



**NEW HAMPSHIRE DOMESTIC VIOLENCE
FATALITY REVIEW COMMITTEE**



**2020-2021
BIENNIAL
REPORT**



NH STATEWIDE DOMESTIC AND SEXUAL VIOLENCE HOTLINE: 1-866-644-3574

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DEDICATION

The Committee dedicates this report to all of those who have lost their lives as a result of domestic violence and honors all of the survivors for their strength and courage.

The Committee calls on the citizens of New Hampshire to learn from this report and consider the ways that the community can bring the domestic violence homicide statistic to zero.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The Committee would like to acknowledge the hard work by the following individuals for their contributions and efforts to produce this report:

Danielle Snook and Josanne Mirolo
Attorney General's Office of Victim/Witness Assistance

Jeannette Bilodeau
New Hampshire Judicial Branch

Lyn Schollett, Pamela English and Kathleen McDonald
New Hampshire Coalition Against Domestic and Sexual Violence

I. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Domestic Violence Fatality Review Committee (DVFRC) was created by Executive Order of Governor Jeanne Shaheen in July 1999. The purpose of a DVFRC is to review deaths related to domestic violence in order to provide solutions in the form of recommendations to key stakeholders, with the intention of reducing future fatalities. The DVFRC is not an investigative body and is not a mechanism to assign fault to an agency or individual. It is a forum for sharing information essential to the improvement of a community's response to domestic violence related fatalities.

The DVFRC strives to promote greater awareness of domestic violence in New Hampshire and opportunities for building safer communities for all our citizens. The Committee is hopeful that this report may serve as a valuable resource to those who serve victims of domestic violence.

The DVFRC took a hiatus from reviewing cases in 2018 and began researching fatality review models from other jurisdictions to ensure that New Hampshire's approach reflected changes in best practices in the field of fatality review. The COVID-19 pandemic complicated these efforts as energies were redirected to operating agencies amidst a world health crisis. As things began to return to pre-pandemic operations, the Committee was able to resume its research and is preparing to make recommendations regarding reconvening the DVFRC. Even though there were no case reviews and subsequent systemic recommendations, the Committee felt it was important to collect and share pertinent domestic violence data with practitioners throughout the state.

Between 2020 and 2021, **thirteen people lost their lives to domestic violence homicide** in New Hampshire, representing **59% of all homicides** during that time frame. While the total number of domestic violence homicides has decreased since the previous 2018-2019 reporting period, the rate of domestic violence homicides has increased - domestic violence homicides accounted for 55% of all homicides in 2018-2019.

New Hampshire's murder/suicide rate also declined since 2018-2019, dropping to 18% of the total homicides that occurred in 2020-2021, however once again **domestic violence was a factor in 100% of the murder/suicides in this period.**

The highest domestic violence homicide rates for this reporting period were in Hillsborough County, who accounted for 46% of the domestic violence homicides across the state in 2020-2021. In 2020-2021, more domestic violence homicides took place in a shared residence than any other location, highlighting the vulnerability of victims in their homes, with 39% of domestic violence homicides in this period being caused by an intimate partner, and 56% caused by a family member.

National research and New Hampshire data show that domestic violence is more lethal for women than men, though men are also victims of domestic violence. In the last reporting period, 2018-2019, 86% of New Hampshire's domestic homicide victims were women. 2020-2021 however saw a change in trend in New Hampshire: 60% of New Hampshire's domestic violence homicide victims were men (7 of 13). 80% of the perpetrators of the domestic violence homicides in this period were also men.

As in the 2018-2019 reporting period, **the leading cause of death in New Hampshire's domestic violence homicides in 2020-2021 was firearms**, accounting for a little under half of the homicides in this period (5 of 13).

This report also details the Lethality Assessment Program (LAP) data for the 2020-2021 reporting period. The LAP screen is a critical tool utilized by Law Enforcement to ensure victims of domestic violence, particularly those identified through the screen as in serious danger, have access to crisis center services. The data collected for **2020-2021 shows that 3,203 LAP screen were completed and of those 52% screened in as 'high danger'**.

Information and data about the survivors of domestic violence seeking services from domestic and sexual violence crisis centers is also included in this report. In 2020-2021, 24,798 people sought services for domestic violence, stalking, sexual assault and human trafficking from the state's 12 crisis centers. The **data shows that 70% (17,489) of those seeking services were for domestic violence.**

Thousands of people sought protection from domestic violence and stalking in the courts. In 2020-2021, **6,775 domestic violence petitions and 4,278 civil stalking petitions were filed** by people requesting protection from abuse. In addition, **6,479 Criminal Bail Protective Orders were issued.**

II. NEW HAMPSHIRE LETHALITY ASSESSMENT PROGRAM REPORT 2020-2021

BACKGROUND

The Lethality Assessment Program—Maryland Model (LAP) was created by the Maryland Network Against Domestic Violence (MNADV) in 2005 as an evidence based innovative strategy to prevent domestic violence homicides and serious injuries. It includes a brief screening tool and an accompanying response and referral protocol to identify high-risk domestic violence and to immediately connect them with crisis center services for safety planning, information, and resources.

In 2010, the New Hampshire Attorney’s General’s Office adopted the LAP as a best practice response for domestic violence cases and strongly encouraged its use by law enforcement agencies statewide. It has been incorporated into the Attorney General’s *“Model Protocol for Law Enforcement Response to Domestic Violence Cases”*, as well as the standard domestic violence curriculum for new law enforcement officers attending the recruit academy at New Hampshire Police Standards and Training Council.

In 2014, a LAP Steering Committee, comprised of representatives from the Attorney General’s Office, law enforcement, the courts and advocacy communities, was created to assist the efforts of implementing the LAP statewide. The Steering Committee began collecting LAP data in 2015.

The LAP Steering Committee continues to meet to monitor the status of the LAP in New Hampshire.

DATA COLLECTION

Below is the data that was reported for 2020-2021:

New Hampshire Lethality Assessment Program (LAP) 2020-2021 Data					
	Law Enforcement Data				Crisis Center Data
	# of screens initiated	# of screens completed	# of victims screened in as high danger	# of victims that spoke to an advocate	# of victims that utilized follow-up crisis center services
2020	2,155	1,749 (81%)	940 (54%)	450 (48%)	260
2021	1,958	1,454 (74%)	736 (51%)	328 (45%)	198
Total	4,113	3,203 (78%)	1,676 (52%)	778 (46%)	458

When compared to the last biennial report for 2018-2019, the LAP data for 2020-2021 is largely similar.

III. SUMMARY OF NEW HAMPSHIRE DOMESTIC VIOLENCE HOMICIDE DATA 2020-2021

This section presents detailed domestic violence homicide data for the reporting period of 2020-2021, as well as highlights of aggregate data on domestic violence homicides from 2009-2021.

The information presented in this section is from the Office of Victim/Witness Assistance (OVWA). Excluded are deaths caused by negligence, suicide, accident, justifiable homicide, attempted murder, and homicides outside of the jurisdiction of the Attorney General's (AG's) office. The AG's jurisdiction tends to include 1st and 2nd degree murders.

It is important to note that the number of perpetrators is different from the number of victims because a homicide incident can have multiple victims and/or multiple offenders.

For the purposes of this report, the categorization of a domestic violence homicide is made when the perpetrator has been publicly identified and is not based on a criminal finding of guilt. Homicides that are unsolved, or where the perpetrator is otherwise not identified, cannot be categorized as domestic violence, and therefore are not included in the domestic violence statistics.

The Domestic Violence Fatality Review Committee defines a domestic violence homicide as one person killing another person by use of physical force or a deadly weapon where the relationship between the parties is either intimate partner, family member or domestic-violence related. These relationships are defined as:

Intimate Partner: homicides committed by those in a current or prior intimate relationship, including spouses, unmarried cohabitants or in a dating relationship.

Family member: homicides committed by and against family members but exclude intimate partners (e.g., when a parent kills a child). This also includes people not biologically related but are similarly situated as a family member, parent or guardian in the victim's life (i.e. step-parent, mother's boyfriend, etc...).

Domestic violence related: homicides not committed by intimate partners or family members, but the homicide has some relationship to domestic violence (e.g., estranged husband kills wife's current intimate partner).

CHART 1: NEW HAMPSHIRE HOMICIDES 2009-2021

Year	# of Homicides Handled by Attorney General's Office	# of Domestic Violence Homicides ¹	# Domestic Violence - Partner Homicides	# Domestic Violence - Family Member Homicides	# Domestic Violence - Related Homicides	% Homicides that are Domestic Violence ²	% Homicides that are Domestic Violence - Partner Only ³	Total # Murder/Suicides	% Domestic Violence Murder/Suicides
2009	12	7	6	1	0	58%	50%	4	100%
2010	12	9	5	2	2	75%	42%	3	100%
2011	16	8	4	4	0	50%	25%	2	100%
2012	13	6	3	2	1	46%	23%	6	33%
2013	16	9	4	5	0	56%	25%	2	100%
2014	15	11	5	4	2	73%	33%	8	75%
2015	14	7	2	4	1	50%	14%	4	100%
2016	14	4	1	3	0	29%	7%	1	0%
2017	12	5	2	3	0	42%	17%	1	100%
2018	19	9	5	3	1	47%	26%	6	100%
2019	28	17	9	7	1	61%	32%	9	44%
2020	11	5	1	2	2	40%	9%	2	100%
2021	11	8	4	4	0	73%	36%	2	100%
Totals	193	105	51	44	10	54%	26%	50	76%

CHART 1

This chart provides historical data for the most recent thirteen years. In total, there were **193** homicides that occurred in New Hampshire since 2009 and of those, **54% were as a result of domestic violence**. This percentage has fluctuated from a **low of 29% in 2016** to a **high of 75% in 2010**, followed closely by **73% in both 2014 and 2021**.

This chart also illustrates that while **murder/suicides account for only 26% of the total number of homicides** in the state between 2009 and 2021, **in 76% of those 50 cases, domestic violence was a factor**.

¹This number includes all homicides that occurred as a result of domestic violence, including those committed by partners, family members or are otherwise domestic violence related.

²% of homicides that are Domestic Violence = Total # Domestic Violence Homicides/Total Homicides Handled by Office.

³% of homicides that are Domestic Violence – Partner Only = Total # Partner Homicides/ Total Homicides Handled by Office.

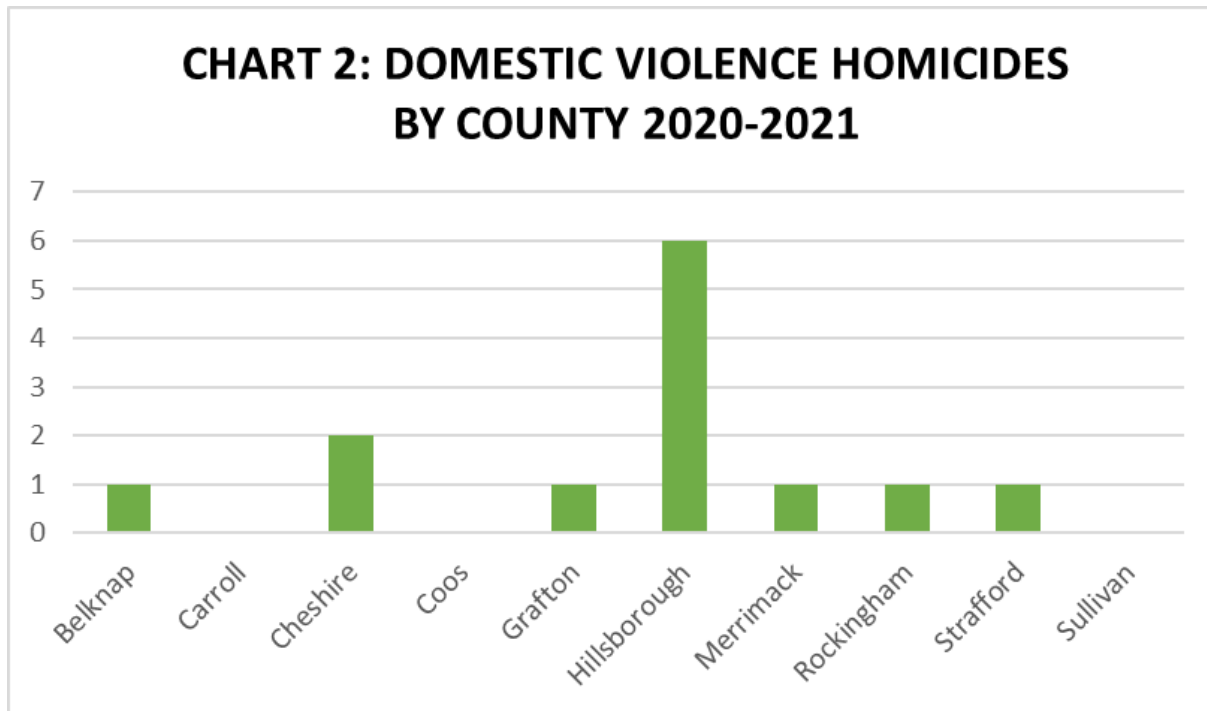


CHART 2

Between 2020 and 2021 there were a **total of 13 victim deaths due to domestic violence** in New Hampshire. As seen in Chart 2, Hillsborough County had the most domestic violence homicides in this two-year period. Carroll, Coos and Sullivan counties did not have any domestic violence homicides during this time.

CHART 3: COMPARISON OF MURDER-SUICIDES 2020-2021

Year	Total # of Homicides	Total # of Murder-Suicide Victims	Total # of DV Murder-Suicide Victims	Total # of Non-DV Murder-Suicide Victims
2020	11	2	2	0
2021	11	2	2	0
Total Victims	22	4	4	0

CHART 3

For the reporting period of 2020-2021, **murder/suicides made up 18% (4 out of 22) of the total homicides** that occurred. In 50% of the murder/suicides the perpetrator was a partner and in the other 50% the perpetrator was a family member.

CHART 4: LOCATION OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE HOMICIDES 2020-2021

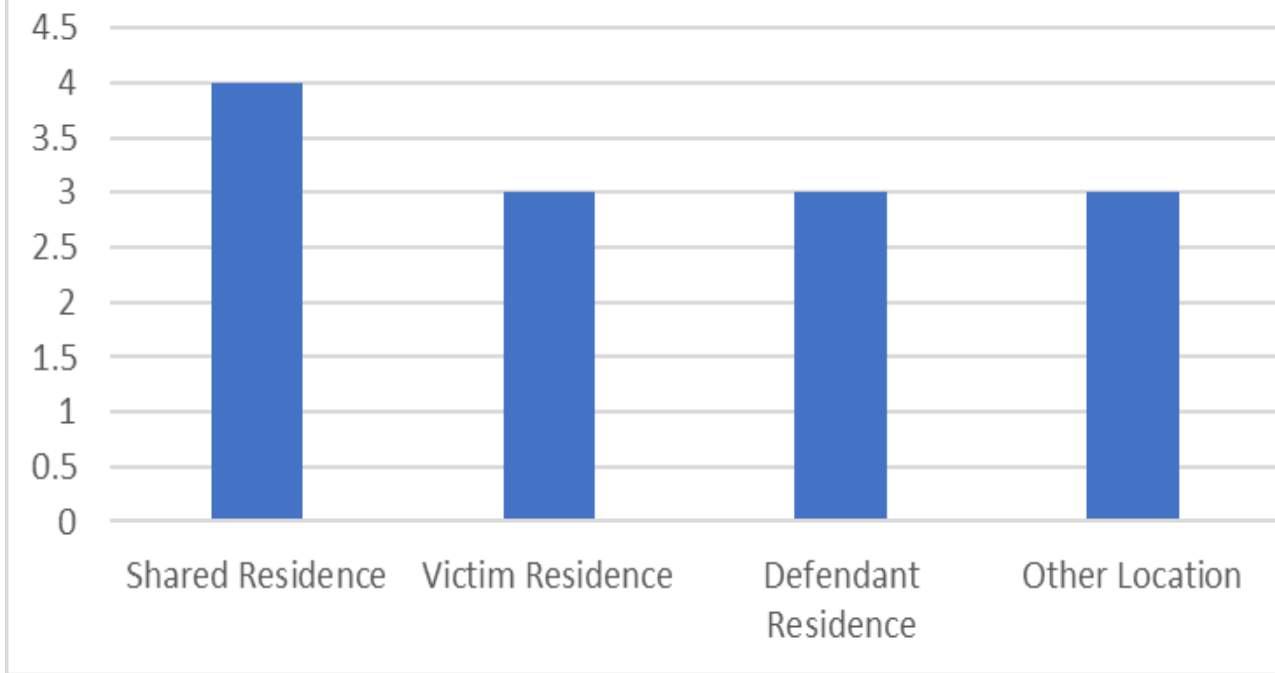


CHART 4

Domestic violence homicide victims were murdered predominantly in their shared residence with the defendant. During this time the majority of non-domestic violence homicides occurred in other locations (e.g. in the street, at work).

CHART 5: HOMICIDE CAUSE OF DEATH 2020-2021

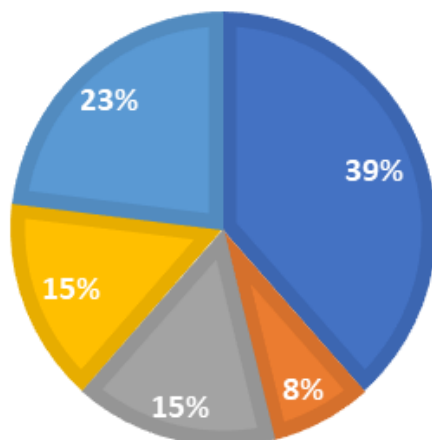
Cause of Death	DV Homicide Victims	Non-DV Homicide Victims
Firearm	5	6
<i>Hand Gun</i>	5	6
<i>Long Gun</i>	0	0
Cut/Stab	2	2
Blunt Impact	1	1
Strangulation	2	0
Other	3	0
Total	13	9

CHARTS 5 & 6

Firearms are the leading cause of death in both domestic violence and non-domestic violence homicides, accounting for 39% of domestic violence homicides and 67% of non-domestic violence homicides. In all homicides where a firearm was used in 2020 and 2021 a handgun was used.

CHART 6: DOMESTIC VIOLENCE HOMICIDE CAUSE OF DEATH 2020-2021

- Firearm N=5
- Blunt Impact N=1
- Cut/Stab N=2
- Strangulation N=2
- Other N=3



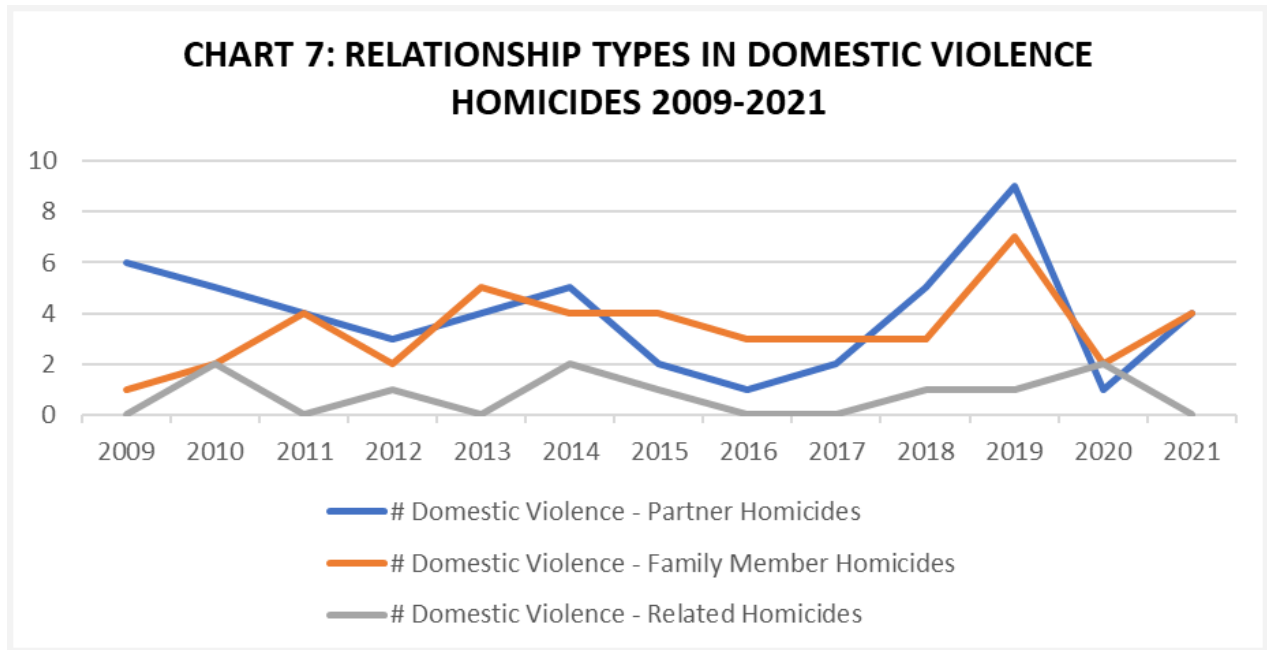


CHART 7

Since the last reporting period of 2018-2019, the overall number of homicides, as well as domestic violence homicides has decreased significantly. Despite the lower numbers, **domestic violence homicides account for an increased portion of the homicides in the 2020-2021 reporting period, accounting for 59% of homicides**, compared with 55% of homicides in 2018-2019.

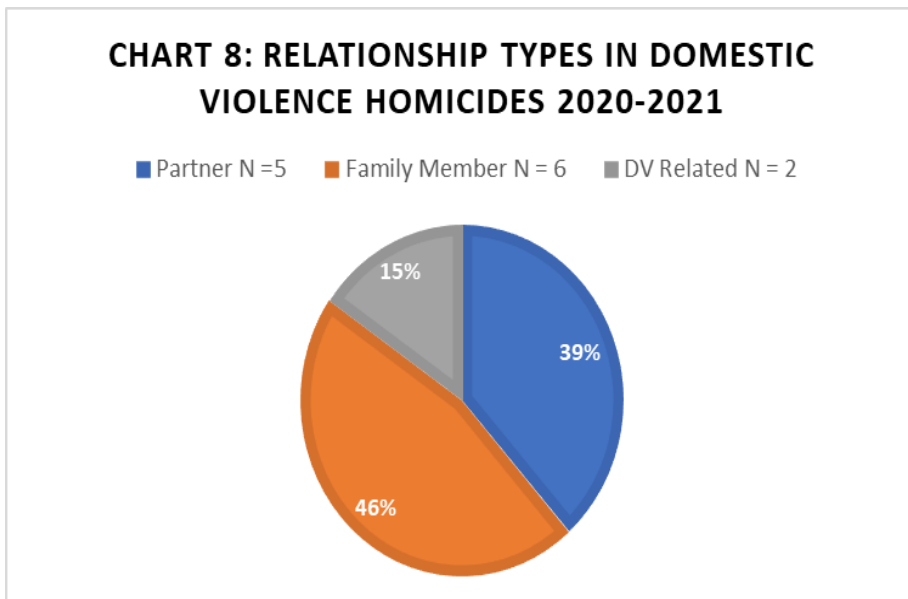
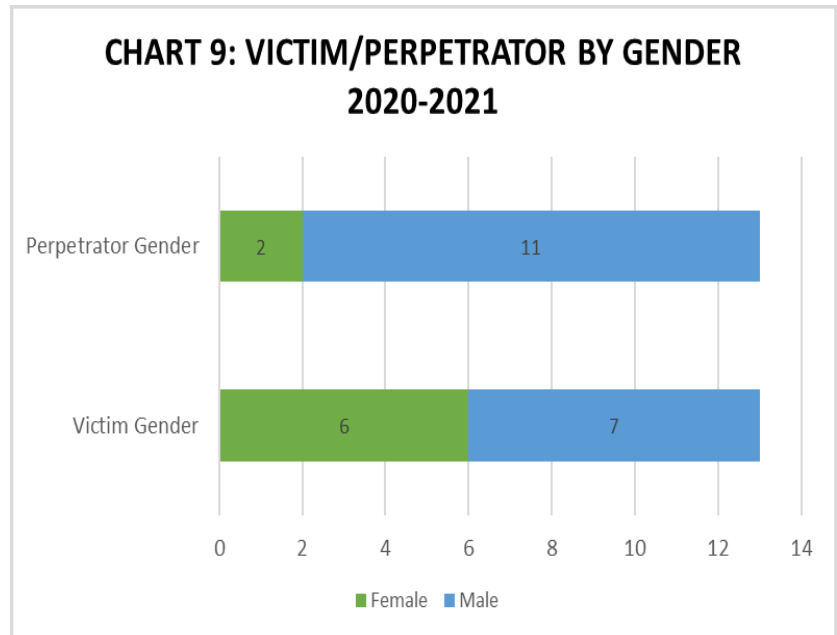


CHART 8

Between **2020 and 2021, 46% of domestic violence homicide victims were killed by a family member**, 39% were killed by an intimate partner and 15% were domestic violence related. The number of domestic violence homicides committed by an intimate partner is down significantly since the 2018-2019 reporting period, from 67% to 39%.

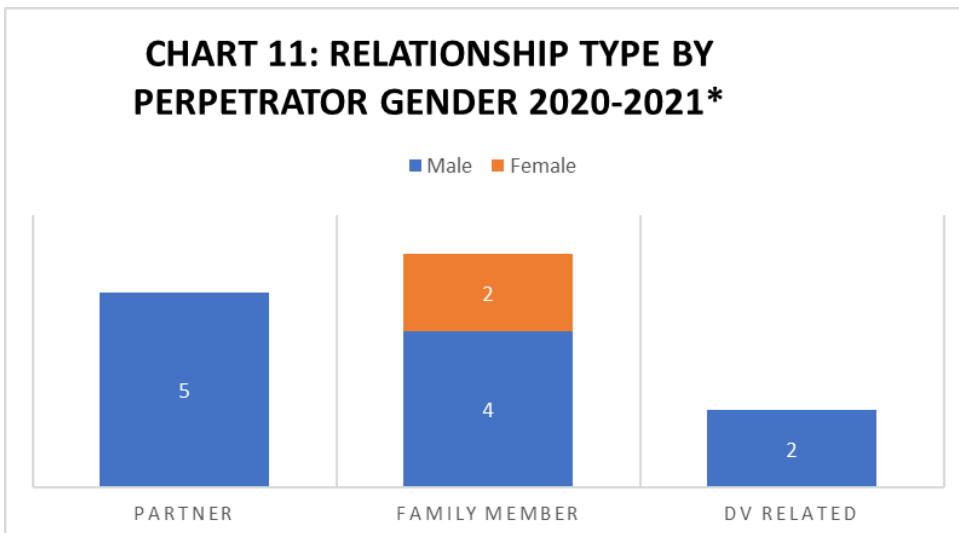
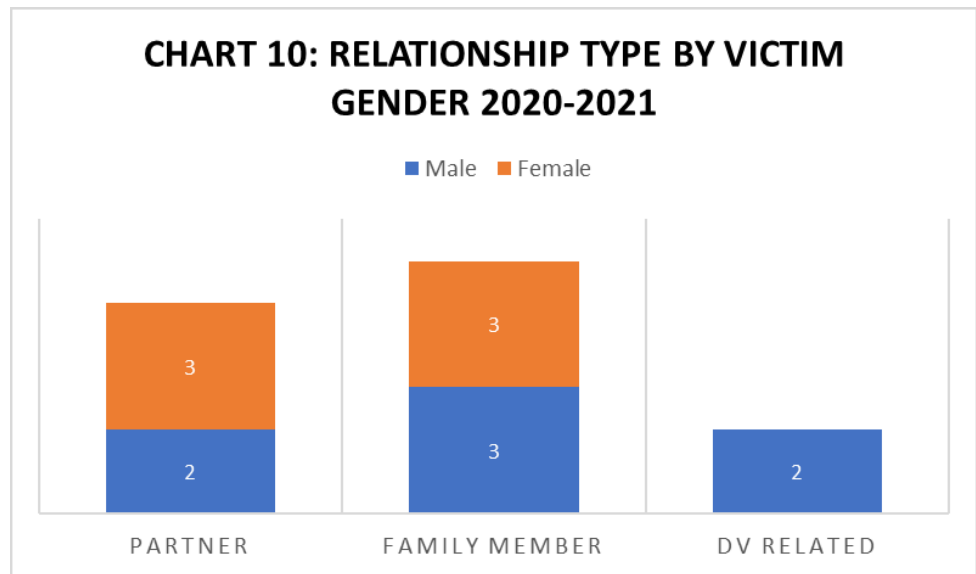
CHART 9

85% of perpetrators in domestic violence homicides were male between 2020 and 2021. The 2020-2021 reporting period saw a more even balance between male and female victims of domestic violence, and for the first time **the majority of victims in domestic violence homicides were male, at 54%**. This is a departure from previous reporting periods where the majority of victims are female (e.g. 86% in 2018-2019, 55% in 2016-2017).



CHARTS 10 & 11

During this reporting period **the majority of both victims and perpetrators in domestic violence homicides were male**, and the perpetrators of intimate partner homicides and domestic violence related homicides were exclusively males.



**The number of relationship types represent the relationships found between victim and offenders in these incidents. Given that incidents can involve multiple victims of the same offender, the numbers in this chart may be higher than the offender counts in other charts.*

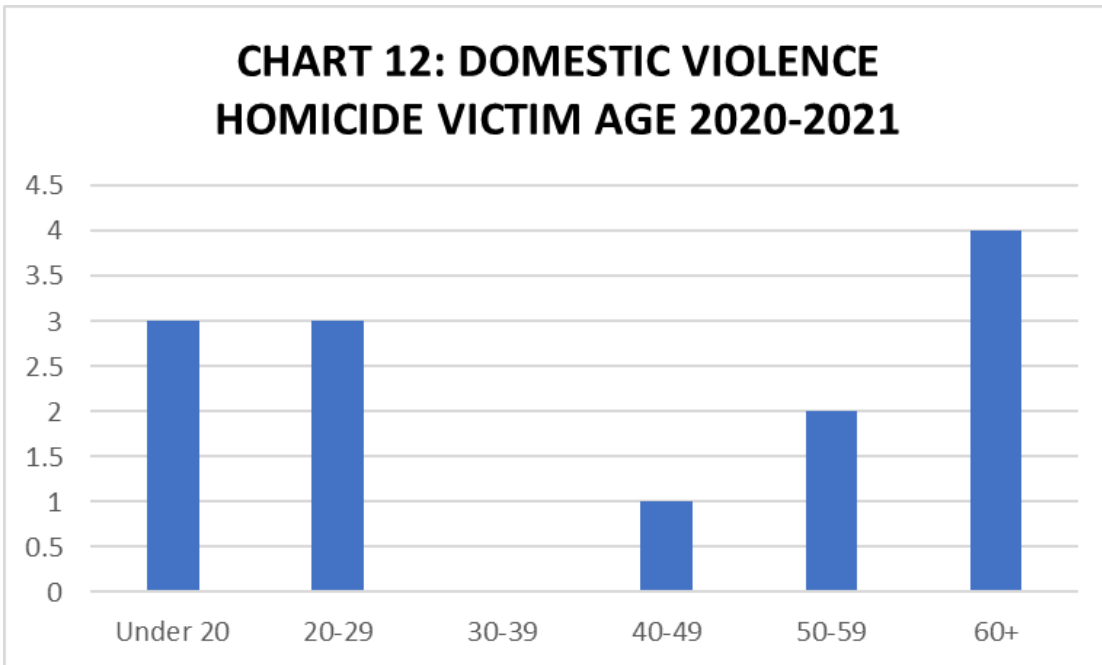


CHART 12

Domestic violence homicide victims in this timeframe were **mostly either under the age of 30 (46%) or over the age of 50 (46%)**. The victims in the under 20 category were all juveniles under the age of 13 and were all killed by family members.

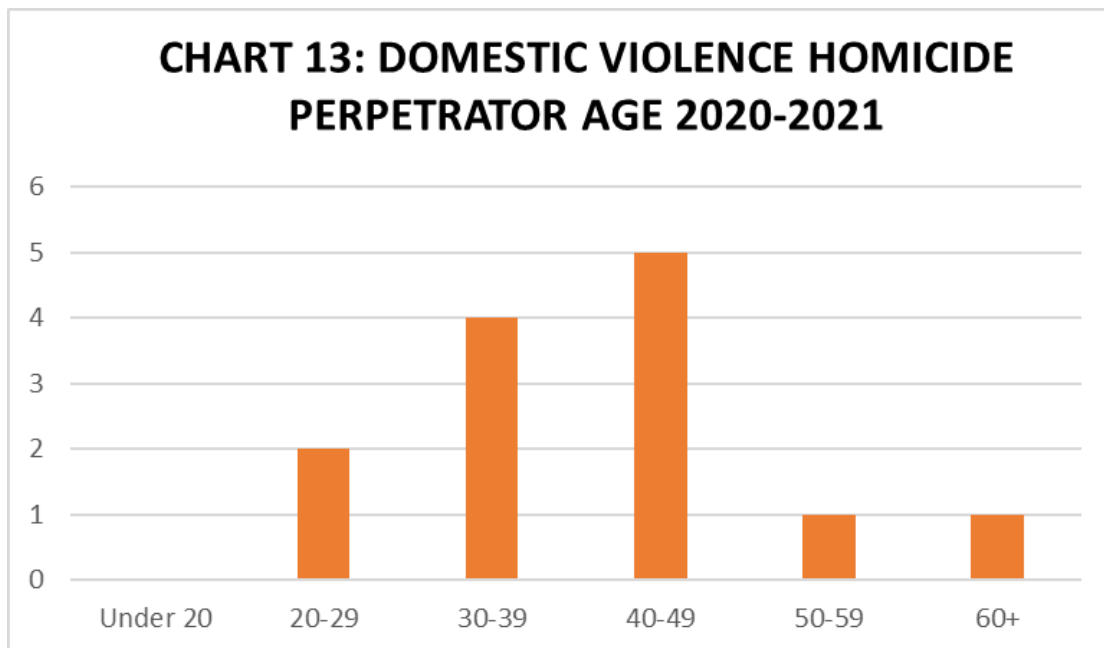


CHART 13

The age groups most responsible for domestic violence homicides are between **30-49**, accounting for **69% of the perpetrators**.

IV. NEW HAMPSHIRE COALITION AGAINST DOMESTIC & SEXUAL VIOLENCE CRISIS CENTER DATA 2020-2021

The New Hampshire Coalition Against Domestic and Sexual Violence (Coalition) is the statewide umbrella organization for 12 independent crisis centers that provide free and confidential services to victims of domestic violence, sexual assault, stalking, human trafficking, and child abuse.

The Coalition's member programs offer crisis services, emergency shelter, court advocacy, hospital accompaniment, assistance with safety planning, and referrals to additional community resources. In addition to providing direct services to victim/survivors, crisis centers also facilitate outreach and prevention education programming in local schools and communities in an effort to raise awareness about interpersonal violence and stop cycles of abuse.

The Coalition partners with law enforcement, prosecutors, state and local agencies, and social service support systems to create safe and just communities throughout New Hampshire.

The following data was compiled by the Coalition, derived from its victim services database.

Between 2020 and 2021, New Hampshire's 12 crisis centers served 24,798 victims of domestic violence, sexual assault, stalking and human trafficking.

How COVID-19 impacted victim services

The COVID-19 pandemic significantly impacted the services provided by the crisis centers in New Hampshire, especially when the stay-at-home order was in place during the first few months. Service delivery shifted from in-person advocacy to technology-based interventions, such as chat, text and video services.

Crisis centers saw an increase in the lethality of cases that were being reported, suggesting that victims endured escalated violence before they were able or ready to seek support. Mandated social isolation, compounded with the fear of getting sick, provided new ways for abusive partners to leverage power and control. Additionally, job loss and financial instability augmented the impact of economic abuse, which further made it difficult for survivors to access help.

COVID-19 also impacted mental health and substance misuse across the state. This posed further challenges to victims who already have a higher vulnerability to homelessness, substance abuse, and poverty compared to the general population who have never experienced abuse.

CHART 14: PEOPLE SERVED BY NH CRISIS CENTERS AND SHELTERS 2020-2021, N = 24,798

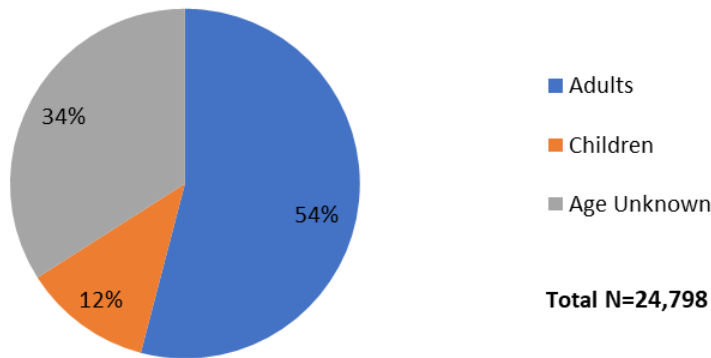
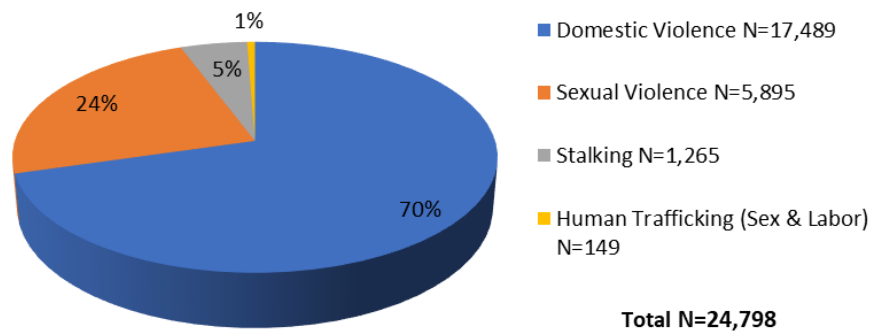


CHART 15: TYPES OF ABUSE EXPERIENCED BY VICTIMS 2020-2021



CHARTS 14 & 15

Domestic violence, or interpersonal violence, is defined as an ongoing pattern of abusive, coercive behavior used by one person to gain power and control over another in an intimate and /or familial relationship. While we most often think of domestic violence as physical abuse, it can also include verbal abuse, sexual assault, stalking, emotional and psychological intimidation, and financial abuse.

The majority of domestic violence victims receiving crisis center services are adults. However, children who have experienced, witnessed, or have been exposed to domestic violence also receive services from New Hampshire’s crisis centers. These services are critical, as research indicates that adults who have reported being exposed to domestic violence as children report higher rates of physical and mental health problems, including depression, alcoholism, and drug abuse throughout their lives. Trauma informed services to children and their parents have been shown to strengthen children’s resilience and decrease negative impacts of trauma caused by exposure to domestic violence.

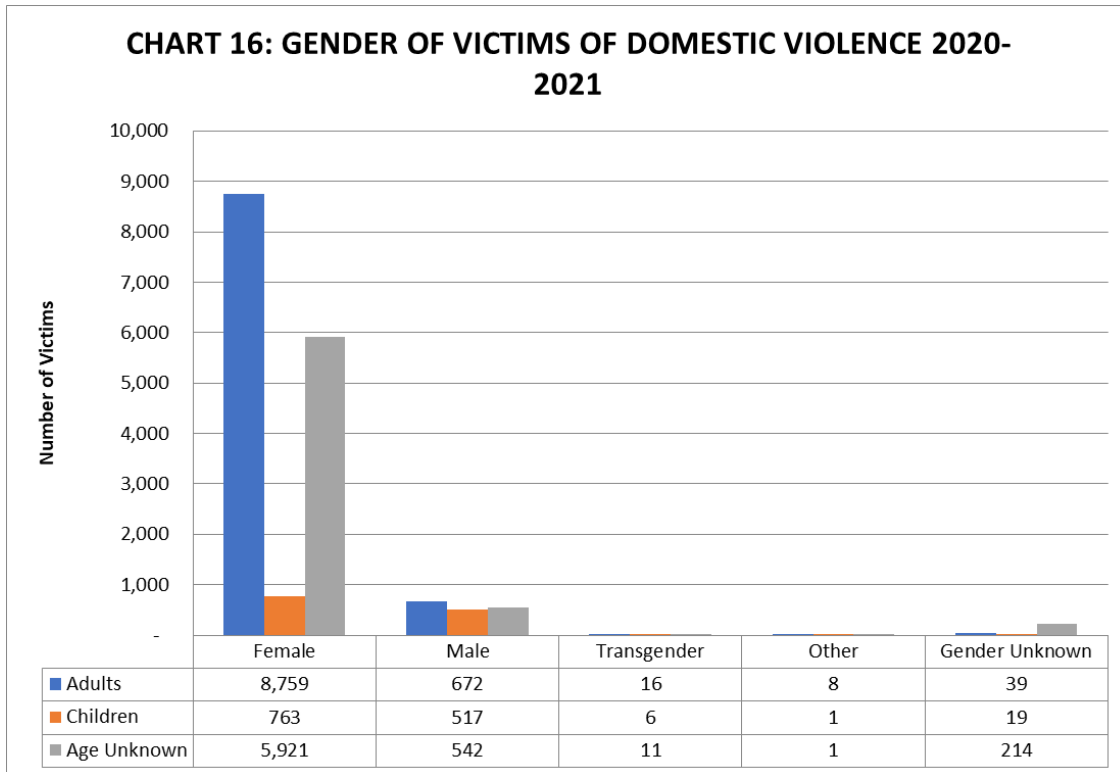


CHART 16

While women are statistically more likely to be victims of domestic violence, domestic violence can and does effect anyone, regardless of age or gender identity. Crisis centers provide free, confidential and affirming support services and advocacy to anyone who has experienced abuse.

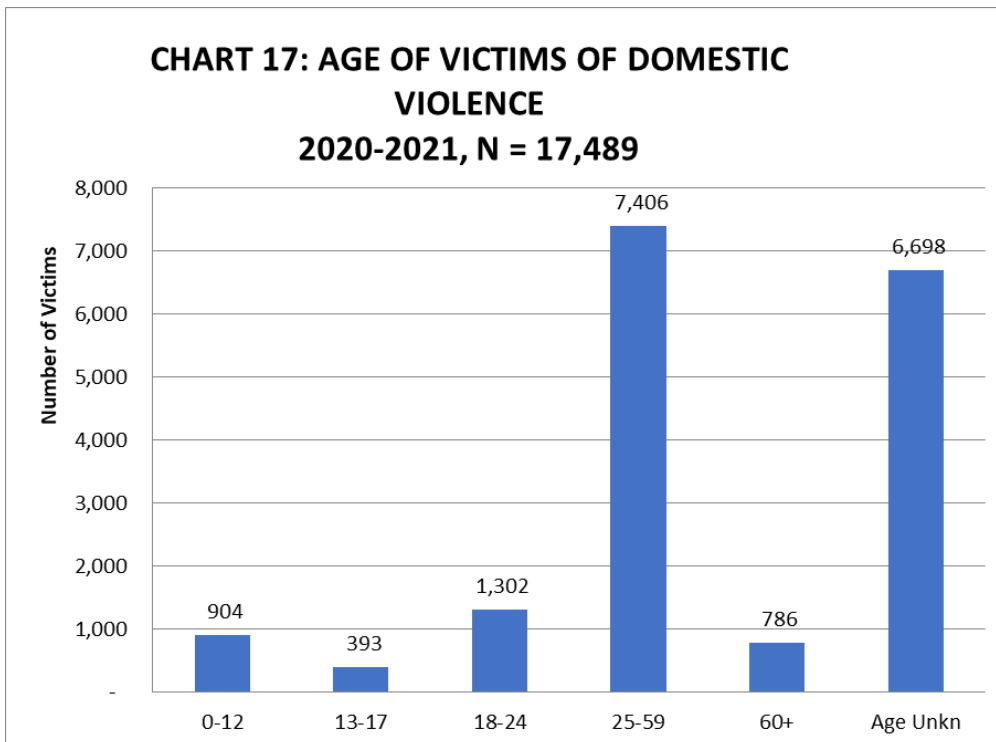


CHART 17

The majority of victims served by crisis centers are adults, however at least 7% of the domestic violence victims in New Hampshire accessing services in 2020-2021 were children, with 904 of them being under the age of 13.

**CHART 18: AGE OF VICTIMS OF SEXUAL VIOLENCE
2020-2021, N = 5,895**

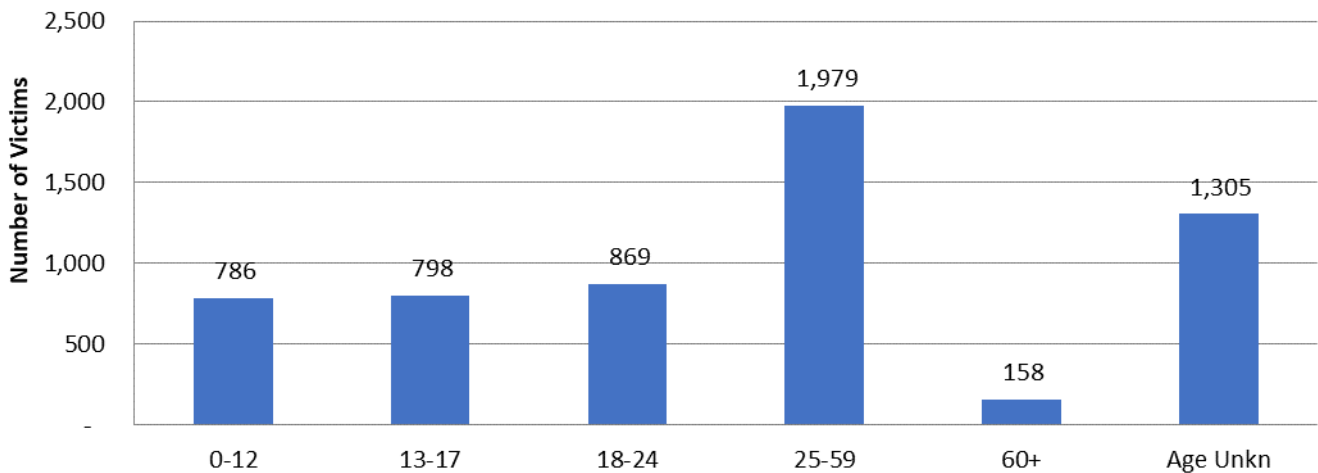


CHART 18

Perpetrators of domestic violence often use sexual violence as a form of abuse, and this tactic is an indicator of increased risk to victims. When sexual violence is reported in conjunction with domestic violence, it should be viewed as a strong warning sign of potential lethality.

Victims of sexual violence who receive crisis center services span across all age ranges. While younger individuals are at increased risk of being sexual assaulted, many do not report until later in their lives. Of the victims accessing services in New Hampshire in 2020-2021, at least 27% were under the age of 18.

CHART 19: GENDER OF VICTIMS OF SEXUAL VIOLENCE 2020-2021

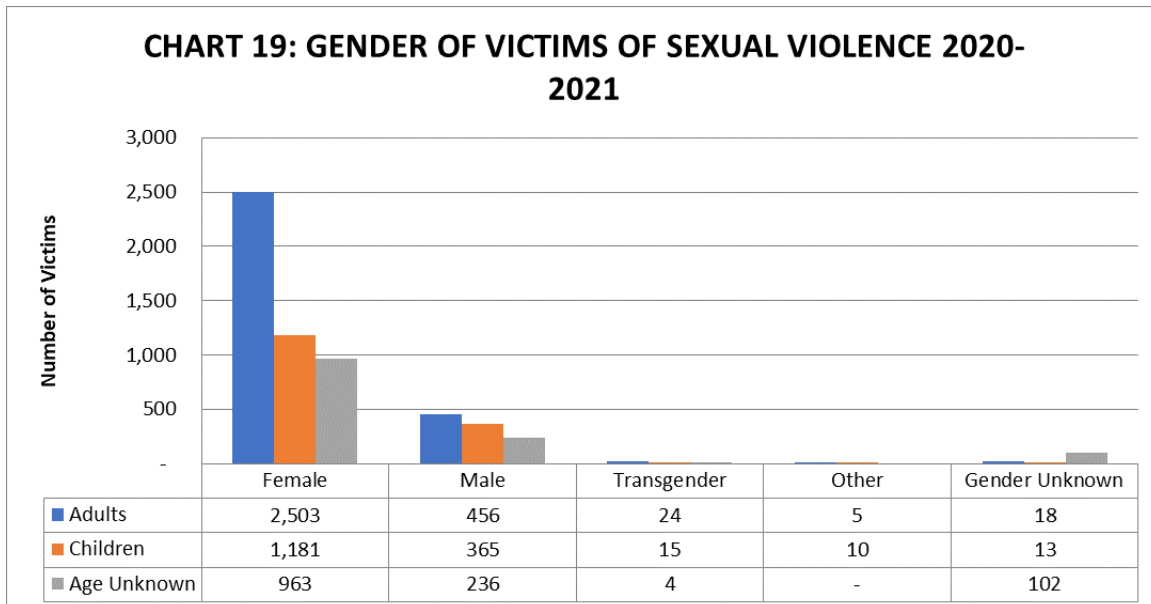
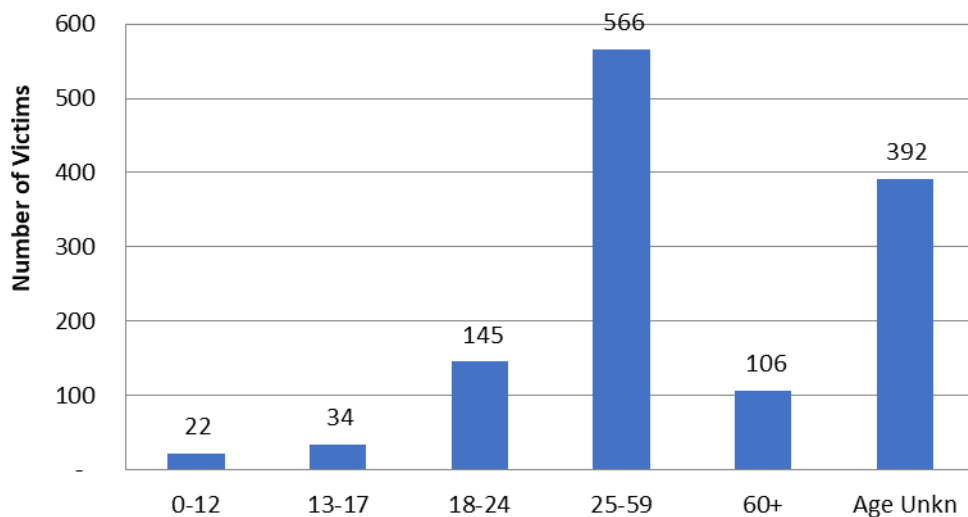


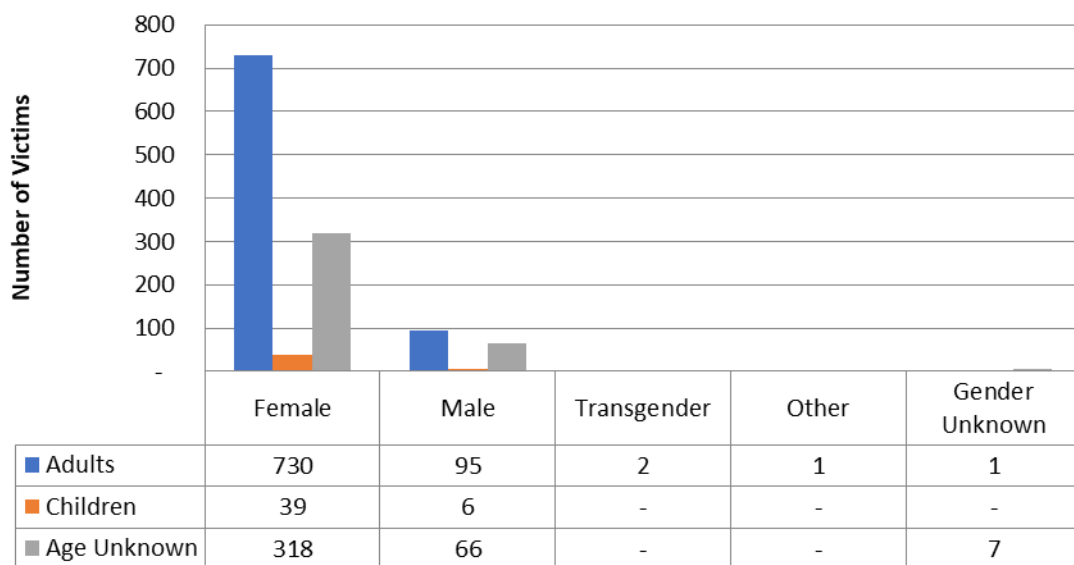
CHART 19

Perpetrators of domestic violence often use sexual violence as a form of abuse, and this tactic is an indicator of increased risk to victims. When sexual violence is reported in conjunction with domestic violence, it should be viewed as a strong warning sign for potential lethality.

**CHART 20: AGE OF VICTIMS OF STALKING
2020-2021, N = 1,265**



**CHART 21: GENDER OF VICTIMS OF STALKING
2020-2021**



CHARTS 20 & 21

Based on the Coalition’s 2020-2021 data, women between the ages of 25-59 are at the greatest risk of being stalked. Victims of stalking usually know their perpetrator, and they are commonly a current or former intimate partner. Many perpetrators of domestic violence use stalking as a tactic of control to instill fear in their victims, and continual advances in technology have greatly increased the ability of perpetrators to stalk victims in ways that can be more difficult for victims to detect.

**CHART 22: AGE OF VICTIMS OF HUMAN TRAFFICKING
2020-2021, N = 149**

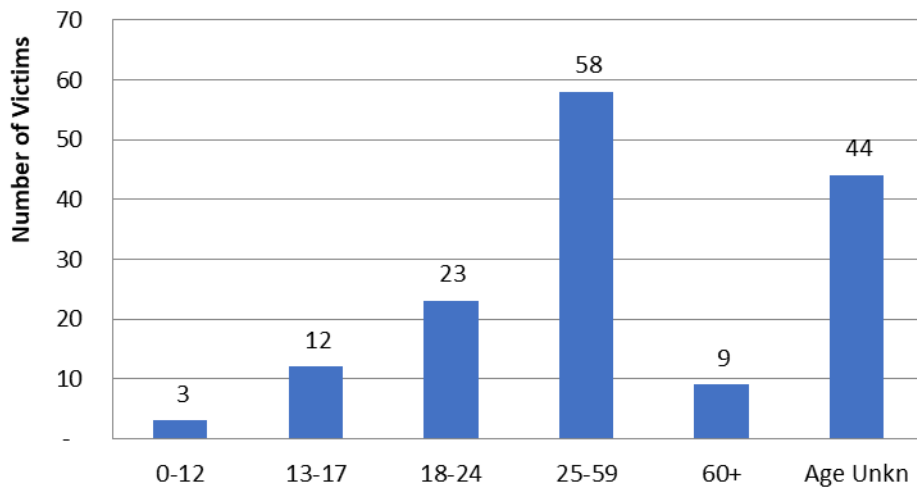
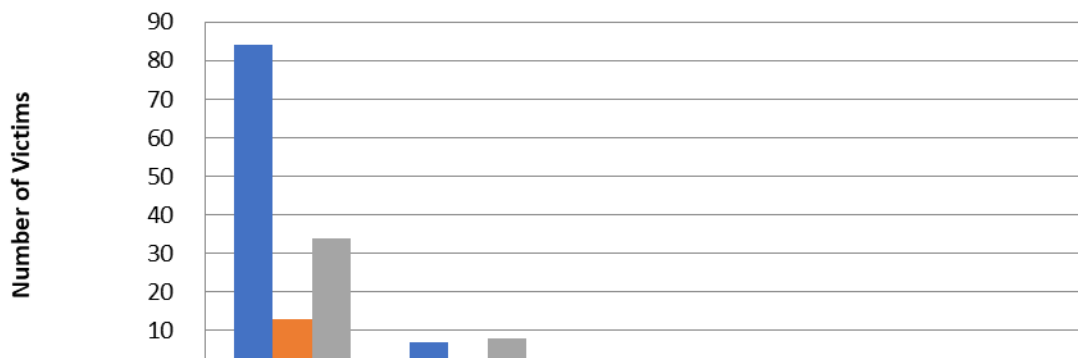


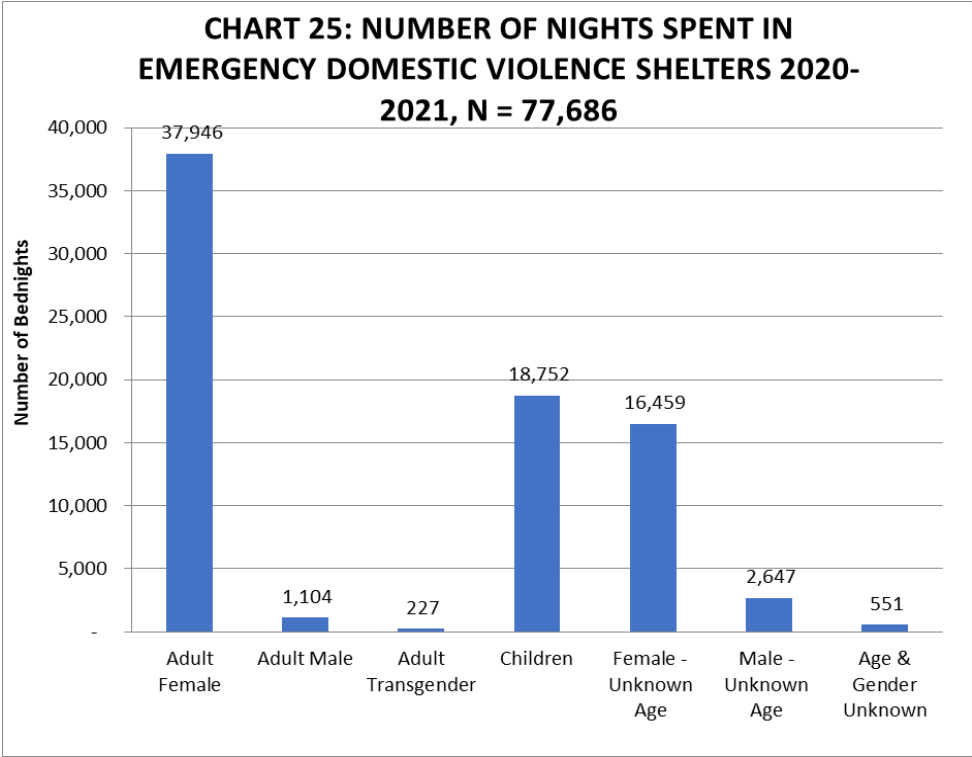
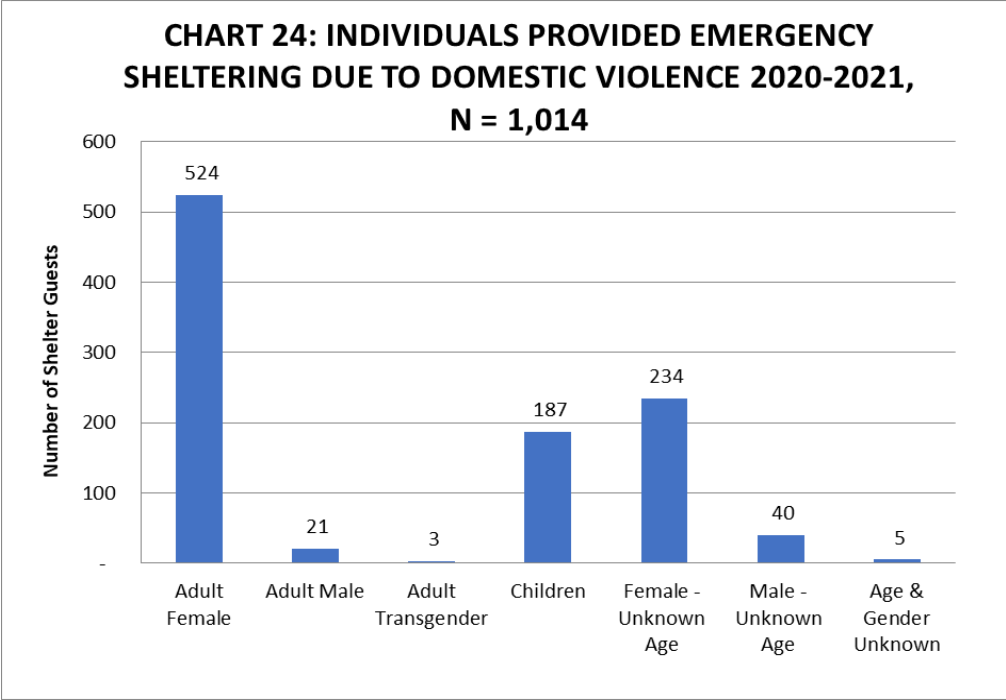
CHART 23: GENDER OF VICTIMS OF HUMAN TRAFFICKING 2020-2021



	Female	Male	Transgender	Other	Gender Unknown
Adults	84	7	-	-	-
Children	13	2	-	-	-
Age Unknown	34	8	-	-	1

CHARTS 22 & 23

In 2020-2021 crisis centers in New Hampshire also served victims of human trafficking across the state. Victims served were predominantly women, between the ages of 25-59. The Coalition’s human trafficking data includes victims of sex trafficking and labor trafficking.



CHARTS 24 & 25

During this reporting period the majority of victims staying in emergency domestic violence shelters were women and children. Families often stay in emergency shelter for several months, and there is limited space available in New Hampshire’s 12 domestic violence shelters. Lack of capacity can lead to victims being turned away.

For a detailed breakdown of the 2020-2021 Coalition data, please see Appendix A.

V. NEW HAMPSHIRE JUDICIAL BRANCH

PROTECTIVE ORDER DATA 2020-2021

This section presents data from the Circuit Courts and Superior Courts regarding the protections available to victims of domestic violence and stalking. There are ten Circuits in the State of New Hampshire. Each Circuit contains one or more physical locations (33 total). Circuit Court manages civil domestic violence and stalking cases, as well as criminal bail protective orders issued in misdemeanor criminal cases. There are eleven Superior Courts throughout the State of New Hampshire. Each county is represented by one Superior Court, with the exception of Hillsborough County, which has two courts, a northern and southern location. Superior Court manages criminal bail protective orders issued in felony criminal cases. The 2020-2021 data charts below reflect total numbers throughout the state.

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

RSA 173-B:4 describes the process for the procurement of a domestic violence protective order and includes the types of relief that a Court may order. Civil domestic violence orders of protection can be sought through two different mechanisms: by requesting an Emergency/Telephonic Order of Protection via law enforcement during non-court business hours or by filing a Petition for Order of Protection with the court during business hours. While the nature of the protections offered are similar, the process surrounding each mechanism and the length of the protections offered look very different.

EMERGENCY PROTECTIONS

At times when courts are closed, victims may request a civil **emergency/telephonic protective order** with the assistance of law enforcement. These orders remain in effect until the end of the next court business day. It is important to note that these orders are not entered into the National Crime Victim Information Center and therefore are only visible to New Hampshire law enforcement in the state they are issued. The victim may file a civil domestic violence or stalking petition during the next available court business day in order to request continued protection. **In 2020-2021, 762 emergency domestic violence orders and 20 emergency stalking orders were issued.**

If an arrest is made in a domestic violence- or stalking-related case, the possibility exists for there to be both a criminal bail protective order (CBPO) as well as an emergency order of pro-

tection in effect, as one relates solely to criminal cases and the other relates solely to civil cases. In criminal cases law enforcement may request a **criminal bail protective order (CBPO)** when certain qualifying relationships exist between the victim and the defendant, as described in 18 USC § 921(a)(32) and 18 USC §922 (g)(8). Unlike other protective orders, the criminal protective order may be requested and issued without the victim’s consent. However, victims should still be offered the option to request an emergency order, regardless of this issuance of a CBPO. Law enforcement should also inform the victim of the issuance of a CBPO and its conditions.

While often utilized in cases involving domestic violence, sexual assault or stalking, CBPOs may be used in other criminal cases as well, as long as the relationship qualifies. **In 2020-2021, 6,479 CBPOs were issued.** Chart 26 shows a count of the CBPOs, domestic violence emergency orders, and stalking emergency orders issued in each Circuit Court. **Chart 27** displays a count of the CBPOs issued in each Superior Court.

**CHART 26: CIRCUIT COURT
CRIMINAL BAIL PROTECTIVE ORDERS &
DV/STALKING EMERGENCY ORDERS
2020-2021**

■ CBPOs ■ DV Emergency Orders ■ Stalking Emergency Orders

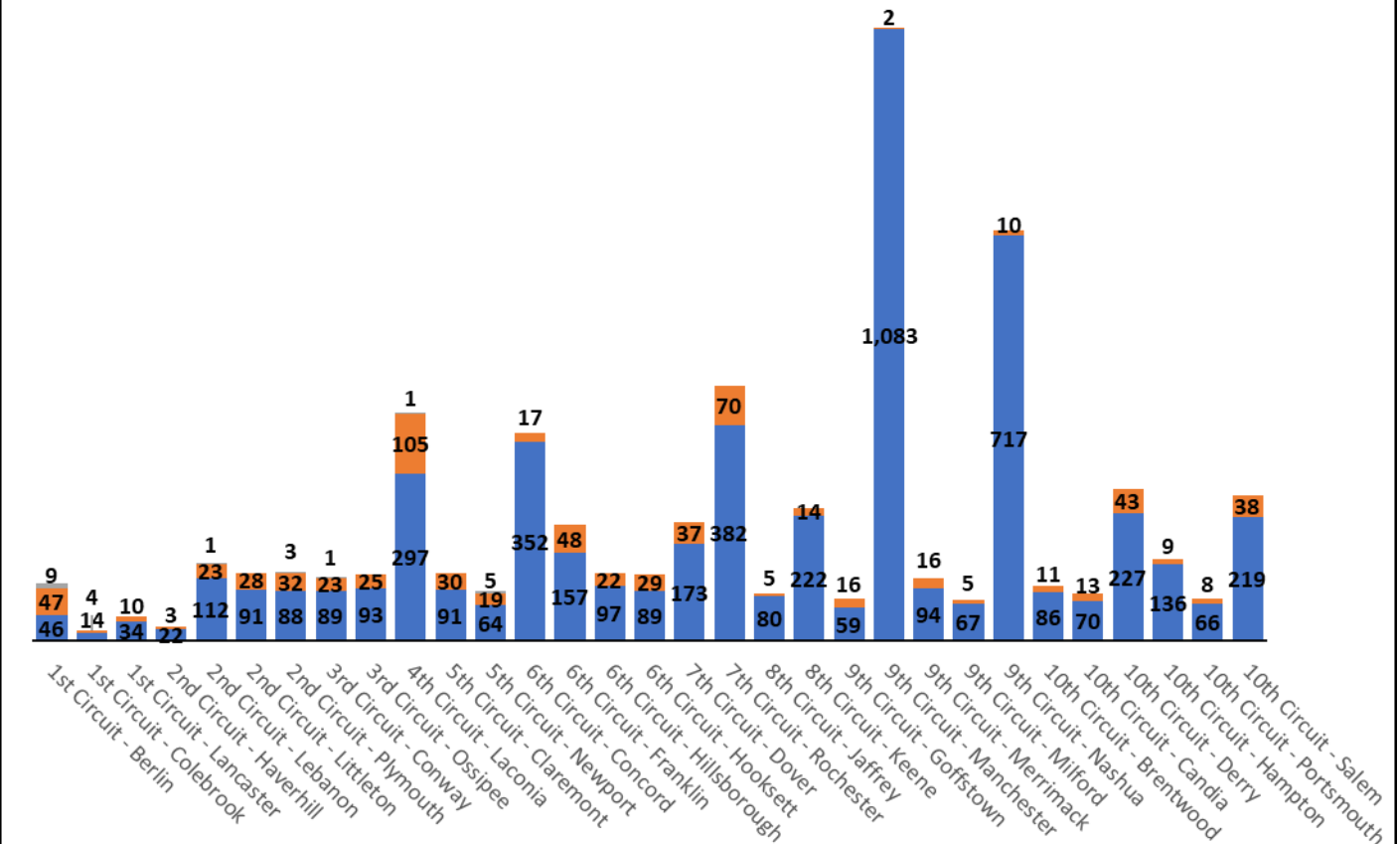
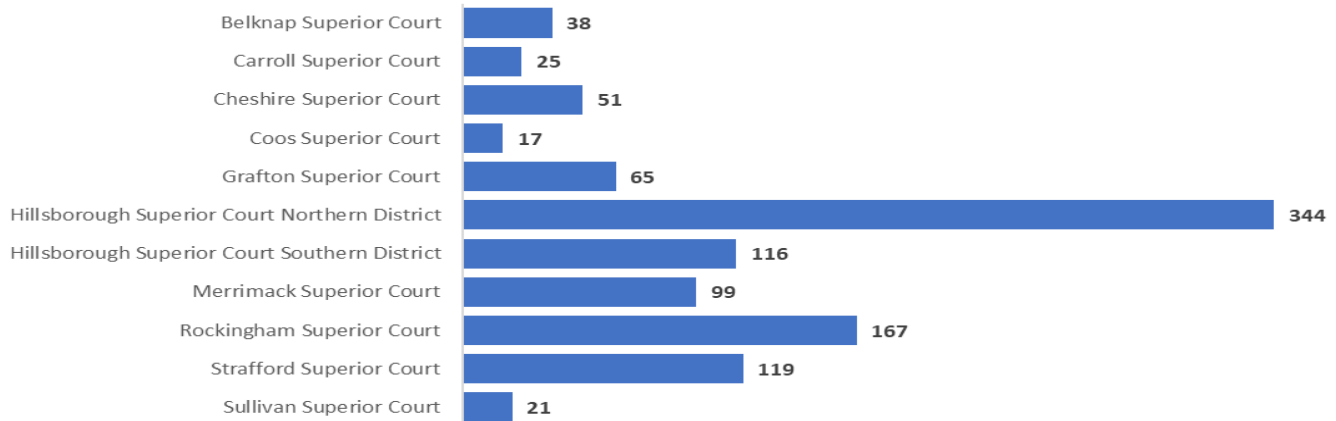


CHART 27: SUPERIOR COURT CRIMINAL BAIL PROTECTIVE ORDERS 2020-2021



DOMESTIC VIOLENCE TEMPORARY ORDERS OF PROTECTION

A civil protective order case begins when a person requesting relief, a **plaintiff**, comes to the court during regular business hours to request immediate relief from abuse as defined in RSA 173-B. The plaintiff files a **petition** describing what occurred to cause them to fear for their immediate safety, then waits while the judge reviews the request. The judge may or may not speak with the plaintiff before issuing a decision.

The decision may be to either:

Grant a **temporary order of protection** (valid until the final hearing is held within 30 days, or 3-5 days if the defendant requests an earlier hearing);

Deny temporary orders but schedule a hearing for a later date at which both parties may present their case to the court; or

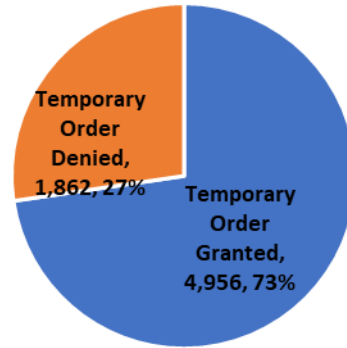
Deny the request completely.

A temporary order of protection can remain in effect until a determination is made as to whether the order should become a final order of protection.

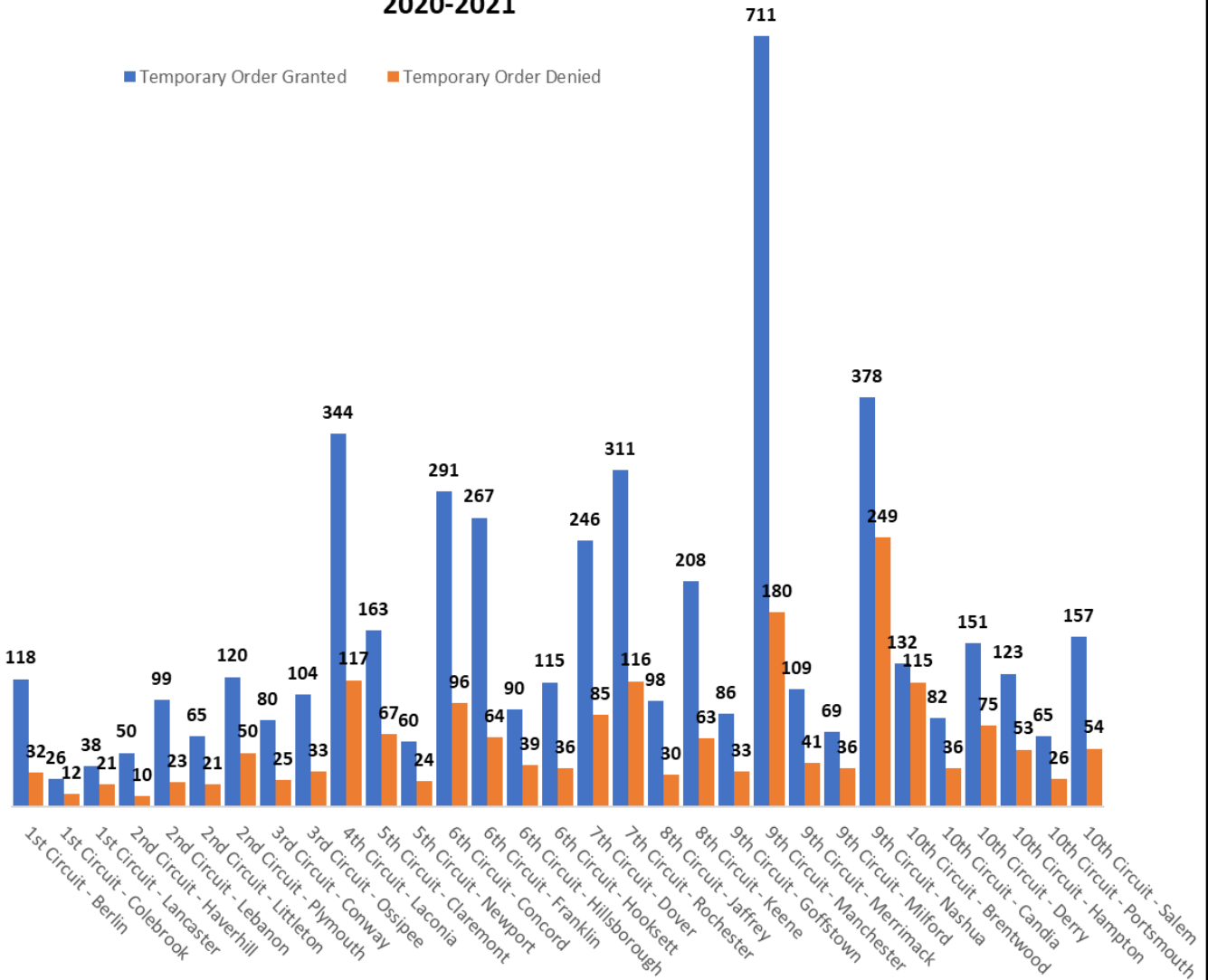
Examples of available protections include, but are not limited to, ordering the defendant to relinquish firearms and ammunition, prohibiting the defendant from contacting the plaintiff, and prohibiting further abuse of the plaintiff by the defendant. **In 2020-2021, of the 6,775 petitions filed, 4,956 (73%) were granted a temporary order. Chart 28** displays a statewide count of temporary orders granted and denied, and **Chart 29** provides more detailed information by court location.

The number of temporary orders granted plus temporary orders denied is slightly larger than the total number of petitions filed. The most common reason for a case to contain multiple orders occurs when, after a denial order is issued, a Motion to Reconsider is granted and then a temporary order is granted.

**CHART 28: DOMESTIC VIOLENCE TEMPORARY ORDERS
2020-2021**

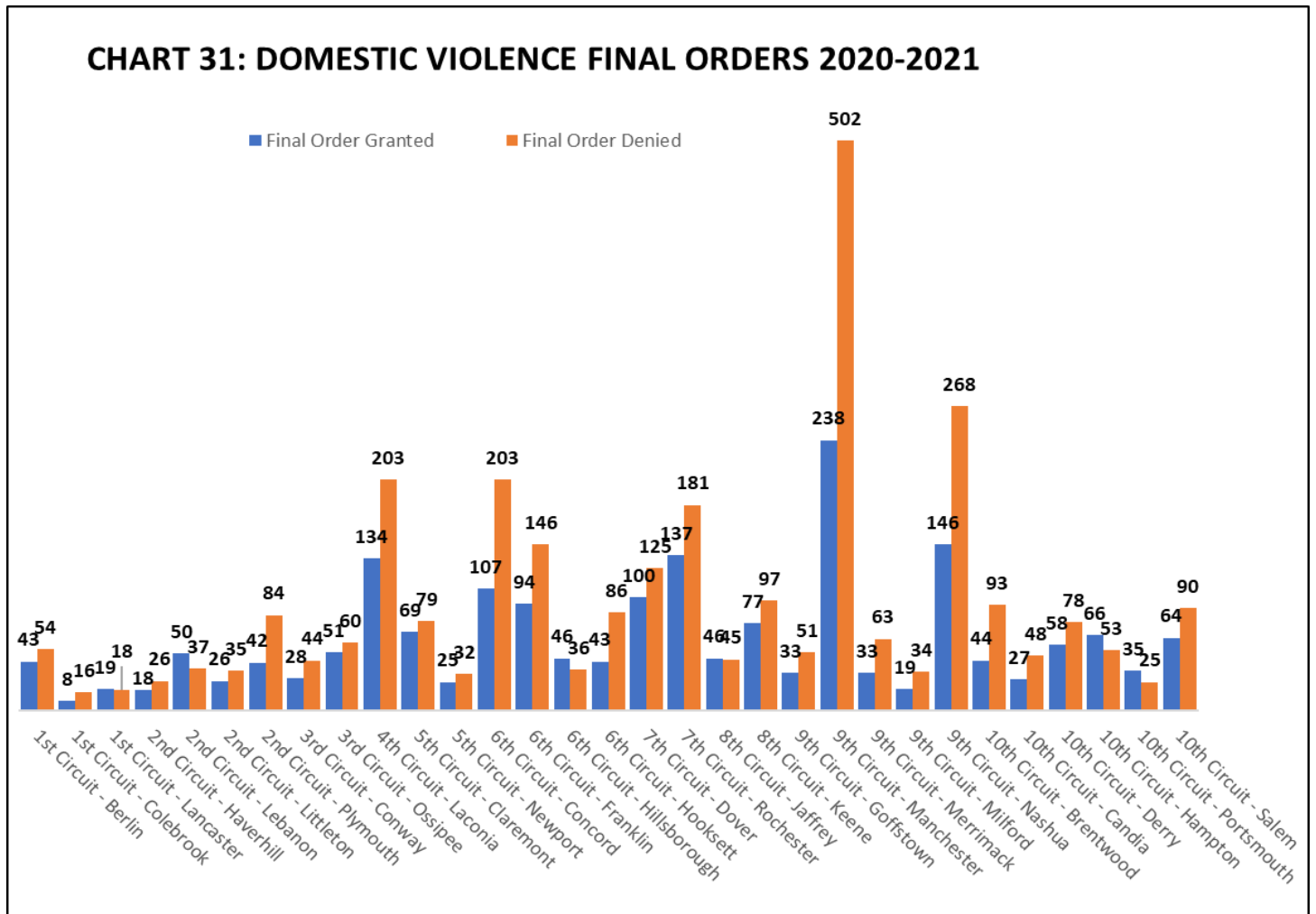
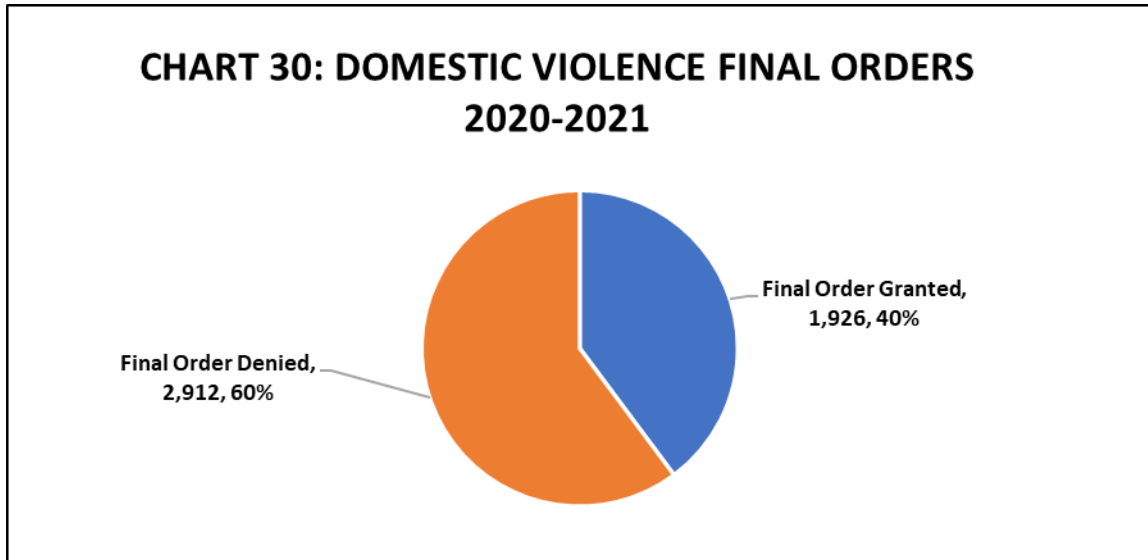


**CHART 29: DOMESTIC VIOLENCE TEMPORARY ORDERS GRANTED/DENIED
2020-2021**



DOMESTIC VIOLENCE FINAL ORDERS OF PROTECTION

If a final hearing is scheduled, the **defendant** (person against whom the order is issued) is notified by law enforcement of the allegations and whether a temporary order has been issued. At the final hearing, the judge hears evidence (usually in the form of testimony) and arguments from both parties, and then typically issues a final order either dismissing the case or granting a **final order of protection** (which can last for up to one year).



CHARTS 30, 31 & 32

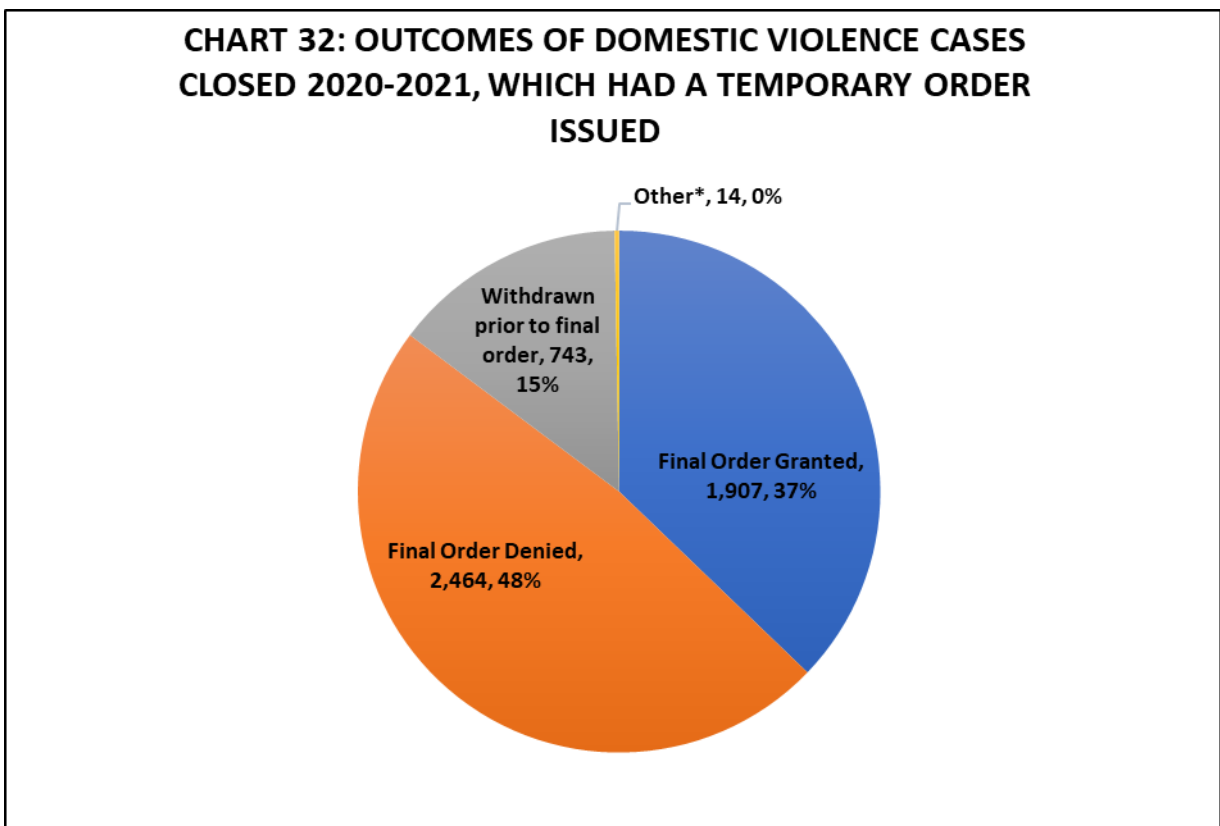
Chart 30 displays a statewide count of final orders granted and denied, and **Chart 31** provides more detailed information by court location.

An alternative analysis is provided in **Chart 32**, which summarizes the outcomes of cases closed in 2020-2021, in which a temporary order of protection had been issued.

“Final Order Denied” indicates that, at a final hearing, the Court ruled that a final order would not be granted and the case would be closed. Reasons for denial/dismissal vary and are not yet able to be distinguished in this report. Possible reasons include parties' non-appearance at the final hearing and failure to find that abuse occurred as defined by 173-B, among others.

The plaintiff may file a **request to withdraw** the petition at any time during this process. Withdrawal or dismissal of a petition does not prevent a plaintiff from filing a new petition should new incidents occur. Plaintiff requests to withdraw a protective order are reflected within “Withdrawn prior to final order.”

*An outcome will be counted as “Other” if no final order or withdrawal is found. The most common reasons for this include: case was closed after judge approved parties' stipulated agreement or data entry error/omission.



DOMESTIC VIOLENCE FINAL ORDER EXTENSIONS

According to RSA 173-B:5, VI, plaintiffs may request that the court extend their domestic violence final order. If the court finds good cause for the extension, the court may extend the final protective order for one year on the first extension request. Thereafter, each extension may be up to five years. Before the five-year extension order expires, the plaintiff may request that the order be extended for another five years. After the extension order is granted and the parties receive a copy of the order, if the defendant objects, they may request that the court hold a hearing on the matter.

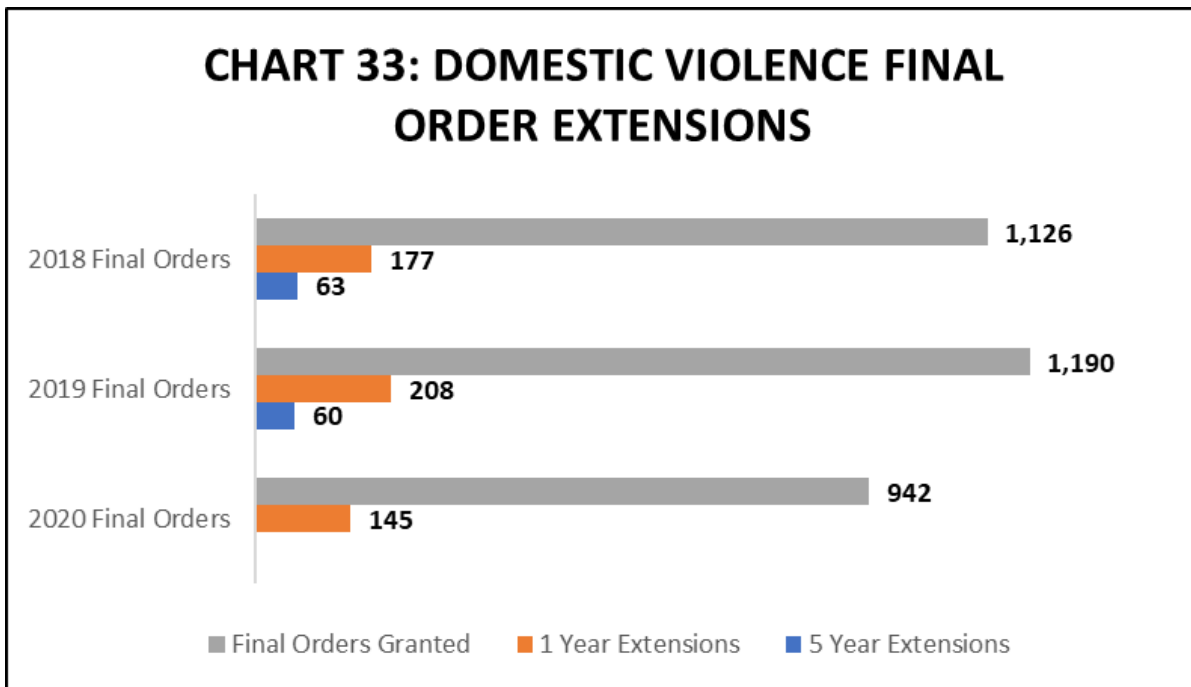


CHART 33

This chart demonstrates the number of final order extensions granted within this reporting period.

Of the 1,126 final orders issued in 2018, 177 were extended for one year and of those, 63 were later extended for an additional 5 years.

Of the 1,190 final orders issued in 2019, 208 were extended for one year and of those, 60 were later extended for an additional 5 years.

Of the 942 final orders issued in 2020, 145 were extended for one year. The data regarding 5-year extensions of those orders is not yet available for this report.

Looking at the three years of data together, about **16% of final orders** were granted a one-year extension.

32% of those initially extended for one year were extended for an additional 5 years. A small fraction (**5%**) of final orders were extended for a total of 6 years.

CHART 34: DOMESTIC VIOLENCE PLAINTIFF REPRESENTATION 2020-2021

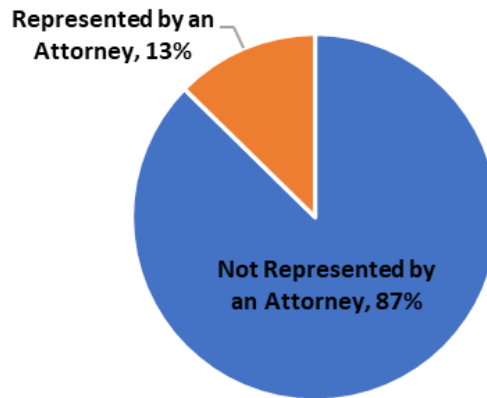


CHART 34

This chart shows that only **13% of plaintiffs** had representation at some point in the process of requesting a domestic violence protective order.

STALKING

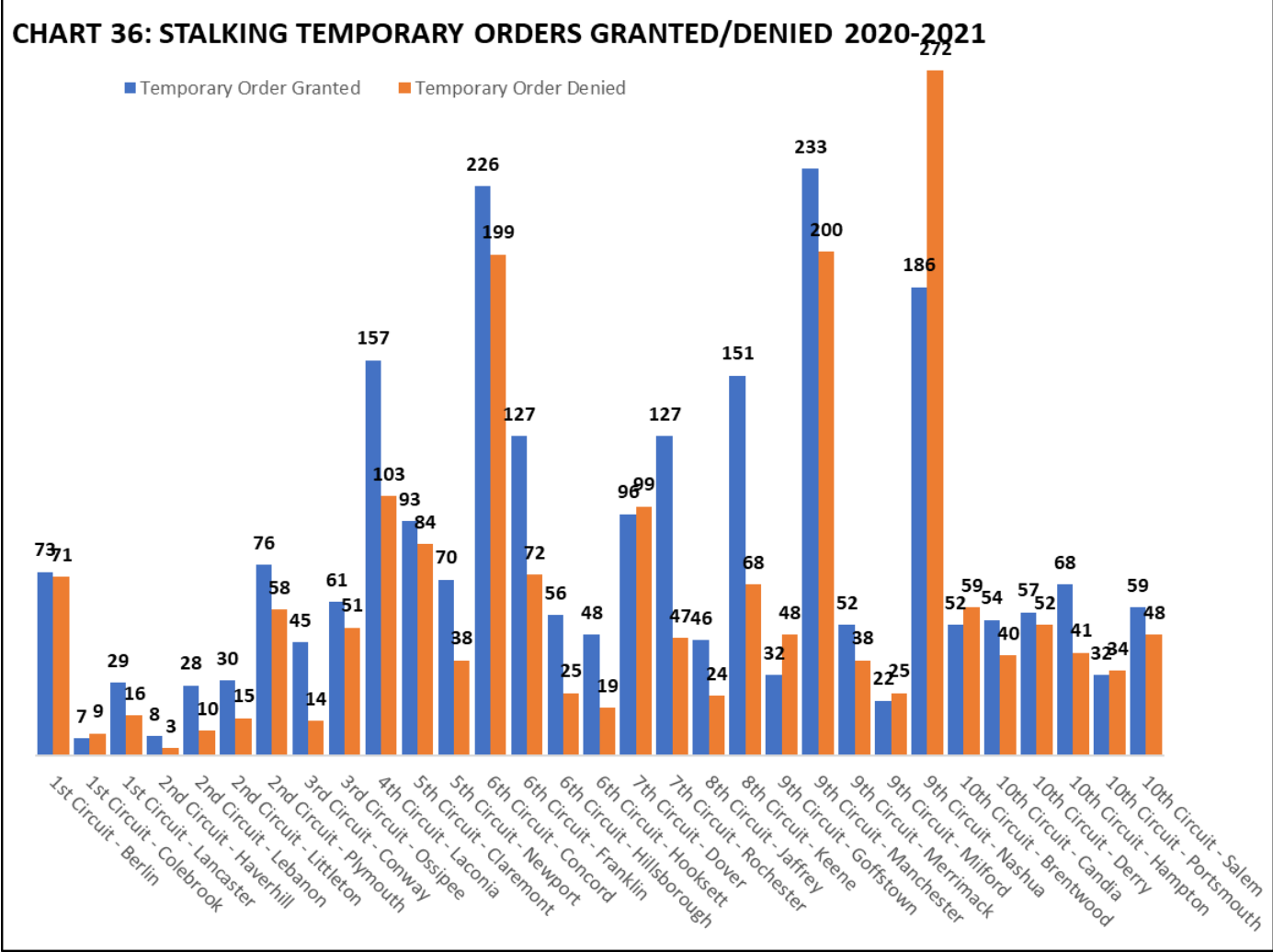
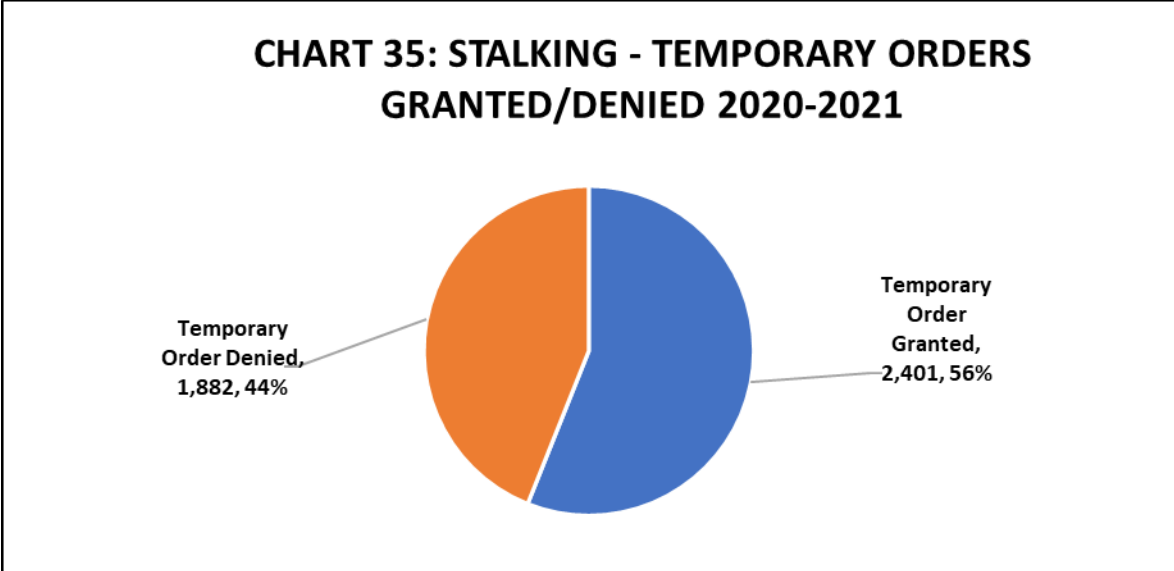
Stalking, in the simplest of terms, is a pattern of behavior, directed at specific person that would place a reasonable person in fear. New Hampshire's stalking statute ([RSA 633:3-a](#)) provides relief for victims of stalking through a protective order process that is similar to that for victims of domestic violence under 173:B. However, unlike domestic violence protective orders, no specific relationship is required to qualify for the issuance of a stalking protective order. The plaintiff must prove, however, that the defendant engaged in a **course of conduct** as defined by statute.

STALKING TEMPORARY ORDERS OF PROTECTION

Temporary orders of protection for stalking follow the same process as temporary orders of protection for domestic violence. This process is described on page 24. **In 2020-2021, of the 4,278 petitions filed, 2,401 (56%) were granted a temporary order.** Chart 35 displays a statewide count of temporary orders granted and denied, and Chart 36 provides more detailed information by court location.

The number of temporary orders granted plus temporary orders denied is slightly larger than the

total number of petitions filed. The most common reason for a case to contain multiple orders occurs when, after a denial order is issued, a Motion to Reconsider is granted and then a temporary order is granted



STALKING FINAL ORDERS OF PROTECTION

If a final hearing is scheduled, the **defendant** (person against whom the order is issued) is notified by law enforcement of the allegations and whether a temporary order has been issued. At the final hearing, the judge hears evidence (usually in the form of testimony) and arguments from both parties, and then typically issues a final order either dismissing the case or granting a **final order of protection** (which can last for up to one year).

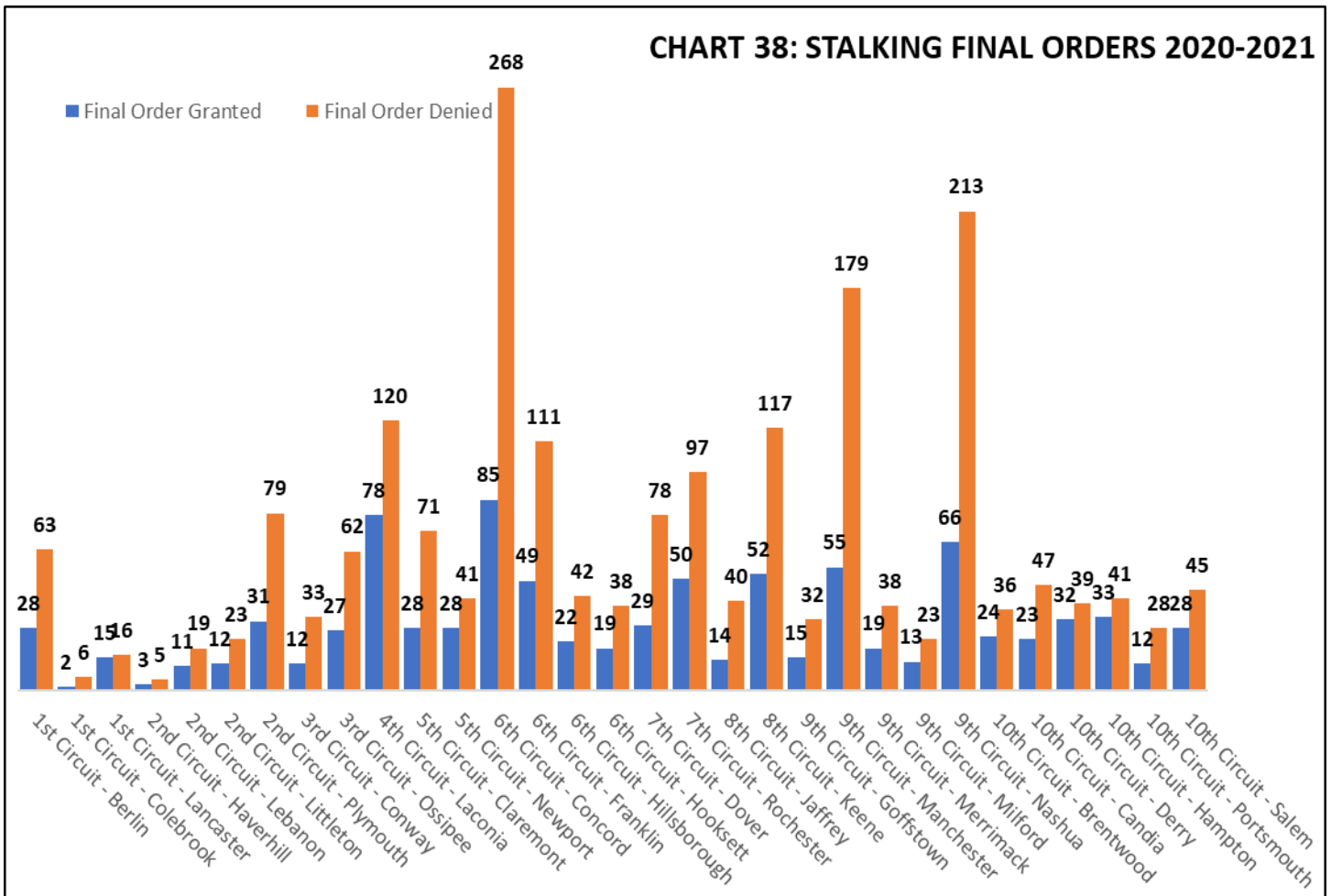
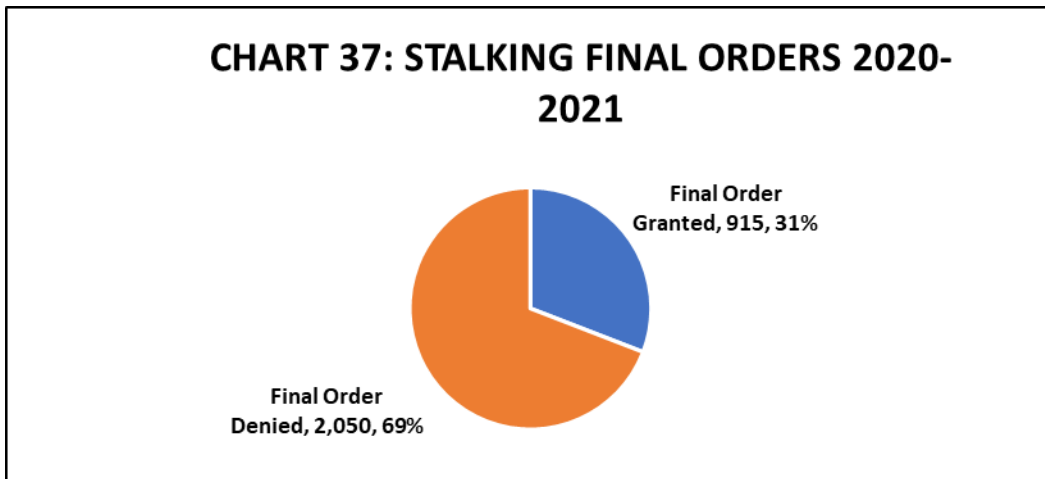
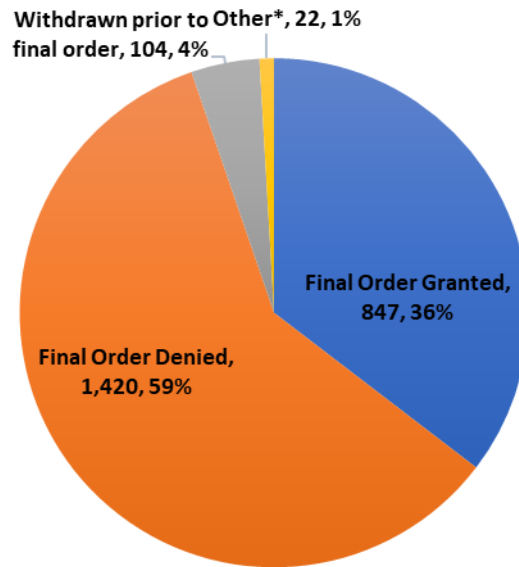


CHART 39: OUTCOMES OF STALKING CASES CLOSED 2020-2021, WHICH HAD A TEMPORARY ORDER ISSUED



CHARTS 37, 38 & 39

Chart 37 displays a statewide count of final orders granted and denied, and **Chart 38** provides more detailed information by court location.

An alternative analysis is provided in **Chart 39**, which summarizes the outcomes of cases closed in 2020-2021, in which a temporary order of protection had been issued.

“Final Order Denied” indicates that, at a final hearing, the Court ruled that a final order would not be granted and the case would be closed. Reasons for denial/dismissal vary and are not yet able to be distinguished in this report. Possible reasons include parties' non-appearance at the final hearing and failure to find that stalking occurred as defined by RSA 633:3-a, among others.

The plaintiff may file a **request to withdraw** the petition at any time during this process. Withdrawal or dismissal of a petition does not prevent a plaintiff from filing a new petition should new incidents occur. Plaintiff requests to withdraw a protective order are reflected within “Withdrawn prior to final order.”

*An outcome will be counted as “Other” if no final order or withdrawal is found. The most common reasons for this include: case was closed after judge approved parties' stipulated agreement or data entry error/omission

STALKING FINAL ORDER EXTENSIONS

Since stalking orders are afforded the same process as domestic violence orders in RSA 173-B, plaintiffs may request the court extend their stalking final order. If the court finds good cause for the extension, the court may extend the final protective order for one year on the first extension request. Thereafter, each extension may be up to five years. Before the five year extension order expires, the plaintiff may request that the order be extended for another five years. After the extension order is granted and the parties receive a copy of the order, if the defendant objects to the order they may request that the court hold a hearing on the matter.

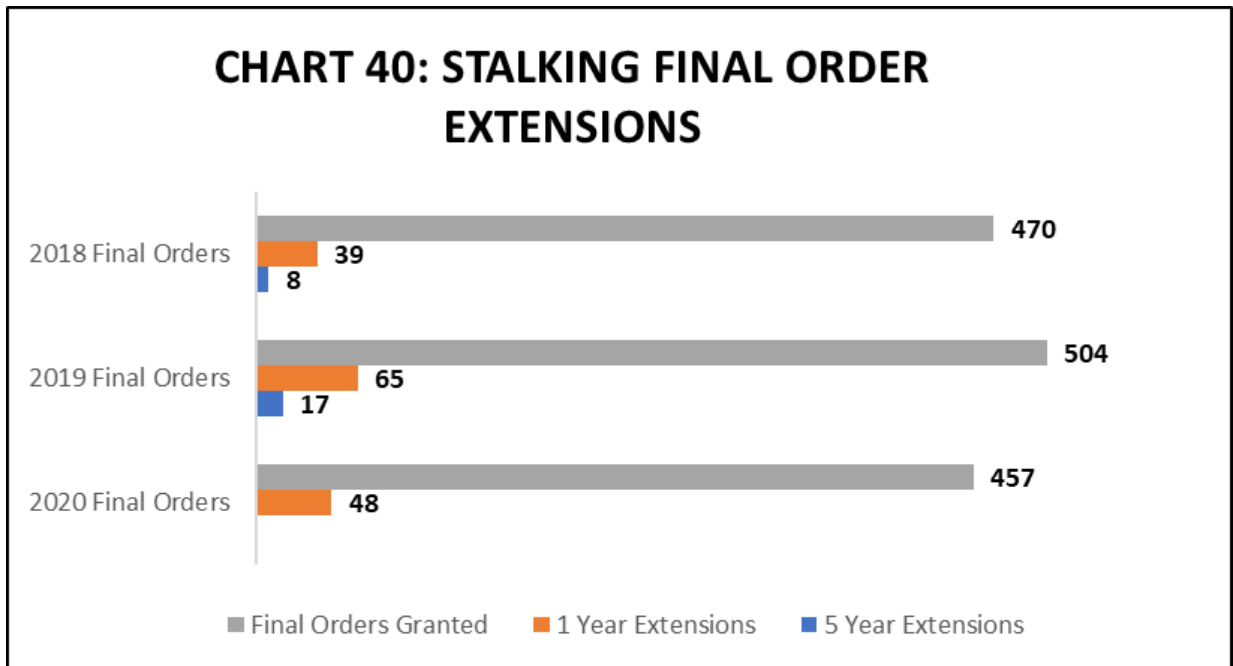


CHART 40

This chart demonstrates the number of final order extensions granted within this reporting period.

Of the 470 final orders issued in 2018, 39 were extended for one year and of those, 8 were later extended for an additional 5 years.

Of the 504 final orders issued in 2019, 65 were extended for one year and of those, 17 were later extended for an additional 5 years.

Of the 457 final orders issued in 2020, 48 were extended for one year. The data regarding 5-year extensions of those orders is not available for this report.

Looking at the three years of data together, about **11% of final orders** were granted a one-year extension. **24% of those initially extended for one year were extended for an additional 5 years.**

CHART 41: STALKING PLAINTIFF REPRESENTATION 2020-2021

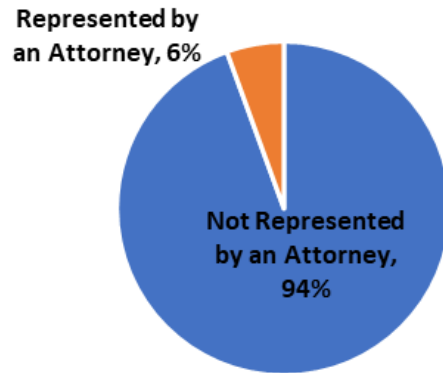


CHART 41

Chart 41 shows that only **6% of plaintiffs** had representation at some point in the process of requesting a stalking protective order.

APPENDIX

APPENDIX A

2020-2021 Combined Summary

The below tables show the NHCADSV Statewide Statistics for Domestic and Sexual Violence, for each year of the reporting period, and combined.

Victims of Domestic Violence	2020					
	Female	Male	Transgender	Other	Unknown	Total
Adult	4,627	358	8	1	11	5,005
Child	398	271	1	-	2	672
Unknown Age	2,928	301	6	1	63	3,299
Total	7,953	930	15	2	76	8,976
Victims of Domestic Violence	2021					
	Female	Male	Transgender	Other	Unknown	Total
Adult	4,132	314	8	7	28	4,489
Child	365	246	5	1	17	634
Unknown Age	2,993	241	5	-	151	3,390
Total	7,490	801	18	8	196	8,513
Victims of Domestic Violence	2020-2021					
	Female	Male	Transgender	Other	Unknown	Total
Adult	8,759	672	16	8	39	9,494
Child	763	517	6	1	19	1,306
Unknown Age	5,921	542	11	1	214	6,689
Total	15,443	1,731	33	10	272	17,489

Victims of Sexual Violence	2020					
	Female	Male	Transgender	Other	Unknown	Total
Adult	1,261	206	9	-	5	1,481
Child	467	165	3	-	6	641
Unknown Age	476	112	1	-	53	642
Total	2,204	483	13	-	64	2,764
Victims of Sexual Violence	2021					
	Female	Male	Transgender	Other	Unknown	Total
Adult	1,242	250	15	5	13	1,525
Child	714	200	12	10	7	943
Unknown Age	487	124	3	-	49	663
Total	2,443	574	30	15	69	3,131
Victims of Sexual Violence	2020-2021					
	Female	Male	Transgender	Other	Unknown	Total
Adult	2,503	453	24	5	18	3,006
Child	1,181	365	15	10	13	1,584
Unknown Age	963	236	4	-	102	1,305
Total	4,647	1,057	43	15	133	5,895

Victims of Stalking	2020					
	Female	Male	Transgender	Other	Unknown	Total
Adult	377	44	1	-	1	423
Child	10	1	-	-	-	11
Unknown Age	179	38	-	-	1	218
Total	566	83	1	-	2	652
Victims of Stalking	2021					
	Female	Male	Transgender	Other	Unknown	Total
Adult	353	51	1	1	-	406
Child	29	5	-	-	-	34
Unknown Age	139	28	-	-	6	173
Total	521	84	1	1	6	613
Victims of Stalking	2020-2021					
	Female	Male	Transgender	Other	Unknown	Total
Adult	730	95	2	1	1	829
Child	39	6	-	-	-	45
Unknown Age	318	66	-	-	7	391
Total	1,087	167	2	1	8	1,265

Victims of Human Trafficking*	2020					
	Female	Male	Transgender	Other	Unknown	Total
Adult	46	4	-	-	-	50
Child	4	1	-	-	-	5
Unknown Age	13	4	-	-	-	17
Total	63	9	-	-	-	72
Victims of Human Trafficking*	2021					
	Female	Male	Transgender	Other	Unknown	Total
Adult	38	3	-	-	-	41
Child	9	1	-	-	-	10
Unknown Age	21	4	-	-	1	26
Total	68	8	-	-	1	77
Victims of Human Trafficking*	2020-2021					
	Female	Male	Transgender	Other	Unknown	Total
Adult	84	7	-	-	-	91
Child	13	2	-	-	-	15
Unknown Age	34	8	-	-	1	43
Total	131	17	-	-	1	149

Age of Victims	2020				
	DV	SV	Stalking	HT	Total
0-12	482	318	1	2	803
13-17	190	323	10	3	526
18-25	709	425	73	8	1,215
25-59	3,875	971	294	39	5,179
60+	421	85	56	3	565
Unknown Age	3,299	642	218	17	4,176
Total Victims	8,976	2,764	652	72	12,464
Age of Victims	2021				
	DV	SV	Stalking	HT	Total
0-12	422	468	21	1	912
13-17	203	475	24	9	711
18-25	593	444	72	15	1,124
25-59	3,531	1,008	272	19	4,830
60+	365	73	50	6	494
Unknown Age	3,399	663	174	27	4,263
Total Victims	8,513	3,131	613	77	12,334
Age of Victims	2020-2021				
	DV	SV	Stalking	HT	Total
0-12	904	786	22	3	1,715
13-17	393	798	34	12	1,237
18-25	1,302	869	145	23	2,339
25-59	7,406	1,979	566	58	10,009
60+	786	158	106	9	1,059
Unknown Age	6,698	1,305	392	44	8,439
Total Victims	17,489	5,895	1,265	149	24,798

Emergency Shelter	2020		2021		2020-2021	
	Guests	Bed Nights	Guests	Bed Nights	Guests	Bed Nights
Adult Female	273	19,694	251	18,252	524	37,496
Adult Male	12	955	9	149	21	1,104
Adult Transgender	1	45	2	182	3	227
Children	184	18,613	3	139	187	18,752
Unknown Age - Female	38	1,383	196	15,076	234	16,459
Unknown Age - Male	7	561	33	2,086	40	2,647
Age & Gender Unknown	1	5	4	546	5	551
Total	516	41,256	498	36,430	1,014	77,686

