. In addition, usual measurement of domestic violence homicide risk factors (e.g., perpetrator having direct access to a gun, perpetrator's previous nonfatal strangulation of the victim, perpetrator's previous rape of the victim, perpetrator's previous threat with a weapon, the perpetrator's demonstration of controlling behaviors, and the perpetrator's previous threats to harm the victim) do not consider historic inequities in access to resources, gender-based attitudes about power and control and a history of policies that deny resources to people of color. Given the limitations in how details are documented, social context of the data are lacking.^{iv}

Defining Domestic Violence

In this report, two types of relationships comprise domestic violence:

Intimate Partner: Individuals who are currently or formerly married, divorced, dating, boyfriend/girlfriend or who have a child in common.

Other Family: Individuals who are related by marriage or blood, such as parents/children, siblings, grandparents/grandchildren, cousins, and in-laws.

2020 TO 2019 ANNUAL COMPARISON OF INTIMATE PARTNER HOMICIDES: DEMOGRAPHICS AND INCIDENT CHARACTERISTICS

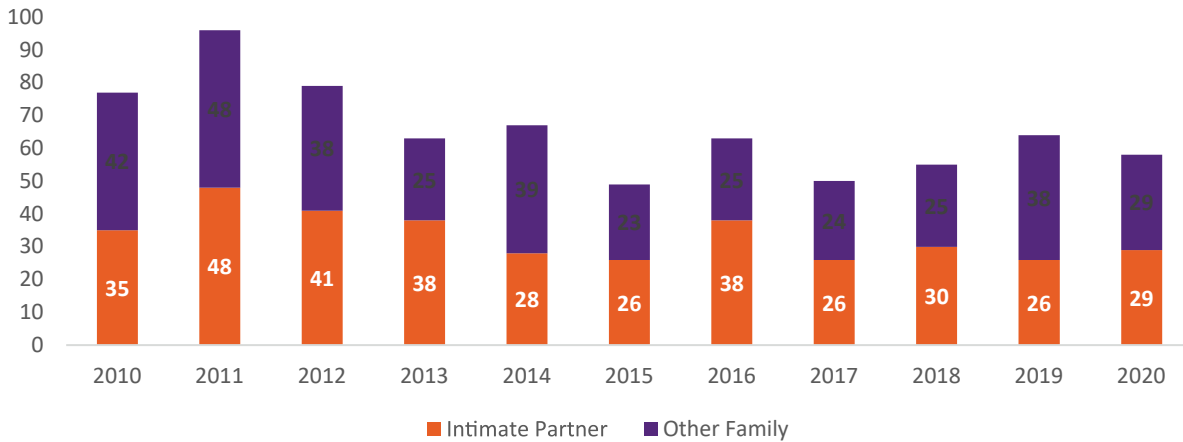
- Intimate partner homicides increased in Brooklyn by 33.3% - from 4 in 2019 to 7 in 2020.
- Intimate partner homicides involving a Black victim increased by 37.5% - from 8 in 2019 to 11 in 2020.
- Intimate partner homicides involving a firearm increased by 75% - from 4 in 2019 to 7 in 2020.

	2020	2019	#Change	Annual Average ('10-'20)
<i>Intimate Partner Homicides</i>	29	26	+3	33
<i>Sex</i>				
Female	19	23	-4	25
Male	10	3	+7	8
<i>Borough</i>				
Bronx	6	9	-3	11
Brooklyn	7	4	+3	9
Manhattan	8	5	+3	4
Queens	7	6	+1	7
Staten Island	1	2	-1	2
<i>Race/Ethnicity</i>				
Asian	1	4	-3	3
Black	11	8	+3	14
Hispanic	12	12	-	12
White	5	3	+2	5
<i>Method/Weapon</i>				
Cutting/Knife	15	15	-	17
Firearm	7	4	+3	8
Blunt Trauma	2	2	-	5
Asphyxiation	0	1	-1	2
Physical Force	2	2	-	<1
Strangulation	3	2	+1	1
Other	0	0	-	<1

All Domestic Violence Homicides, 2010-2020

The following section provides an overview of domestic violence homicides and sub-types, intimate partner homicide and other family homicide, by summarizing victim and perpetrator age, sex, race/ethnicity as well as incident characteristics for domestic violence homicides from 2010 through 2020. During that time period there were 365 intimate partner homicides, which involved 365 victims and 371 perpetrators, and there were 356 other family homicides, which involved 356 victims and 252 perpetrators.

Figure 1. New York City Domestic Violence Homicides: by Intimate Partner vs. Other Family (2010-2020) (N=721)

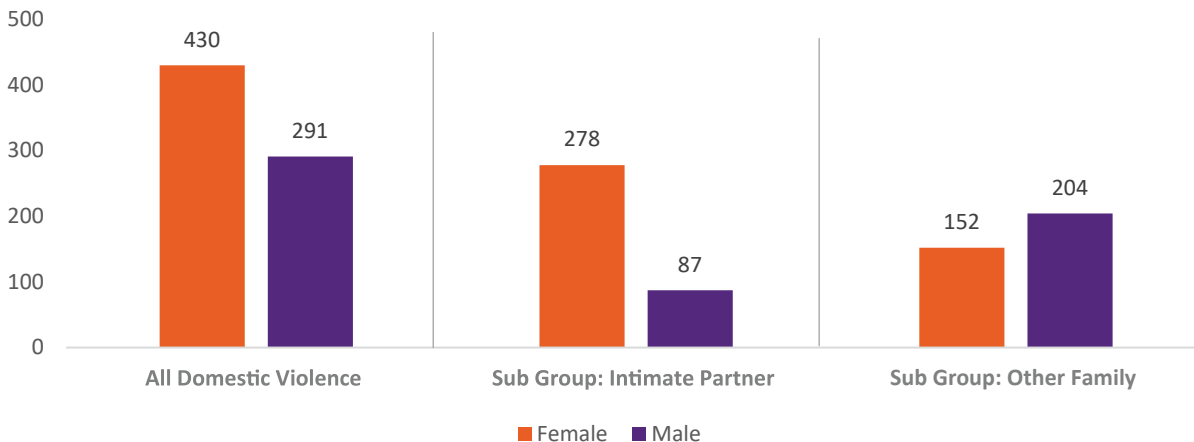


- Domestic violence homicides decreased by 9.4% - from 64 in 2019, to 58 in 2020.
- Other family-related homicides decreased by 23.7% - from 38 in 2019, to 29 in 2020.
- Intimate partner homicides increased by 11.5% - from 26 in 2019 to 29 in 2020.

VICTIM DEMOGRAPHICS

Sex: The majority of domestic violence homicide victims were female.

Figure 2. New York City Domestic Violence Homicide: by Sex/Sub Groups, Intimate Partner and Other Family (2010-2020) (N=271)

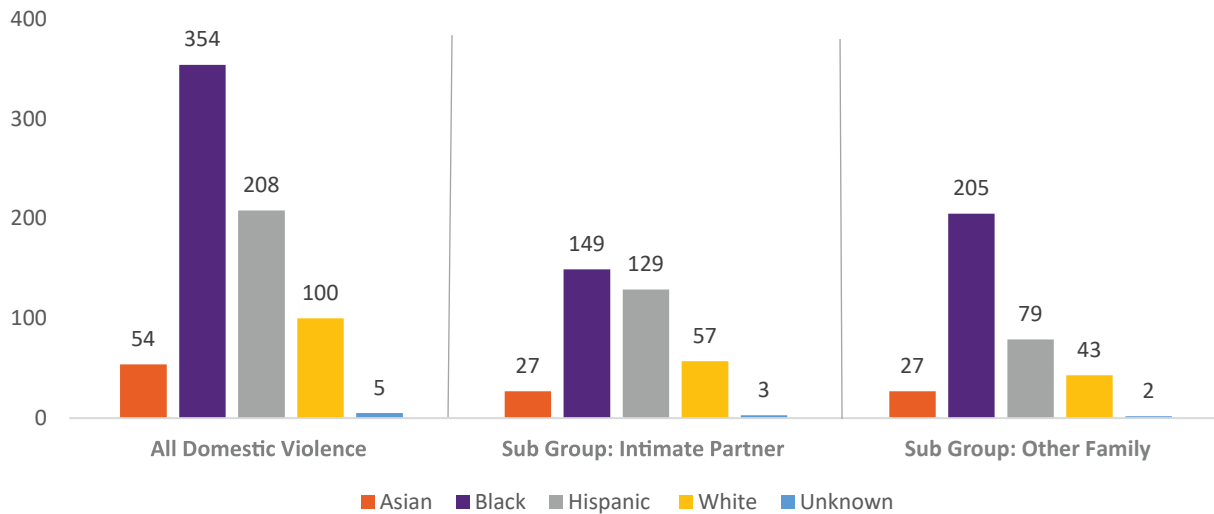


- The majority (59.6%, 430 of 721) of domestic violence homicide victims were female.

- Males accounted for a higher percentage (57.3%, 204 of 356) of other family homicide victims compared to intimate partner homicide victims (23.8%, 87 of 365).

Race/Ethnicity: A higher proportion of homicide victims were Black, compared to other race/ethnicity groups.

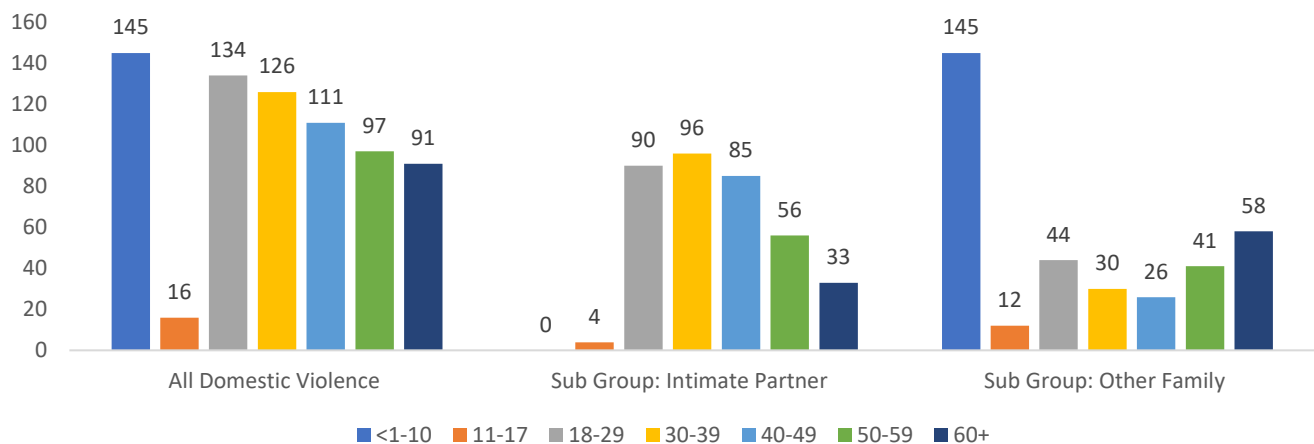
Figure 3. New York City Domestic Violence Homicides: by Race/Ethnicity and Sub Groups, Intimate Partner and Other Family (2010-2020) (N=721)



- Black individuals accounted for 49.1% (354 of 721) of domestic violence homicides, 40.8% (149 of 365) of intimate partner homicides, and 57.6%, (205 of 356) of homicides involving other family members.
- Hispanic individuals accounted for 28.8% (208 of 721) of domestic violence homicides, 35.3% (129 of 365) of intimate partner homicides, and 22.2%, (79 of 356) of homicides involving other family members.

Age: More than 20% of domestic violence homicides involve a child victim 10 years of age or younger.

Figure 4. New York City Domestic Violence Homicides: by Age and Sub Groups, Intimate Partner and Other Family (2010-2020) (N=720)



Note: The age is unknown for one 2013 intimate partner homicide, so they are excluded from this analysis.

- 1 out of every 5 (20.1%, 145 of 720) domestic violence homicides involved a child age 10 and under. 2 out of every 5 (40.7%, 145 of 356) other family homicides involved a child age 10 and under.
- 1 out of every 4 intimate partner homicides (24.5%, 89 of 364) and almost 3 out of 10 other family homicides (28.7%, 99 of 356) involved a victim age 50 and over.
- The number of intimate partner homicide victims was similar in the 18-29, 30-39 and 40-49 year age categories. The number of other family homicide victims were similar in the 30-39 and 40-49 year age categories.
- The average age of the intimate partner victims was 40 years, and the median age was 38.5 years; the range was 15 to 87 years. The average age of the other family victims was 28.4 years, and the median age was 24 years; the range was 0 to 96 years.

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE HOMICIDES: LOCATION

Borough: Bronx had the highest rate of domestic violence homicides.

Table 1. New York City Domestic Violence Homicides: by Borough Subgroups Intimate Partner and Other Family (2010 – 2020) (N=721)

	Bronx		Brooklyn		Manhattan		Queens		Staten island	
	#	Rate	#	Rate	#	Rate	#	Rate	#	Rate
All Domestic Violence	221	1.38	210	0.76	92	0.53	164	0.67	44	0.85
Subgroup: Intimate Partner	112	0.94	102	0.4	50	0.33	81	0.40	20	0.48
Subgroup: Other family	99	0.65	108	0.49	42	0.24	83	0.39	24	0.47

- The Bronx had the highest number of domestic violence homicides of any borough, 211, and it also had the highest rate of domestic violence homicides, 1.38 per 100,000 residents.
- The Bronx had the highest number and rate of intimate partner homicides, 112 and 0.94, respectively, per 100,000 residents. The Bronx rate of intimate partner homicides is almost twice that of the borough with the second highest rate, Staten Island.

IN FOCUS: INTIMATE PARTNER HOMICIDES, 2010-2020

VICTIM AND PERPERTRATOR DEMOGRAPHICS

Victim Sex and Race/Ethnicity: Black and Hispanic females were disproportionality affected by intimate partner homicides.

Table 2. New York City Intimate Partner Homicides: by Sex and Race/Ethnicity (2010-2020) (N=362)

VICTIM	Percentage of Intimate Partner Homicides (#)	% of NYC Population
Male		
Asian	0.6% (2)	6.3%
Black	11.6% (42)	10.0%
Hispanic	8.8% (32)	13.3%
White	3.0% (11)	17.2%
Female		
Asian	6.9% (25)	7.0%
Black	29.6% (107)	13.0%
Hispanic	26.5% (96)	14.6%
White	13.0% (47)	18.7%

Note: Race is not known for 3 intimate partner homicides in 2013, so they are excluded from this analysis.

Population Data: Obtained from the New York City Department of City Planning and are from the 2010 United States Census and the American Community Survey (ACS) multi-year estimates 2014-2018, the most current information available. Population counts for intimate partner homicide rate computations include individuals 15 years of age or older.

- Black females were disproportionality affected by intimate partner homicides. Black females accounted for 29.6% of intimate partner homicides, while accounting for 13.0% of the population in New York City.
- Hispanic females accounted for 26.5% of intimate partner homicides, while accounting for 14.6% of the population in New York City.

Victim Age and Sex: Females age 18-29 and 40-49 had the highest number of intimate partner homicides.

Table 3. New York City Intimate Partner Homicides: Victims by Age and Sex (2010-2020) (N=364)

Age of Victim - Years	% Male Victims (#)	% of NYC Population	% Female Victims (#)	% of NYC Population
15-17	0.27% (1)	2.3%	0.82% (3)	2.3%
18-29	5.8% (21)	11.8%	18.7% (68)	12.2%
30-39	8.0% (29)	9.0%	18.4% (67)	9.6%
40-49	4.4% (16)	8.1%	19.2% (70)	8.7%
50-59	3.3% (12)	7.0%	12.1% (44)	8.1%
60-69	0.82% (3)	4.7%	5.5% (20)	5.9%
70-79	1.1% (4)	3.0%	1.4% (5)	3.5%
80-89	0.27% (1)	1.5%	0.0% (0)	2.3%
Total	23.9% (87)	47.4%	76.1% (277)	52.6%
Average Age	39.8		40.1	
Age Range	17 yrs.– 85 yrs.		15 yrs.- 87 yrs.	

Note: The victim age is unknown for 1 intimate partner homicide in 2013, so they are excluded from this analysis.
Population Data: Obtained from the New York City Department of City Planning and are from the 2010 United States Census and the American Community Survey (ACS) multi-year estimates 2014-2018, the most current information available. Population counts for intimate partner homicide rate computations include individuals 15 years of age or older.

- Females in most age groups were disproportionately affected by intimate partner homicides. Most noteworthy were findings for females between 30-39 and 40-49 years. Specifically, while females age 40-49 account for 8.7% of New York City’s population, they accounted for 19.2% of all intimate partner homicides. Similarly, females 30-39 account for 9.6% of the City’s residents, but 18.4% of intimate partner homicides.
- Males, of all ages, were less likely to be an intimate partner homicide victim when compared to females.

Perpetrator Age: Males were the perpetrator in 80% of Intimate partner homicides.

Table 4. New York City Intimate Partner Homicides: by Perpetrator Age and Sex (2010-2020) (N=369)

Age of Victim - Years	% Male Victims (#)	% of NYC Population	% Female Victims (#)	% of NYC Population
15-17	0.0% (0)	2.3%	0.27% (1)	2.3%
18-29	16.5% (61)	11.8%	7.9% (29)	12.2%
30-39	22.8% (84)	9.0%	5.4% (20)	9.6%
40-49	18.7% (69)	8.1%	3.5% (13)	8.7%
50-59	15.4% (57)	7.0%	1.9% (7)	8.1%
60-69	3.8% (14)	4.7%	0.54% (2)	5.9%
70+	3.3% (12)	4.5%	0.0% (0)	5.8%
Total	80.5% (297)	47.4%	19.5% (72)	52.6%
Average Age	41.2		34.4	
Age Range	18 yrs.-86 yrs.		17 yrs.-67 yrs.	

Note: The perpetrator age is unknown for 1 intimate partner homicide in 2013 and perpetrator sex is unknown for 1 intimate partner homicide in 2019, so they are excluded from this analysis.

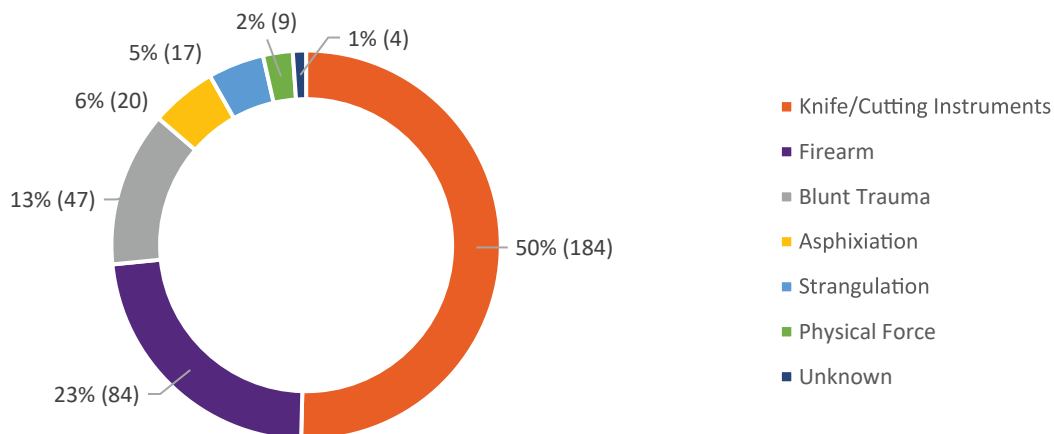
Population Data: Obtained from the New York City Department of City Planning and are from the 2010 United States Census and the American Community Survey (ACS) multi-year estimates 2014-2018, the most current information available. Population counts for intimate partner homicide rate computations include individuals 15 years of age or older.

- There were 4 times as many male perpetrators (297) of intimate partner homicides compared to female perpetrators (72).
- The annual average age of intimate partner homicide perpetrators for males (41 years) was slightly higher than the average age for females (34 years).

INCIDENT CHARACTERISTICS

Weapon-Method: Knives or cutting instruments were used in half of all intimate partner homicides

Figure 5. New York City Intimate Partner Homicides by Weapon Used (2010-2020)
(N=365)



- Half (50.4%, 184 of 365) of intimate partner homicides are committed with a knife or other cutting instrument.
- Firearms were used in almost one quarter (23.0%, 84 of 365) of intimate partner homicides.

Perpetrator-Victim Relationship: 4 out of 10 intimate partner homicide victims were the current boyfriend/girlfriend of the perpetrator.

Table 5. Intimate Partner Homicides by Perpetrator Relationship (2010-2020) (N=371)

Relationship Type	No. of Intimate Partner Homicides	% of Intimate Partner Homicides
Opposite-sex Boyfriend/Girlfriend	151	40.7%
Spouse	107	28.8%
Common Law	38	10.2%
Child-in-Common	34	9.2%
Same-sex Boyfriend/Girlfriend	16	4.3%
Ex-Boyfriend/Girlfriend	19	5.1%
Other	6	1.6%

- 40.7% (151 of 371) of intimate partner homicide perpetrators were the current opposite sex boyfriend/girlfriend and over one quarter of the perpetrators were the spouse (28.8%, 107 of 371) of the victim; these perpetrators comprise the majority (69.5%, 258 of 371).

INTIMATE PARTNER HOMICIDES: CONTACT AND REPORTED HISTORY WITH CITY AGENCIES

This section explores the documented pre-incident contacts between City agencies that are members of the New York City Domestic Violence Fatality Review Committee (FRC) and the 365 victims and 371 perpetrators of intimate partner homicides between 2010 and 2020. For all agencies, except the NYPD and NYC Probation Department, the contact referenced below occurred within the 12 months prior to the homicide. For NYPD, contact refers to contact at any time prior that involved a domestic violence incident between the victim and the perpetrator. For New York City Probation Department, contact refers to the victim or the perpetrator being on probation at the time of the homicide and ever having a probation history.

Administration for Children's Services (ACS): For intimate partner homicides between 2010 and 2020, ACS had contact with 9 victims (2.5%, 9 of 365) and 9 perpetrators (2.4%, 9 of 371) in the 12 months prior to the homicide.

Department for the Aging (DFTA): For intimate partner homicides between 2010 and 2020, DFTA did not have any contact with victims or perpetrators of intimate partner homicides involving victims age 60 or older in the 12 months prior to the homicide.

Human Resources Administration (HRA): For intimate partner homicides between 2010 and 2020, HRA had contact with 21 victims (5.8%, 21 of 365) and 6 perpetrators (1.6%, 6 of 371) who had accessed domestic violence services in the 12 months prior to the homicide.

With regard to victims and perpetrators of the 2015-2020 intimate partner homicides, HRA had contact with 97 of 175 victims (55.4%) and 93 of 181 (51.4%) perpetrators for services including cash assistance, Supplemental Nutrition Assistance, and Medicaid in the 12 months prior to the homicide.

Between 2018 and 2020, HRA had contact with 7 (8.2%, 7 of 85) of victims and 10 (11.4%, 10 of 88) perpetrators of intimate partner homicides for services related to child support in the 12 months prior to the homicide.

New York City Mayor's Office to End Domestic and Gender-Based Violence (ENDGBV): For intimate partner homicides between 2010 and 2020, the New York City Family Justice Centers, which are operated by ENDGBV, had contact with 21 victims (5.8%, 21 of 365) and 5 perpetrators (1.3%, 5 of 371) in the 12 months prior to the homicide. Eleven (52.4%, 11 of 21) of the victims only had contact with the District Attorney's Office while the other 10 victims (47.6%) only had contact with other non-criminal justice services which included counseling, case management and civil legal services. Two of the perpetrators (40.0%, 2 of 5) had contact with only the District Attorney, while one other perpetrator (20.0%, 1 of 5) met with the District Attorney and received non-criminal justice services which included counseling, case management and civil legal services. The other two perpetrators (40.0%, 2 of 5) received non-criminal justice services at the Family Justice Centers.

New York City Housing Authority (NYCHA): For intimate partner homicides between 2010 and 2020, 41 intimate partner homicides (11.2%, 41 of 365) involved authorized or unauthorized residents of NYCHA.

Thirty-five of the homicide victims and 19 of the homicide perpetrators were residing at NYCHA. Among these, NYCHA had contact with 5 victims (14.3%, 5 of 35) and 2 perpetrators (10.5%, 2 of 19) involving 6 intimate partner homicides in the 12 months prior to the homicide. In 2020, none of the victims or perpetrators had contact with NYCHA in the 12 months prior to the homicide.

New York City Probation Department: For intimate partner homicides between 2018 through 2020, the only years for which Probation data are available, none of the homicide victims or perpetrators were on probation at the time of the homicide or within 12 months of the homicide.

New York City Police Department (NYPD): For intimate partner homicides between 2010 and 2020, the NYPD had a reported history with the victims and perpetrators in 38.6% (141 of 365) of the intimate partner homicides. In 29.8% (42 of 141) of the reported histories, the NYPD filed only a domestic incident report (DIR), while in the other 70.2% (99 of 141) there was a DIR and police complaint report (also referred to as a “61 report”) filed. According to NYPD records, in 12.3% (45 of 365) of intimate partner homicides there was an active order of protection at the time of the incident.

NEIGHBORHOODS MOST IMPACTED BY INTIMATE PARTNER HOMICIDES

In this report we identify the neighborhoods with the highest number of intimate partner homicides by ranking neighborhood areas by intimate partner homicide count and then dividing the list of 55 neighborhood areas into four approximately equal parts – or quartiles quarters.^{vii} The thirteen neighborhood areas within the top quartile are made up of fifteen community districts (CD). These CDs, with the highest number of intimate partner homicides from the 2015 through 2020 time period, account for 54.0% (94 of 174) of the intimate partner homicides yet account for 21.2% of the City’s population.^{viii} Table 6 below presents the New York City community districts in the top quartile.

Table 6: New York City Community Districts with the Highest Number of Intimate Partner Homicides – 2015 through 2020 (N=94)

	Community District(s)	Neighborhoods	# of IPV Homicides
1	Bronx 3/6	Claremont, Crotona Park, Melrose, Morrisania, Bathgate, Belmont, East Tremont, West Farms	17
2	Bronx 4	Concourse, Highbridge, Mount Eden	10
3	Bronx 9	Bronx River, Castle Hill, Clason Point, Parkchester, Soundview	8
4	Bronx 1/2	Melrose, Mott Haven, Port Morris, Hunts Point, Longwood	7
5	Manhattan 10	Central Harlem	7
6	Queens 12	Hollis, Jamaica, Rochdale, South Jamaica, St. Albans	7
7	Manhattan 12	Inwood, Washington Heights	7
8	Staten Isl. 1	Clifton, New Brighton, Park Hill, P Richmond, St. George, Tompkinsville	6
9	Bronx 5	Fordham, Morris Heights, Mount Hope, University Heights	5

10	Bronx 7	Bedford Park, Fordham, Kingsbridge Heights, Norwood, University Heights	5
11	Brooklyn 14	Ditmas Park, Flatbush, Midwood, Prospect Park South	5
12	Brooklyn 5	Cypress Hills, East New York, New Lots, Starrett City	5
13	Queens 14	Arverne, Breezy Point, Edgemere, Far Rockaway, Rockaway Park	5
Total			94

Eight of the fifteen community districts with the highest intimate partner homicide counts are in the Bronx, although every borough is represented on the list. These communities tend to have a higher percentage of Black and Hispanic residents, a higher percentage of unemployment and a higher percentage of residents living in poverty. Specifically, these neighborhoods had:

- A higher percentage of Black or African American residents compared to the rest of New York City (29.2% vs. 19.8%);
- A higher percentage of Hispanic or Latino residents compared to the rest of New York City (50.2% vs. 23.0%);
- A higher percentage of unemployed residents compared to the rest of New York City (9.6% vs. 6.2%); and
- A higher rate of residents living in poverty compared to the rest of New York City (28.6% vs. 16.1%).

Despite investments by the City and community-based organizations in services and programs for intimate partner violence victims, healthy relationship education programs, and public education campaigns and outreach, each year the FRC Report highlights the persistence of intimate partner violence in these communities, suggesting the cause(s) have deep roots. Change requires identification of and response to root causes of domestic violence, such as structural racism, heterosexism, sexism, and other interlocking and oppressive forces. Full understanding of how such forces obstruct intimate partner violence survivors' help-seeking requires ongoing engagement with residents. Iterative engagement and learning from community residents can then be transformed into culturally specific, strategic efforts responsive to each neighborhoods' perceptions, experiences, needs and assets to reduce intimate partner homicides.

RECOMMENDATIONS

To dislodge persistent disparities in intimate partner homicides as well as reduce intimate partner homicides for all New Yorkers, the Fatality Review Committee will continue to analyze the intimate partner homicide data and gather more information with the goal of identifying racially equitable policies, procedures and programs. Specifically, the FRC will:

1. Collaborate with FRC member agencies to inventory current efforts within the high intimate partner homicide neighborhoods that are addressing historic inequities and barriers to resources that center their services on intimate partner violence victims and survivors. ENDGBV has established several initiatives aimed at improving access to resources or prevention activities (see Table 7 and [ENDGBV Current Initiatives](#) and [NYC Domestic Violence Task Force](#)), and this action item would examine the reach of these services in the high intimate partner homicide neighborhoods as well as assimilate these newly established initiatives with those identified by the FRC's inventory.

2. Pilot activities to gather information from neighborhood residents in the neighborhoods that have the highest number of intimate partner homicides, Bronx Community Districts 3 and 6. Information will be gathered through focus groups and semi-structured interviews with survivors of intimate partner violence. These data collection methods will address barriers encountered in obtaining intimate partner services as well as identify neighborhood assets that could be amplified. Piloting will allow us to determine the most efficient ways to engage community members before scaling up to other impacted community districts.

3. Still focused on these two Bronx Community Districts, based on the inventory as well as the focus group and interview data, develop a culturally specific strategic plan to identify community-specific interventions that are centered in survivor feedback and reflective of the existing inventory of services. Once completed in Bronx Community Districts 3 and 6, the strategic planning process will begin to be implemented in other community districts experiencing a high number of intimate partner homicides.

Table 7: Highlighted Initiatives Aimed at Improving Access to Resources or Prevention Activities

Enhanced Access to Legal Services for Immigrant Survivors of Domestic Violence

In January 2018, the City expanded immigration legal services for domestic violence survivors to meet the needs of immigrants in their own communities. Collaborating with community-based organizations serving immigrant populations, the program focuses on providing holistic culturally responsive immigration legal assistance. The civil legal immigration services providers (Urban Justice Center and Sanctuary for Families) each partner with three local community based organizations to increase the capacity of these community based organizations, which have deep connections in their local immigrant communities, to screen clients for domestic violence while providing access to immigration legal services for survivors of domestic violence.

Early Relationship Abuse Prevention Program (Early RAPP)

In November 2018, ENDGBV, in partnership with the Human Resources Administration (HRA), announced the launch of the Early Relationship Abuse Prevention Program (RAPP). Building off the success of HRA's Relationship Abuse Prevention Program (RAPP), Early RAPP brings Community Educators to New York City middle schools. Early RAPP Community Educators from three community-based organizations (Day One, Rising Ground, and the Urban Resource Institute) facilitate interactive workshops with students, parents, caregivers, and community members, as well as professional development for school staff. Community Educators also connect students, families, and staff experiencing relationship abuse to critical support services in the community. The program is focused on schools within neighborhoods experiencing high rates of domestic violence.

Early Victim Engagement (EVE) Expands to Bronx and Staten Island

Early Victim Engagement (EVE) contacts victims of intimate partner violence by telephone immediately after a defendant is arraigned in Criminal Court. EVE provides victims with information about the case, the defendant's release status, and the existence of an order of protection, advises them about services and safety planning, and attempts to schedule appointments for victims to come to the District Attorney's (DA's) office. The EVE program was initially started in Brooklyn and a 2013 evaluation of the program by the New York City Criminal Justice Agency found that it increased the conviction rate in cases of intimate partner violence prosecuted in Brooklyn by nine percentage points (23.6% vs. 32.6%) and was incredibly successful in immediately connecting survivors to the District Attorney's Office and the NYC Family Justice Center in Brooklyn (BKFJC) for services; 71% of the victims who had an appointment scheduled by the EVE Program visited the District Attorney's Office, compared to 54% of those who were not contacted by EVE staff.^{ix}

DATA SOURCES

New York City Police Department (NYPD): The NYPD maintains information on domestic violence homicides and provides the NYC Domestic Violence Fatality Review Committee (FRC) with the location of each homicide and demographic information related to each victim and perpetrator. The NYPD determined the relationship between the perpetrator and victim and classified the relationship by intimate or other family members.

Contact with City Agencies: The FRC provided each agency member with identifiers (name, date of birth, address) for each victim and perpetrator of intimate partner homicide that occurred from 2010 through 2020, and the agencies independently cross-referenced the list with agency files and reported if the victims and/or perpetrators had any contact with the agency during the 12 months prior to the homicide.

United States Census and Population Estimates: The population data used in the report were obtained from the New York City Department of City Planning and are from the 2010 United States Census and the American Community Survey (ACS) multi-year estimates 2014-2018, the most current information available. Population counts for intimate partner homicide rate computations include individuals 15 years of age or older.

Interpreting Report Findings: Comparison of homicide counts over time and between subgroups must be interpreted with caution. While noteworthy changes from 2010 to 2020 are highlighted in the report, not all changes are statistically significant. Fluctuations in the intervening years reflect no discernible upward or downward trend. Statements about variation in the relative rate of domestic violence homicide across subgroups indicate that only observed associations cannot be interpreted casually.

2020 FATALITY REVIEW COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Cecile Noel, Commissioner, Mayor's Office to End Domestic and Gender-Based Violence; Doreen Jones (Mayoral Appointee); Valencia Craig (Mayoral Appointee); Jeehae Fischer, Executive Director, Korean American Family Services (Mayoral Appointee); Nathaniel Fields, Executive Director, Chief Executive Officer, Urban Resource Institute (Mayoral Appointee); David Hansell, Commissioner Administration of Children's Services (Designee: Susan Clee, Director); Lorraine Cortés-Vázquez, Commissioner, Department for the Aging (Designee: Aurora Salamone, Director, Elderly Crime Victims Resource Center); Daniel Nigro, Commissioner, New York City Fire Department (Designee: Patrick Flynn, Deputy Chief, EMS Operations); Michael E. McMahon, Richmond County District Attorney (Designee: Tuesday Muller-Mondi, Chief Special Victims Division); Steven Banks, Esq., Commissioner, Department of Social Services (Designee: Carol David, Assistant Deputy Commissioner, Emergency and Intervention Services, Office of Domestic Violence); Dave A. Chokshi, MD, MSc, Commissioner, Department of Health and Mental Hygiene (Designee: Catherine Stayton, DrPH, MPH, Director, Injury and Violence Prevention Program); Darcel D. Clark, Bronx County District Attorney (Designee: Kathryn Falasca, Assistant District Attorney, Homicide Bureau); James P. O'Neil, Commissioner, New York City Police Department (Designee: Kathleen White, Deputy Chief, Domestic Violence Unit); Greg Russ, Chair and Chief Executive Officer, New York City Housing Authority (Designee: Marina Oteiza, Borough Administrator, Family Partnerships Department); Ana M. Bermúdez, Commissioner, New York City Department of Probation (Designee: Robert Eusebio, Policy Advisor)

Endnotes

- ⁱ NYC Open Data, COVID-19 Daily Counts of Cases, Hospitalizations, and Deaths, data provided by Department of Health and Mental Hygiene, <https://data.cityofnewyork.us/Health/COVID-19-Daily-Counts-of-Cases-Hospitalizations-an/rc75-m7u3> (accessed July 6, 2021)
- ⁱⁱ Fisher, A. and Ryan, M. (2021). Gender inequalities during COVID-19. *Journal of Group Processes and Intergroup Relations*, 24(2), 237-245. Accessed at <https://journals.sagepub.com/doi/full/10.1177/1368430220984248> on June 16, 2021.
- ⁱⁱⁱ Governor Andrew M. Cuomo’s “New York State on PAUSE” executive order included a directive for all non-essential businesses statewide to close in-person operations starting 8pm on Sunday, March 22, 2020.
- ^{iv} ENDGBV COVID-19 RESPONSE WORK GROUP SUMMARY REPORT Supporting Survivors of Domestic and Gender-Based Violence from Crisis through Recovery (June 2020) accessed at: <https://www1.nyc.gov/assets/ocdv/downloads/pdf/crwg-summary-report-july-2020.pdf>; ENDGBV Social Media Outreach, Paid Advertising, and the NYC HOPE Resource Directory during COVID-19 (October 2020) accessed at: <https://www1.nyc.gov/assets/ocdv/downloads/pdf/ENDGBV-Social-Media-Outreach-Paid-Advertising-and-the-NYC-HOPE-Resource-Directory-during-COVID-19.pdf> and Evaluation Summary Report: Emergency Financial Relief Microgrants Program for Survivors of Domestic and Gender-Based Violence (May 2021) accessed at: <https://www1.nyc.gov/assets/ocdv/downloads/pdf/Emergency-Financial-Relief-Microgrants-Program-Evaluation-Summary-Report.pdf>
- ^v Table 6 within this report reflects the 15 community districts with the highest number of intimate partner homicides between 2015-2020. All of the community districts include the neighborhoods that were most impacted by the COVID19 pandemic. See: <https://www1.nyc.gov/site/trie/about/neighborhoods.page>
- ^{vi} Spencer, C. and Sith, S. (2020) Risk Factors for Male Perpetration and Female Victimization of Intimate Partner Homicide: A Meta-Analysis, *Journal of Trauma, Violence & Abuse* 21(3), 527-540.
- ^{vii} The City has 59 Community Districts and the New York City Department of City Planning reports American Community Survey results by Community District. However, the Census Bureau requires that no American Community Survey area have less than 100,000 people; to meet this requirement, several of the City’s 59 Community Districts are combined for reporting purposes into 55 Public Use Microdata Areas (PUMA) and referred to in this report as neighborhood areas. Bronx Community District 1 and 2 are combined into one PUMA, as are Bronx Community Districts 3 and 6, Manhattan Community Districts 1 and 2, and Manhattan Community Districts 4 and 5.
- ^{viii} While this report analyzes intimate partner homicide data for the 2010-2020 time period, this analysis focuses on the most recent 6 years of intimate partner homicide data. The narrower focus on most recent data will allow the FRC to identify community-specific interventions for communities currently impacted by a high number of intimate partner homicides. An analysis of the 2010 through 2020 time period showed that the community districts with the highest number of intimate partner homicides accounted for 49.3% (179 of 363) of the intimate partner homicides, but only 22.9% of the City’s population. Comparing the two-time period, 9 community districts appear on both lists: Brooklyn 3 and 6, Bronx 4, Bronx 9, Bronx 1 and 2, Manhattan 10, Manhattan 12, Bronx 5 and Brooklyn 5. Four community districts are included in the 2010 through 2020 analysis that do not appear on the 2015 through 2020 analysis: Brooklyn 16, Brooklyn 18, Bronx 12, and Queens 9.
- ^{ix} Peterson, Richard R. 2013. “The EVE Project.” Research Brief series, no. 31. New York: New York City Criminal Justice Agency, Inc. The research included EVE cases between April 1, 2009 through September 23, 2011.



Bill de Blasio
Mayor

**Mayor's Office to
End Domestic and
Gender-Based Violence**

Cecile Noel
Commissioner