

**SACRAMENTO COUNTY
DOMESTIC VIOLENCE COORDINATING COUNCIL
ANNUAL DVDRT REPORT
OCTOBER 2019 – October 2021**

INTRODUCTION

The Sacramento County Domestic Violence Coordinating Council (DVCC) is presently chaired by District Attorney (DA) Anne Marie Schubert, represented by Assistant Chief Deputy DA Dawn Bladet. The DVCC has three active subcommittees: The Community Subcommittee, also known as the Domestic Violence Prevention Collaboration (DVPC); the Law Enforcement Subcommittee; and the Domestic Violence Death Review Team (DVDRT). Each subcommittee is comprised of agency and community representatives with expertise in these distinct areas. The subcommittees work independently and are multi-disciplinary in nature.

In January of 2021, the District Attorney's Office, together with the Sacramento Regional Family Justice Center (SRFJC) and WEAVE presented an update to the Board of Supervisors regarding domestic violence incidents and services during the COVID-19 pandemic. The District Attorney's Office and our community partners continued to provide services to individuals experiencing domestic violence, despite the obstacles posed by the pandemic.

DVCC SUBCOMMITTEE ACTIVITIES

The DVPC continues to remain very active in addressing the needs of domestic violence victims in Sacramento County and has been a strong supporter of the Sacramento Regional Family Justice Center (SRFJC).

The SRFJC Legal Help Center is open and serving clients. The Collaborative Service Center, is now open at 3701 Power Inn Road, suite 3500, across the street from the Sacramento Family Courthouse. The SRFJC Collaborative Service Center offers free space for community service providers willing to work with clients visiting the SRFJC. In house partners include WEAVE (Elder Abuse Program), My Sisters House, International Rescue Committee, LAO Community Development, Sacramento Sheriff's Office Detectives, Sacramento Police Department Detectives, Sacramento County District Attorney, Sacramento County Department of Child, Family, and Adult Services. The Sexual Assault Forensic Examinations (SAFE) Center is also co-located with the SRFJC.

Although not on-site, the SRFJC has also developed strong working relationships with major healthcare providers, law enforcement agencies and CBOs in the region including Kaiser, Dignity Health, UC Davis Medical, Sutter Health, City of Refuge, Community Against Sexual Harm, Chicks in Crisis, Bridge Network, Elk Grove Police Department, Citrus Heights PPolice Department, and Folsom Police Department, Deaf Safe, Sister to Sister, Inter-tribal Council of CA, Child Abuse Prevention Center, APC, Birth & Beyond, and others, all of whom refer victims to the center.

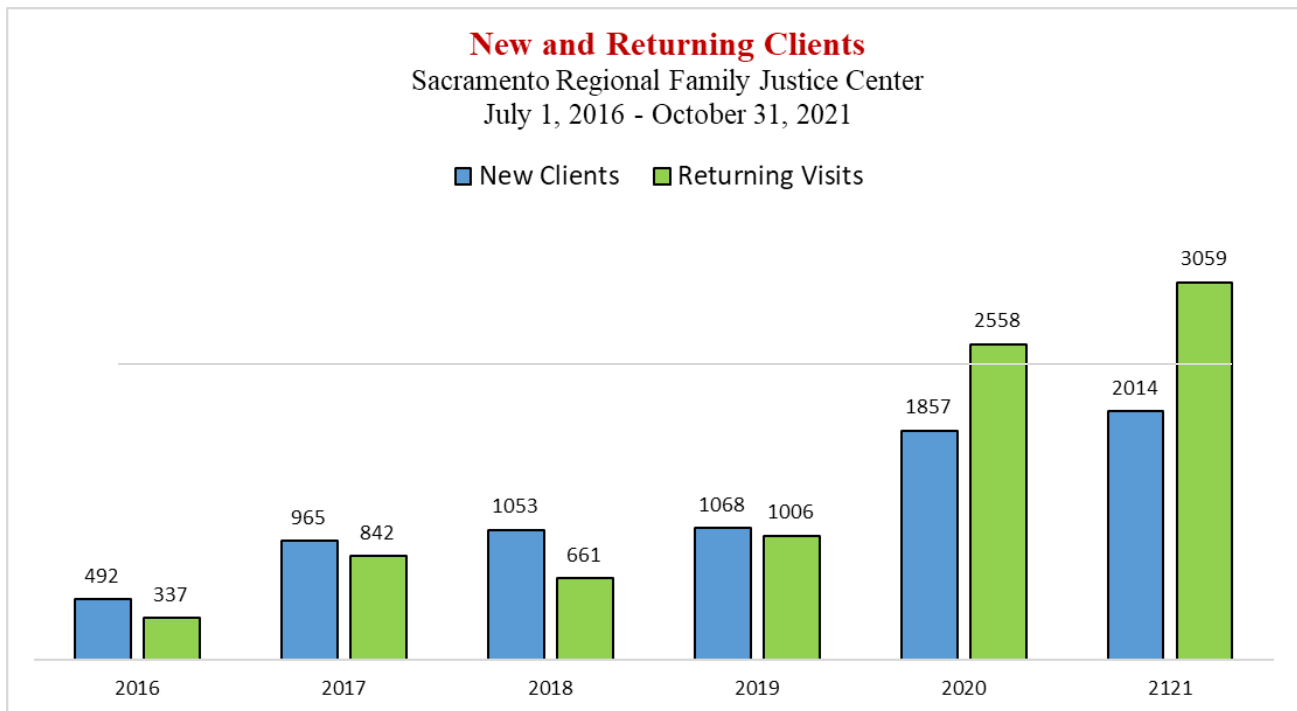
Camp CATCH (formerly known as Camp Hope America) is a SRFJC program, the first evidence-based camp for children who have experienced the trauma of family violence has returned after COVID-19 restrictions paused the service in 2020. Camp CATCH was able to send 10 children to

camp this year and looks forward to sending up to 50 next year.

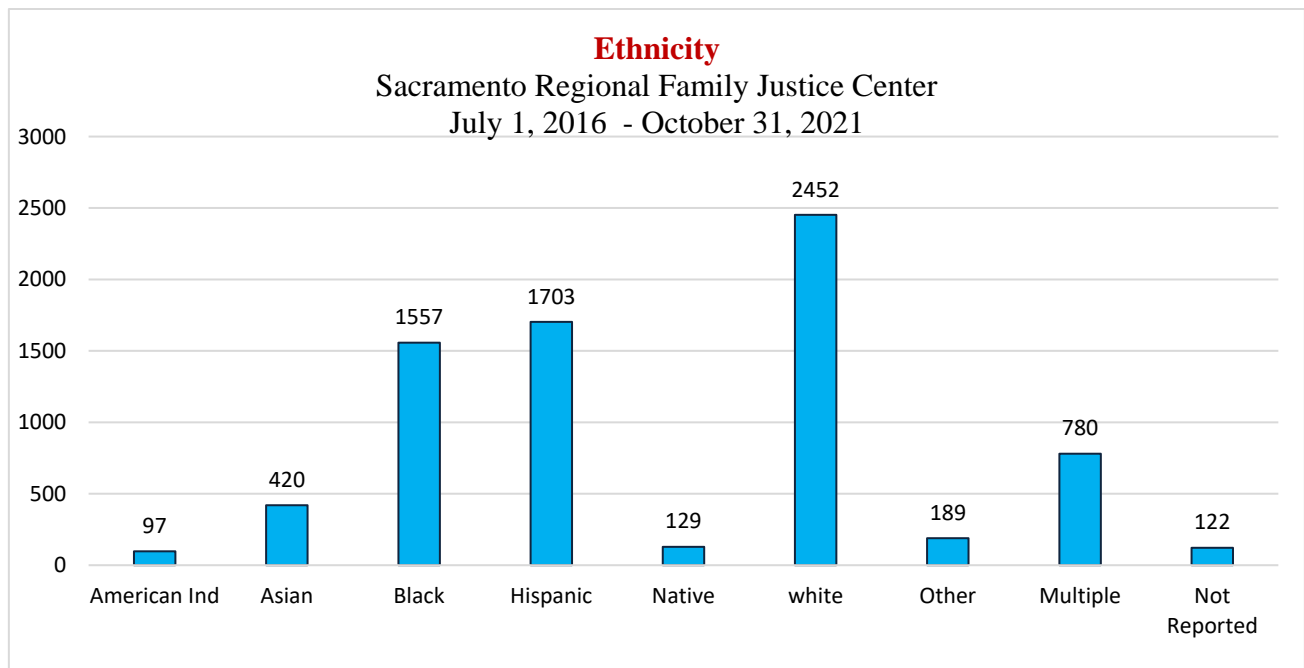
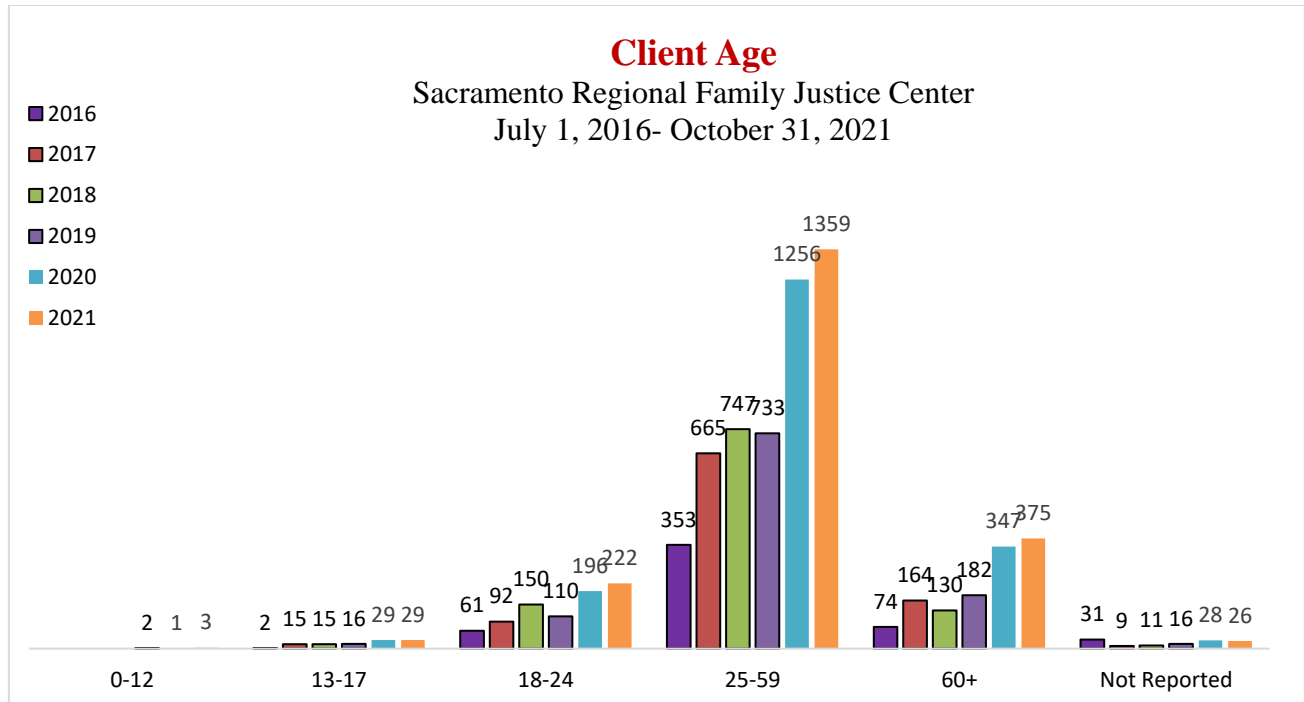
The SRFJC strategy focuses on two primary goals: reducing systemic barriers for all victims of interpersonal violence, family violence, human trafficking, and elder abuse, and creating a collaborative framework to enhance community partners and relationships which will lead to positive social and systemic change. The SRFJC believes this focus is the most effective approach to reach underserved communities. These community partners are actively engaged with the Domestic Violence Coordinating Council.

Also critical to the Domestic Violence Coordinating Council's efforts is WEAVE. Established in 1978, WEAVE was the first to build a dedicated domestic violence shelter in California, and third in the nation in 1986. WEAVE's mission is to promote safe and healthy relationships and support survivors of sexual assault, domestic violence and sex trafficking. They provide strong collaborative resources to the Domestic Violence Coordinating Council.

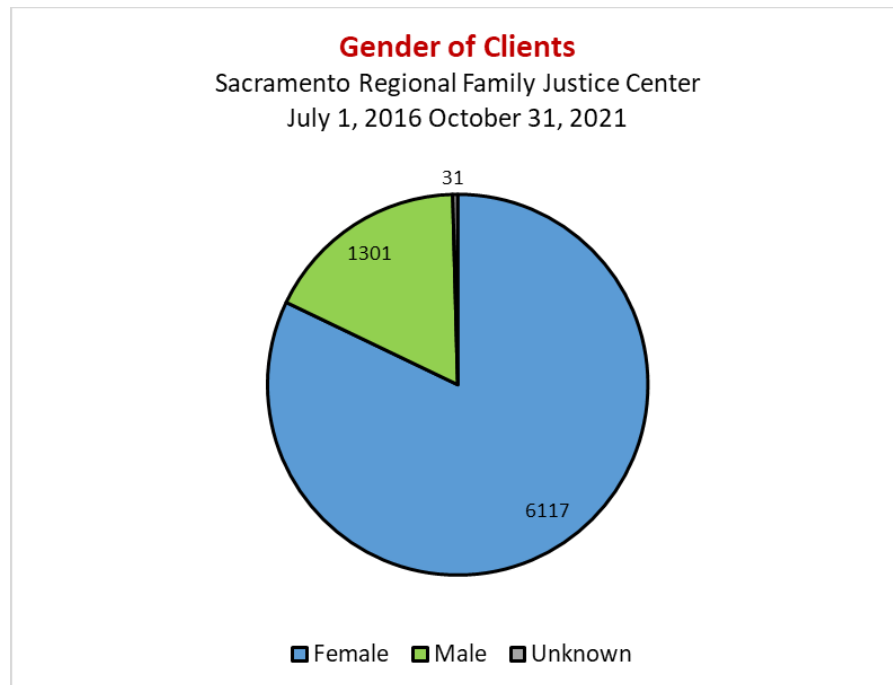
Below is a series of charts and graphs obtained through the SRFJC's client data throughout the past five years. The focus of this report is the period between October 2019 – October 2021.



The above chart shows that between July 1, 2016 and October 31, 2021, a total of 7,449 newclients sought services at the SRFJC. A total of 8,463 returned at least one more time after the first initial visit.



The above chart shows the diverse ethnic background of the individuals served by the SRFJC.

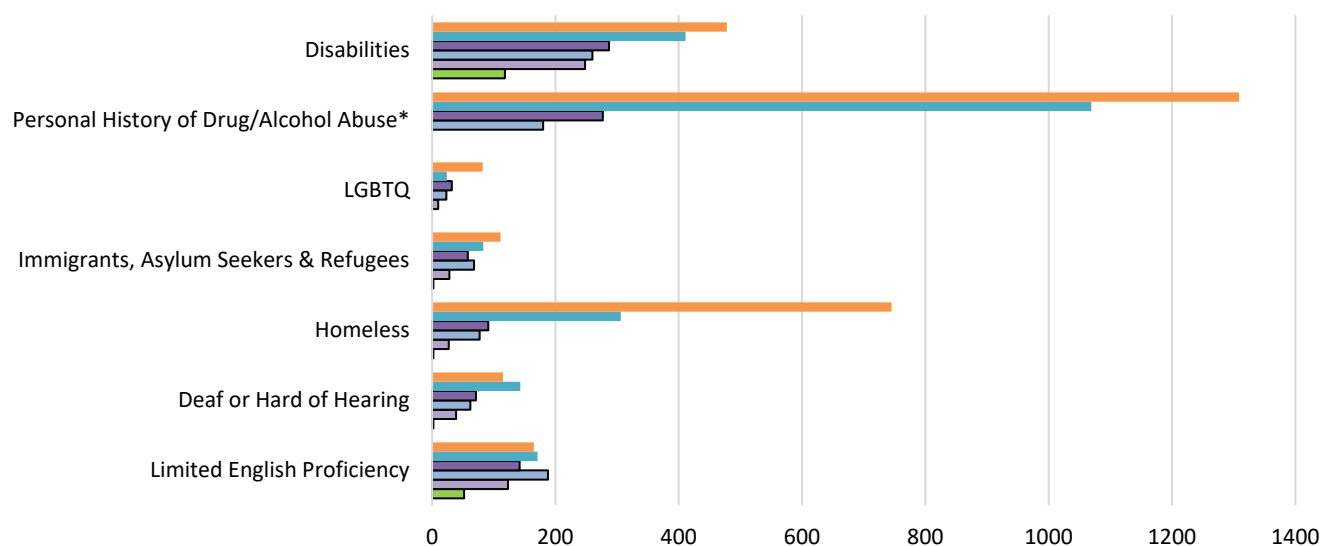


The above chart displays the gender breakdown of the clients served by the SRFJC, with 6,117 identifying as female, and 1,301 identifying as male. There were an additional 31 clients whose gender was unknown or not disclosed. These numbers reflect that the clientele consists of 82.11% Female, 17.46% Male, 0.41% Unknown gender identity

Clients with Special Classifications

Sacramento Regional Family Justice Center

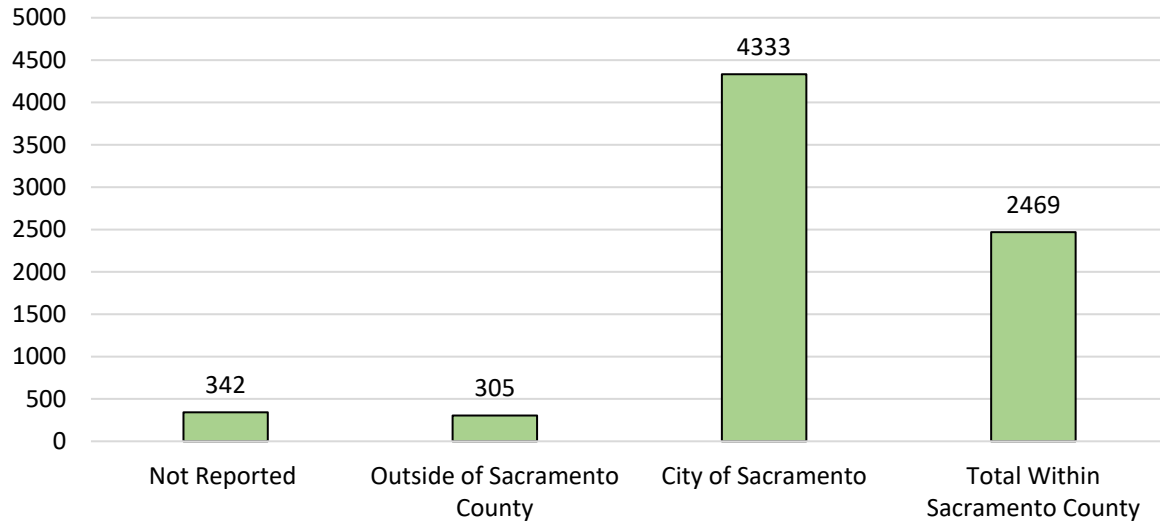
July 1, 2016 - October 31, 2021



| | Limited English Proficiency | Deaf or Hard of Hearing | Homeless | Immigrants, Asylum Seekers & Refugees | LGBTQ | Personal History of Drug/Alcohol Abuse* | Disabilities |
|------|-----------------------------|-------------------------|----------|---------------------------------------|-------|---|--------------|
| 2021 | 165 | 115 | 745 | 111 | 82 | 1309 | 478 |
| 2020 | 171 | 143 | 306 | 83 | 24 | 1069 | 411 |
| 2019 | 142 | 71 | 91 | 58 | 32 | 277 | 287 |
| 2018 | 188 | 62 | 77 | 68 | 23 | 180 | 260 |
| 2017 | 123 | 39 | 27 | 28 | 10 | 0 | 248 |
| 2016 | 52 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 118 |

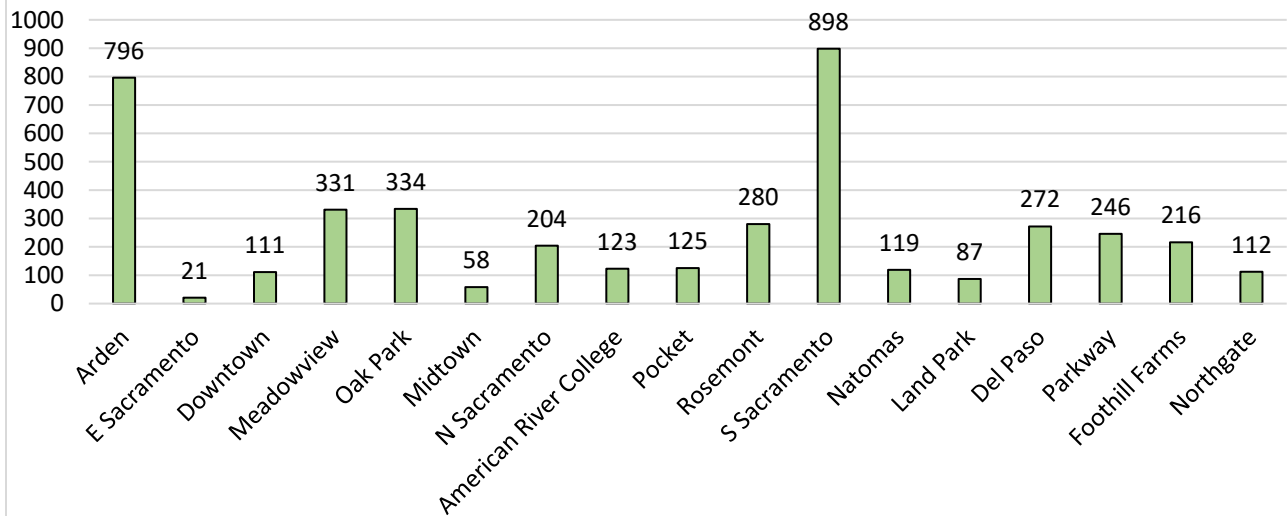
*The previous chart shows that the clients served by the SRFJC represent a diverse group of clients with a variety of special needs. Notably the number of clients experiencing homelessness has doubled in the last year. Also significant are the number and rise of the number of individuals who come for services and have a personal history of drug or alcohol abuse. *SRFJC began collecting data on Personal History of Drug/Alcohol Abuse in April 2018.*

Zip Codes of Clients
 Sacramento Regional Family Justice Center
 July 1, 2016 - October 31, 2021



Zip Codes of Clients in City of Sacramento, With Neighborhoods

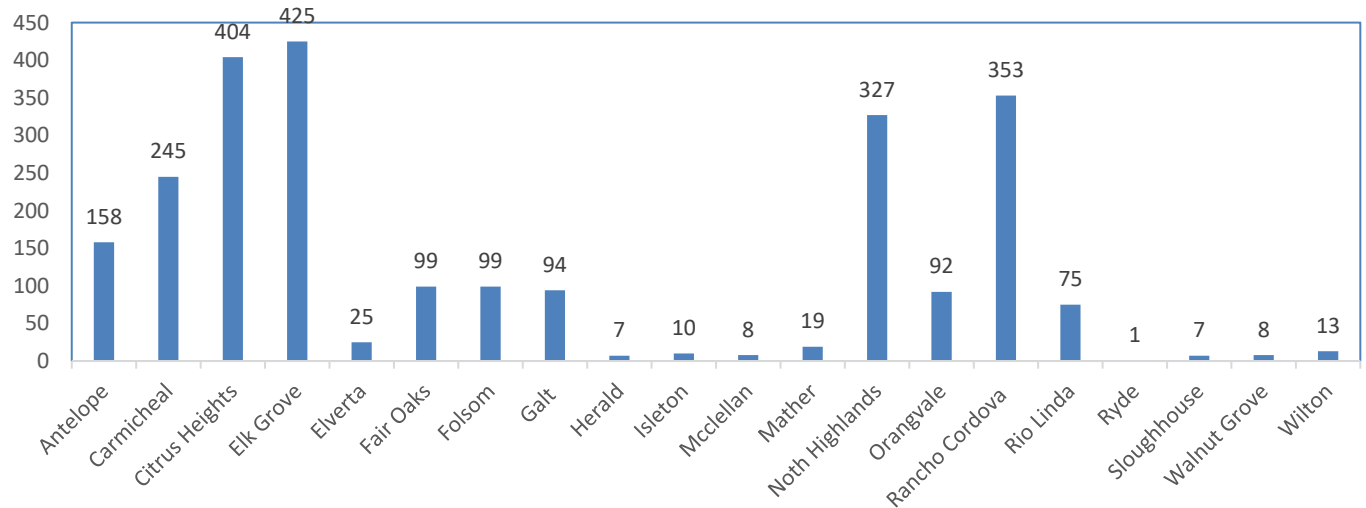
Sacramento Regional Family Justice Center
 July 1, 2016 - October 31, 2021



Zip Codes of Clients within Sacramento County

Sacramento Regional Family Justice Center

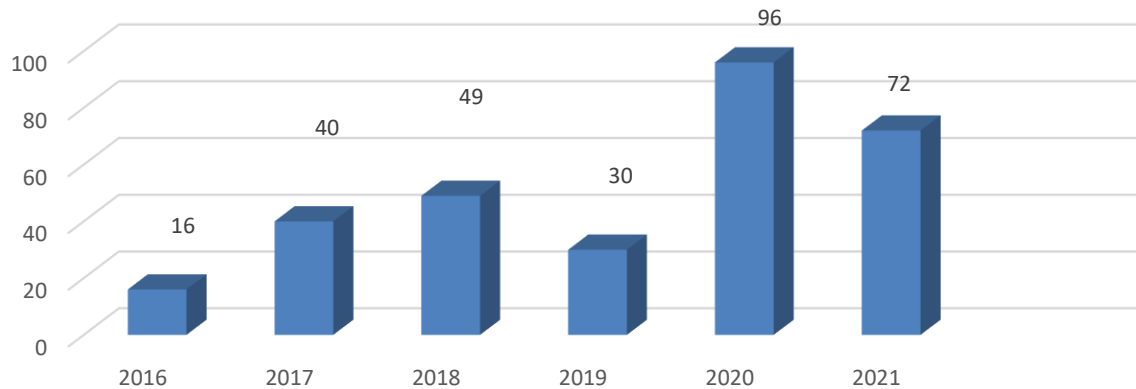
July 1, 2016 - October 31, 2021



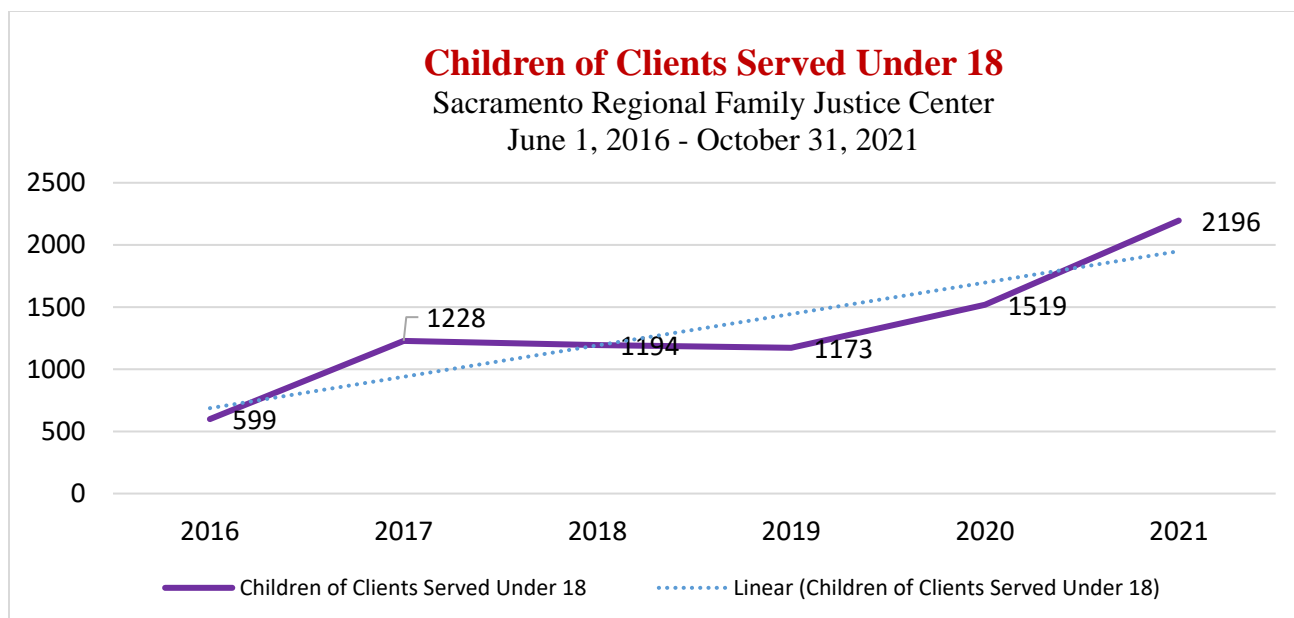
Number of Veterans Served

Sacramento Regional Family Justice Center

July 1, 2016- October 31, 2021



There were 303 military veterans served since 2016.



The above chart show that many SRFJC's clients were parents to young children.

The Law Enforcement Subcommittee has met several times during the year to discuss issues faced by law enforcement in responding to domestic violence calls for service. The DA's Office has updated its domestic violence training; it is available for all local patrol and detective law enforcement personnel. The trainings now emphasize the issues surrounding strangulation and provide instruction on the importance of providing medical intervention to survivors. Trainings also include insights on how best to gather evidence in order to prove strangulation crimes where there is often no readily visible evidence of the trauma suffered by the victim. Law enforcement agencies regularly attend the other subcommittee meetings.

In 2020, multi-disciplinary partners endorsed a Sacramento County Strangulation Protocol. The protocol was created due to the high number of strangulations cases seen in Sacramento County and the correlation between strangulation incidents and domestic violence deaths. Training programs highlighting the strangulation protocol have been presented several times since the implementation of the protocol, focused on first responders, prosecutors and community partners. WEAVE statistics presented in conjunction with this report show that the number of strangulation cases they encountered with survivors seeking services went from 5 in the first term of this report, to 17 in the middle term of this report and jumped to 191 cases of strangulation in the last year period covered by this report.

The Domestic Violence Death Review Team (DVDRT) is a subcommittee of the Sacramento County Domestic Violence Coordinating Council (DVCC). The DVDRT is authorized to exist pursuant to Penal Code Section 11163.3. Formed in the spring of 1998, the team meets monthly to debrief domestic violence related homicides and suicides with the goal of providing evidence based recommendations regarding needs for services and intervention in domestic violence in Sacramento County with the goal of reducing the number of these tragic deaths.

This is the DVDRT's 20th report. The first report was released in the fall of 2000. The reports track data as of October in each year to coincide with Domestic Violence Awareness Month. The team is presently chaired by District Attorney Anne Marie Schubert and represented by Assistant Chief Deputy District Attorney Dawn Bladet, who oversees the Sex Crimes and Family Violence Bureau and Danielle Abildgaard, Deputy District Attorney. Data for the report comes from the District Attorney's Office, The Sacramento County Regional Family Justice Center and WEAVE.

This year's report encompasses three years of information regarding 18 lives tragically lost due to domestic violence in Sacramento County. Cases cannot be discussed by the Council until any related criminal case is closed. Trial delays during the COVID-19 pandemic court closures impacted the availability of cases for discussion which is why this year's report contains information from 2019 – 2021. The deaths discussed in this report may not necessarily have occurred during the year in which the case was documented by the Committee.

PURPOSE

The purpose of the DVDRT is to bring together a multi-disciplinary team to review domestic violence related homicide cases (including homicide-suicide cases) in Sacramento County. The team meets to develop strategies, policies and procedures to improve regional system responses

to domestic violence and to reduce and prevent future incidents of domestic violence related homicide-suicides and injuries.

Domestic violence continues to be a widespread problem in our county. Anecdotal findings presented to the Board of Supervisors in January of 2021 included the fact that the degree of violence in the cases presented to the District Attorney's Office has increased. In addition, the number of repeat offenders and offenders with violence in their background has increased. In 2019, 3602 reports of domestic violence were referred to the District Attorney's Office for filing. Of those, 1806 cases were filed. In 2020, there were 3846 cases submitted and 1329 cases filed. The reduction of the number of cases filed that year was a result of pandemic related factors. In the same period of time in 2021, there were 4,506 cases referred for prosecution and 1780 cases filed. As the data shows, the number of domestic violence cases finding their way into the criminal justice system remains steady

In many of these cases, there is not a fresh arrest, but rather a warrant request because the perpetrator fled the crime scene before law enforcement arrived, preventing immediate arrest. This often requires law enforcement to conduct follow-up investigations in order to build a case for prosecution. Limited law enforcement resources and diverted resources during the COVID-19 pandemic has impacted the responsive resources to these cases which in turn impacts the likelihood of a successful conviction. The District Attorney's Office has continued efforts to identify cases where alternative sentencing options including mental health and substance abuse treatment are appropriate alternatives to incarceration. When faced with the volatile and sometimes unpredictable nature of domestic violence relationships, prosecutors strive to evaluate the totality of circumstances in order to strike a balance between action that protects the victim, involved children and community and what remedy is most suitable for the offender.

The number of individuals provided services at the SRFJC and WEAVE has increased substantially in the past three years, yet prosecution numbers remain steady. This suggests that individuals are electing to pursue services rather than report domestic violence to law enforcement. Consistent with this trend, numbers provided by WEAVE in connection with this report show that referrals to law enforcement dropped from 1309 during the first reporting period to 922 law enforcement referrals in the last reporting period.

CONFIDENTIALITY

Pursuant to Penal Code Section 11163.3, the meetings of the DVDRT are confidential. Every representative of a constituent agency or institution who attends DVDRT meetings signs an agreement of confidentiality.

MEMBERSHIP

The DVDRT is a multi-disciplinary, broad based organization which reviews information from law enforcement, public health, social services, coroner, child welfare, public and private medical organizations and domestic violence advocacy organizations. The current participating organizations are:

- Sacramento County District Attorney's Office
- Sacramento County Coroner's Office
- Sacramento County Sheriff's Office

- Sacramento City Police Department
- Sacramento County Probation Department
- Elk Grove Police Department
- Citrus Heights Police Department
- Law Enforcement Chaplaincy- Sacramento
- California Attorney General's Office
- Sacramento County Department of Health and Human Services
- Sacramento County Counsel
- Kaiser Permanente
- University of California, Davis Medical Center
- Sacramento County Child Protection Services
- Sutter Health
- Sutter Medical Center
- Dignity Health
- Sacramento Regional Family Justice Center
- WEAVE, Inc. (Women Escaping a Violent Environment)
- My Sister's House
- A Community for Peace
- Child Abuse Prevention Council

IMPLEMENTATION

To fulfill its mission, the DVDRT:

- Reviews domestic violence homicides in the county to determine if any systemic improvements should be made;
- Develops and recommends strategies to reduce and prevent domestic violence related homicides and homicide-suicides;
- Develops and recommends strategies to deal with the aftermath of domestic violence and domestic violence deaths;
- Acts as a multi-agency and multi-disciplinary team with regular meetings;
- Operates with the confidentiality principles outlined in Penal Code Section 11163.3 (requiring a signed confidentiality agreement for all team participants).
- Maintains a database of all records reviewed;
- Interacts with agencies and community-based organizations to help achieve its goals, using the Domestic Violence Coordinating Council as a point of contact and interaction.

SELECTION AND REVIEW OF CASES

The process by which the DVDRT selects cases for review has evolved over time. Currently, any member who has knowledge of a domestic violence related death in Sacramento County (that is not currently being prosecuted by the DA) may ask for the case to be reviewed. Most cases are referred by either law enforcement or the DA. The DVDRT chair selects which of the referred cases will be reviewed. If a case is being prosecuted by the DA's Office, the team waits until the case is sentenced, and the prosecution is completed.

Once a case is selected, the DA's Office provides identifying information to the other members of the team regarding the victim, the perpetrator, and any biological or custodial children that either party had prior to the homicide. Each committee member is responsible for reviewing the records of their agency to identify relevant information regarding the case and/or parties involved. At the time of review, the DA or law enforcement agency describes details of the homicide and each member agency provides any additional information they may have about the case.

In some cases, the DVDRT may extend an invitation to participate in the review to the prosecutor, law enforcement detective or victim advocate assigned to the case. When necessary, a member of the group may be assigned to contact members of the victim's or perpetrator's family to develop a better understanding of the underlying relationship. In some instances, family members and witnesses have been asked to attend DVDRT meetings to give direct input to the team.

With the limitations of the selection process, the time constraint placed on the team to ascertain records and the inability of the DVDRT to gather information from every possible source, the database of cases reviewed cannot be considered exhaustive or statistically representative. Nonetheless, the data collected can reveal significant concerns or insufficiencies which are evaluated by various experts, representatives from local agencies and members of the team, who then make recommendations.

CASES REVIEWED – DVDRT October 2019 to October 2021

In October 2019 – October 2021, the team reviewed eighteen different domestic violence related deaths. Several of the cases were murder-suicide cases. Each case required complex scrutiny by the team to evaluate all the issues and lethality factors. In the murder-suicide cases, where no criminal prosecution was possible, DVDRT required even more effort to gather essential family history information, since police agencies are generally not inclined to further investigate the background factors of a case when prosecution of an offender is not possible. Below is a chart identifying the cases reviewed by the DVDRT for the 2021 report by supervisorial district. A map is also included depicting the geographical locations of cases reviewed within each district.

CASE SUMMARIES

The review of the 18 cases in this report reaffirms the DVDRT conclusions from years past. Domestic violence affects all age ranges, races, religions and economic levels of society. The main truism that can be gleaned from these cases is that a domestic violence homicide victim or perpetrator can be either male or female, although those who kill are predominately men. Abusers come from all walks of life, neighborhoods and diverse racial backgrounds. Weapons used by abusers vary widely. Consistent themes of substance abuse and mental health issues dominate the factual scenarios. Also significant is the impact these crimes have on the children of these families.

Categorical Breakdown:

Age Ranges:

The victims of these homicides ranged in age from 23 to 83 years old. The perpetrators ranged in age from 24 to 90 years old.

Racial or Ethnic Backgrounds:

Of the victims killed in domestic violence during the incidents detailed in this report, 6 were of Asian or Pacific Islander heritage, 3 were African American, 8 were Caucasian and 1 was Hispanic. The background of the perpetrators of these homicides included 6 Asian or Pacific Islanders, 4 African Americans, 2 Hispanic and 6 Caucasians.

Children Left Without One or Both Parents:

We know domestic violence impacts the children of the victim and perpetrator. In the 18 cases of homicide and murder-suicide documented here, 42 children were left without one or both parents because of the domestic violence related homicide.

Prior Domestic Abuse Reported:

In 7 of the 18 cases, domestic violence had been previously reported to law enforcement involving the same or other victims.

Prior Domestic Abuse Unreported:

In 8 of the 18 cases, there was prior domestic violence that was not reported to law enforcement but described by family or friends.

Strangulation or Prior Strangulation:

In 5 of the 18 cases, there was strangulation committed by the perpetrator of either the current or a prior victim.

Perpetrator and Victim Separated or Separating:

We know that the most dangerous and lethal time in a domestic violence relationship is when the victim leaves the abuser. In 5 of the 18 cases, the victim had left or was in the process of leaving when the homicide was committed.

Alcohol and Drug Use:

In examining the cases in this report, the Committee noted the impact of drugs and alcohol in the domestic violence relationship. In the 18 cases, evidence showed 12 of the victims had drug or alcohol problems. Thirteen of the perpetrators showed evidence of drug or alcohol abuse, many testing positive for these substances at the time of the commission of the offense. Substances used include alcohol, methamphetamine, cocaine, prescription medications, mushrooms and marijuana.

Weapon Use:

Of the 18 related domestic violence deaths, 9 were perpetrated with a firearm, 5 guns were

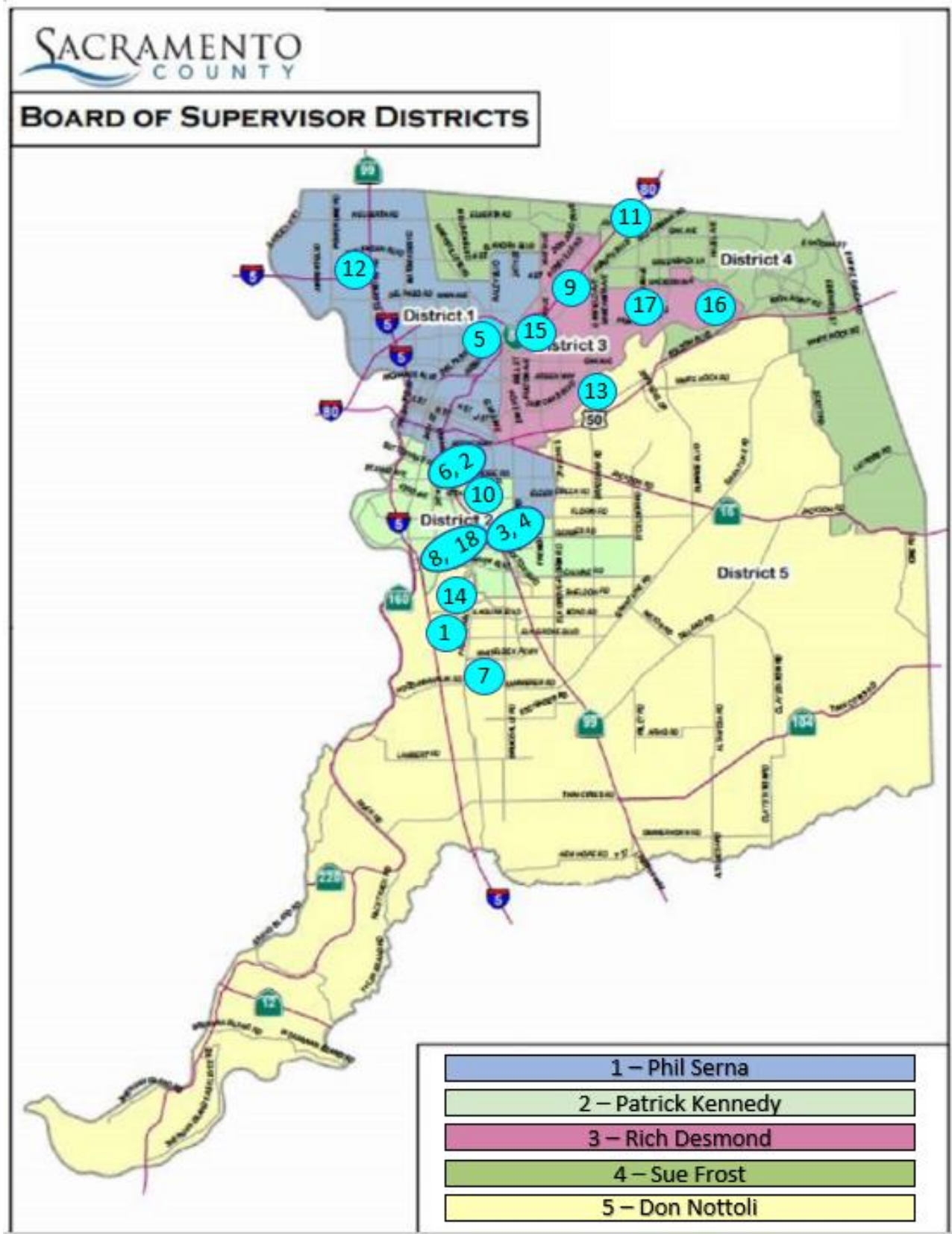
registered (3 to perpetrator, 1 to victim and 1 to a family member) the remaining 4 firearms were unregistered. Other weapons use to kill in the remaining 9 cases include metal poles or rods, hammer, saw, sledge hammer, knife and guitar.

Prior Suicide Attempts or Suicidal Ideation:

Of the domestic violence deaths detailed in this report, 11 of the perpetrators had a history of suicide attempts or suicidal ideation.

**DVDRT Cases Reviewed in 2019, 2020, 2021
by Supervisorial District**

| District 1 Serna | District 2 Kennedy | District 3 Desmond | District 4 Frost | District 5 Nottoli | Total |
|-----------------------------|-------------------------------|-------------------------------|-----------------------------|-------------------------------|--------------|
| 3 | 5 | 5 | 1 | 4 | 18 |



Cases numbered 1 thru 18 in blue dots denote case order of review by the DVDRT and corresponds to the subsequent graphs with fact information and factor breakdown.

DVDRT CASES REVIEWED IN OCTOBER 2018 TO SEPTEMBER 2019

V = Victim

P= Perpetrator

BF = Boyfriend

GF = Girlfriend

Unk = Unknown

| Case | #1 | #2 | #3 | #4 | #5 |
|----------------------------------|---|--|---|--|---|
| Age of Victim | 31 | 36 | 48 | 26 | 49 |
| Age of Perpetrator | 28 | 35 | 37 | 27 | 41 |
| Children Together | 1 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 1 |
| Children - V | 1 | 1 | 4 | 1 | 1 |
| Children - P | 4 | 3 | 0 | 1 | 3 |
| Children Witness Violence | No | Yes | No | Yes | Unk |
| Relationship Status | Together | Boyfriend and girlfriend, lived together with one child in common. | Dating | Boyfriend/girlfriend with a child in common. | Boyfriend/girlfriend |
| Weapon Used | .40 caliber handgun | 9 mm gun – not registered to either V or P | 2-foot metal pole | 9mm – V's gun | 4-foot metal pipe |
| Facts | V and P were seen arguing on the side of the road. A short time later a passerby stopped and found P deceased with a gun in his hand. V was found with a gunshot wound in the neck and succumbed to her injuries. | Neighbors heard V and P arguing outside. They saw V grab P by the arms and then heard a gunshot. V died of a gunshot wound to the chest. | V was found deceased in her motel room. She had multiple puncture wounds. V's family members described V and P relationship as volatile and reported P had beat her before. V's cousin had driven V and P to the motel room and saw P with the 2-foot metal pole. | V was in the process of breaking up with P. She had her mother watch her child while she prepared to move out. V and P argues, P shot her with her own gun. P called 911 and reported that he killed his wife. | V and P were in a dating relationship. They were squatting in a vacant home. P beat to death V with a metal pipe. |

| | | | | | |
|---|--|---|--|--|---|
| | | | P's fingerprint was found in the motel room. | | |
| Prior DV History | Yes, per family - unreported | 5 prior cases where V of this homicide was the perpetrator. | Yes, unreported to LE. P had a prior DV arrest with a different victim. | Per family – yes, but not reported to LE. | P - yes |
| Prior Suicidal Ideation | Unk | Unk | Yes, P threatened to jump in front of a car. | Yes, P had threatened to kill himself before. | Unk |
| Mental Health Diagnosis | Unk | Unk | V – 2003 in psych ward of jail. P – psych ward after this incident. | No | P – 2 hospitalizations at Napa State Hospital |
| Employed V | Unk | Self-employed | Unk | On and off | No |
| Employed P | Unk | Care giver IHSS | Unk | Yes, Walmart | No |
| Drugs/Alcohol | V – toxicology positive for meth. P – toxicology positive for meth. | V- alcohol, THC and cocaine. P – meth. | V – meth and alcohol P - meth | No | V – meth P - meth |
| Race | Asian | African American | Hispanic | White | P – African American V - White |
| Strangulation or Prior Strangulation | Unk | V had strangled P before. | Unk | Unk | Unk |
| V and P Separated | Unk | Unk | No | Per mom, she had broken up with P a few times before and was attempting to move out when P killed her. | No |

DVDRT CASES REVIEWED IN OCTOBER 2019 TO SEPTEMBER 2020

V = Victim

P= Perpetrator

BF = Boyfriend

GF = Girlfriend

Unk = Unknown

| Case | #6 | #7 | #8 | #9 | #10 |
|---------------------------------------|--|---|---|---|---|
| Age of Victim | 61 | 65 | 34 | 37 | 31 |
| Age of Perpetrator | 59 | 87 | 44 | 35 | 29 |
| Children Together | No | No | 2 | No | Yes |
| Children - V | V had 1 stepson from prior marriage | No | 2 daughters | 3 | 4 |
| Children - P | No | 2 | 1 son | 1 – 14-year-old daughter | 4 |
| Children Witness Violence | No | No | Unk: Children heard parents fighting the night before. | No | Unk |
| Relationship Status | Married | Married | Married w/ children in Hmong tradition (not legally married). | Dating | Children in common |
| Weapon Used – legal or illegal | Hammer and reciprocating saw with diamond blade. | Sledgehammer | Gun - .38 caliber registered to P | Metal Rod | No weapon, D pushed V out of car causing blunt force trauma. |
| Facts | V told a GF that she was tired of P's drinking and she was going to kick him out of the house. V agreed to have dinner with witness the next day. V never showed up. A welfare check was conducted, and V was found deceased, naked with her two legs removed. P was arrested. | On 12/24/17, P called his daughter and said, "You better come here soon because your Auntie and I are about to die." When P's son arrived, he located P hanging from a fan and V was in living room with blunt face trauma to the skull. It appears a sledgehammer was used in the assault. | P and V were arguing the night before the crime. The next morning 9- and 8-year-old children got ready for school and then discovered P and V in the garage. P had gunshot wound to head and V was also shot. | P and V had been dating for about 2 months. They had recently left a rehab center (VA) on day of incident he beat her with a metal rod with at the Crowne Plaza Hotel, at the same time, there was a law enforcement training going on in the lobby. She died of multiple blunt force injuries to the head. | On 2/3/17, LE rc'vd multiple calls for a welfare check regarding vehicle w/o lights on, P sitting on the ground next to the car, and someone possibly being shot. Officers arrived, and observed V lying face down on the roadway not moving and P slumped over in the passenger seat bleeding from his head. |

| | | | | | |
|--|--|--|--|---|---|
| | | | | | V died from blunt force trauma. |
| Prior DV History – reported or unreported | No | <p>No; but argued a lot about finances and what she did with her money.</p> <p>On 9/16/16, V reported to doctor that she experiences sexual and emotional abuse from P relating to their intimate life.</p> <p>Per Dr.'s notes – P wants to have sex all the time and V does not. P gives her silent treatment until she gives in. V did not feel as if she was in any danger.</p> | <p>P had prior arrest in 2008 for PC 243(e)(1) → declined to file.</p> <p>LE responded to a disturbance where P put V in a headlock and threatened to shoot her. Deputies confiscated a gun.</p> <p>V's manager called CPS in 2016 b/c V told her that P was being psychically assaultive toward her.</p> <p>V's family told LE he threatened to kill her, threatened her with axe—not reported to LE.</p> | <p>P had 2 prior DV arrests –</p> <p>2009 San Leandro – D pushed girlfriend at the time and then placed his hands around her neck and pushed her.</p> <p>2006 Freemont – same argument over cell phone, D pushed GF and placed forearm on neck and pressed down while she was on her back.</p> <p>P admitted to using methamphetamine two days before killing his GF.</p> | <p>Yes, prior V 2005, 2006 and 2007 DV convictions. Another prior V 2010 DV conviction.</p> <p>V of 187 – reported to family members that in 2014 and 2015 he assaulted her. In 2016 he held a gun to her head.</p> |
| Prior Suicidal Ideation | Unk | Unk | Yes, threatened to kill her and himself. | P – 2/2/16 after making statements while in protective custody. | P had threatened to kill V and then kill himself in 2016. |
| Mental Health Diagnosis | She had mental health diagnosis (bi-polar) | P was on dialysis | Unk | PTSD, Psychotic Disorder (not including methamphetamine), depression, and anxiety | V – in 2004, witnessed brother shoot and kill pregnant sister and her BF, sister died |
| Employed - V | Retired | Part-time at care home two days a week | Taco bell and medical assistant | No; Broke wrist in bike accident and became homeless from 2013 until his arrest in 2017 | Unk |
| Employed - P | Construction; self-employed → off due to workers comp. | No | Unemployed | No | None – on SSI |

| | | | | | |
|---|--|---------------------|---|---|---|
| Drugs/Alcohol | Yes, P had BAC .14; Prescribed Vistaril | No | P and V – Methamphetamine | Yes, both met in a substance abuse treatment program. Both had methamphetamine in system | P and V – Methamphetamine |
| Race | Caucasian | Filipino | Asian | P – Hispanic V- Caucasian | Asian |
| Strangulation or Prior Strangulation | No | No | No | With prior girl friend 2009 – put hands around her throat and pushed her. 2006 – while GF was on her back he placed his forearm on her neck and pushed down. | P admitted to strangling her in 2017. |
| V and P Separated | 3 days before her murder V told her girlfriend she was kicking him out because of his drinking. | V separated from P. | Not separated but V was becoming more and more frustrated with P and told her manager as soon as she was financially stable she was going to leave him. | No | 5 months before 187 V left P. However, she returned to him a few days later. |

DVDRT CASES REVIEWED IN OCTOBER 2020 TO SEPTEMBER 2021

V = Victim

P= Perpetrator

BF = Boyfriend

GF = Girlfriend

Unk = Unknown

| Case | #11 | #12 | #13 | #14 | #15 | #16 | #17 | #18 |
|---------------------------------------|---|---|--|---|---|---|--|--|
| Age of V | 59 | 23 | 42, 51, 45, 49 | 83 | 50 | 23 | 23 | 58 |
| Age of P | 52 | 26 | 44 | 90 | 49 | 24 | 25 | 60 |
| Children Together | No | No | Yes, with 42 y.o. V | 7 | No | No | No | 4 |
| Children - V | 1 | No | 3 | | 2 | No | No | |
| Children - P | 1 | No | 3 | | 3 | No | No | |
| Children Witness Violence | No | No | Yes, all 3 children witnessed violence between P and 42 y.o. V. | No | No | No | No | They did not witness but were in the home asleep. |
| Relationship Status | Boyfriend/ girlfriend | V = ex-boyfriend S = ex-girlfriend | 42 y.o. V = ex-wife 51 y.o. V = ex-girlfriend 45 y.o. V = ex-girlfriend 49 y.o. V = ex-girlfriend | Husband/wife | Married – but not legally, both still married to prior spouses. | Ex-boyfriend/ girlfriend | Boyfriend/ girlfriend | Husband/wife |
| Weapon Used – legal or illegal | Guitar - legal | Knife – legal, large knife from kitchen | Gun – unregistered handgun | Meat cleaver- legal | Gun – unregistered .45 cal. handgun | Gun – registered to P's Grandfather. P's father inherited them - legal | 9mm gun w/ large capacity drum magazine – gun registered to P. | AR-15 registered to P |
| Facts | P was found dead on side of I-80 and Riverside Blvd. Four days later V was found deceased in her condo she shared | P had recently broken up with her boyfriend V. On April 30, 2020 V showed up at P's apartment and demanded entry. P | P, defendant/ decedent, committed suicide on 1/6/2021. At the time of his suicide he was pending a felony DV case in | P was 84 years-old when he killed his wife, V. He had been married to her for sixty years and had seven children. | V and P had been married for less than two months when P shot V in the back of the neck killing her and then himself. He shot and | V and P had been in a long-term relationship. V was attempting to break up with P. P learned V had recently cheated on him. V | V and P were boyfriend and girlfriend. They met in high school and started dating after high school. On the night of the | P was diagnosed with cancer and told her had 6 months to live. P and V lived in their home with 9 other family |

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| | <p>with her long-term boyfriend, P. Coroner ruled P's death a suicide and ruled V's death a homicide by violence of an undetermined cause. Officers found V deceased inside the master bedroom. She had significant trauma to the back of her head. P's guitar was also in the bedroom, broken in several pieces, and had blood splatter on it. A piece of the guitar was found imbedded in the back of V's head. Witnesses reported both V and P had significant drug issues. They had been in recovery, but P's sister passed away approx. 18 months prior and both V and P began to use meth again. Witnesses also reported V just started rehab and was 11 days clean. Text messages revealed P was very jealous of the male V was attending rehab with, he threatened to kill the male. Text</p> | <p>was inside but pretended she was not home. V continued to hit and kick the doors and windows yelling that he wanted in. He also texted her threatening text messages including "till death do us part". V was ultimately able to kick open P's door. P stabbed him and then fled to her mother's home. P was unaware of the extent of V's injuries when she fled.</p> | <p>which he had physically abused and threaten to kill his 49 y.o. ex-girlfriend. While his DV case was pending, he assaulted her again, this time by firing 2 shots into the passenger side of the vehicle she was driving. Three days later detectives from the Sac Sheriff's Office conducted a vehicle stop in which defendant was the driver. As detectives approached his vehicle he shot and killed himself.</p> <p>LE reports revealed in 2009 P had assaulted and threatened to kill the mother of his children, 42 y.o. V. In 2018 he had LE contact during a DV incident with his then girlfriend, 51 y.o. V. In 2019 and 2020 his girlfriend turned wife, 45 y.o. V, reported to LE that P had physically assaulted her and threaten to kill her and himself.</p> | <p>According to his family he had been sick for years and was taking too many medications. They reported he was suffering from lack of sleep, he was in immense pain, and took multiple medications that overlapped and did not do him any good. They reported he was suffering from mental issues and had attempted suicide by driving into a wall. On the day of the murder P thought his V was cheating on him and had lied to him. P grabbed a meat cleaver and killed her. P told officers that his sodium level was off and heard voices in his head and ears.</p> | <p>killed her behind her business, NU2You Fitness, on Auburn Boulevard. P had a history of domestic violence with his first wife.</p> | <p>left work early and met P in the driveway of his home. P shot and killed V and then killed himself. A postal worker found their bodies and called police.</p> | <p>incident they were at a friend's house for dinner. They were both drinking alcohol. P was upset about something and they were arguing outside. V tried to drive away in P's car but crashed it into a tree. P grabbed V from the driver's seat and began hitting her. P pulled a gun out from behind the driver's seat and threatened to kill her. Neighbor's called 911. The neighbor's ring video captured LE arriving and V telling P to go upstairs and hide under the bed. As V was obeying law enforcement's orders P ran out of the neighbor's apartment and shot V - killing her. LE then shot and killed P.</p> | <p>members. All family members were assisting in the care of P and the disabled child that lived in the home. P was in a significant amount of pain and claimed the doctors were not helping him. V was also depressed and on anti-depressant medications. V had the children remove all the guns from P's room. P was an avid hunter and had 7 rifles registered to him. On the night of the incident all the family members went to bed. In the morning V and P were dead. P had the AR-15 in his right hand. Both suffered from fatal gunshot wounds.</p> |
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| | messages and witness statements revealed the last time anyone saw or communicated with V was before P was found deceased. | | | | | | | |
| Prior DV History - Report or unreported | No | Yes 2/2/20 P called 911 for DV, LE did not arrest either P or V. | Yes – many prior DV reports to LE. P was pending DV charges. | No | Yes, P had one felony and one misdemeanor DV conviction with mother of his children. | No | One prior report to SPD. Report not referred to DA's office for filing. | No |
| Prior Suicidal Ideation | Yes, P had attempted to hang himself previously and had told two witnesses that he had attempted to kill himself before and his preferred method was hanging. | No | Yes, and his mother was not surprised "how it worked out." | Yes, P had previously driven his car into a tree trying to kill himself. | Yes, P had told the mother of his children that he had tried to kill himself on several occasions. | Yes, P had told medical staff he had prior suicidal thoughts. | Unk | V believed P was suicidal and had her children remove all his guns from the room. |
| Mental Health Diagnosis | Both V and P had been diagnosed with bipolar disorder. | No | Bipolar disorder, PTSD, and Alcohol use disorder Under care of Sacramento County Adult Psychiatric Support Services Clinic. | Major depressive disorder, recurrent, moderate severity and mild unspecified Neurocognitive Disorder. | Unk | P was being treated for depression. | V reported to SPD she suffered from depression. P's mom reported he had PTSD. | V – depression P – diagnosed with cancer and given 6 months to live. |
| Employed - V | No | Unk | Unk | None | Business Owner | Bank Teller at Bank of America | PG&E | No |
| Employed - P | No | Kentucky Fried Chicken | Unknown | None | Worked for V | Petco employee | Former US Air Force and had worked at either UC Davis or Mercy hospital. | IHSS – cared for his disabled son. |

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| Drugs/ Alcohol | Yes, both were addicted to meth. | Victim was drinking alcohol. | P used methamphetamine and had been arrested with 100 grams of methamphetamine on him. | P self-medicated with his prescriptions, other people's prescriptions, over the counter drugs and western medicine. | V had history of DUIs and served prison sentence for DUI. Business neighbors reports V was intoxicated all the time. Hospital had 3 prior ER visits where V was intoxicated. | V and P both used mushrooms and marijuana. | V and P were both under the influence of alcohol. | Rx and over the counter medications. |
| Race | White | African American | White | Asian | White | White | African American | Asian |
| Strangulation or Prior Strangulation | No | Yes, V had previously strangled P with her necklace. | No | No | P strangled the mother of his children (not our V). | No | No | No |
| V and P Separated | V was in process of kicking P out of home. | Yes | Yes, they were separated when P killed himself. | No | No | Yes | No | No |

FINDINGS

1) Mental Health and Suicide

The Council noted a consistent theme of mental health and substance abuse history in the perpetrators of these deaths. The high number of perpetrators with suicidal ideation or prior attempts of suicide demonstrate a correlation between significant mental health issues and lethal acts of domestic violence. The number of murder suicide cases here is further evidence of this connection.

2) Substance Use and Abuse

The significant percentage of cases studied by the Commission this period where both the perpetrator and often the victim have substance abuse issues suggest this is also a significant causative factor to be considered in services, education and intervention programming.

3) Gun Possession and Use by Abusers

Perpetrators prohibited from possessing guns have too easily hid their possession of firearms from the judicial system or found access to illegal possession of weapons and have gone onto use the weapons to commit domestic violence homicides.

Perpetrators usually lose their right to gun possession and ownership in one of three ways:

- (1) They are arrested and released on bail with a criminal protective order that forbids gun possession;
- (2) They have a family court restraining order served on them which bars possession; and,
- (3) They have been convicted of crimes previously that bar possession or ownership for aspecified amount of time.

When served with a court order not to possess guns, it is up to the perpetrator to follow through with the order to no longer possess and it is up to the perpetrator to provide proof to the court that they have complied with the order. In most cases, additional judicial or law enforcement follow-up could be done to verify if the perpetrator still has access to guns.

4) Strangulation

The number of domestic homicide cases where strangulation was used by the perpetrator as a method of violence in the fatal act or in prior acts is significant. We need to continue to educate first responders, medical professionals, law enforcement, service providers and prosecutors about the lethal nature of strangulation and its correlation to domestic violence homicide.

5) Determining which Cases Qualify as DVDRT Reviewable Cases

The DVDRT is often frustrated in trying to locate every domestic violence related homicide in the county. Not every homicide is reported to the District Attorney. Murder-

Suicide is often not reported because there is no perpetrator to arrest or prosecute. There are also different definitions of domestic related homicides in different agencies. This frustration has led to the DVDRT having difficulty presenting an accurate yearly total number of domestic violence related homicides in the county at the presentation of these reports. We have a number of law enforcement agencies in Sacramento County and each has its own process for reporting, categorizing and referring these types of cases to the District Attorney's Office.

The DVDRT uses a broad definition which includes homicides that are motivated by dating frustrations, interfamily relationships, and interpersonal violence conflicts. This definition can include a murder-suicide of a jealous lover on the person they date or the former or current dating partner. It does not include interfamily violence when a child kills another sibling or a parent or a parent kills a child unless there is parental violence in the home that contributed to the event.

The coroner will know the underlying facts of a homicide, but often do not know the back story of family violence in order to flag a death as a possible domestic violence related death.

6) The Danger of DV Encounters for Law Enforcement and Innocent Citizens

Suicidal and homicidal abusers pose a danger to their victims, the community and law enforcement. Most of the perpetrators who discharge firearms at law enforcement officers have documented DV backgrounds. The most dangerous call for a responding officer is a DV call. It is not a coincidence that a majority of mass killers in America have both a documented DV and strangulation history. The lethality these offenders pose to others must be recognized in the response to calls for domestic violence intervention.

RECOMMENDATIONS

The DVDRT recommends that the Board support implementation of the following:

1) Mental Health and Suicide

The high number of perpetrators with suicidal ideation or prior attempts of suicide demonstrate a correlation between significant mental health issues and perpetration of domestic violence such that efforts should be made to increase access to these services for both offenders and victims.

The Council also recognizes the number of children impacted by domestic violence in the home, and in the case of these homicides, the significant number of children who no longer have a parent or parents. The long-term wellness of these children is a community interest that should be prioritized.

One subject that was raised in multiple meetings of the Council is the limited resources providing support, education and early intervention for perpetrators of domestic violence. Laudably, the focus of most services in Sacramento County is on the survivors of domestic

violence. However, there is a need for education and engagement with young people regarding the subject of domestic violence, anger management and mental health. We urge the Board to fund and support these types of services starting with youth and continuing into adulthood before someone becomes an abuser. With these goals in mind, we hope to prevent individuals from repeating patterns of violence which will lead to a reduction in domestic violence deaths.

2) Substance Use and Abuse

The commonly observed influence of drug and alcohol abuse in domestic violence is longstanding. The significant percentage of cases where the perpetrator and victim have substance abuse issues suggest this is a causative factor to be considered in education and intervention programming. Intervention and treatment options for individuals experiencing these issues must be readily available and accessible to all. We urge the Board to support programs providing these services.

3) Gun Possession and Use by Abusers

Firearm access combined with substance use/abuse and/or mental health issues are lethal combinations as bears out in the facts of these homicide cases.

The DVDRT recommends that a team consisting of members from law enforcement agencies in the county working with county probation review court orders prohibiting gun possession that allow for the search and seizure of weapons. During this review they should prioritize dangerous perpetrators by assessing lethality factors present in the actions of the abuser and conduct security sweeps for illegal gun possession by these abusers. Prior gun use, gun possession at the time of the alleged crime, current or prior strangulation and/or threats to kill should head the list of prioritized lethality factors.

4) Strangulation

DVDRT recommends continued training of first responders, medical providers, law enforcement, service providers and prosecutors regarding the proper reporting, treatment and referrals for incidents of strangulation. The formal implementation and use of the Sacramento County Strangulation Protocol is key to establish consistency in all disciplines where strangulation is reported in a domestic violence incident.

5) Determining which Cases Qualify as DVDRT Reviewable Cases

The DVDRT recommends that all parties with knowledge of homicides that could be defined as connected to family or interpersonal violence be reported to the Supervisor of the Sacramento District Attorney's Office Domestic Violence Team within 30 days of the end of the calendar year.

This requirement would apply to every Sacramento County law enforcement agency and the coroner. The District Attorney Domestic Violence Supervisor should review these reported cases, cross check them with the coroner's number, and then contact the Homicide sergeant of each law enforcement agency to verify the number of reports received is accurate.

This information will then be included in the annual DVDRT report to the Board of Supervisors each year so that not only will the cases briefed by DVDRT be included, but the committed offenses for each year would be accurate as well.

6) Reducing Danger Through Prevention and Education

Children who grow up with abuse in their homes often end up believing that violence is an effective way to resolve conflicts and problems. These children also have higher risks of alcohol/drug abuse, posttraumatic stress disorder, and criminality.

There are programs that help build collaborations with community organizations that can provide support for these children and help them heal and lead a happier life.

The DVPC has as a goal to continue discussions with government agencies, health care providers, and community organizations on how we can enhance programs for children by building their hope for the future, building their resiliency to overcome setbacks and disappointments and reducing rage, trauma and violence in their daily lives.

Expanding services and education on the cycle of domestic violence and increasing availability of anger management programs at an early intervention stage would also aid in the goals of prevention of violence. We urge the Board to continue to support programs focused on children who come from homes where abuse occurs, like the SRFJC's Camp Hope.

7) Embedded Advocates Help Bridge the Law Enforcement

WEAVE statistics provided in connection with this report show that clients served by advocates embedded with Sacramento County law enforcement agencies have increased dramatically now that there are embedded advocates at the Sacramento Police Department, Sacramento Sheriff's Office, Elk Grove Police and Citrus Heights Police. This model of immediate access to advocacy for a survivor of domestic violence facilitates safety planning, access to services and is a way to reduce fatal outcomes of domestic violence relationships. Funding for these positions would be recommended as an additional means to protect domestic violence survivors while at the same time facilitating appropriate law enforcement engagement where necessary.

CONCLUSION

The DVCC is continuing to actively work with our domestic violence partners, including law enforcement, community organizations, businesses, educators, faith-based organizations and local governments in trying to better address the issues of domestic violence in Sacramento County. The SRFJC continues to advance the successful collaborative efforts of the Sacramento region and has had a positive impact on addressing issues surrounding domestic violence in the community. WEAVE and our many other community partners are also critical in the mission to provide assistance to survivors of domestic violence and reduce the number of incidents of domestic violence, especially lethal violence. The DVDRT looks forward to the Board's continued support during the next year as it explores more exciting opportunities for our community and the protection of domestic violence survivors.