



City of Dallas

DVTF Annual Report Update

**Public Safety Committee
June 7th, 2021**

Councilmember Jennifer Gates &
DPD Lt. Kylee Hawks
City of Dallas

Presentation Overview



- Background
- Dallas Family Violence Data & DPD Update
- Collaboration with District Attorney's Office
- DV Providers Updates
- DVTF Recommendations Going Forward



Background



- The 2020 DVTF Annual Report was released in October
- Violent crime has continued to increase in 2021 and family violence has increased proportionally
- DV Partner Organizations have continued to make improvements to services during this time period
- COVID and organizational changes in DPD have slowed programmatic improvements



Purpose



- Family violence offenders are often involved in other violent offenses – strategically decreasing FV will decrease all violent offenses
- Services for victims are improving year over year yet rates of FV remain steady
- Emphasis needs to be placed on prevention and on keeping perpetrators of FV off the streets and without access to firearms
- A domestic violence prevention advisory council operated by the City is necessary to continue the efforts of the DVTF



Family Violence Data



	2018	2019	2020	2020 YTD	2021 YTD
FV Agg Assault	1,796	1,833	2,040	749	818
Firearm used	459	466	684	217	305
NFV Agg Assault	3,808	4,863	6,008	2,301	2,389
Firearm used	2,772	3,634	4,491	1,660	1,868
Murders Total	154	195	251	76	84
FV Murders	23	32	30	10	14
Firearm used	18	19	19	5	9
Total FV Offenses	12,717	13,582	14,669	5,820	5,576



FV In Relation to Overall Violence 2020/2021



- FV Aggravated Assaults Account for roughly 25% of all aggravated assaults
 - 2020: 8,048 reported cases of agg assault, FV accounted for 2,040
 - YTD of 3,207 cases of aggravated assault, FV accounted for 818 cases
- Since 2018, FV homicides accounts for 10-14% of all homicides in Dallas



FV Warrant Squad Arrests



- In 2020, DV Warrant Squad arrested 420 offenders for outstanding warrants
- Of those 420 offenders, 383 had previously committed non-FV violent crimes
- Currently, 40 of the 420 offenders arrested by the squad last year have new outstanding warrants for violent offenses



DPD DV Detective Shortage



- The 2020 DVTF Annual Report recommended the hiring of 1 additional DV detective to oversee high-risk cases.
- The unit is currently short nine (9) detectives and one (1) sergeant due to promotions, retirements, and transfers.
- The unit has seen a more than 15% increase in caseload from 2018 to 2020.
- The unit requests to fill its current vacancies and will dedicate one (1) more detective to High Risk when these vacancies are filled.



DPD DV Training Update



- The 2020 DVTF Annual Report recommended the creation of training videos on the Dallas PD intranet & to monitor officer participation.
- Genesis Women's Shelter put together a 6-series video training on Strangulation. The Domestic Violence Unit will work with the Academy staff on dispersing these videos to the department by using the Police 1 platform.
- The unit will work with advocacy groups and the DA's Office to create other training videos for department personnel to view.
- Training will be tracked by the Academy and Police 1.



Lethality Assessment Updates



- LAP are currently in paper form only
- DPD is exploring the possibility of providing the LAP in the Field Base Reporting (FBR) online system to –
 - Accurately track data & maintain evidence for prosecution
 - Generate reports & audits of the data via RMS
 - Make data easily accessible to detectives



Collaboration with DA Office



- In 2019 FV Class C Convictions were added to the Texas Crime Information Center (TCIC) which helps officers better see the progression of violence for offenders & aids the DA's office in sentencing
- Working toward turning in the LAP to magistrate judges for sentencing purposes



DV Provider Improvements



- In 2019 13 North Texas shelters moved to a cloud-based software to find available beds for victims quickly
- In 2021 Genesis Women's Shelter implemented a new 24-hour text line as part of their DV hotline service
- The Family Place launched the African American Domestic Violence Advisory Council (AADVC) in 2020 to address the high rate of domestic violence homicides among Black women in Dallas



DVTF Internal Recommendations



- Fund DV initiatives in DPD & bring staffing to adequate levels
- Transition the DVTF to the Dallas Domestic Violence Advisory Council to continue work and collaboration with outside agencies & other government agencies.
 - A council is a necessity to maintain several federal grants across organizations
- Recommend that this advisory council report to the Public Safety Committee



DVTF External Recommendations



- Work with public schools to create age-appropriate curriculum about domestic violence, healthy relationships & the cycle of violence
- Increase cost effective, 24-hour transportation to domestic violence shelters
- Increase shelter space using data gathered by the DV Beds program
- Reform the bond process to increase victim safety
- Improve access to resources for multicultural and diverse communities



Conclusion



- Domestic Violence is a systemic issue in our City and will require constant advocacy and increased awareness from all members of our community.
- The Dallas Domestic Violence Advocacy Council would be poised to carry this work forward.





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