

NEW YORK CITY DOMESTIC VIOLENCE FATALITY REVIEW COMMITTEE:

2018 ANNUAL REPORT



Bill de Blasio
Mayor

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

Cecile Noel
Commissioner



INTRODUCTION

From 2010 through 2017, in New York City there were 508 domestic violence homicide incidents involving 544 victims. Domestic violence homicides accounted for 17.5% (544 of 3,117) of homicides that occurred in New York City. During this period, the annual average of domestic violence homicides was 68. 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 2017 domestic violence homicides with 2016 intimate partner homicides, focusing on their demographic and incident characteristics, including borough and weapon used. This report also pools data from 2010 to 2017 to examine patterns of domestic violence homicide and its 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.

In this report, 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. It is important to note that these data may not accurately reflect how the affected individuals would self-identify their gender and race/ethnicity. In addition, usual measurement of risk factors do not consider historic inequities in access to resources and gender-based attitudes about power and control and a history of policies that deny resources to people of color. Rich integration of those causes, however, are beyond the scope of this report. Thus data are presented without social or contextual interpretation.

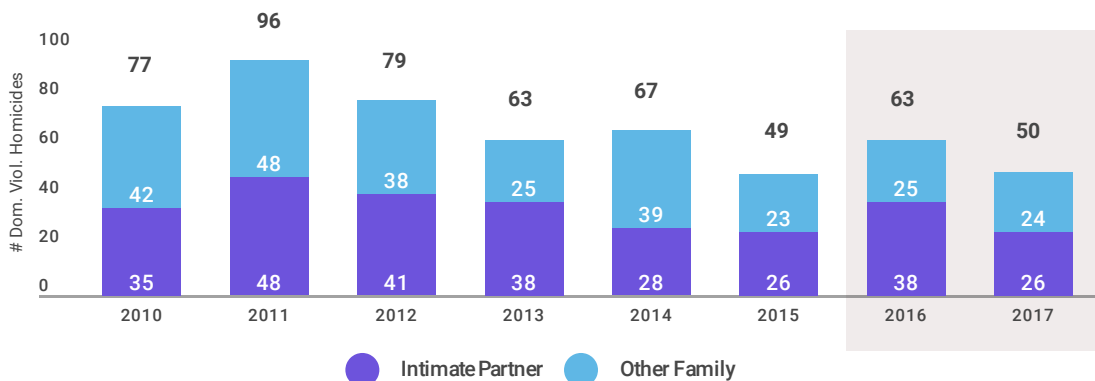
Defining Domestic Violence

In this report two types of relationships comprise domestic violence:

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

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

Figure 1. New York City Domestic Violence Homicides: by Intimate Partner vs. Other Family (2010-2017) (N=544)



- Domestic violence homicides declined by 20.6% - from 63 in 2016, to 50 in 2017.
- Other family-related homicides declined by 4.0% - from 25 in 2016, to 24 in 2017.
- Intimate partner homicides declined by 31.6% - from 38 in 2016, to 26 in 2017.

2017 to 2016 Annual Comparison of Intimate Partner Homicides: Demographics and Incident Characteristics

- Intimate partner homicides in the Bronx declined by 53.2% - from 16 in 2016, to 7 in 2017.
- Intimate partner homicides involving a Black victim declined by 44.4% - from 18 in 2016, to 10 in 2017.
- Intimate partner homicides involving a firearm declined by 58.3% - from 12 in 2016, to 5 in 2017.

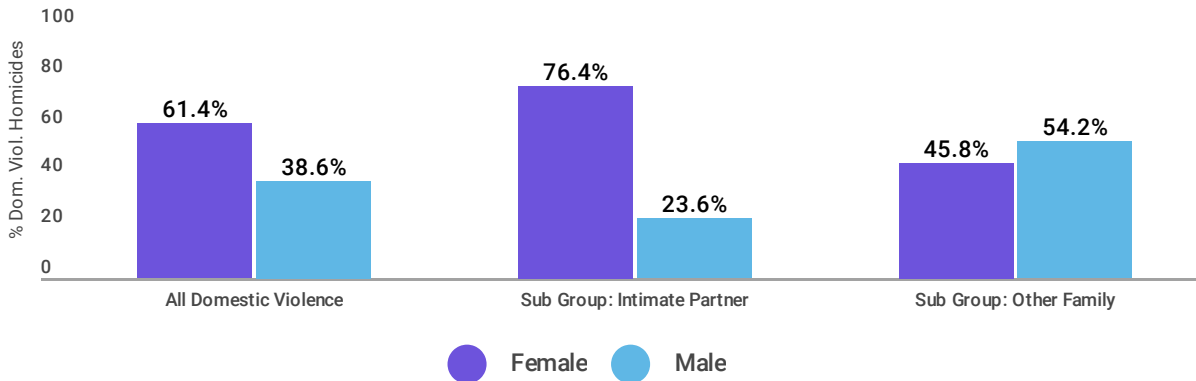
	2017	2016	# Change	Annual Average ('10-'17)
Intimate Partner Homicides	26	38	-12	35
Sex				
Female	21	29	-8	27
Male	5	9	-4	6
Borough				
Bronx	7	16	-9	11
Brooklyn	9	8	+1	10
Manhattan	6	3	+3	4
Queens	3	5	-2	8
Staten Island	1	6	-5	2
Race/Ethnicity				
Asian	1	2	-1	3
Black	10	18	-8	15
Hispanic	11	14	-3	12
White	4	4	0	6
Method/Weapon				
Cutting/Knife	12	17	-5	17
Firearm	5	12	-7	8
Blunt Trauma	4	2	+2	5
Asphyxiation	4	1	+3	2
Physical Force	1	2	-1	<1
Strangulation	0	4	-4	1
Other	0	0	-	1

ALL DOMESTIC VIOLENCE HOMICIDES, 2010-2017

VICTIM DEMOGRAPHICS

Gender: The majority of domestic violence homicide victims are female.

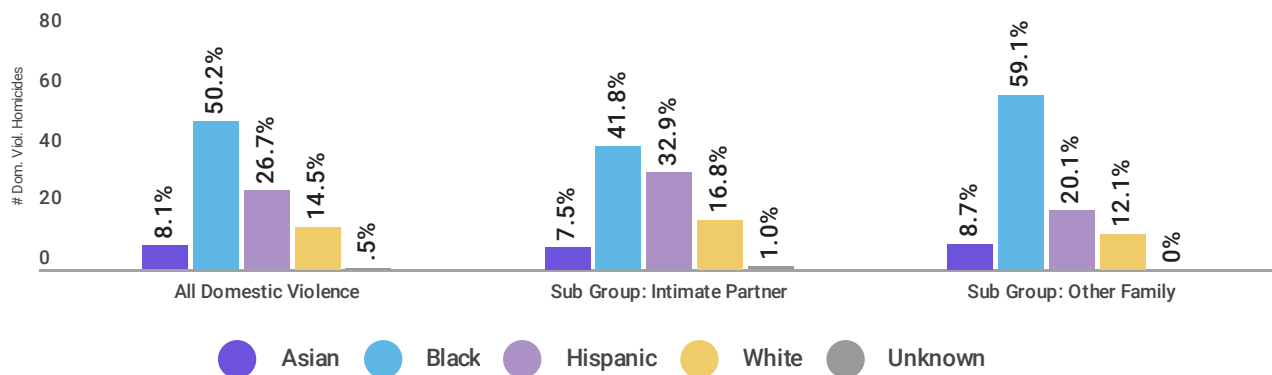
Figure 2. New York City Domestic Violence Homicides: by Sex/Sub Groups Intimate Partner and Other Family (2010-2017) (N=544)



- The majority (61.4%, 334 of 544) of domestic violence homicide victims are female.
- More than 3 out of 4 (76.4%, 214 of 280) intimate partner homicide victims are female.
- Males account for a higher percentage (54.2%, 143 of 264) of other family homicide victims compared to intimate partner homicides (38.6%, 210 of 544).

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

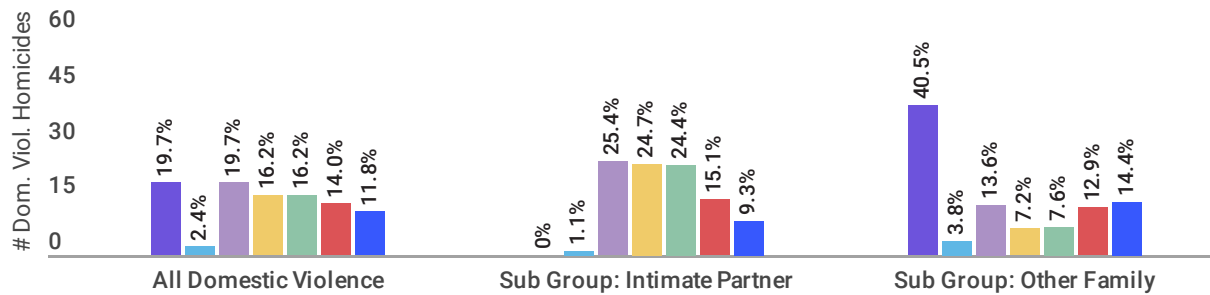
Figure 3. New York City Domestic Violence Homicides: by Sex/Sub Groups Intimate Partner and Other Family (2010-2017) (N=544)



- Black individuals disproportionately account for 50.2% (273 of 544) of domestic violence homicide victims, 41.8% (117 of 280) of intimate partner homicide victims, and 59.1% (156 of 264) of victims of homicide involving other family members.¹
- Hispanic individuals account for 26.7% (145 of 544) of domestic violence homicide victims, 32.9% (92 of 280) of intimate partner homicide victims, and 20.1% (53 of 264) of victims of homicide involving other family members.

Age: Almost 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/Sub Groups Intimate Partner and Other Family (2010-2017) (N=543)



Notes: The age is unknown for one 2013 intimate partner homicide

● <1-10 ● 11-17 ● 18-29 ● 30-39 ● 40-49 ● 50-59 ● 60+

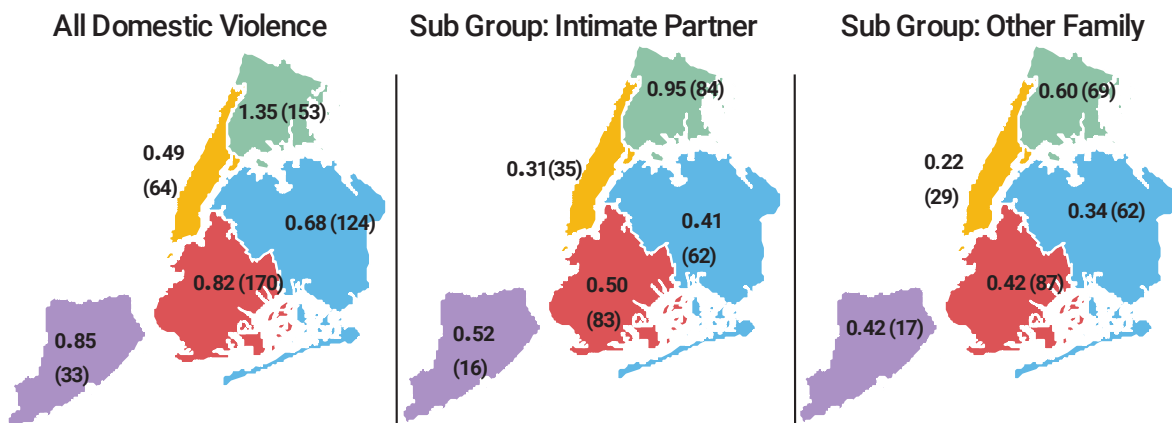
- Almost 1 out of every 5 (107 of 543) domestic violence homicides involve a child age 10 and under.
- 2 out of every 5 (107 of 264) other family homicides involve a child age 10 and under.
- The number intimate partner homicide victims in the 18-29; 30-39 and 40-49 year age categories was similar.
- The average age of the victims was 40 years and the median age was 39 years.

ALL DOMESTIC VIOLENCE HOMICIDES, 2010-2017

LOCATION

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

Figure 5. New York City Domestic Violence Homicides: by Borough/Sub Groups Intimate Partner and Other Family (2010-2017) (N=544)



Notes: Rates are per 100,000 residents and number of homicides are presented in parentheses.

● Bronx ● Brooklyn ● Manhattan ● Queens ● Staten Island

- While Brooklyn had the highest number of domestic violence homicides of any borough, 170, the Bronx had the highest rate of domestic violence homicides, 1.35 per 100,000 residents.
- The Bronx had the highest number and rate of intimate partner homicides, 84 and 0.95 per 100,000.

IN FOCUS: INTIMATE PARTNER HOMICIDES, 2010-2017

The following section is focused on the 280 intimate partner homicides between 2010 through 2017. These 280 intimate partner homicides involved 283 perpetrators.

INTIMATE PARTNER HOMICIDES, 2010-2017 VICTIM AND PERPETRATOR DEMOGRAPHICS

Gender and Race/Ethnicity: The average annual rate is highest among Black females.

Table 1. New York City Intimate Partner Homicides: by Gender and Race/Ethnicity (2010-2017) (N=277)²

	No. of Intimate Partner Homicides	Average Annual Rate Per 100,000 Residents
Male		
Asian	2	*
Black	30	0.5
Hispanic	24	0.3
White	10	*
Female		
Asian	19	*
Black	87	1.3
Hispanic	68	0.9
White	37	0.3

Notes: Race is unknown for 3 intimate partner homicides in 2013.

An * in the rate column indicates that counts are too small to calculate a stable rate - meaning that a small change in the number of events (numerator) can lead to a large change in the rate from one year to the next.

- The average annual rate of intimate partner homicides is highest among Black females (1.3 per 100,000 residents), followed by Hispanic females (0.9), Black males (0.5), White females and Hispanic males (0.3).
- The rate of intimate partner homicide among Black females is over 4 times higher than the rate among White females (1.3 vs. 0.3).
- The rate of intimate partner homicide among Hispanic females is 3 times higher than the rate among Hispanic males (0.9 vs. 0.3).

Victim Age: Females age 40 to 49 have the highest rate of intimate partner homicide.

Table 2. New York City Intimate Partner Homicides: by Victim Age and Sex (2010-2017) (N=279)

Age of Victim - Years	Male #	Male: Average Annual Rate	Female #	Female: Average Annual Rate
15-17	1	*	2	*
18-29	16	*	55	0.8
30-39	21	0.4	48	0.9
40-49	13	*	55	1.1
50-59	9	*	33	0.8
60-69	3	*	16	*
70-79	1	*	2	*
80+	2	*	2	*
Average Age	39.6 years	-	40.2 years	-

Notes: The victim age is unknown for 1 intimate partner homicide in 2013.

An * in the rate column indicates that counts are too small to calculate a stable rate - meaning that a small change in the number of events (numerator) can lead to a large change in the rate from one year to the next.

- Females in the 40-49 age category have the highest rate of intimate partner homicides (1.1).
- When compared to females, males had significantly lower rates of intimate partner homicides, with the rate of intimate partner homicides the highest for males age 30-39 (0.4).
- The average age for a male victim was 39.6 years of age compared to 40.2 years of age for a female.

Perpetrator Age: Males age 30-59 have similar rates of perpetration of intimate partner homicides.

Table 3. New York City Intimate Partner Homicides: by Perpetrator Age and Sex (2010-2017) (N=282)

Age of Perpetrator - Years	Male Number	Male: Average Annual Rate	Female	Female: Average Annual Rate
15-17	0	0.0	1	*
18-29	50	0.8	23	0.4
30-39	57	1.2	15	*
40-49	52	1.2	9	*
50-59	48	1.3	6	*
60-69	9	*	2	*
70-79	8	*	0	0.0
80+	2	*	0	0.0
Total	226		56	
Average Age	41.3 years	-	34.1 years	-

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Notes: The victim age is unknown for 1 intimate partner homicide in 2013.

An * in the rate column indicates that counts are too small to calculate a stable rate - meaning that a small change in the number of events (numerator) can lead to a large change in the rate from one year to the next.

- There are 4 times as many male perpetrators (226) of intimate partner homicides compared to female perpetrators (56).
- The annual average age of an intimate partner homicide perpetrator for males is 41 years, which is 7 years higher than the average age for females (34).
- For males, the rate by population for intimate partner homicide perpetration remains constant in the 18-29; 30-39 and 40-49 year age categories.

Victim and Perpetrator Age: The age difference between the victim and perpetrator varies

Table 4. Age Difference Between Perpetrator and Victim - Average in Years (2010-2017) (N=279)

Victim Age	Average Difference in Age (years)
	Perpetrator is:
15-17 years	6.0 years older
18-29 years	4.6 years older
30-39 years	0.8 years older
40-49 years	1.0 year younger
50-59 years	1.6 years younger
60-69 years	4.7 years younger
70+ years	6.6 years younger
All Age Groups	0.7 years older

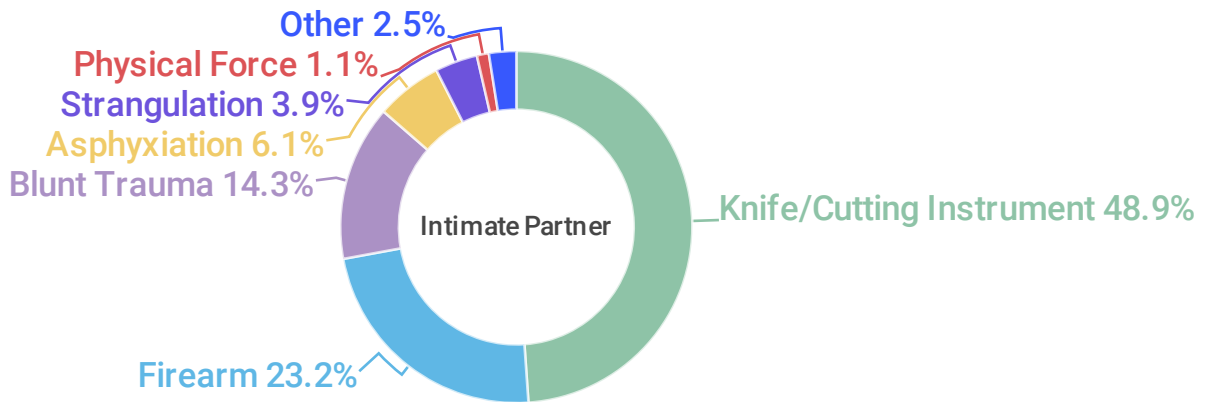
- The age difference between the victim and perpetrator varies - the perpetrator is 6 years older than victims age 15-17; while perpetrators are 4-1/2 years older than victims age 18-29; and the perpetrator is more than 4-1/2 years younger than victims age 60-69.

ALL DOMESTIC VIOLENCE HOMICIDES, 2010-2017

INCIDENT CHARACTERISTICS

Weapon/Method: Knives or cutting instruments are used in almost half of all intimate partner homicides.

Figure 6. New York City Intimate Partner Homicides by Weapon Used (2010-2017) (N=280)



- Almost half (48.9%, 137 of 280) of intimate partner homicides were committed with a knife or other cutting instrument.
- Firearms were used in 23.2% (65 of 280) of intimate partner homicides.

Perpetrator-Victim Relationship: 7 out of 10 intimate partner homicide victims were either the current boyfriend/girlfriend or spouse of the perpetrator.³

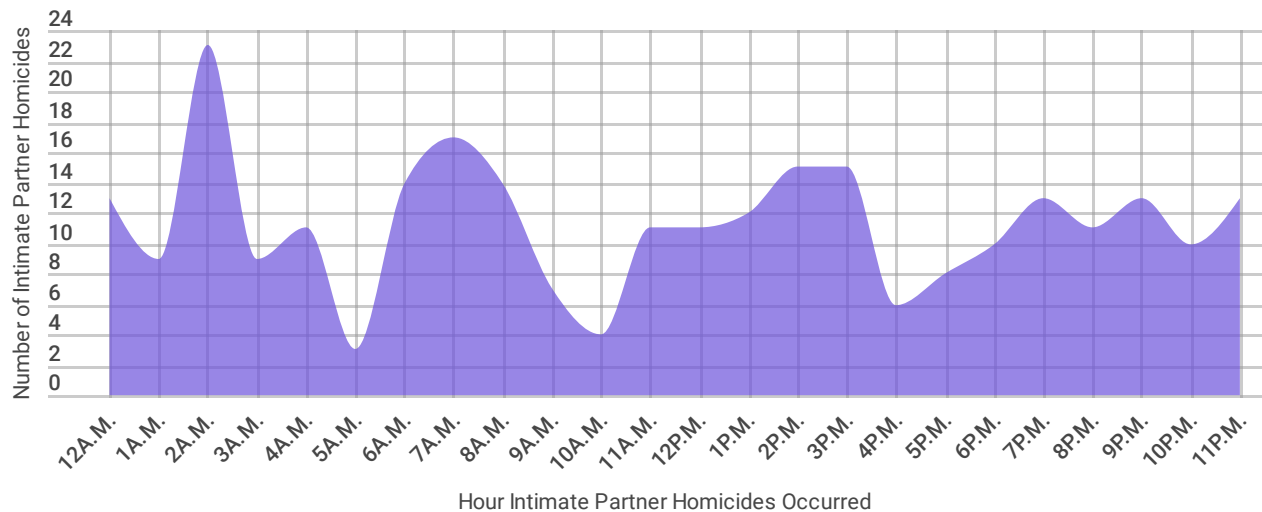
Table 5. Intimate Partner Homicides by Perpetrator Relationship (2010-2017) (N=283)

Relationship Type	No. of Intimate Partner Homicides	% of Intimate Partner Homicides
Opposite-sex Boyfriend/Girlfriend	112	39.6%
Spouse	77	27.2%
Common Law	36	12.7%
Child-in-Common	27	9.5%
Same-sex Boyfriend/Girlfriend	14	4.9%
Ex-Boyfriend/Girlfriend	13	4.6%
Other	4	1.4%

- The majority (189 of 283, 66.8%) of intimate partner homicide perpetrators were the current boyfriend/girlfriend (112 of 263, 39.5%) or spouse (77 of 280, 27.2%) of the victim.

Time of Day: The highest number of intimate partner homicides occur during the 2A.M. hour.

Figure 7. Intimate Partner Homicides by Time of Day (2010-2017) (N=272)⁴

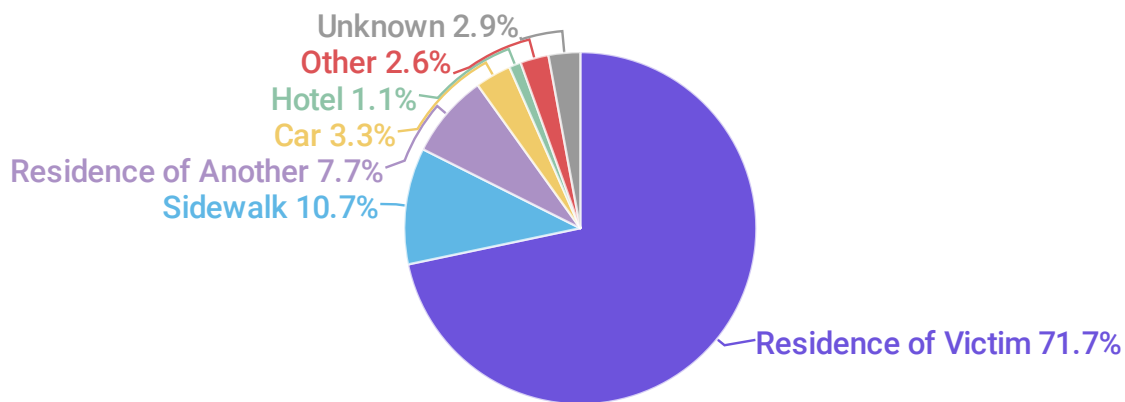


Note: The time of the intimate partner homicide could not be determined from the OCME records in 8 intimate partner homicides

- The highest number of intimate partner homicides occur between 2:00 and 2:59A.M. (23, 8.5%).
- Nearly half (124, 45.6%) of intimate partner homicides occurred during these three time frames: 6A.M. through 8A.M. (45, 16.5%); 1P.M. through 3P.M. (42, 15.4%) and 7P.M. through 9P.M. (37, 13.6%).

Location: Almost 4 out of 5 intimate partner homicides occur in a residence - usually the residence of the victim.

Figure 8. Intimate Partner Homicides by Place of Occurrence (2010-2017) (N=272)



Note: The time of the intimate partner homicide could not be determined from the OCME records in 8 intimate partner homicides

- The highest number of intimate partner homicides occurred in a residence (216, 79.4%), with 71.7% (195) occurring in the residence of the victim.
- Only 1 in 10 (29, 10.7%) occurred in public (sidewalk) while another 3.3% (9) occurred in a car.

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 280 victims and 283 perpetrators of intimate partner homicides between 2010 and 2017. For all agencies, except the NYPD, 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.

Administration for Children's Services (ACS): Between 2010-2017, ACS had contact with 6 victims (6 of 280, 2.1%) and 6 perpetrators (6 of 283, 2.1%) in the 12-months prior to the homicide.

New York City Department for the Aging (DFTA): Between 2010 and 2017, 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.

Department of Homeless Services (DHS): Between 2010 and 2017, DHS had contact with 13 victims (13 of 280, 4.6%) and 17 perpetrators (17 of 283, 6.0%) in the 12 months prior to the homicide.

Human Resources Administration (HRA): Between 2010 and 2017, HRA had contact with 21 victims (21 of 280, 7.5%) and six perpetrators (6 of 283, 2.1%) who had accessed domestic violence services in the 12 months prior to the homicides.

In regards to victims and perpetrators of the 2015-2017 intimate partner homicides, HRA had contact with 76 of 90 victims (84.4%) and 77 of 93 (82.8%) perpetrators. For services including cash assistance, Supplemental Nutrition Assistance and Medicaid.

New York City Housing Authority (NYCHA): Between 2010 and 2017, 32 intimate partner homicides (32 of 280, 11.4%) involved authorized or unauthorized residents of NYCHA.⁵ Twenty-eight of the homicide victims and 16 of the homicide perpetrators were residing at NYCHA. Among these, NYCHA had contact with 5 victims (5 of 28, 17.9%) and 2 perpetrators (2 of 16, 12.5%) involved in 6 intimate partner homicides in the 12 months prior to the homicide. In 2017, two of the victims had contact with NYCHA in relation to transfers not related to the circumstances leading up to the homicide. The other victims and perpetrators had contact with NYCHA in relation to non-payment of rent.

New York City Police Department (NYPD): Between 2010 and 2017, the NYPD had a reported history with the victims and perpetrators in 39.3% (110 of 280) of the intimate partner homicides. In 23.6% (26 of 110) of the reported histories, the NYPD filed only a domestic incident report (DIR), while in the other 76.4% (84 of 110) there was a DIR and police complaint report (also referred to as a "61 report") filed. According to NYPD records, in 13.2% (37 of 280) of intimate partner homicides there was an active order of protection.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Prevention and Intervention

- Expand information on the NYC Hope web portal, including mapping of neighborhood services and informational videos, in order to reduce barriers for domestic violence survivors reaching out for assistance.

Public Education

- Use social media to raise awareness around the services available for domestic violence survivors and to drive survivors to NYC Hope.
- Continue to increase knowledge around the occurrence of domestic violence and services available by providing training to City agencies, community-based organizations and businesses.

Data Collection and Reporting

- Continue to advance data-driven solutions. Comprehensive intervention and prevention requires understanding of intimate partner homicide risk factors. Promote understanding that historic inequities in access to resources and opportunities, by gender, race/ethnicity, and sexual orientation, may result in differences in individuals' vulnerability to domestic violence. City agencies should collaborate to capture such critical information.

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 partner or other family member.

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 homicides that occurred from 2010 through 2017, and the agencies independently cross-referenced that list with agency files and reported if the victims and/or perpetrator 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 this 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, for 2012 to 2016, the most current data available. Population counts for intimate partner homicide rate computations include individuals 15 years of age and older.

New York City Office of the Chief Medical Examiner (OCME): Using the list of intimate partner homicides provided by the NYPD, OCME records were accessed through the UVIS Case Management System. A search based on victim date, date of death and borough was conducted for each homicide. Death Certificates and investigative reports were analyzed to determine month, day, time and location of each homicide.

Interpreting Report Findings: Comparison of homicide counts over time and between subgroups must be interpreted with caution. While noteworthy changes from 2010 to 2017 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 relative rate of homicide across subgroups indicate only observed associations that cannot be interpreted causally.

2018 FATALITY REVIEW COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Cecile Noel, Commissioner, Mayor's Office to Combat Domestic Violence; Karina Bernabe, Project Manager, Dominican Women's Development Center, Nuevo Amanecer (Mayoral Appointee); Seven Brown (Mayoral Appointee); Raquel Singh, Executive Director, Voices of Women (Mayoral Appointee); Beverly Tillery, Executive Director, NYC Anti-Violence Project (Mayoral Appointee, Designee: Catherine Shugrue dos Santos, Director of Client Services); David Hansell, Esq., Commissioner Administration of Children's Services (Designee: Manny Yonko, Administrative Director); 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: Alberto Meade, Deputy Chief, EMS Operations); Michael E. McMahon, Richmond County District Attorney (Designee: Tuesday Muller-Mondi, Chief Domestic Violence Bureau); Steven Banks, Esq., Commissioner, Human Resources Administration and Department of Homeless Services (Designee: Marie Philip, Deputy Commissioner, Emergency and Intervention Services, Office of Domestic Violence and Fabienne Larque, 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, Counsel, Special Victims Division); James P. O'Neil, Commissioner, New York City Police Department (Designee: Martin Morales, Deputy Chief, Domestic Violence Unit); Stanley Brezenoff, Interim Chair and Chief Executive Officer, New York City Housing Authority (Designee: Ukah Busgith, Senior Director, Family Partnerships Department).

END NOTES

¹ The American Community Survey, Demographic and Housing Estimates, 5-Year Estimates 2012-2016, reflect that Blacks or African Americans account for 22.2% of New York City's population, while Whites account for 32.3%, Hispanics 29.0%, Asians 13.6% and Other 2.9%.

² 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 all domestic violence and other family homicides all age groups were used in the calculation. Population data was obtained from the New York City Department of Planning website accessing table DPO5: ACS Demographic Estimates 2010-2015 American Community Survey 1-Year Estimates.

³ Perpetrator/victim relationship is defined by the New York City Police Department and falls within the following mutually exclusive categories: 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 pairings who have a child in common and are not married.

⁴ Information was obtained from OCME files based on the time the incident leading to the homicide occurred. Time of occurrence was not recorded in eight of the intimate partner homicides.

⁵ Between 2010-2017, there was one victim and two perpetrators that were unauthorized residents at NYCHA at the time of the homicide. An unauthorized resident is someone that is not on the lease and is unknown to NYCHA management.