

NEW YORK CITY DOMESTIC VIOLENCE FATALITY REVIEW COMMITTEE:

2015 ANNUAL REPORT



Bill de Blasio
Mayor

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

Cecile Noel
Commissioner



Introduction

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

This report describes 914 domestic violence homicides, involving 881 perpetrators, that occurred in New York City from 2002 through 2014, with regards to demographic factors (e.g., age, gender, race, ethnicity, and neighborhood), victim and perpetrator contact with City agencies, and the community level socioeconomic circumstances that intersect with family-related violence.

In 2014, there were 63 family-related homicides, accounting for almost 1 out of every 5 homicides in New York City. Homicide reflects the most extreme outcome of family-related violence, and makes up only a small fraction of all crimes that are classified as family related. A broader indicator of the impact of domestic violence in the City is the number of domestic violence incidents recorded by the police. Last year, the police responded to 282,648 domestic violence incidents.

According to Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) supplemental homicide data, in 2013, New York City had the lowest rate of family-related homicides – 6 per one million residents – compared to the 10 largest cities in the United States (U.S.). Further, between 2009 and 2013, New York City had the lowest average rate of family-related homicides and intimate partner homicides committed with a firearm among the 10 largest cities in the U.S. – 1.4 family-related homicides and 0.9 intimate partner homicides per one million residents. Intimate partner homicides comprise a subgroup within the definition of family-related homicides and refer to individuals who are currently or were previously married, divorced, living together, dating, or have a child in common.

While family-related homicides occur in neighborhoods across the City, they are approximately 65% more likely to occur in neighborhoods with very low socioeconomic status indicators – high poverty rates and low median household income, employment rates, and high school graduation rates. However, not all neighborhoods with these socioeconomic demographics experience a high frequency of family-related homicides. This suggests that we need to identify other neighborhood factors that contribute to a concentration of homicide in certain neighborhoods.

An overview of new initiatives and recommendations to improve prevention and public education strategies, as well as policy recommendations to create greater support to end domestic violence, are included on page 14.

Key Findings

Compared to 2002, Family-related Homicides Have Declined: Family-related homicides have demonstrated an overall decline of 17% – from 76 in 2002 to 63 in 2014. However, when compared to 2013, family-related homicides have remained relatively unchanged – from 62 in 2013 to 63 in 2014.

Compared to 2002, Intimate Partner Homicides Have Declined: Intimate partner homicides have demonstrated an overall decline of 34% – from 41 in 2002 to 27 in 2014.

New York City Has the Lowest Rates of Family-related and Intimate Partner Homicide Incidents Committed with a Firearm: Between 2009 and 2013, New York City had the lowest average rate of family-related homicide incidents committed with a firearm among the 10 largest cities in the U.S. – 1.4 family-related homicide incidents per one million residents. In addition, during the same time period, New York City had the lowest average rate among the 10 largest cities in the U.S. for intimate partner homicide incidents committed with a firearm – 0.9 per one million residents.

What is Domestic Violence?

Domestic violence is a pattern of coercive and abusive behavior intended to gain and maintain power and control over a family member or intimate partner. Abusive behaviors can include physical violence (hitting, punching, strangling, grabbing); economic control (taking a pay check, threatening to end financial support, forcing to quit work); emotional abuse (humiliating, insulting, blaming); sexual abuse (coercing or forcing sexual activity, refusing to practice safe sex); intimidation or threats (threatening to commit suicide; threatening to harm or kill a person, child, or pet; immigration-related threats); or isolation or extreme jealousy/possessiveness (stalking, accusing of cheating, isolating from friends/family). Domestic violence can impact anyone regardless of age, race, gender identity or expression, sexual orientation, socioeconomic status or ability status.

Domestic violence occurs in relationships in the home, including those involving intimate partners (married, divorced, dating, children in common) and those involving other family members (parent/child, grandparent/grandchild, siblings, and cousins). Prior to 2009, the definition of family-related homicide did not include individuals in current or former boyfriend/girlfriend intimate partner relationships, but has since been expanded. From 2002 through 2014, intimate partners accounted for **51%** (469 of 914) of all family-related homicides; homicides involving the death of a child accounted for **23%** (213 of 914) of family-related homicides; homicides involving other family members accounted for **25%** (232 of 914) of family-related homicides.

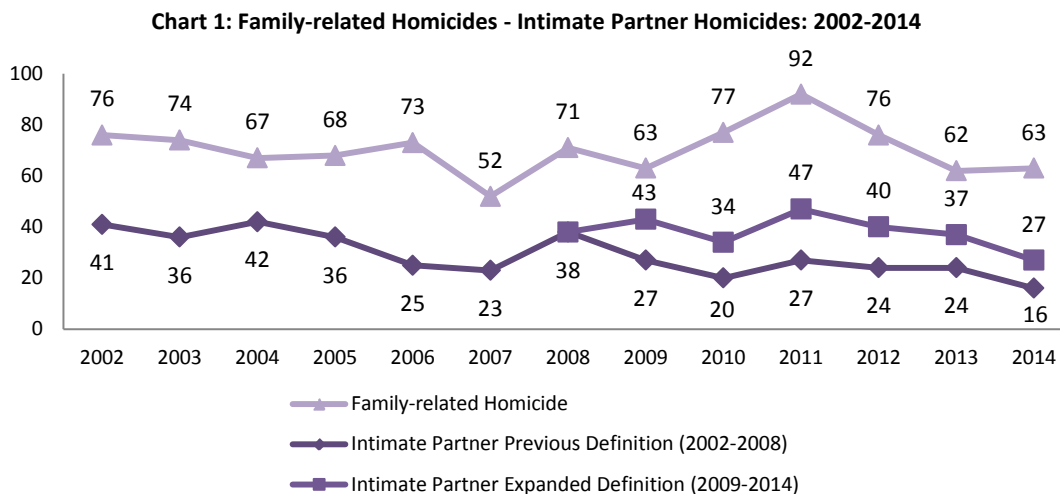
Domestic Violence Homicides Have Declined

From 2002-2014

- The number of family-related homicides decreased overall by 17% from 76 in 2002 to 63 in 2014. The decline is even more pronounced when applying the narrower pre-2009 definition to 2009-2014 data: decreasing 32% from 76 in 2002 to 52 in 2014.
- Family-related homicides involving intimate partners of the perpetrators decreased overall by 34% from 41 in 2002 to 27 in 2014. Again, the decline is more pronounced when applying the narrower pre-2009 definition: decreasing 61% from 41 in 2002 to 16 in 2014.

From 2013-2014

- The number of family-related homicides remained relatively unchanged from 62 in 2013 to 63 in 2014. Family-related homicides involving intimate partners of the victims declined by 27% – from 37 in 2013 to 27 in 2014.



2002-2014: Family-related Homicides Disproportionately Impact Females, Black Residents, and Children Less than 1 Year of Age

- 66% (465 of 700) of adult family-related homicide victims were female, while 51% (110 of 214) of child family-related homicide victims were male. Female adults are 44% more likely to be victims of family-related homicides than other demographic groups (see Appendix B, Table A3).¹
- 49% (445 of 914) of family-related homicide victims were Black. In fact, Black residents are over 3 times more likely to be victims of family-related homicide than residents of other racial/ethnic groups (see Appendix B, Table A3).

¹ Refer to Appendix B for results of risk analyses and significance tests.

- Almost 9% (81 of 914) of family-related homicide victims were children under 1 year of age; only 1.3% of New York City's population is under 1 year of age. Children under 1 year of age are over 7 times more likely to be victims of family-related homicide than individuals of other ages (see Appendix B, Table A3).²

Table 1: Demographics of Family-related Homicides – 2002-2014

Gender	% (Number)	% NYC Population
Male Child	12.0% (110)	11.0%
Male Adult	25.7% (235)	36.5%
Female Child	11.4% (104)	10.6%
Female Adult	50.9% (465)	41.9%
Race/Ethnicity	% (Number)	% NYC Population
Black	48.7% (445)	22.8%
Hispanic	28.7% (262)	28.6%
White	14.6% (133)	33.3%
Asian/Indian	7.5% (69)	12.6%
Other	<1% (5)	2.7%
Age	% (Number)	% NYC Population
<1	8.9% (81)	1.3%
1-10	11.9% (109)	11.9%
11-17	2.6% (24)	8.4%
18-24	10.3% (94)	10.6%
25-29	9.8% (90)	8.9%
30-34	9.8% (90)	8.1%
35-39	8.6% (79)	7.2%
40-44	9.5% (87)	6.9%
45-49	6.8% (62)	6.9%
50-54	6.2% (57)	6.6%
55-59	5% (46)	5.8%
60+	10.3% (94)	17.2%
Unknown	<1% (1)	

A Disproportionate Number of Family-related Homicides Occur in the Bronx and Brooklyn

- 25% (226 of 914) of family-related homicides occurred in the Bronx, while a smaller proportion of the city population (16.9%) resides there. This differential corresponds to a 61% higher risk of occurrence in the Bronx compared to other boroughs (see Appendix B, Table A4).
- 36% (325 of 914) of family-related homicides occurred in Brooklyn, while a smaller proportion of the city population (30.6%) resides there. This differential corresponds to a 25% higher risk of occurrence in Brooklyn compared to other boroughs (see Appendix B, Table A4).

² In a recent report, the New York City Child Fatality Review Advisory Team presented data on fatal injuries among children in New York City from 2002 through 2011 aged 0 through 17. These fatal injuries include homicides, as per International Classification of Disease code, Version 10. The report, *Understanding Child Injury Deaths*, New York City Department of Mental Health and Hygiene: February 2014, can be accessed at: <http://www.nyc.gov/html/doh/downloads/pdf/ip/ip-nyc-inj-child-fatality-report13.pdf>.

Table 2: Family-related Homicides by Borough – 2002-2014

Borough	% (Number)	% NYC Population
Brooklyn	35.6% (325)	30.6%
Bronx	24.7% (226)	16.9%
Queens	22.5% (206)	27.3%
Manhattan	12.8% (117)	19.4%
Staten Island	4.4% (40)	5.7%

Family-related Homicides are Concentrated in a Few NYC Communities

- Since 2002, 38% (351 of 914) of family-related homicides occurred in 15 of the 77 police precincts that comprise just 19% of the population: six in Brooklyn (69th, 73rd, 75th, 77th, 79th, and 81st), five in the Bronx (42nd, 43rd, 44th, 46th, and 48th), two in Manhattan (25th and 32nd), one in Queens (103rd), and one in Staten Island (120th).
- In 2014, these 15 precincts accounted for 36% (101,665 of 282,648) of domestic incidents recorded by the New York City Police Department (NYPD).
- A map reflecting the number and rate of family-related homicides by precinct between 2002 and 2014 and a map reflecting the number of domestic violence incident reports by precinct from 2014 can be found in Appendix C.

Table 3. Family-related Homicides: 15 Precincts with Highest Approximate Rate (per 10,000 people) – 2002-2014

Police Precinct	Homicides per 10,000 (n)	Police Precinct	Homicides per 10,000 (n)	Police Precinct	Homicides per 10,000 (n)
Brooklyn		Bronx		Manhattan	
69	2.2 (19)	42	2.0 (16)	25	2.1 (10)
73	4.3 (37)	43	2.0 (35)	32	2.3 (16)
75	2.0 (36)	44	1.9 (28)	Queens	
77	2.2 (20)	46	2.3 (30)	103	2.6 (27)
79	1.9 (17)	48	2.0 (17)	Staten Island	
81	3.3 (21)			120	1.9 (22)

Approximately 4 of every 10 Family-related Homicides Occur in Neighborhoods with Very Low Socioeconomic Status

- Since 2004, 37% (275 of 751) of family-related homicides have occurred in neighborhoods with very low socioeconomic status indicators³ – high poverty rates and low median household income, employment rates, and high school graduation rates. These neighborhoods are about 66% more likely to have family-related homicides than other New York City neighborhoods (see Appendix B, Table A5).

³ The American Community Survey, Multi Year Periods 2011-2013, was utilized for poverty, median household income, employment, and educational attainment calculations. Quartiles were produced with the Public Use Microdata Areas, which are approximations of New York City’s 59 Community Districts, to determine if a community district is within very low, low, medium, or high socioeconomic status classifications. Neighborhoods identified as having very low socioeconomic status are Brooklyn: Bedford-Stuyvesant, Brownsville, Bushwick and East New York/Starrett City; Bronx: Bedford, Concourse, Crotona, Fordham, Highbridge, Huntspoint, Kingsbridge, Longwood, Melrose, Mott Haven, Morrisania, Parkchester, Soundview and University Heights; and Manhattan: Washington Heights/Inwood.

- 40% (301 of 751) of the family-related homicide victims resided in communities with the highest percentage of residents living below the poverty level⁴, yet only 25% of the City's population lives in these communities. Family-related homicides are 45% more likely to occur in these communities (see Appendix B, Table A5).
- 38% (282 of 751) of family-related homicide victims resided in communities with the lowest median household incomes⁵, yet 26% of the City's population lives in these communities. Thus, family-related homicides are 45% more likely to occur in these communities as well (see Appendix B, Table A5).
- Neighborhoods with the lowest employment rates⁶ are also disproportionately impacted; family-related homicides are 55% more likely to occur in these neighborhoods (see Appendix B, Table A5).
- A similar disparity is seen in communities with the lowest high school graduation rates⁷, though it is not statistically significant (see Appendix B, Table A5).

Other Key Demographics

The neighborhoods described above with the lowest socioeconomic status indicators and high frequency of family-related homicides also have other characteristics that may inform program development and outreach efforts in these neighborhoods:

- A higher percentage of families that have a female single head of household and child under 18 – 13.9% compared to 7.2% for other neighborhoods in New York City.
- Almost double the percentage of households receiving cash assistance – 6.2% compared to 3.3% for other neighborhoods in New York City.
- A higher percentage of households receiving Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) benefits – 34.8% compared to 16.8% for other neighborhoods in New York City.
- A higher percentage of residents receiving public health insurance – 50.7% compared to 35.1% for other neighborhoods in New York City.
- A higher percentage of residents who do not have health insurance – 18.7% compared to 11.9% for other neighborhoods in New York City.
- A higher percentage of U.S. citizens who are foreign born – 43.1% compared to 35.1% for other neighborhoods in New York City.
- A higher percentage of foreign-born residents who are not U.S. citizens – 57.7% compared to 43.4% for other neighborhoods in New York City.

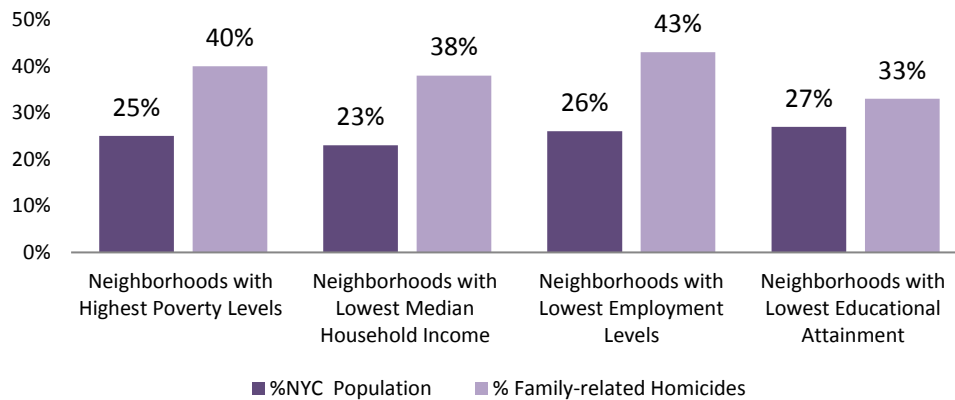
⁴ Defined as >26.1% of residents below the poverty level.

⁵ Defined as median annual household income <\$38,274.

⁶ Defined as unemployment rate >8%.

⁷ Defined as >27% of residents 25 and older have not obtained a high school diploma.

Chart 2: Family-related Homicides 2004-2014: Percentage in NYC Vulnerable Neighborhoods

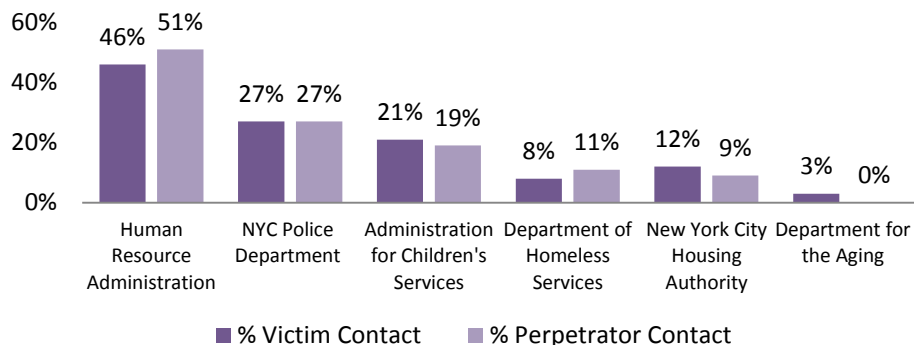


Since 2005, the Majority of Family-related Homicide Victims Had No Contact with a City Agency within a Year of the Homicide⁸

- 46% (323 of 697) of the victims had documented contact with the Human Resources Administration (HRA) for services including cash assistance, food stamps, or Medicaid. Only 5% of victims (36 of 697) accessed domestic violence-related services from HRA. More than half of the perpetrators (51%, 355 of 692) had contact with HRA.
- 27% (186 of 697) of the victims and perpetrators (187 of 692) had prior contact with NYPD.
- The Administration for Children’s Services (ACS) had contact with 16% (112 out of 697) of victims and 14% (99 out of 692) of perpetrators. Since 2005, only 20 of the families in which a family-related homicide occurred ever came to the attention of ACS specifically for domestic violence allegations. Other cases came to the attention of ACS for a range of issues including educational neglect, inadequate guardianship, and substance abuse.
- 12% (84 of 697) of the victims and 9% (65 of 692) of the perpetrators were residing in New York City Housing Authority (NYCHA) developments at the time of the homicide.
- The Department of Homeless Services (DHS) had contact with 8% (58 of 697) of the victims and 11% (75 of 692) of the perpetrators.
- The Department for the Aging (DFTA) had contact with only two of 70 family-related homicides involving victims 60 years of age or older. They did not have any contact with the perpetrators in these cases.

⁸ This section provides information on the pre-incident contacts between City agencies and family-related homicide victims and perpetrators based on information provided by City agencies regarding the 697 victims and 692 perpetrators of family-related homicides that occurred since 2005.

**Chart 3: Family-related Victims/Perpetrators with Agency Contact
(within previous year of homicide): 2004-2014**



New York City Has Exhibited Some of the Lowest Rates of Family-related and Intimate Partner Homicide Incidents among the 10 Largest Cities in the U.S.

- In 2013, based on the most recent FBI supplemental homicide data, New York City reported the lowest rate of family-related homicide incidents of any of the 10 largest cities in the U.S., which all have more than one million residents. That year, New York City had 6.0 family-related homicide incidents per one million residents.
- New York City's five-year average from 2009 through 2013 of 7.7 family-related homicide incidents per one million residents is also among the lowest of major U.S. cities – only San Jose has a lower average rate.
- In 2013, New York City reported 4.4 intimate partner homicide incidents per one million residents, which was the fifth-lowest rate among the 10 largest cities in the U.S. - Los Angeles, San Diego, Phoenix, and San Antonio had rates that were lower than New York City's.
- New York City's five-year average from 2009 through 2013 of 4.6 intimate partner homicide incidents per one million residents was the third-lowest rate among the 10 largest U.S. cities – only San Antonio and San Jose had rates that were lower than New York City's.

Table 4: Family-related and Intimate Partner Homicide Incidents in 10 Largest U.S. Cities (2009-13)

Family-related homicide incident rates			Intimate partner homicide incident rates		
City	2013 rate*	2009-13 avg rate*	City	2013 rate*	2009-13 avg rate*
Houston	14.7	18.8	Houston	8.0	10.5
Philadelphia	13.5	15.4	Chicago	6.6	5.0
Dallas	13.3	11.0	Philadelphia	6.4	9.1
Chicago	12.9	10.0	Dallas	6.2	5.3
San Jose	10.8	5.9	San Jose	5.9	4.1
Phoenix	10.4	12.8	New York City	4.4	4.6
San Diego	8.7	10.5	San Antonio	4.2	3.9
San Antonio	7.0	8.9	Phoenix	3.9	6.2
Los Angeles	6.9	8.4	San Diego	3.6	5.9
New York City	6.0	7.7	Los Angeles	3.3	4.8

*homicide incidents/million people

New York City Has the Lowest Rate of Family-related and Intimate Partner Homicide Incidents Committed with a Firearm among the 10 Largest Cities in the U.S.

- Since 2002, firearms have been the second most common weapon used in family-related homicides in New York City, utilized in 22% (205 of 914) of all family-related homicides. By comparison, knives and cutting instruments were used in 38% (343 of 914) of family-related homicides.
- FBI data reveals that New York City has consistently reported the lowest rates of family-related homicide incidents committed with a firearm.
 - Between 2009 and 2013, the most recent year for which national data are available, New York City had the lowest average rate of family-related homicide incidents committed with a firearm among the 10 largest cities in the U.S. – 1.4 family-related homicide incidents per one million residents.
 - In addition, during the same time period, New York City had the lowest average rate among the 10 largest cities in the U.S. for intimate partner homicide incidents committed with a firearm – 0.9 per one million residents.

Table 5: Family-related and Intimate Partner Homicide Incident Rates by Firearm (2009-13)

Family-related homicide incidents by firearm			Intimate partner homicide incidents by firearm		
City	2013 rate*	2009-13 avg rate*	City	2013 rate*	2009-13 avg rate*
Houston	6.3	8.7	Houston	4.5	6.2
San Jose	4.9	2.2	Phoenix	3.3	3.7
Dallas	4.7	3.7	Dallas	3.1	2.2
Phoenix	4.6	4.9	San Antonio	2.1	2.5
Philadelphia	3.8	4.5	San Jose	2.0	1.4
Los Angeles	3.6	2.9	Philadelphia	1.9	3.4
San Antonio	2.8	3.9	Los Angeles	1.5	1.9
Chicago	2.6	2.3	San Diego	1.4	2.7
San Diego	1.4	3.6	Chicago	1.1	1.1
New York City	0.9	1.4	New York City	0.7	0.9

*homicide incidents/million people

New York City: Firearms Often Used in Intimate Partner Homicides Involving the Suicide of the Perpetrator

- Since 2012, firearms were utilized in 53% (9 of 17) of the family-related homicide incidents that involved the suicide of the perpetrator.
- Since 2012, **all** family-related homicides in which the perpetrator committed suicide and a firearm was utilized involved at least one victim that was an intimate partner of the perpetrator.

New York City Initiatives

Mayor's Office to Combat Domestic Violence (OCDV)

New York City Healthy Relationship Training Academy CARE Program

OCDV, in collaboration with the New York City Administration for Children's Services (ACS) as part of the First Lady of New York City's ThriveNYC mental health initiative, has unveiled the Creating Awareness about Relationship Equality (CARE) program. CARE, a part of OCDV's Healthy Relationship Training Academy, is a prevention education program designed for youth in foster care between the ages of 11 and 21 to support teen dating violence awareness and healthy relationship skill building. The CARE program will utilize dynamic workshops to raise awareness about the issue of dating violence, educate youth to recognize unhealthy relationships, and provide them with the tools needed to build healthy relationships. These workshops are facilitated by peer educators, ranging in age from 17-26, who encourage discussion and critical thinking about these challenging topics.

Expansion of Clinical Psychiatric Services and Psychopharmacologic Treatment at the New York City Family Justice Centers

In 2014, OCDV collaborated with Chapman Perelman Foundation and the Department of Psychiatry at Columbia University Medical Center to provide on-site clinical psychiatric services and psychopharmacologic treatment to domestic violence victims seeking services at the Family Justice Center in the Bronx. This year, OCDV secured City funding to continue services in the Bronx and to expand these services through a partnership with New York City Health + Hospitals to the Brooklyn, Manhattan, Queens, and soon to be opened Staten Island Family Justice Centers. Chapman Perelman Foundation and the Department of Psychiatry at Columbia University Medical Center will assist NYC Health + Hospitals in expanding this program and provide appropriate training to the Family Justice Center staff.

Interagency Working Group on New York City's Blueprint for Abusive Partner Interventions

In October 2015, OCDV, the NYC Coalition on Working with Abusive Partners (CoWAP), the Administration of Children's Services (ACS), Human Resources Administration (HRA), Department of Probation (DOP), and the Children's Aid Society cosponsored a conference to reshape and advance the conversation regarding abusive partner interventions and begin the process of developing an inter-agency blueprint to improve and coordinate service delivery and accountability for abusive partners in New York City. The conference led to the creation of the Interagency Working Group on New York City's Blueprint for Abusive Partner Interventions, which will develop and implement policy recommendations around abusive partner interventions. The Interagency Working Group includes representatives from ACS, DOP, HRA, NYPD, OCDV, the Brooklyn and Manhattan District Attorney's Office, the New York State Office of Court Administration, the organizational members of CoWAP, and victim service organizations.

Coordinated Approach to Preventing Stalking (CAPS)

CAPS seeks to increase the identification and reporting of intimate partner stalking cases, enhance stalking arrests and prosecutions, and link victims directly to appropriate services.⁹ Research indicates that stalking is associated with an increased risk of homicide or physical assault. As part of the initiative, training is provided for New York City Police Department (NYPD) police officers, District Attorney's Office staff, and community partners on how to identify stalking behavior, better understand stalking statutes, recognize the role technology plays, engage in risk.

Rosenfeld, B. (2004). Violence Risk Factors in Stalking and Obsessive Harassment: A Review and Preliminary Meta-Analysis. Criminal Justice and Behavior, 31, 9-36 and McFarlane, J., Campbell, J., Wilt, S., Sachs, C., Ulrich, Y. and XU, X. (1999). Stalking and Intimate Partner Femicide. Homicide Studies, 3, 300-3169.

assessment and safety planning, and work with victims to document and preserve evidence of stalking incidents. Currently, the CAPS program is operating in Staten Island and in four precincts in Southeast Queens: the 101st, 103rd, 105th, and 113th precincts. Plans are in process to expand to the remaining precincts

Human Resources Administration (HRA)

HRA Emergency Intervention Services - Office of Domestic Violence oversees the largest network of domestic violence services in the country, including domestic violence shelters and a range of programs designed to stabilize individuals and families impacted by domestic violence to address the trauma of domestic violence, strengthen coping skills, and enhance self-sufficiency.

Expansion of Services for DV Survivors in 2015

- A. Shelters for survivors of domestic violence, particularly single and pregnant survivors, will be expanded in 2016 to serve a total of about 13,300 children and adults a year, a 50% increase over the previous number of 8,800 individuals served yearly. The expansion will provide:
- 400 new units of Tier II transitional family shelter, almost tripling current capacity to 643 units.
 - 300 new emergency shelter beds for survivors of domestic violence, including single, pregnant women, LGBTQ survivors, an unprecedented addition to the City's current domestic violence shelter capacity.
- B. HRA implemented several housing subsidy programs designed to move working families and families on public assistance from domestic violence shelter to affordable permanent housing. Three key HRA Rental Assistance Programs effectively utilized shelters in moving over 500 families and individuals out of shelter and into stable housing are:
- LINC (Living in Communities) Rental Assistance Program
 - City FEPS (Family Exit Plan Supplement)
 - SEPS (Single Exit and Prevention Supplement)

HRA collaboration with the NYC Housing Authority (NYCHA) enabled 500 families in HRA DV or DHS shelters and an additional 159 DV survivors from the community to secure NYCHA apartments in 2015. The NYC Housing Preservation and Development Corporation (HPD) and NYCHA also worked with HRA to issue nearly 300 Section 8 vouchers to families in HRA DV shelters in 2015.

HRA nonresidential community-based domestic violence programs were funded in 2015 to provide aftercare support services to DV survivors moving out of shelter and into permanent housing in communities. These providers focus on helping families to maintain stable housing, and access to DV services to include economic empowerment and workforce development services.

- C. HRA No Violence Again (NoVA) DV assessment services were expanded to all Department of Homeless Services (DHS) Intake Centers. NoVA provides screening and assessment for domestic violence, DV shelter placement and referral for community based DV services

Department for the Aging (DFTA)

Expansion of Direct Services for Victims of Elder Abuse

The New York City Department for the Aging issued an Elder Abuse Prevention and Intervention Services Program Request for Proposals in the fall of 2014. Five community-based contractors, one per borough, were awarded \$2.8 million in funding to provide direct services to victims of elder abuse in Fiscal Year 2016, a substantial increase over previous funding levels. With the additional funds, these programs will serve many more victims of elder abuse and provide more robust services, including long-term case management to help navigate the legal process and secure orders of protection, long-term counseling, court accompaniment victims to court, help with understanding powers of attorney and other legal documents, work with police to place victims on high propensity lists, and work with district attorneys to aid in prosecution of cases in all five boroughs.

Training for New York City Department for the Aging Employees and Contract Agencies

Pursuant to Local Law 43 of 2008, the NYC Department for the Aging provides employees of senior centers and employees of organizations under contract with DFTA, with training in elder abuse detection, reporting and counseling, and to receive supplemental refresher training regarding the same at least once every three years. This law also requires senior centers to hold at least two elder abuse educational sessions per year to its members and to help its members understand how to detect and report instances of elder abuse.

Recommendations

Public Awareness

- Continue to increase effectiveness of public education and outreach efforts across New York City by working with City agencies and non-profit community-based organizations.

Prevention and Intervention

- Work with the Interagency Working Group on New York City's Blueprint for Abusive Partner Interventions and other community-based organizations to identify effective strategies for working with abusive partners as part of the effort to reduce domestic violence.
- In collaboration with City agencies and community-based organizations develop standardized domestic violence trainings for City agency staff and community-based non-profits.
- The City should work with shelter providers to increase access to domestic violence shelter beds for LGBT victims.
- Expand the Coordinated Approach to Preventing Stalking (CAPS) program to other boroughs.

Data Sources:

NYPD Data: The New York City Police Department maintains information on family-related homicides and provided the NYC Domestic Violence Fatality Review Committee with the location of each homicide and demographic information related to each victim and perpetrator.

Contact with City Agencies: The NYC Domestic Violence Fatality Review Committee provided each FRC member agency with identifiers (name, date of birth, address) for the victims and perpetrators of family-related homicides that occurred in 2014, 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 2010 Census data obtained from the United States Census Bureau and the New York City Department of City Planning (City Planning), as well as 2014 precinct-level data from NYPD. 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 2011-2013, the most current data available for neighborhood-level analyses.

FBI Supplementary Homicide Report: The analysis concerning family-related and intimate partner homicide incidents in the ten largest U.S. cities was conducted using data from the most recent FBI Supplementary Homicide Report (2013). These publicly available data were accessed through the National Archive of Criminal Justice Data. For more information regarding how data values were defined, please visit www.fbi.gov.

Data Analysis:

Statistical Analyses: Appendix B displays the statistical analyses that were conducted to assess the statistical significance of the findings presented in this report. We computed percent changes in family-related and intimate partner homicides from 2002 through 2014 and chi-square tests of differences in counts. The decline in homicides from 2002 to 2014 was statistically significant at the $\alpha=0.05$ level, while the change from 2013 to 2014 was not statistically significant. We also calculated z-statistics to compare the distribution of homicides among sub-groups over time. None of these tests demonstrated statistically significant differences in proportions at the $\alpha=0.05$ level. Finally, we calculated the risk ratios and p-values for risk of family-related homicide among various subgroups. The subgroup analyses we conducted did result in some statistically significant associations, which are qualitatively highlighted in the report and quantitatively presented in Appendix B.

Interpreting Report Findings: Comparisons of homicide counts over time and between subgroups must be interpreted with caution. While noteworthy changes from 2002 to 2014 are highlighted in this report, not all changes were statistically significant. For subgroup analyses of data over time, fluctuations in the intervening years reflect no discernible upward or downward trend. Statements about variation in risk of homicide among 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); Shelby Chestnut, MS (Mayoral Appointee); Hanna Schlanger (Mayoral Appointee); Gladys Carrion, Esq., Commissioner, Administration for Children’s Services (Designee: Denise Walden-Greene, Senior Policy Analyst); Donna M. Corrado, PhD, Commissioner, Department for the Aging (Designee: Aurora Salamone, Director, Elderly Crime Victims Resource Center); Michael E. McMahon, Richmond County District Attorney’s Office (Designee: Wanda DeOliveira, Chief Sex Crime and Special Victims Bureau); Daniel Nigro, Commissioner, New York City Fire Department (Designee: Christina Mazzola, Deputy Chief, EMS Operations); Department for Homeless Services (Designee: Alexander Gutkovich, Director, Office of Health Policy and Administration); Steven Banks, Esq., Commissioner, Human Resources Administration (Designee: Marie Philip, Deputy Commissioner, Emergency and Intervention Services, Office of Domestic Violence); Mary Travis Bassett, MD, MPH, 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); Bill Bratton, Commissioner, New York City Police Department (Designee: Juanita Holmes, Chief, Domestic Violence Bureau); Shola Olatoye, Chair and Chief Executive Officer, New York City Housing Authority (Designee: Nora Reissig, Director, Family Services Department).

Acknowledgments

The Committee members would like to express their appreciation to:

Sara Shoener, Director of Research and Planning, Human Resources Administration, Emergency and Intervention Services, for assisting the Committee in analyzing the data in the report.

Appendix A: Family-related Homicides Data by Year: 2002-2014

Years/Characteristics	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	Total
Total Family-Related Homicides	76	74	67	68	73	52	71	63	77	92	76	62	63	914
Victims by Gender														
Child Female	8	11	5	4	18	9	6	1	16	6	8	4	7	103
Adult Female	43	40	37	38	32	25	30	34	36	48	40	34	29	466
Child Male	9	6	8	13	9	8	10	7	9	9	10	6	6	110
Adult Male	16	17	17	13	14	10	25	21	16	29	18	18	21	235
Victim by Age														
<1	8	9	7	6	5	11	8	4	8	7	4	2	2	81
1-10	8	8	5	9	17	5	5	3	13	7	12	8	9	109
11-17	1	0	1	2	5	1	3	1	4	1	2	1	2	24
18-24	8	11	8	11	3	2	7	6	4	17	8	4	5	94
25-29	12	5	8	8	5	5	6	7	11	4	7	6	6	90
30-34	7	11	9	4	6	5	11	6	4	11	6	6	4	90
35-39	8	6	4	6	7	5	9	5	2	7	5	8	7	79
40-44	10	5	9	7	9	2	4	6	8	8	9	7	3	87
35-49	3	3	4	4	2	6	7	7	4	9	3	6	4	62
50-54	2	2	1	6	4	1	3	9	7	6	7	3	6	57
55-59	0	6	4	2	1	3	1	6	4	2	5	5	7	46
60+	9	8	7	3	9	6	7	3	8	13	8	5	8	94
Unknown	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1
Victims by Race														
Black	41	38	32	28	30	26	29	29	49	42	37	34	30	445
Hispanic	25	18	20	22	35	10	24	21	12	29	18	13	15	262
White	3	10	9	9	6	12	15	8	12	17	14	7	11	133
Asian/Indian	7	7	5	9	2	4	3	5	4	4	7	5	7	69
Other/Unknown	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	0	5
Perpetrators by Age														
<1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
1-10	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
11-17	2	2	2	1	7	3	2	0	2	2	1	1	0	25
18-24	14	14	12	10	10	9	14	11	11	22	12	10	7	156
25-29	12	10	14	10	12	7	14	8	7	15	16	7	15	147
30-34	18	15	5	8	11	12	16	8	13	8	12	8	5	139
35-39	9	9	13	10	13	6	10	10	7	10	6	11	4	118
40-44	9	8	10	12	7	6	6	10	7	11	7	6	3	102
45-49	4	5	1	5	7	6	5	4	6	7	6	3	5	64
50-54	1	4	2	5	3	3	3	3	4	7	3	6	7	51
55-59	1	1	1	1	1	1	3	3	6	5	3	3	5	34
60+	3	4	4	3	1	2	3	6	2	5	6	3	6	48
Unknown	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	1	2	0	2	0	2	9
Perpetrator to Victim Relationship														
<i>Intimate Partner</i>														
Spouse/Live-In	17	14	19	16	9	13	16	11	9	9	16	8	9	165
Common Law	17	14	15	14	11	8	10	6	4	11	6	8	0	125
Child in Common	7	7	7	6	4	2	9	9	6	3	0	7	6	73
Boyfriends/Girlfriend	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	16	15	20	16	13	12	92
Same Sex	0	1	1	0	1	0	3	1	0	4	2	1	0	14
<i>Other</i>														
Parent	17	20	15	17	27	21	15	8	21	23	15	5	13	217
Child	8	4	6	3	11	7	7	3	9	12	5	7	7	89
Other Family	10	15	5	14	16	6	20	11	11	13	9	10	16	156
Other/Unknown	0	3	0	0	0	0	0	1	2	0	8	5	0	19
Total Family-Related by Borough														
Brooklyn	37	28	24	19	27	18	25	19	28	31	24	26	19	325
Bronx	15	10	18	23	23	9	18	11	18	27	24	16	14	226
Manhattan	9	12	10	12	12	4	7	10	8	15	10	5	3	117
Queens	15	23	13	10	8	15	18	20	15	16	15	13	25	206
Staten Island	0	1	2	4	3	6	3	3	8	3	3	2	2	40
Homicide Method/Weapon														
Cutting/Knife	26	19	23	19	31	6	32	29	30	38	28	32	30	343
Firearm	22	16	20	21	13	19	13	18	9	16	15	12	11	205
Blunt Trauma	11	9	9	10	11	16	13	9	18	17	13	10	15	161
Asphyxiation/Strangulation	9	13	9	10	6	5	6	5	11	11	7	5	5	102
Other/Unknown	8	17	6	8	12	6	7	2	9	10	13	3	2	103

Appendix B: Statistical Significance Output

Table A1: Chi-square Tests of Homicide Counts – 2002 vs. 2014

Homicide type	2002		2014		χ^2
	Homicides	Population estimate	Homicides	Population estimate	
Family-related	76	8086613	63	8491079	4.7987
Intimate partner	41	8086613	27	8491079	5.9842

Table A2: Chi-square Tests of Homicide Counts – 2013 vs. 2014

Homicide type	2013		2014		χ^2
	Homicides	Population estimate	Homicides	Population estimate	
Family-related	62	8438379	63	8491079	0.0060
Intimate partner	37	8438379	27	8491079	2.8115

Table A3: Risk Ratios for Demographics of Family-related Homicides – 2002-2014

Gender	% (Number)	% NYC Population	Population	Risk ratio*	p-value
Male Child	12.0% (110)	11.0%	901796	1.1035	0.3325
Male Adult	25.7% (235)	36.5%	2980748	0.6031	<0.0001
Female Child	11.4% (104)	10.6%	866315	1.0832	0.4426
Female Adult	50.9% (465)	41.9%	3426274	1.4354	<0.0001
Race/Ethnicity	% (Number)	% NYC Population	Population	Risk ratio*	p-value
Black	48.7% (445)	22.8%	1861295	3.2186	<0.0001
Hispanic	28.7% (262)	28.6%	2336076	1.0044	0.9521
White	14.6% (133)	33.3%	2722904	0.3410	<0.0001
Asian/Indian	7.5% (69)	12.6%	1028119	0.5659	<0.0001
Other	<1% (5)	2.7%	226739	0.1953	<0.0001
Age	% (Number)	% NYC Population	Population	Risk ratio*	p-value
<1	8.9% (81)	1.3%	109023	7.1943	<0.0001
1-10	11.9% (109)	11.9%	975668	0.9991	0.9933
11-17	2.6% (24)	8.4%	683420	0.2956	<0.0001
18-24	10.3% (94)	10.6%	869344	0.9634	0.7317
25-29	9.8% (90)	8.9%	730190	1.1136	0.3321
30-34	9.8% (90)	8.1%	662255	1.2391	0.0530
35-39	8.6% (79)	7.2%	587407	1.2221	0.0878
40-44	9.5% (87)	6.9%	567280	1.4108	0.0021
45-49	6.8% (62)	6.9%	565692	0.9787	0.8710
50-54	6.2% (57)	6.6%	541684	0.9373	0.6357
55-59	5% (46)	5.8%	475535	0.8581	0.3112
60+	10.3% (94)	17.2%	1407635	0.5511	<0.0001
Unknown	<1% (1)				

Table A4: Risk Ratios for Family-related Homicides by Borough – 2002-2014

Borough	% (Number)	% NYC Population	Population	Risk ratio*	p-value
Brooklyn	35.6% (325)	30.6%	2504700	1.2492	0.0013
Bronx	24.7% (226)	16.9%	1385108	1.6103	<0.0001
Queens	22.5% (206)	27.3%	2230722	0.7753	0.0013
Manhattan	12.8% (117)	19.4%	1585873	0.6010	<0.0001
Staten Island	4.4% (40)	5.7%	468730	0.7524	0.0776

Table A5: Risk Ratios for Family-related Homicides by Neighborhood Socioeconomic Status (SES) Indicators – 2004-2014

Neighborhood SES indicator	% (Number)	% NYC Population	Population	Risk ratio*	p-value
Highest poverty rates ¹	40.1% (301)	24.8%	2069536	1.4486	<0.0001
Lowest median household income ²	37.5% (282)	23.1%	1924812	1.4489	<0.0001
Lowest employment levels ³	43.1% (324)	25.7%	2142599	1.5462	<0.0001
Lowest educational attainment ⁴	33.8% (254)	26.7%	2226629	1.0281	0.7071
Composite indicator	36.6% (275)	20.2%	1683286	1.6597	<0.0001

¹>26.1% of neighborhood below the poverty level.

²Median annual household income <\$38,274.

³Unemployment rate >8%.

⁴>27% of residents 25 and older have not obtained a high school diploma.

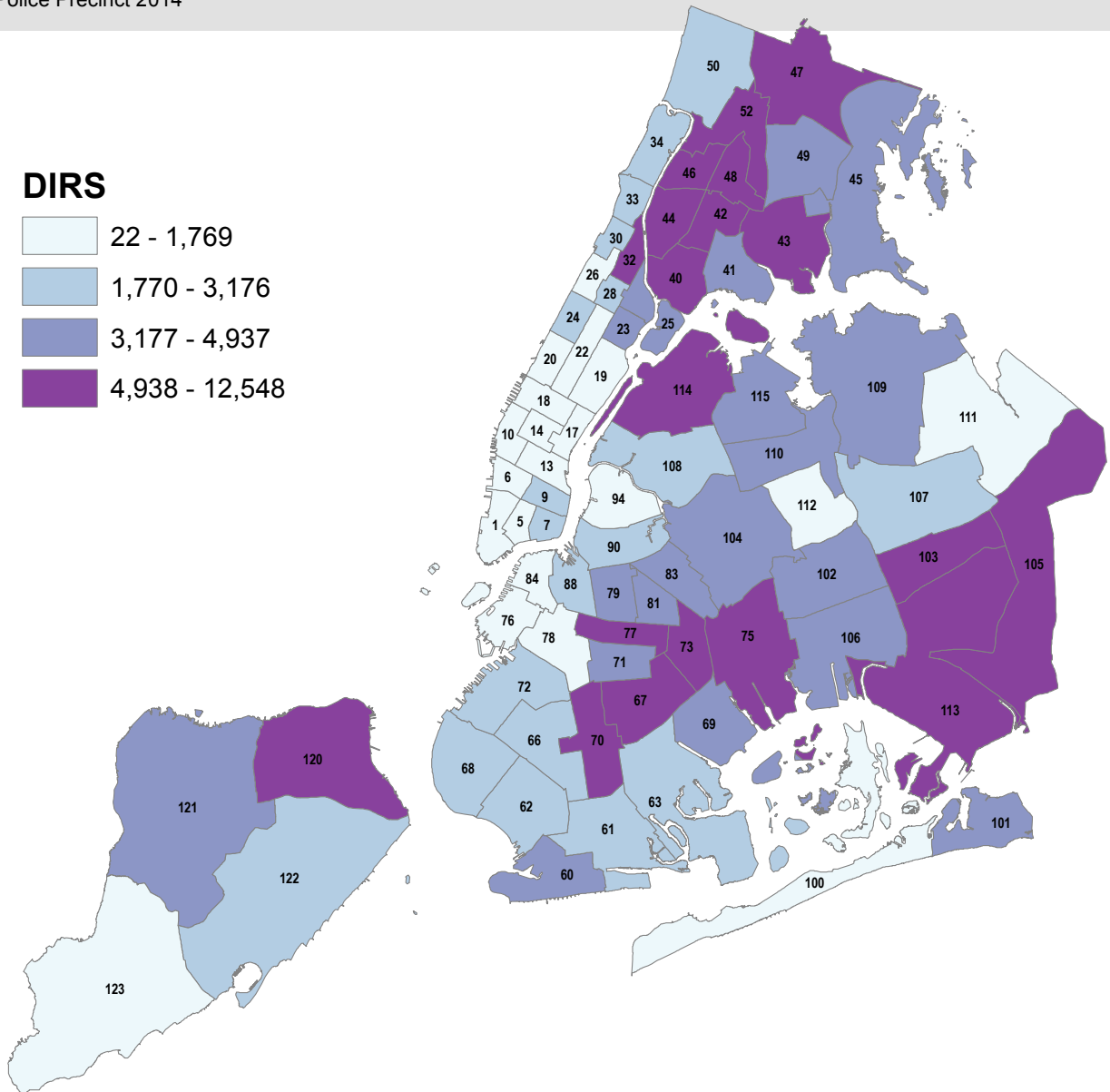
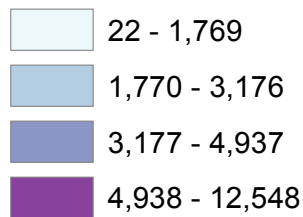
*Risk ratios are calculated comparing the risk among the group of interest to the risk among all others.

Appendix C: Maps of 2014 Domestic Violence Incidents by Precinct and the Number and Rate of Domestic Violence Homicides by Precinct

Domestic Incident Reports

by Police Precinct 2014

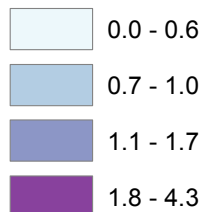
DIRS



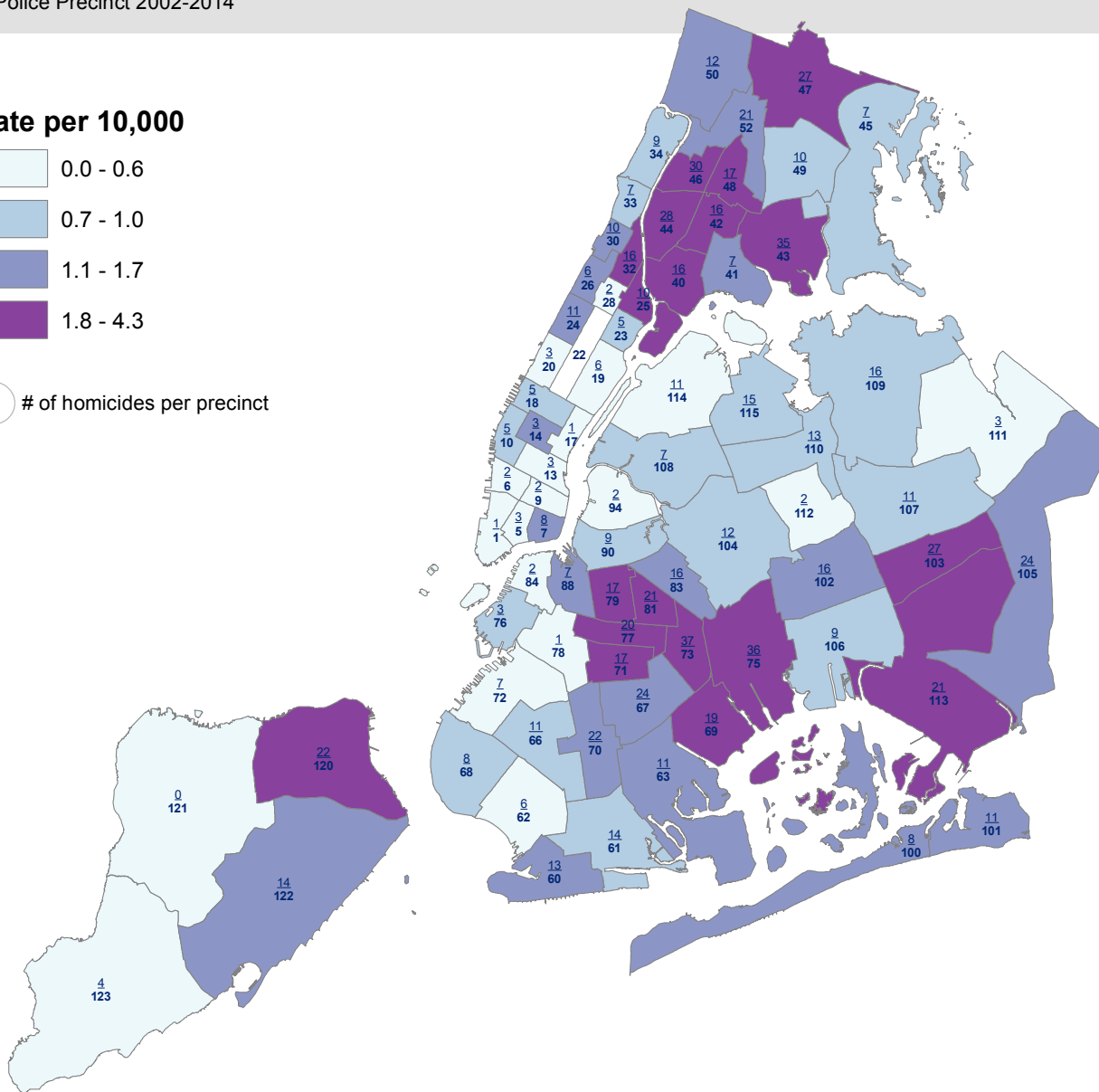
Family Related Homicide Rates/Number

by Police Precinct 2002-2014

Rate per 10,000



5 # of homicides per precinct





Bill de Blasio
Mayor

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

Cecile Noel
Commissioner