

NEW YORK CITY DOMESTIC VIOLENCE FATALITY REVIEW COMMITTEE:

2017 ANNUAL REPORT



Bill de Blasio
Mayor

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

Cecile Noel
Commissioner



INTRODUCTION

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

This report provides a brief overview of all family-related homicides as required by Local Law 61 and details intimate partner homicides occurring between 2010 and 2016. Intimate partner homicides accounted for more than half of all family-related homicides over this time period (254 of 494).ⁱ Intimate partner relationships are between current or former spouses, dating partners, live-in partners or individuals with children in common. The report analyzes demographic factors of victims and perpetrators (e.g., age, gender, race, ethnicity and neighborhood) and community-level socioeconomic indicators that intersect with intimate partner homicide risk.

Key Findingsⁱⁱ

The total number of family-related homicides increased from 49 in 2015 to 63 in 2016. Over half (60.3%) of the 63 homicides in 2016 involved an intimate partner. Stark disparities are apparent in the 254 intimate partner homicides from 2010 to 2016:

- *Race and gender:* The majority of family-related homicide victims were women (61.1%). Black women were victims of intimate partner homicides at a rate three times higher than the rate among the rest of New York City.
- *Place:* From 2010-2016, the Bronx had the highest number of intimate partner homicides (78), as well as the highest per capita rate of intimate partner homicides—almost two times higher than the rate in any other borough.
- Between 2010 and 2016, 10.6% (27) of intimate partner homicides occurred at a NYCHA residence, while 4.6% of the City's population resides in a NYCHA residence.ⁱⁱⁱ
- *Relationship type:* From 2010-2016, opposite-sex boyfriend/girlfriend and spousal relationships accounted for the majority of intimate partner homicides (39.4% and 26.0%, respectively).
- *Homicide-Suicide:* Firearms were used in 63.9% of the 36 intimate partner homicide-suicides, compared with just 16.5% of the 218 intimate partner homicides that did not end in suicide.
- *Perpetrator:* The majority of the perpetrators of intimate partner homicides (83.7%, 215 of 257) were men, and over half (58.7%) of intimate partner homicide perpetrators were between 24 and 46 years old.

OVERVIEW: ALL FAMILY-RELATED HOMICIDES

In 2016, there were a total of 63 family-related homicides (Figure 1), a 28.6% increase from the 49 family-related homicides in 2015. 38 of the 63 family-related homicides in 2016 (60.3%) involved an intimate partner.

Figure 1. New York City Family-Related Homicides (2010-16) (N=494)

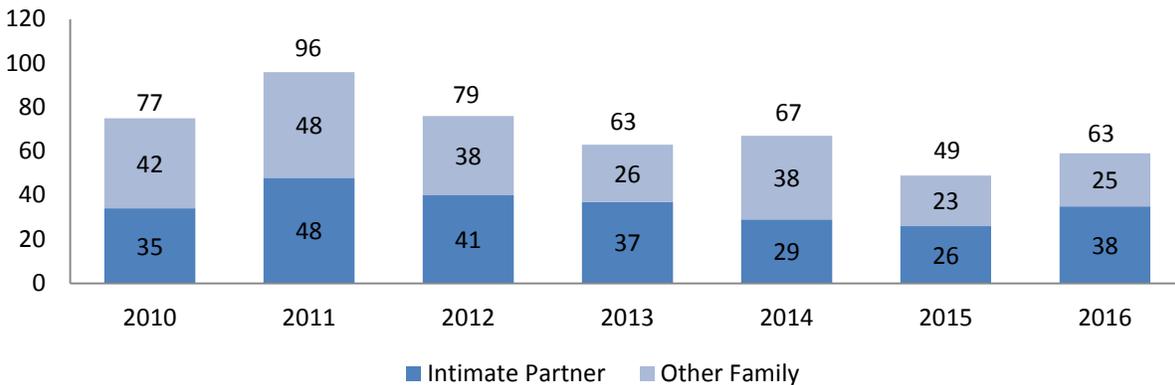
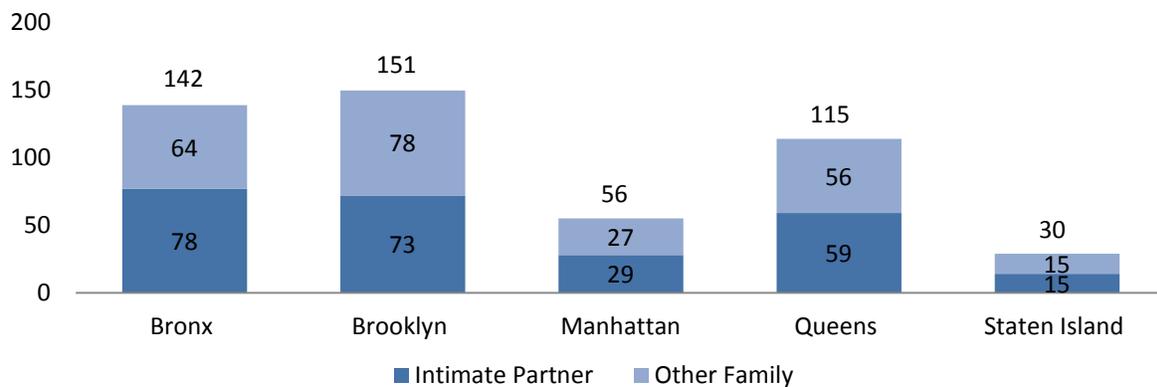


Figure 2 displays the distribution of family-related homicides by borough from 2010 to 2016. Over the seven-year period, Brooklyn had the highest number of family-related homicides (151).

Figure 2. Family-Related Homicides by Borough (2010-16) (N=494)



Tables 1, 2 and 3 display the distribution of family-related homicides by victim gender, race and age, respectively.^{iv}

- **Gender:** The majority of family-related homicide victims were women (61.3%); a greater proportion of intimate partner homicide victims compared to other forms of family-related homicides were women (76.7% vs. 45.0%, respectively).
- **Race:** The highest proportion of victims of all family-related homicides, intimate partner homicides and other family homicides (51.4%, 42.3% and 60.8%, respectively) were Black when compared to other racial groups.
- **Age:** Almost 1 in 5 (18.9%) family-related homicide victims were 10 years old or younger. None of these young victims were intimate partner homicide victims. The youngest victim of intimate partner homicide was 15 years old. Approximately 1 in 10 (11.9%) family-related homicide victims were older adults (60+ years).

	All Family-Related		Intimate Partner		Other Family	
	Number	Percentage	Number	Percentage	Number	Percentage
Women	302	61.1%	194	76.4%	108	45.0%
Men	192	38.9%	60	23.6%	132	55.0%
<i>Total</i>	<i>494</i>	<i>100.0%</i>	<i>254</i>	<i>100.0%</i>	<i>240</i>	<i>100.0%</i>

	All Family-Related		Intimate Partner		Other Family	
	Number	Percentage	Number	Percentage	Number	Percentage
Asian	40	8.1%	20	7.9%	20	8.3%
Black	253	51.2%	107	42.1%	146	60.8%
Hispanic	126	25.5%	81	31.9%	45	18.8%
White	72	14.6%	43	19.9%	29	12.1%
Unknown	3	0.6%	3	1.2%	0	0.0%
<i>Total</i>	<i>494</i>	<i>100.0%</i>	<i>254</i>	<i>100.0%</i>	<i>240</i>	<i>100.0%</i>

	All Family-Related		Intimate Partner		Other Family	
	Number	Percentage	Number	Percentage	Number	Percentage
<1-10	93	18.8%	0	0.0%	93	38.7%
11-17	13	2.6%	3	1.2%	10	4.2%
18-59	329	66.6%	227	89.4%	102	42.5%
60+	58	11.7%	23	9.0%	35	15.6%
Unknown	1	.2%	1	.4%	0	0.0%
<i>Total</i>	<i>494</i>	<i>100.0%</i>	<i>254</i>	<i>100.0%</i>	<i>240</i>	<i>100.0%</i>

INTIMATE PARTNER HOMICIDES

The following section is focused on the 254 intimate partner homicides between 2010 and 2016. These 254 intimate partner homicides involved 257 perpetrators.

Victim Demographics

Black women are disproportionately the victims of intimate partner homicide.

As shown in Table 4, there were 107 intimate partner homicides among Black women. After taking population distribution into account, the average annual rate of intimate partner homicide among Black women was 1.3 per 100,000 residents. This is the highest average annual rate among all racial x gender groups. Table 4 also presents the relative annual rate of intimate partner homicide among each racial x gender group. This is calculated by dividing the average annual rate among each group by the average annual rate among the *rest of New York City* (excluding the specific racial x gender group of interest). As shown in Table 4, Black women were victims of intimate partner homicides at a rate three times higher than the rate among the rest of New York City. As another example, Table 4 also shows that the relative annual rate of intimate partner homicide among White women is 0.8. This means that the rate of intimate partner homicide among White women is 20% lower than the rate among the rest of New York City.

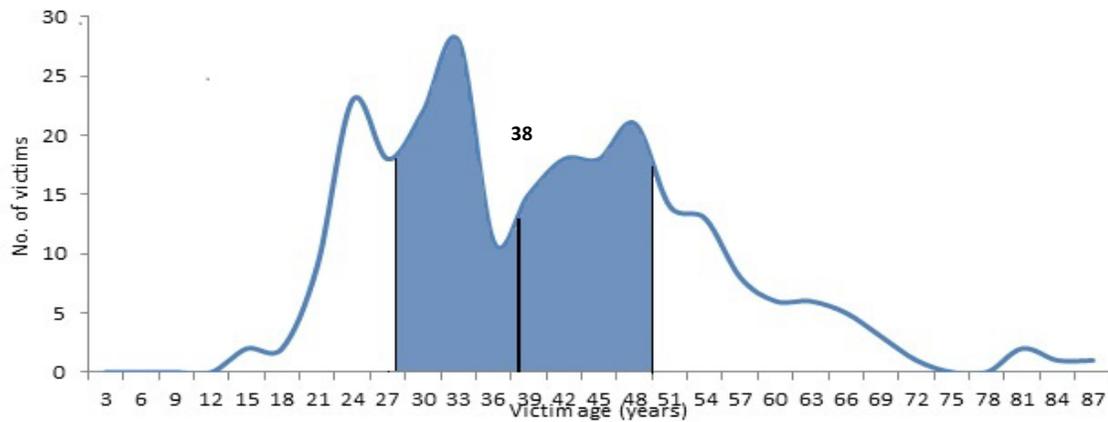
Table 4. Intimate Partner Homicides by Victim Gender and Race (2010-16) (N=251)

Race*	No. of intimate partner homicides	Average annual rate per 100,000 residents	Relative annual rate of intimate partner homicide
Men			
Asian	2	0.1	0.1
Black	26	0.6	1.1
Hispanic	23	0.3	0.6
White	9	0.1	0.2
Women			
Asian	18	0.5	1.0
Black	81	1.3	3.1
Hispanic	58	0.8	1.8
White	34	0.4	0.8
Citywide	251	0.5	-

*For three of the 2015 intimate partner homicide victims race could not be determined.

Intimate partner homicide victims range in age from 15 to 88 years, with the majority (55.3%) between the ages of 28 and 50 years (Figure 3). The median age of all victims was 38 years old.

Figure 3. Intimate Partner Homicides by Victim Age (2010-16)



Perpetrator Demographics

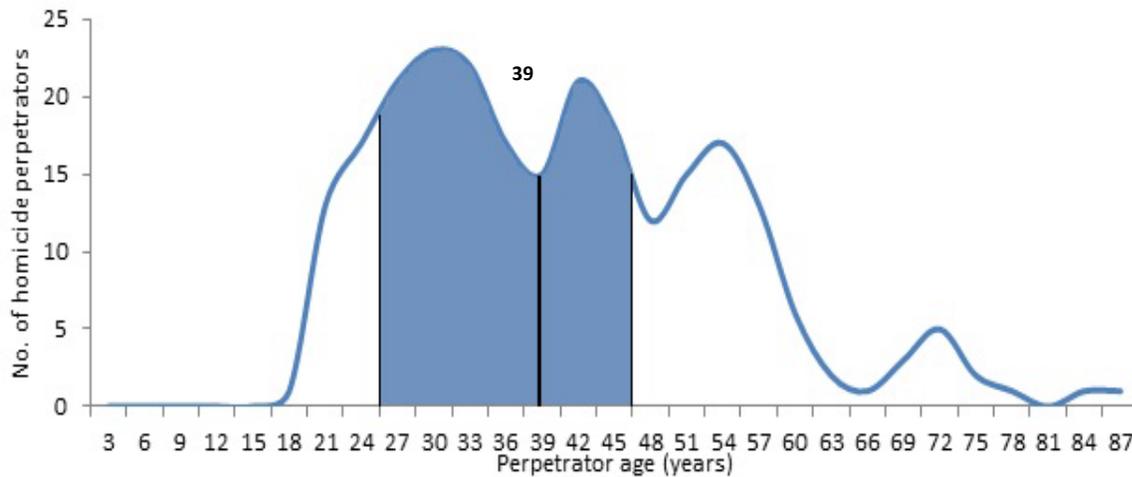
Below is a summary of the limited information available on the 257 intimate partner homicide perpetrators between 2010 and 2016. The majority of the perpetrators of intimate partner homicides (83.7%, 215 of 257) were men.

Table 5. Intimate Partner Homicides by Perpetrator Gender (2010-16) (N=257)

Gender	No. of Intimate Partner Homicides	% of Intimate Partner Homicides	% NYC Population
Men	215	83.7%	46.7%
Women	41	16.0%	53.2%
Unknown	1	0.4%	-

The majority (58.7%) of intimate partner homicide perpetrators was between 24 and 46 years old (Figure 4). Their median age was 39 years old. The age distributions of victims and their intimate partner homicide perpetrators were similar, with over half of victims and perpetrators (55.4%) within five years of age of each other.

Figure 4. Intimate Partner Homicides by Perpetrator Age (2010-16)^v



Perpetrator/Victim Relationship^{vi}

From 2010-2016, opposite-sex boyfriend/girlfriend and spousal relationships accounted for the majority of intimate partner homicides (39.4% and 26.0%, respectively). In 2016, opposite-sex boyfriend/girlfriend (including ex) accounted for 63.2% (24 out of 38) of intimate partner homicides.

Category	No. of Intimate Partner Homicides	% of Intimate Partner Homicides
Opposite-sex Boyfriend/Girlfriend	100	39.4%
Spouse	66	26.0%
Common Law	36	14.2%
Child in Common	27	10.6%
Same-sex Boyfriend/Girlfriend	14	5.5%
Ex-Boyfriend/Girlfriend	10	3.9%
Other	4	1.6%

The circumstances surrounding each homicide (victim and perpetrator demographics, location, etc.) do not vary significantly by relationship type.

Homicide-Suicide

From 2010-2016, 14.2% (36 of 254) of intimate partner homicides followed with the perpetrator's suicide. These incidents had distinct characteristics (see Appendix B for more details):

- **Gender:** All but one (97.2%, 35 out of 36) intimate partner homicide-suicide involved a perpetrator who was a man.
- **Race:** The proportion of intimate partner homicide-suicides involving Asian victims was twice that of other intimate partner homicides (13.8% vs. 6.9%, respectively).
- **Age:** The proportion of intimate partner homicide-suicides involving victims age 60 and over was almost twice that of other intimate partner homicides (13.9% vs. 8.3%, respectively).
- **Relationship type:** The proportion of intimate partner homicide-suicides involving a spouse was higher than that of other intimate partner homicides (36.1% vs. 24.3%, respectively).
- **Weapon:** The proportion of intimate partner homicide-suicides committed with a firearm was four times that of other intimate partner homicides (63.9% vs. 16.5%, respectively).

Intimate Partner Homicides Involving Other Family Members

From 2010 to 2016, there were 14 intimate partner homicides that also involved the death of another family member. A total of 32 individuals died in these 14 intimate partner homicides. In all but one case those other family members were the children of the intimate partners. Those family members include:

- **Children:** 13 of the 14 intimate partner homicides where there was the death of another family member involved a child age 17 or younger. Specifically,
 - 54% (7 of 13) of children were 2 years old or younger.
 - 46% (6 of 13) of the perpetrators were the child's father, while another 23% (3 of 13) were the child's stepfather.
- **Other Family Members:** In five (35.7%) of the 14 intimate partner homicides where there was the death of another family member, the death involved a non-child family member, such as a parent, in-law or brother/sister.
- **Suicide:** In 42% (6 of 14) of these homicides involving the death of another family member, the perpetrator also committed suicide. This type of intimate partner homicide ended in suicide more frequently than other types of intimate partner homicide ended in suicide (12.5%, 30 of 239).

Homicide Location

Rate of intimate partner homicide is highest in the Bronx.

The Bronx had the highest number of intimate partner homicides over 2010 to 2016 (78), as well as the highest per capita rate of intimate partner homicides, which accounts for population differences (0.9 homicides per 100,000 residents) (Table 7). 2016 was the fourth consecutive year that the Bronx led the City with the highest number of intimate partner homicides. Table 7 also presents the relative annual rate of intimate partner homicide in each borough. As described above, this is calculated by dividing the average annual rate in each borough by the average annual rate among the *rest of New York City* (excluding the specific borough of interest).

- The rate of intimate partner homicide in the Bronx is more than double the rate in the rest of New York City.
- The rate of intimate partner homicide in the Bronx relative to the rest of the City (2.1) is higher than the relative rate of all homicides in the Bronx (1.9).

Table 7. Intimate Partner Homicides by Borough (2010-16) (N=254)

Borough	No. of intimate partner homicides	Average annual rate per 100,000 residents	Relative annual rate of intimate partner homicide	Relative rate of all homicide
Bronx	78	0.9	2.1	1.9
Brooklyn	73	0.5	1.0	1.5
Manhattan	29	0.3	0.5	0.6
Queens	59	0.5	0.9	0.6
Staten Island	15	0.4	0.6	0.6
Citywide	254	0.5	-	-

Socioeconomic Status

Neighborhood rates of intimate partner homicides decrease as the neighborhood-level socioeconomic status (SES) increases.^{vii}

Residents of neighborhoods with concentrated disadvantage have been victims of intimate partner homicide at rates higher than residents of socially- and economically-advantaged neighborhoods.^{viii} Because the FRC does not have access to individual-level socioeconomic indicators for victims or perpetrators, we examined neighborhood-level socioeconomic indicators by community district. We created a composite SES measure composed of:^{ix}

- (1) Percentage of individuals living below the poverty level;
- (2) Percentage of residents age 25 and older who have not graduated high school;
- (3) Median household income; and
- (4) Percentage of the labor force that is unemployed.

We ranked each community district by this composite SES score and divided them into quartiles labeled very low, low, medium and high. The burden of intimate partner homicide in these quartiles is displayed in Table 9 (see Appendix C for a breakdown by community district).

Table 9. Intimate Partner Homicides by Neighborhood, Quartiled by SES Indicators (2010-16) (N=254)

SES quartile	No. of intimate partner homicides	Average annual rate per 100,000 residents	Relative annual rate of intimate partner homicide
Very Low	92	1.1	2.2
Low	63	0.6	1.0
Medium	55	0.5	0.8
High	44	0.4	0.5
Citywide	254	0.5	-

Table 9 also presents the relative annual rate of intimate partner homicide in each quartile. As described above, this is calculated by dividing the average annual rate in each quartile by the average annual rate among the *rest of New York City* (excluding the specific quartile of interest). Neighborhoods with very low socioeconomic indicators are over two times more likely to experience an intimate partner homicide than the rest of the City, and almost three times more likely than neighborhoods with high socioeconomic indicators.

Within each SES quartile, though, there are neighborhoods that depart from the anticipated level of intimate partner homicide. While the ten neighborhoods with the highest number of intimate partner homicides account for 42% of all homicides (Table 10), not all have the lowest neighborhood-level socioeconomic status. Six have a very low neighborhood-level socioeconomic status (SES), two have a low neighborhood level SES, one has a medium SES, and one has a high SES. Detailing this variation offers a foundation for probing additional risk and protective factors for intimate partner homicide.

Table 10. Neighborhoods with Highest Frequency of Intimate Partner Homicides with SES Indicator (2010-16) (N=254)

Community District/Neighborhood	No. of Intimate Partner Homicides	Neighborhood-level Socioeconomic Status
Bronx 4: Concourse/Mount Eden	15	Very Low
Queens 12: Jamaica/Hollis/Saint Albans	15	Low
Brooklyn 16: Brownsville	10	Very Low
Bronx 1: Hunts Point	10	Very Low
Bronx 12: Wakefield/Woodlawn	10	Low
Brooklyn 18: Canarsie/Flatlands	10	High
Bronx 3/6: Belmont/East Tremont	9	Very Low
Bronx 5: Morris Heights/Fordham South	9	Very Low
Brooklyn 5: East New York	9	Very Low
Queens 9: Richmond Hill/Woodhaven	9	Medium

Agency Contact

This section explores the documented pre-incident contacts between City agencies that are members of the New York City Domestic Violence Fatality Review Committee and the 254 victims and 257 perpetrators of the intimate partner homicides that occurred between 2010 and 2016. For all agencies except the NYPD, the contact referenced below occurred within the 12-months prior to the homicide. For the NYPD, contact refers to contact with the NYPD at any time prior to the homicide that involved a domestic violence incident report between the victim and the perpetrator. The following describes the level of contact victims and perpetrators had with individual City agencies:^x

Administration for Children’s Services (ACS): Between 2010 and 2016, ACS had contact with two victims (2 of 254, 0.8%) and three perpetrators (3 of 257, 1.2%) in the 12 months prior to the homicide. Eleven other victims (4.3%) and twelve perpetrators (4.7%) had contact with ACS as children on cases involving their parents.

New York City Department for the Aging (DFTA): Between 2010 and 2016 DFTA did not have any contact with the victims or perpetrators of intimate partner homicides involving victims age 60 or older in the 12 months prior to the homicide.^{xi}

Department of Homeless Services (DHS): Between 2010 and 2016, DHS had contact with 11 victims (11 of 254, 4.3%) and 15 perpetrators (15 of 257, 5.8%) in the 12 months prior to the homicide.

Human Resources Administration (HRA): Between 2010 and 2016, HRA had contact with 18 victims (18 of 254, 7.1%) and six perpetrators (6 of 257, 2.3%) who had accessed domestic violence services in the 12 months prior to the homicides.

In regards to victims and perpetrators of the 2015-2016 intimate partner homicides, HRA had contact with 62 of the 64 victims (96.9%) and 63 of the 67 perpetrators (94%) for services including cash assistance, Supplemental Nutrition Assistance and Medicaid.

New York City Housing Authority (NYCHA): Between 2010 and 2016, 27 intimate partner homicides (27 of 254, 10.6%) occurred at a NYCHA residence. Twenty-four of the homicide victims and 16 of the homicide perpetrators were NYCHA residents. Among these, NYCHA had contact with three victims (3 of 24, 12.5%) and two perpetrators (2 of 16, 12.5%) involved in four intimate partner homicides in the 12 months prior to the homicides. All the contact victims and perpetrators had with NYCHA was in relation to late rent.

New York City Police Department (NYPD): Between 2010 and 2016, the NYPD had contact with the victim and the perpetrator in 39.0% (99 of 254) of the intimate partner homicides. In 24.2% (24 of 99) of those contacts, the NYPD filed only a domestic violence incident report (DIR) involving the victim and the perpetrator, while in the other 75.8% (75 of 99) there was a DIR and a police complaint report (also referred to as a 61 report) filed. According to NYPD records, in 13.8% (35 of 254) of the intimate partner homicides there was an active order of protection involving the victim and the perpetrator.

Policy Recommendations

The distribution of intimate partner homicides in New York City shows pronounced disparities. Most notably, homicides occur more frequently in neighborhoods of low socioeconomic status and among Black women. Also, perpetrator and victim contact with City agencies varies greatly.

In November 2016, the Mayor announced the creation of the New York City Domestic Violence Task Force, which was charged with re-envisioning how New York City responds to domestic violence by developing a comprehensive citywide strategy to reduce domestic violence by intervening as early as possible; enhancing pathways to safety for survivors; and ensuring swift, effective and lasting enforcement to hold abusers accountable. The Task Force was comprised of experts from inside and outside of government, including service providers, lawyers, academics, law enforcement agencies, policy makers and survivors.

The Mayor's Office to Combat Domestic Violence and the Mayor's recently formed New York City Domestic Violence Task Force are aligning efforts to address these disparities, by equalizing, strengthening and innovating domestic violence prevention and intervention services. The Task Force released a comprehensive list of recommendations adopted and funded by the City. Seven million dollars is dedicated to expanding as well as creating services for victims, increasing training for City employees and expanding prevention efforts. To ensure the strong and resonant implementation of the recommendations, the City aims to establish an ongoing interdisciplinary Domestic Violence Task Force comprised of government agencies, community-based organizations, victim advocates and survivors.

With complementary missions to reduce domestic violence, including homicides, the FRC will work collaboratively with the Task Force as it works to implement the recommendations.

Prevention and Intervention

The Mayor's Office to Combat Domestic Violence (OCDV), the Mayor's Office of Criminal Justice and the City University of New York, Institute for State and Local Governance, supported the Task Force's work through information gathering activities, including surveying 26 city agencies and 84 community-based organizations about their domestic violence related practices and services and assessing experts' experiences with service delivery and systems operations.

After six weeks of work, the Task Force released a comprehensive set of 25 recommendations for targeted investments around four areas: (1) expanding child and youth prevention and intervention; (2) enhancing criminal justice system responses; (3) strengthening New York City communities; and (4) improving citywide coordination to maximize resources. These recommendations touch every FRC agency member:

Administration for Children's Services

1. Increasing resources for investigations: The Administration for Children's Services (ACS) uses investigative consultants to support prevention program service planning and ensure the safety of children, particularly those who are not yet school-aged. By expanding the use of investigative consultants to prevention cases, ACS will aim to more thoroughly investigate, identify and address domestic violence.
2. Enhancing domestic violence screening and training policies and practices at the Administration for Children's Services: OCDV will work with ACS to strengthen procedures to identify domestic violence in the course of a family's interaction with ACS. The agencies will work in tandem to develop enhanced domestic violence training and identify clearer pathways to link victims to services at the community-based organizations at the Family Justice Centers.

Bronx and Richmond County District Attorneys' Offices

3. Expand the Early Victim Engagement (EVE) Program: Expand an existing successful program to the Bronx and Staten Island that provides critical information to victims at the time of an offender's arraignment, thereby enhancing the victim's safety and ability to access resources and strengthening prosecution.

Department for the Aging

4. Expand PROTECT Program: The Department for the Aging (DFTA) and the Weill Cornell Medical Center have partnered to develop PROTECT, an evidence-based program that provides combined social work and mental health intervention to elder abuse victims. The City will expand PROTECT by offering the program to clients of DFTA's existing borough-based elder abuse programs. PROTECT will be offered in English and Spanish.

Department of Health and Mental Hygiene

5. Integrate Domestic Violence Training and Policies into ThriveNYC Initiatives: Victims of domestic violence have significantly higher rates of adverse mental health outcomes. OCDV will partner with ThriveNYC, a comprehensive mental health plan for the City, to discuss integrating domestic violence training and policies into ThriveNYC initiatives where appropriate.

New York City Fire Department

6. The New York City Fire Department (FDNY) will work with OCDV to enhance engagement with domestic violence victims: Firefighters, paramedics and EMTs are often the first point of service contact for victims, and it is critical that they have the skills and education necessary to appropriately respond.

Mayor's Office to Combat Domestic Violence

7. Expand access to services at the New York City Family Justice Centers (FJCs): OCDV will introduce evening hours one day per week at the three New York City Family Justice Centers with the highest client flow to accommodate victims who work or are otherwise unable to visit the FJC during the day. In addition, to meet the high demand for children's counseling, the FJCs in Brooklyn and the Bronx will each be staffed with one additional Spanish-speaking children's room counselor.
8. Create neighborhood-based roundtables and forums: FJCs will convene within the neighborhoods they serve community members and stakeholders in forums and discussions to ensure ongoing dialogue in communities across New York City, especially those with the highest incidences of domestic violence. By engaging communities, we are able to create additional touchpoints and pathways in communities for obtaining resources, training, services and information.

New York City Police Department

9. Expand Coordinated Approach to Preventing Stalking (CAPS) Program: The New York City Police Department (NYPD) and OCDV will collaborate with the District Attorney's Offices to expand a successful homicide prevention initiative that increases the identification and reporting of intimate partner stalking cases, enhance stalking arrests and prosecutions and link victims to critical services.

In addition to the agency-specific initiatives, three other recommendations aim to advance data sources and systems for monitoring the problem and assessing solutions.

1. Develop a data-driven approach to domestic violence: New York City maintains numerous data sources across criminal justice, social services and healthcare agencies that each contributes to the City's collective understanding of domestic violence. However, at present, these data resources are not analyzed in concert or linked, which limits the City's ability to grasp the full scope of the problem and develop strategic solutions. A new project to link or comprehensively analyze data sources will address this gap by helping the City to identify "pathways" that victims

and perpetrators follow through the system. This information will be used to design and implement interventions at key points to better respond to ongoing violence and prevent future abuse.

2. Standardize domestic violence measurement and reporting across City agencies: Coordinate and assist criminal justice, health and social services agencies in reviewing and modifying their domestic violence recording metrics to facilitate interagency measurement and reporting, including ensuring clarity and consistency in the use of definitions regarding domestic violence and intimate partner violence.
3. Implement tailored domestic violence risk assessment tools in the civil and criminal justice systems: Evidence-based risk and safety measurement tools have proved to be an important asset for law enforcement, prosecutors, judges, victim service providers and other professionals in identifying appropriate interventions and services for both victims and offenders. At present, few organizations and agencies in New York City use formal risk assessment tools for domestic violence. For those that do, there is little consistency in risk identification methods and little coordination when cases are identified as high risk. New York City will provide training and technical assistance to assist in identifying and implementing appropriate risk and safety tools for various key points in the criminal and civil justice systems.

The recommendations listed above are those that intersect with the work of the FRC. For a comprehensive list of all 27 recommendations of the Domestic Violence Task Force, please visit: <http://on.nyc.gov/2p1x775>.

Continued Collaborations

The FRC will continue to collaborate with the NYPD and the New York City Office of the Chief Medical Examiner (OCME) to further our understanding of the factors present in intimate partner homicide.

- In early 2017, the FRC initiated collaboration with the OCME to gain access to medical examiner records of intimate partner homicide victims and associated suicides. At present, we are assessing OCME records to determine what decedent and circumstance information can be systematically obtained and what analyses they can inform for the FRC.
- In the summer of 2017, we expanded our existing collaboration with the NYPD to conduct an in-depth, qualitative review of police records of family-related homicides that occurred in 2015 to 2016. This review builds upon previous work reviewing family-related homicides that occurred from 2013 to 2014. Extending the time period will allow for better identification of patterns and trends that could advance policies and procedures.

Through supporting the work of the New York City Domestic Violence Task Force, and our collaboration with the NYPD and OCME, we hope to begin to increase our understanding of the drivers of intimate partner homicide and opportunities for intervention.

Data Sources

NYPD Data: The NYPD maintains information on family-related homicides and provided the NYC Domestic Violence Fatality Review Committee with the location of each homicide and demographic information related to each victim and perpetrator. The NYPD determined the relationship between the perpetrator and victim and classified the relationship by intimate partner or other family member.

Contact with City Agencies: The NYC Fatality Review Committee provided each FRC member agency with identifiers (name, date of birth, address) for the victims and perpetrators of intimate partner homicides that occurred from 2010 through 2016, and the agencies independently cross-referenced that list with agency files and reported if the victim and/or perpetrator had any contact with the agency during the calendar year in which the homicide occurred and the calendar year prior to the homicide.

United States Census Population Estimates and the American Community Survey Multi-Year Estimates: The population data used in this report reflect American Community Survey Demographic and Housing Estimate, 2010-2014 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates obtained from the United States Census Bureau and the New York City Department of City Planning (City Planning). Population counts for intimate partner homicide rate computations include individuals 15 years of age and older. Individual-level indicators of socioeconomic status for victims and perpetrators were not available. Instead, City Planning provided United States Census poverty, median income, unemployment, and educational attainment data at the neighborhood community district level reflecting American Community Survey (ACS) multi-year estimates for 2010 to 2014, the most current data available for neighborhood-level analyses.

Interpreting Report Findings: Comparisons of homicide counts over time and between subgroups must be interpreted with caution. While noteworthy changes from 2010 to 2016 are highlighted in this report, not all changes were statistically significant. Fluctuations in the intervening years reflect no discernible upward or downward trend. Statements about variation in relative rate of homicide across subgroups indicate only observed associations that cannot be interpreted causally.

FRC Committee Members

Cecile Noel, Commissioner, Mayor's Office to Combat Domestic Violence; Karina Bernabe (Mayoral Appointee); Seven Brown (Mayoral Appointee); Beverly Tillery (Mayoral Appointee); Hanna Schlanger (Mayoral Appointee); David Hansell, Esq., Commissioner, Administration for Children's Services (Designee: B. Indira Ramsaroop, Senior Policy Analyst); Donna M. Corrado, PhD, Commissioner, Department for the Aging (Designee: Aurora Salamone, Director, Elderly Crime Victims Resource Center); Daniel Nigro, Commissioner, New York City Fire Department (Designee: Christina Mazzola, Deputy Chief, EMS Operations); Michael E. McMahon., Richmond County District Attorney's Office (Designee: Tuesday Muller-Mondi, Chief, Domestic Violence Bureau); Steven Banks, Esq., Commissioner, Human Resources Administration and Department of Homeless Services (Designees: Marie Philip, Deputy Commissioner, Emergency and Intervention Services, Office of Domestic Violence and Fabienne Laraque, MD, MP, Medical Director); Mary Bassett, MD, 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's Office (Designee: Amy Litwin, Chief, Domestic Violence Bureau); James P. O'Neil, Commissioner, New York City Police Department (Designee: Martin Morales, Deputy Chief, Domestic Violence Bureau); Shola Olatoye, Chair and Chief Executive Officer, New York City Housing Authority (Designee: Ukah Busgith, Senior Director, Family Partnerships Department).

Acknowledgements

The Committee members would like to express their appreciation to:

Susan Resnick, Deputy Director GIS Unit, New York City Department of Health for assisting the Committee with creating the maps in this report.

Appendix A: Family-Related Homicide Data by Year: 2010-16

Year/Characteristics	Intimate Partner							Other Family							Total
	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	
Total Number of Homicides	35	48	41	37	29	26	38	42	48	38	26	38	23	25	494
Victim by Gender															
Child Female	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	23	17	3	0	0	0	5	50
Adult Female	29	34	33	27	20	20	29	19	30	6	0	0	0	5	252
Child Male	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	13	11	14	10	6	63
Adult Male	6	14	7	9	8	6	9	0	1	16	15	24	13	9	129
Victim by Age															
<1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	8	5	6	3	3	6	5	36
1-10	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	13	11	6	8	11	3	5	57
11-17	0	0	1	1	1	0	0	2	1	5	0	0	1	1	13
18-24	3	9	6	3	2	2	6	2	2	2	5	4	1	3	50
25-29	9	2	6	4	2	6	7	4	2	1	1	3	2	3	52
30-34	2	9	5	6	4	6	4	0	2	4	1	0	0	0	43
35-39	2	6	3	5	5	0	3	0	3	1	1	3	1	3	36
40-44	7	7	4	6	2	3	4	0	2	2	2	4	2	0	45
45-49	3	5	3	5	4	3	5	3	2	1	1	0	0	0	35
50-54	5	3	5	3	2	4	2	2	2	3	1	3	3	0	38
55-59	1	1	3	3	3	1	1	4	5	0	1	1	3	3	30
60+	3	6	5	0	4	1	4	4	11	7	2	6	1	4	58
Unknown	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Victim by Race															
Asian	1	3	7	0	4	3	2	3	3	0	5	3	2	4	40
Black	19	16	12	18	11	13	18	30	26	25	17	23	12	13	253
Hispanic	9	18	11	11	9	9	14	3	12	9	2	6	7	6	126
White	6	11	11	5	5	1	4	6	7	4	2	6	2	2	72
Other/Unknown	0	0	0	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3
Borough of Homicide															
Bronx	9	14	12	7	10	10	16	9	13	15	9	5	6	7	142
Brooklyn	13	16	11	16	6	3	8	15	15	13	10	13	7	5	151
Manhattan	5	10	4	3	1	3	3	3	5	5	2	3	4	5	56
Queens	7	7	11	9	11	9	5	8	13	4	5	16	5	5	115
Staten Island	1	1	3	2	1	1	6	7	2	1	0	1	1	3	30
Method/Weapon															
Cutting/Knife	14	26	19	20	19	11	17	16	12	10	12	13	4	9	202
Firearm	5	7	11	7	5	12	12	4	11	4	5	7	7	3	100
Blunt Trauma	10	8	5	6	4	1	2	8	9	8	4	11	8	4	88
Asphyxiation	3	4	2	3	0	0	1	3	7	4	2	3	1	2	35
Physical Force	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	1	4	0	0	1	1	2	11
Shaken Baby	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	3	2	1	2	2	12
Strangulation	3	0	1	0	1	2	4	2	0	1	0	1	0	1	16
Other	0	3	3	1	0	0	0	6	5	8	1	1	0	2	30

Appendix B: Comparing Intimate Partner Homicides That End in Perpetrator Committing Suicide to Intimate Partner Homicides That Do Not End in Perpetrator Suicide: 2010-16

Demographics	IPV Homicide with Perpetrator Suicide (N=36)		Other IPV Homicides (N=218)	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Gender				
Women	1	2.8%	39	17.9%
Men	35	97.2%	177	81.2%
Race				
Asian	5	13.8%	15	6.9%
Black	13	36.1%	94	43.1%
Hispanic	11	30.6%	69	32.1%
White	6	16.7%	37	17.0%
Unknown	1	2.8%	2	1%
Age				
11-17	0	0%	3	1.4%
18-24	3	8.3%	28	13.3%
25-29	5	13.9%	32	14.7%
30-34	7	19.4%	29	13.3%
35-39	3	8.3%	21	9.6%
40-44	7	19.4%	26	11.9%
45-49	2	5.6%	26	11.9%
50-54	3	8.3%	21	9.6%
55-59	1	2.8%	12	5.5%
60+	5	13.9%	18	8.3%
Unknown	0	0%	1	.5%
Relationship Type				
Opposite-sex Boyfriend/Girlfriend	11	30.6%	89	40.8%
Spouse	13	36.1%	53	24.3%
Common Law	5	13.8%	31	14.2%
Child in Common	2	5.6%	25	11.5%
Same-sex Boyfriend/Girlfriend	1	2.8%	13	6.0%
Ex-Boyfriend/Girlfriend	4	11.1%	6	2.8%
Other	0	0	1	.5%
Weapon				
Cutting/Knife	7	19.4%	119	54.6%
Firearm	23	63.9%	36	16.5%
Blunt Trauma	3	8.3%	33	15.1%
Asphyxiation	0	0%	13	6.0%
Physical Force	0	0%	2	.9%
Shaken Baby	0	0%	0	0%
Strangulation	1	2.8%	10	4.6%
Other	2	5.6%	5	2.3%

**Appendix C: Intimate Partner Homicide Data by Neighborhood-level Socioeconomic Status (SES):
2010-16**

Community Board	Neighborhood	Homicides 2010-16	LES Point Education	LES Point Poverty	LES Point Income	LES Point Unemployment	Total	LES Level
Very Low								
BK16	Brownsville	10	1	1	1	1	4	VL
BX1/2	Hunts Point/Melrose	11	1	1	1	1	4	VL
BX3/6	Belmont/East Tremont	9	1	1	1	1	4	VL
BX4	Concourse/Mount Eden	15	1	1	1	1	4	VL
BX5	Morris Heights/Fordham South	9	1	1	1	1	4	VL
BX7	Bedford Park/Fordham North	4	1	1	1	1	4	VL
BX9	Castle Hill/ Park Chester	6	1	1	1	1	4	VL
BK4	Bushwick	3	1	1	2	1	5	VL
MN12	Washington Heights/Inwood	9	1	2	1	1	5	VL
BK3	Bedford-Stuyvesant	7	2	1	2	1	6	VL
BK5	East New York	9	2	1	1	2	6	VL
Low								
BK7	Sunset Park/Winsor Terrace	2	1	2	2	2	7	L
BX11	Pelham Parkway/Morris Park	4	2	2	2	1	7	L
MN10	Central Harlem	5	2	2	1	2	7	L
MN11	East Harlem	2	2	1	1	3	7	L
MN3	Chinatown/ Lower East Side	2	1	1	2	3	7	L
BK12	Borough Park/Kensington	0	2	1	1	4	8	L
BK8	Crown Heights North/ Prospect Heights	2	2	2	2	2	8	L
BK9	Crown Heights South/Prospect Lefferts	1	3	2	2	1	8	L
BX12	Wakefield/Woodlawn	10	3	2	2	1	8	L
QN3	Jackson Heights/North Corona	2	1	2	2	3	8	L
BK13	Brighton Beach/Coney Isl.	2	3	2	1	3	9	L
BK14	Flatbush/ Midwood	7	3	2	2	2	9	L
MN9	Hamilton Heights/West Harlem	1	2	2	2	3	9	L
QN12	Jamaica/Hollis/Saint Albans	15	2	3	3	1	9	L
QN14	Far Rockaway/Broad Channel	4	2	2	2	3	9	L
QN4	Elmhurst/ South Corona	4	1	2	2	4	9	L
Medium								
BK11	Bensonhurst/Bath Beach	3	1	3	3	3	10	M
BK17	East Flatbush	3	3	3	2	2	10	M
QN9	Richmond Hill/Woodhaven	9	2	3	3	2	10	M
BK1	Greenpoint/Williamsburg	4	3	1	3	4	11	M
BX8	Riverdale/Kingsbridge	4	3	3	3	2	11	M
QN1	Astoria/Long Island City	5	3	3	3	2	11	M
QN10	Howard Beach/ Ozone Park	1	2	3	4	2	11	M
QN7	Flushing/Whitestone	7	2	3	3	3	11	M
SI1	Port Richmond/Stapleton	4	3	2	3	3	11	M
BK10	Bay Ridge/Dyker Heights	3	3	3	3	3	12	M

BK15	Sheepshead Bay/Gerritsen Beach	4	3	3	3	3	12	M
BX10	Co-op City/Pelham Bay	5	3	4	3	2	12	M
QN5	Ridgewood/Glendale/Middle Village	1	3	3	3	3	12	M
QN8	Fresh Meadows/Hillcrest	2	3	3	3	3	12	M
High								
BK2	Brooklyn Heights/Fort Greene	2	4	3	4	2	13	H
QN2	Sunnyside/Woodside	2	3	3	3	4	13	H
BK18	Canarsie/Flatlands	10	4	4	4	2	14	H
QN13	Queens Village/Cambria Heights/Rosedale	6	4	4	4	2	14	H
BK6	Park Slope/Carrol Gardens/Red Hook	1	4	4	4	3	15	H
MN4/5	Chelsea/Clinton/Midtown	4	4	4	4	3	15	H
MN1/2	Battery Park City/Greenwich Village/SoHo	3	4	4	4	4	16	H
MN6	Murray Hill/Gramercy/Stuyvesant Town	0	4	4	4	4	16	H
MN7	West Side/Upper West Side	3	4	4	4	4	16	H
MN8	Upper East Side	1	4	4	4	4	16	H
QN11	Bayside/Douglaston/Little Neck	1	4	4	4	4	16	H
QN6	Forest Hills/Rego Park	0	4	4	4	4	16	H
SI2	New Springville/South Beach	7	4	4	4	4	16	H
SI3	Tottenville/Great Kills/Annadale	4	4	4	4	4	16	H

ⁱ This report divides family-related homicides into intimate partner homicides and homicides involving other family members. In 16 of the intimate partner homicides there were multiple victims of which 20 victims were other family members. The 20 victims who were other family members included: 13 children, 2 boyfriend/girlfriend of a previous intimate partner, a brother, an in-law and three other victims no further identified by relationship to the perpetrator.

ⁱⁱ Relative rates were calculated for the three key findings and all were statistically significant at the alpha=0.05 level (p-value for all <0.0001).

ⁱⁱⁱ New York City Housing Authority 2017 Fact Sheet. See, <http://www1.nyc.gov/assets/nycha/downloads/pdf/factsheet.pdf>

^{iv} The youngest victim of an intimate partner homicide was 15, and therefore, the population rates for intimate partner homicides were calculated utilizing the population age 15 and older. For other family and family-related homicides all age groups were considered in the population. Population data was obtained from the New York City Department of Planning website accessing table DPO5: ACS Demographic and Housing Estimate, 2010-2014 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates.

^v For one of the intimate partner homicides in 2012 the age of the perpetrator is not known.

^{vi} Perpetrator/victim relationship is defined by the NYPD and falls within the following mutually exclusive categories: Boyfriend/girlfriend; Ex-boyfriend/girlfriend; Child in common; Common law; Spouse; Same sex; and Other. All categories except 'Same sex' include opposite-sex relationships only. Additionally, 'Child in common' is only used for perpetrator-victim dyads who have a child in common and are not married.

^{vii} Each community district, based on the New York City Department of City Planning, 2011-2014 American Community Survey 3-Year Estimates, Selected Economic Characteristics, was assigned a rank using quartiles to create the socioeconomic index. Each set of the four indicators ((1) the percentage of individuals living below the poverty level; (2) the percentage of residents age 25 and older who has not graduated from high school; (3) the median household income; and (4) the percentage of the labor force that is unemployed) was ranked from one to four based on the quartiles (from high to low). The lower numbers represent lower SES and the higher numbers represent higher SES. These rankings add together to create a SES index for the four indicators. 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). 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} Burke, J. O'Campo, P. and Peak, G., Neighborhood Influence and Intimate Partner Violence: Does Geographic Setting Matter, *Journal of Urban Health: Bulletin of the New York Academy of Medicine*, Vol. 83 (2): 182-194 (March 2006); O'Campo P., Gielen A.C., Faden R.R., Xue X., Kass N., Wang M.C., Violence by Male Partners Against Women During the Childbearing Years: A Contextual Analysis, *American Journal of Public Health*, Vol. 85(8): 1092-1097 (August 1995); O'Campo, P. Burke, J., Peak, G., McDonnell, K. and Gielen, A., Uncovering Neighborhood Influence on Intimate Partner Violence Using Concept Mapping, *Journal of Epidemiology and Community Health*, Vol. 59: 603-608 (2005) and Miles-Doan, R., Violence Between Spouses and Intimates: Does Neighborhood Context Matter?, *Social Forces*, December 1, 1998.

^{ix} Community Districts with the lowest socioeconomic indicators had greater than 26.1% of residents living below the poverty level; greater than 27% of residents 25 and older not obtaining a high school diploma; a median household income of less than \$38,274 and an unemployment rate of greater than 8%.

^x Agency matching is completed through the victim and perpetrator's first and last name and date of birth. Utilizing only these two data points may not allow for the identification of all victims and perpetrators who had previous contact with a city agency. Therefore, it may be possible that the statistics presented in this report may under count of victims and perpetrator who had contact.

^{xi} Previous FRC reports reflected that DFTA had contact with two intimate partner homicide victims. Subsequent review of previously provided data indicates that these victims had contact with Adult Protective Services and not DFTA.



Bill de Blasio
Mayor

**Mayor's Office to
Combat Domestic
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Cecile Noel
Commissioner