



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

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Report: New York City Family-Related Homicides Decline by 36% Over 10 Years

*The Fatality Review Committee releases its 9th annual report, provides
recommendations for improved service delivery*

(New York, NY) Today, the City released a report revealing a 36 percent decline in family-related homicides and steps New York City agencies have taken to ensure high-risk communities and vulnerable populations receive increased services and resources. The Fatality Review Committee (FRC), established by Local Law 61 in 2005 is charged with issuing an annual assessment of family-related homicides and recommendations for improved coordination and services.

In 2013, there were 62 family-related homicides, accounting for almost one out of every five homicides in New York City. This number declined by 36% compared to the same time period in 2002. One of the findings of the report shows a strong intersection between neighborhoods with low socioeconomic indicators, which represent 24% of the population, experienced family-related homicides more frequently.

“New York City has made strides in combating domestic violence over the past decade, but as we are reminded each time a life is lost due to family-related violence there is much more work to be done,” said **Mayor Bill de Blasio**. “We cannot ignore the violence taking place behind closed doors. The impact is lasting and far reaching. Recommendations in the Fatality review Committee Annual Report establish the foundation of the City’s response to family-related violence, as we strengthen our efforts to end the scourge of domestic violence in New York City.”

“The Fatality Review Committee has been a valuable tool to highlight the importance of cross-agency collaboration in order to better identify individuals and families in need of domestic violence services,” said **Deputy Mayor for Health and Human Services Lilliam Barrios-Paoli**. “This administration remains committed to strengthening the safety net for victims and their children through interagency coordination.”

The New York City Police Department is on the frontlines of responding to domestic violence and in 2013 responded to 284,660 domestic violence incidents. The FRC found that less than one-third of victims had reached out to the police department prior to their homicide.

“We are encouraged by the Report’s finding that family-related homicides declined, but this cannot overshadow the significant impact domestic violence is having on families across the City,” said **Commissioner Rosemonde Pierre-Louis, Chair to the Fatality Review Committee**. “New Yorkers who may be experiencing domestic violence should know that help is available through the Mayor’s Office, law enforcement, City agencies, and community based partners. We encourage anyone experiencing intimate partner violence, elder abuse, or sex trafficking to seek assistance at one of our four New York City Family Justice Centers to receive access to free, confidential services.”

“The NYPD is deeply committed to addressing domestic violence and ensuring that family-related homicides continue to decline,” said **Police Commissioner William J. Bratton**. “We will learn from these reviews and find the analysis helpful as we continue to improve our response to domestic violence.”

“One life lost to Domestic Violence is one too many,” said **Human Resources Administration Commissioner Steven Banks**. “We will continue to do all that we can to help domestic violence survivors escape dangerous situations and live safe, fulfilling lives, whether it’s through the shelters we oversee or through new programs like the Living In Communities (LINC) rental assistance program, which helps shelter residents re-enter the community and continue to receive the support they need.”

“Of the many factors that place children at risk, domestic violence is one of the most pervasive and complex,” said **ACS Commissioner Gladys Carrión**. “We are pleased to join the Mayor’s Office to Combat Domestic Violence and our partner city agencies to better understand family related fatalities. We look forward to our continued partnership in developing recommendations to coordinate and improve services for our most vulnerable children and families who may be victims of domestic violence, and to ultimately uphold our mission of keeping children safe.”

“Death resulting from family violence is an unspeakable tragedy,” said **Health Commissioner Dr. Mary Travis Bassett**. “The impact on family, friends and neighbors left behind is enduring. But hope lies in prevention strategies combined with comprehensive services available for families in crisis. Promoting healthy relationships and mobilizing communities to be energized – not silent - are promising public health contributions to a multi-faceted toolkit for sustained change and healing.”

“Domestic violence is one of the main drivers of homelessness, leading individuals and families to enter the shelter system,” said **Department of Homeless Services Commissioner Gilbert Taylor**. “The safety of our clients is of the utmost importance, and we have a number of procedures in place to protect those affected by domestic violence. DHS is collaborating closely with HRA to address the needs of domestic violence survivors. We look forward to continuing our partnership with the Mayor’s Office to Combat Domestic Violence and the Human Resources Administration to assist these vulnerable individuals and families.”

Under the current administration, the City's agencies have enhanced a number of services offered to victims of family-related violence providing a multi-agency response, including the Mayor's Action Plan for Neighborhood Safety, focusing on reducing crime at 15 of the New York Housing developments.

Recommendations submitted by the FRC committee included:

- **Public Awareness** - Continue to increase public education and outreach efforts across New York City, through strategic identification of neighborhoods experiencing high levels of domestic violence.
- **Intervention** – Understanding the growing need to provide mental health services for victims who have experienced trauma, expand the availability of on-site clinical psychiatric and psychopharmacologic treatment services currently available at the Bronx Family Justice Center to other New York City Family Justice Centers.
- **Universal Training** – Realizing many agencies have contact with domestic violence victims, universal training for all City employees that provide frontline direct services should be implemented.
- **Enhance Screening Tools** - Review and evaluate domestic violence screening practices at City agencies. Implement appropriate screening tools at agencies that currently do not screen their clients for domestic violence. In addition, create a citywide process to identify high risk cases to facilitate a multi-agency coordinated response.
- **Anti-Stalking Program** – Understanding that 70% of OCDV's clients on Staten Island reported stalking, which is a significant and often overlooked risk, the Coordinated Approach to Preventing Stalking (CAPS) program should be expanded to other boroughs, particularly in precincts with a high number of domestic incidents. This program was initially launched on Staten Island.
- **Prevention** – Expand the capacity of the New York City Healthy Relationship Training Academy to further extend our reach into neighborhoods experiencing a high frequency of family-related violence.

To view the full report, please [click here](#).