

FY17 Community Report on Domestic Violence in Mecklenburg County

Prepared by:

Mecklenburg County Community Support Services Department





Acknowledgements

Thank you for your contributions to this report.

Charlotte-Mecklenburg Police Department

Charlotte-Mecklenburg School System

Cornelius Police Department

Davidson Police Department

Huntersville Police Department

Matthews Police Department

Mecklenburg County Community Support Services

Adult DV Victim

DV Children Services

NOVA (New Options for Violent Actions)

Mecklenburg County Public Health Department

Epidemiology Program

Mecklenburg County Sheriff's Office

Mecklenburg County Social Services

Youth and Family Services

Mint Hill Police Department

NC Administrative Office of the Courts

Pineville Police Department

Safe Alliance

*For previous DV Data Reports go to the [DV Data Warehouse](#) on
Mecklenburg County's Community Support Services website.*





Table of Contents

Acknowledgements

Executive Summary **i**

Public Safety and Criminal Justice **1**

Notes for Public Safety and Criminal Justice 7

Public Health and Provider Services **10**

Notes for Health and Human Services 14



Executive Summary



“Gang violence is connected to bullying is connected to school violence is connected to intimate partner violence is connected to child abuse is connected to elder abuse. It’s all connected.” -

Deborah Prothrow-Stith, MD, Adjunct Professor, Harvard School of Public Health, [Connecting the Dots: An Overview of the Links Among Multiple Forms of Violence.](#)

The Domestic Violence Community Leadership Team (DVCLT), this community’s Coordinated Community Response (CCR) Team, is a partnership between government, law enforcement, health and human service providers, educational institutions, the private sector and the faith community. DVCLT raises awareness about domestic violence and focuses on preventing domestic violence. In 2007, DVCLT recommended developing a series of metrics and key performance indicators to quantify domestic violence activity in our county. As a result, the Mecklenburg County’s [Domestic Violence Data Warehouse](#) website was created to “house” the domestic violence related data and this annual community report.

A Systems Approach:

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and Prevention Institute (CDC) published an article, “Connecting the Dots: An Overview of Links Among Multiple Forms of Violence,” which provides support for major systems (i.e., law enforcement, courts, healthcare, etc.) to come together and work from a holistic perspective to address the community problem of intimate partner violence. The article addresses how different forms of violence are interconnected and informs us of the overlapping causes of violence. The CDC recommends a coordinated effort by major systems to respond to violence at the individual, neighborhood and community level(s). Our community’s CCR Team works from this lens and sets its strategic priorities from a systems approach. The data that is compiled in the DV Data Warehouse report informs the CCR on its progress towards accomplishing its strategic priorities.

How to Read This Document:

This report has two sections and is organized by major systems that interact with people who experience or at risk of experiencing violence. The *Public Safety and Criminal Justice* section focuses on domestic violence activity captured by seven law enforcement agencies and from the 26th Judicial District civil court system. The *Public Health and Provider Services* section includes teen dating violence data from the Mecklenburg County Health Department; domestic violence data from various County departments and domestic violence data from local service providers. Each section provides background information on the major system, and relevant data provided by specific organizations follows. The data is by fiscal year, calendar year and academic school year, depending on the reporting organization and how it captures its data. Notes conclude each section and include key definitions.

Results Summary:

- The total number of police incident reports filed with a domestic violence relationship is 8,845 in FY17.
 - Charlotte-Mecklenburg Police Department, the largest local law enforcement jurisdiction, makes up the majority.
- Simple Assault (5,249 charge) and Communicating Threats (1,045 charges) are the most frequent charge types associated with domestic violence in FY17.
- **New** for this year's report is data related to the Lethality Assessment Protocol.
- The Mecklenburg County Sheriff's Office served 3,447 domestic violence protective orders and seized and stored 430 weapons, per court order and in the context of domestic violence, for calendar year 2017. The five-year trend is increasing year over year.
- The number of domestic violence protective orders filed in the 26th Judicial Civil District Court was 3,396 in FY17. The five-year trend is increasing year over year.
- Data related to the 2017 *Youth Risk Behavior Survey* will be compiled, analyzed and reported on by the Mecklenburg County Public Health Department in late spring. At the time of this report, the timetable is pending per Public Health. The 2015 data, as included in this year's report, is the most recent and available YRBS data.
- Prevention and Intervention Services, a division of Mecklenburg County Community Support Services, is increasing its reach to adult victims, child witnesses and perpetrators of domestic violence. In FY17, 1,155 adult victims and 562 child witnesses received services; the five-year trend is increasing year over year. NOVA, receives most of its clients through the court system's referral process and reports serving 828 perpetrators of domestic violence. The five-year trend is increasing year over year for this service, too.
- **New** for this year's report is activity related to the application process for domestic violence protective orders. Victim's Assistance Services, provided by Safe Alliance, assists individuals seeking a domestic violence protective order from the courts. Staff helped 1,250 individuals with the application process for filing a domestic violence protective order in civil, district court in FY17.
- Youth and Family Services, a division of Mecklenburg County's Department of Social Services, collects and reports on investigation reports, which have a domestic violence relationship identified. In FY17, 15.9 percent of reports accepted for investigation have a domestic violence connection. The year over year five- year trend is consistent.



Public Safety and Criminal Justice System(s)

Overview:

The *Public Safety and Criminal Justice System(s)* section, of the DV Data report, includes domestic violence related data from county, city and town law enforcement, the Mecklenburg County Sheriff's Office and the North Carolina Administrative Office of the Courts. The data reported is an overview of domestic violence related activity in the county. You could consider various criminal justice agencies as the entry point into the "system" for victims and perpetrators of domestic violence. This section includes fiscal year-end data, calendar year-end data and trend data. Definitions of key terms and end notes are in the back of this section.

Law Enforcement:

Police Jurisdictions:

There are seven police jurisdictions that comprise Mecklenburg County, North Carolina. The Charlotte-Mecklenburg Police Department has jurisdiction over the City of Charlotte. There are six towns that comprise Mecklenburg County. Each town has its own police department, which enforces the law in its town's jurisdiction. The towns include, Cornelius, Davidson, Huntersville, Matthews, Mint Hill, and Pineville police departments.

In 2008, the Domestic Violence Community Leadership Team identified a series of criminal offenses, which relate to domestic violence as there is no formal charge for domestic violence in North Carolina. DVCLT was intentional in its efforts to work across systems (i.e., First Responders, the Courts, etc.) to understand and respond to domestic violence activity in this community.

Table 1 shows the identified charge types and the number of incident reports filed with a domestic violence relationship with this charge type by each police jurisdiction and overall. In FY17, the most frequent charge type related to a domestic violence relationship is Simple Assault (5,249) followed by Communicating Threats (1,045). The total number of incident reports filed with a domestic violence relationship is 8,845. The results show the Charlotte-Mecklenburg Police Jurisdiction, the largest in terms of jurisdiction and personnel, as comprising the majority of the total incident report filings with a domestic violence relationship. Charlotte Mecklenburg Police Department collects and reports the Town of Davidson's data for this report, and Davidson Police Department's total is included in Charlotte-Mecklenburg Police Department's total.



Table 1: Criminal Incident Reports where a Domestic Violence Relationship is noted

Charge Type ¹	Charlotte-Mecklenburg Police ²	Cornelius Police ³	Huntersville Police	Mint Hill Police	Matthews Police	Pineville Police	Total Reports
	FY17	FY17	FY17	FY17	FY17	FY17	FY17
Homicide	18	0	1	0	0	1	20
Rape	64	1	0	0	0	3	68
Robbery	58	0	1	0	0	0	59
Aggravated Assault	874	1	16	5	4	8	908
Negligent Manslaughter	1	0	0	0	0	0	1
Assault on a Female	-	35	0	35	25	38	133
Non-Aggravated Assault	-	0	0	0	2	47	49
Simple Assault	5100	9	99	25	16	0	5249
Sex Offenses	-	1	0	2	0	0	3
Forcible Fondling	233	0	0	0	0	0	233
Forcible Sodomy	9	0	1	0	0	0	10
Sexual Assault w/ Object	6	0	0	0	0	0	6
Harassing Phone Calls	308	4	0	1	2	11	326
Stalking	50	2	0	1	0	7	60
Communicating Threats	979	10	14	17	5	20	1045
Kidnapping	133	1	0	0	0	0	134
50-B Violations	431	12	0	6	1	7	457
Domestic Violence - 15A-534.1 (2090)	-	0	0	3	38	1	42
Other Offenses	-	0	30	1	11	0	42
FY17 Total DV-Related Incident Reports Filed	8,264	76	162	96	104	143	8,845

*Find footnotes for this table and other tables in the *Notes on Public Safety and Criminal Justice Section*, beginning on page 7.



Lethality Assessment Protocols

The Domestic Violence Community Leadership Team (DVCLT) Coordinated Community Response (CCR) identified *Integrating the Lethality Assessment Protocol Data (LAP Data) into the Domestic Violence Data Warehouse* as one of its priorities for 2017-2020.

In July 2016, all law enforcement agencies in the county completed LAP training. The LAP tool is administered to the victim when a first responder arrives to the scene of a domestic disturbance call. In addition, DV service agencies are learning how victims use DV services, after law enforcement calls in the LAP to the Domestic Violence Shelter, which is provided by Safe Alliance.

Table 2 shows LAP data for November 2016 through November 2017 for four of seven law enforcement agencies. The end notes are in the *Notes on Public Safety and Criminal Justice Section* of this document.

Table 2: Lethality Assessment Protocol Data for First Responders in Mecklenburg County

LAP Data	Charlotte-Mecklenburg Police	Cornelius Police ⁴	Davidson Police	Huntersville Police	Matthews Police ⁵	Mint Hill Police	Pineville Police
# of LAP's administered	N/A	N/A	N/A	141	66	28	61
# of LAPs screened as "High Risk"	N/A	N/A	N/A	93	46	11	27
# LAPs connected to the DV Hotline	N/A	N/A	N/A	56	18	3	15



Mecklenburg County Sheriff's Office (MCSO)

The Mecklenburg County Sheriff's Office (MCSO) is a constitutional office in North Carolina, and the sheriff is an elected position. The MCSO is responsible for serving protective orders to perpetrators of domestic violence and for seizing any weapons that may be found in the home of individuals impacted by domestic violence. These law enforcement activities are ordered by a local judge in the county's court system. ("Protective Order" is defined in the Notes.)

Table 3 shows five years of domestic violence related activity as reported by the MCSO. The number of DV Orders Received and Served is increasing over the period. Regarding weapons in the context of domestic violence, no data is reported in the latter part of the table. This is due to a change in State Statute, regarding the destruction of weapons by the MCSO. According to the MCSO and per GS15-11.2, weapons are no longer destroyed. However, the MCSO continues the process, as ordered by the courts, of seizing, releasing and storing firearms in connection with intimate partner violence or domestic violence.

Table 3: DV Protective Orders and Weapons Seized, Stored and Released⁶

	<u>2013</u>	<u>2014</u>	<u>2015</u>	<u>2016</u>	<u>2017</u>
DV Orders Received	3551	3395	3727	4499	4496
DV Orders Served	2890	2889	2889	3277	3447
Weapons Seized ⁷	122	115	59	150	180
Weapons Destroyed ⁸	100	7	-	-	-
Weapons Released ⁹	47	99	39	33	39
Seized Weapons Currently Stored by MCSO ¹⁰	203	315	376	422	430



NC Administrative Office of the Courts, District 26:

The North Carolina Administrative Office of the Courts (AOC) collects data on case filings and dispositions in criminal and civil courts at the district and superior court levels. Domestic violence protective orders are filed and adjudicated in district civil court. Violations of the protective order are settled in criminal court at either the district or superior court levels.

Table 4 provides an understanding of the volume of protective order filings in Mecklenburg County’s civil district court, which comprises the entire 26th Judicial District. The five-year trend is increasing. In FY17, the number of case filings for a Protective Order is 3,396.

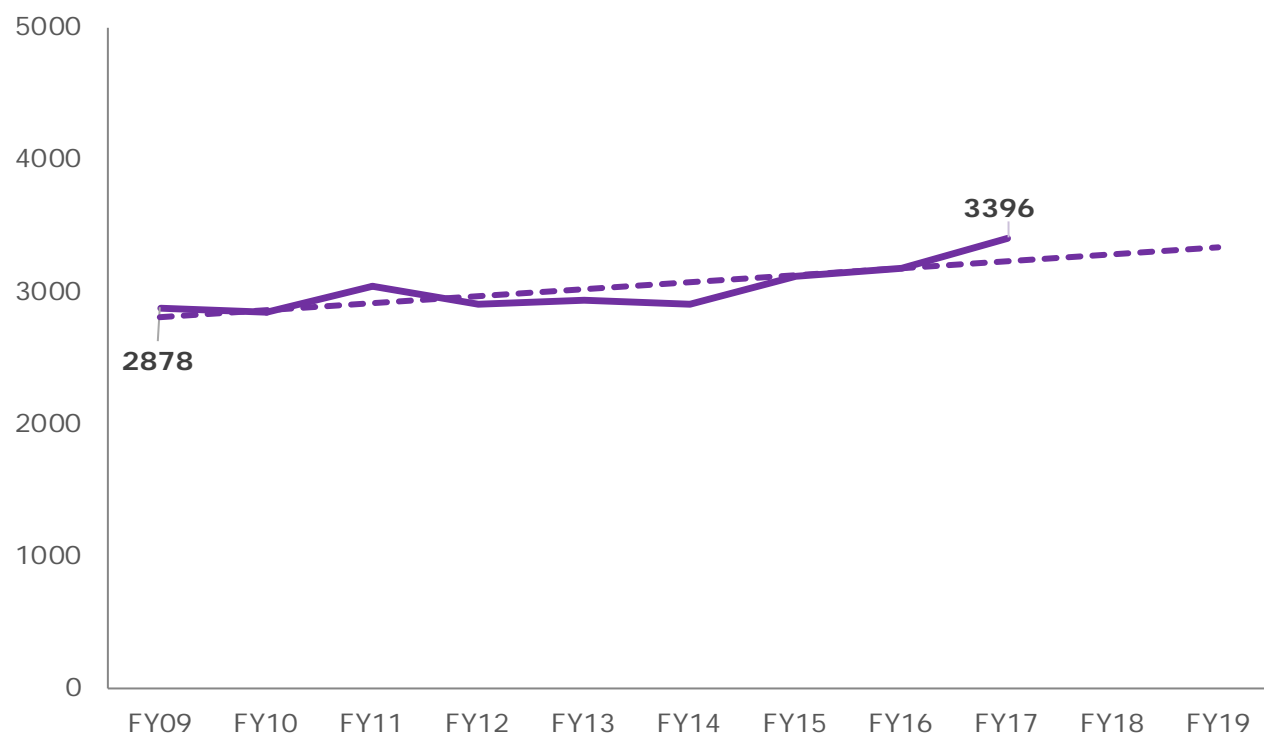
Table 4: Summary of Protective Order Case Filings in 26th Judicial Civil District Court¹¹

<u>Number of Case Filings</u>	<u>FY13</u>	<u>FY14</u>	<u>FY15</u>	<u>FY16</u>	<u>FY17</u>
Protective Order	2,934	2,898	3,111	3,170	3,396

Forecasts can aid in planning processes such as maintaining and controlling the size of a caseload for staff. The dotted line in **Graph 1** represents a two-year forecast as increasing gradually. The overall trend in the volume of Protective Order civil filings (i.e., the solid line) is constant with slight variations year-over-year.



Graph 1: Trend Data and Projected Forecast of Protective Order Filings in 26th Judicial Civil District Court





Notes for Public Safety and Criminal Justice

“Domestic Violence” (NC GS 50B-1) means the commission of one or more of the following acts upon an aggrieved party or upon a minor child residing with or in the custody of the aggrieved party by a person with whom the aggrieved party has or has had a personal relationship, but does not include acts of self-defense:

- (1) Attempting to cause bodily injury, or intentionally causing bodily injury; or
- (2) Placing the aggrieved party or a member of the aggrieved party's family or household in fear of imminent serious bodily injury or continued harassment, as defined in G.S. 14-277.3A, that rises to such a level as to inflict substantial emotional distress; or
- (3) Committing any act defined in G.S. 14-27.2 through G.S. 14-27.7.

A **"Personal Relationship"** [domestic violence relationship] (NC GS 50B-1) means a relationship wherein the parties involved:

- (1) Are current or former spouses;
- (2) Are persons of opposite sex who live together or have lived together;
- (3) Are related as parents and children, including others acting in loco parentis to a minor child, or as grandparents and grandchildren. For purposes of this subdivision, an aggrieved party may not obtain an order of protection against a child or grandchild under the age of 16;
- (4) Have a child in common;
- (5) Are current or former household members;
- (6) Are persons of the opposite sex who are in a dating relationship or have been in a dating relationship. For purposes of this subdivision, a dating relationship is one wherein the parties are romantically involved over time and on a continuous basis during the course of the relationship. A casual acquaintance or ordinary fraternization between persons in a business or social context is not a dating relationship.

A **“Protective Order”** [DV Order] (NC GS 50B-3) restrains the defendant from further acts of domestic violence and may include any of the following types of relief:

- (1) Direct a party to refrain from such acts.
- (2) Grant to a party possession of the residence or household of the parties and exclude the other party from the residence or household.
- (3) Require a party to provide a spouse and his or her children suitable alternate housing.
- (4) Award temporary custody of minor children and establish temporary visitation rights pursuant to G.S. 50B-2 if the order is granted ex parte, and pursuant to subsection (a1) of this section if the order is granted after notice or service of process.
- (5) Order the eviction of a party from the residence or household and assistance to the victim in returning to it.
- (6) Order either party to make payments for the support of a minor child as required by law.
- (7) Order either party to make payments for the support of a spouse as required by law.
- (8) Provide for possession of personal property of the parties, including the care, custody, and control of any animal owned, possessed, kept, or held as a pet by either party or minor child residing in the household.
- (9) Order a party to refrain from doing any or all of the following:
 - a. Threatening, abusing, or following the other party.
 - b. Harassing the other party, including by telephone, visiting the home or workplace, or other means.
 - b1. Cruelly treating or abusing an animal owned, possessed, kept, or held as a pet by either party or minor child residing in the household.
 - c. Otherwise interfering with the other party.


- 
- (10) Award attorney's fees to either party.
 - (11) Prohibit a party from purchasing a firearm for a time fixed in the order.
 - (12) Order any party the court finds is responsible for acts of domestic violence to attend and complete an abuser treatment program if the program is approved by the Domestic Violence Commission.
 - (13) Include any additional prohibitions or requirements the court deems necessary to protect any party or any minor child.

Table 1: Criminal Reports where a Domestic Violence Relationship is noted

¹These charges were selected by the Domestic Violence Community Leadership Team as trend indicators for domestic violence. Please bear in mind that if multiple victims/offenders were involved, the incident is categorized by the highest incident in a report hierarchy established by the FBI's national crime reporting programs [Uniform Crime Reporting (UCR) and National Incident-Based Reporting System (NIBRS)]. However, the domestic relationship may be related to one of the lesser offenses involved in the incident. Data is from each police jurisdiction's case management operational system.

²Data was extracted from incident reports by CMPD and the Davidson Police Department in CMPD's online records management system. Data in this system is subject to change if individual reports are subsequently updated, corrected or reclassified to other offenses during investigation. Cases that have been marked "unfounded" after investigation are not included in this data. Relationships in the reports summarized here are not manually verified and may include data entry errors. Data in this chart therefore may not match "domestic" crime data extracted or published using other criteria or definitions of domestic violence or compiled at a later date.

³Ten cases included more than one offense and were counted more than once. The statutes in our system have been categorized differently which may be why there are a difference in numbers.

Table 2: Lethality Assessment Protocol Data for First Responders in Mecklenburg County

⁴As of March 2, Cornelius reports they have not implemented the LAP process. However, they will start collecting LAP data in the next few months.

⁵Matthews began collecting LAP data in January 2017; therefore, there is no data for November and December 2016.

Table 3: DV Protective Orders and Weapons Seized, Stored and Released

⁶Data is by calendar year and from the MCSO OMS data management system. Data on the most current count is reported.

Criteria for a seized weapon to be released by the MCSO under a judicial order.

1. File a motion for the return of weapons with the clerk of court in the county in which the protective order was entered. The form motion, "Motion for Return of Weapons Surrendered under Domestic Violence Order" AOC-CV-319, is available from the office of the clerk of court.
2. The motion must be filed no later than 90 days after the expiration of the Order that required you to surrender the firearms.
3. The motion for the return of the weapon(s) must be filed within 90 days after the expiration of the Domestic Violence Protective Order. The Sheriff may seek an order from the Court to dispose of the weapon(s) if the motion is not filed within 90 days after the expiration of the Domestic Violence Protective Order.
4. The motion must be granted and the order to return the weapon(s) must be issued/signed by a Judge.



5. Obtain a Handgun Purchase Permit from the Registration Division (715 E 4th Street Charlotte, NC 28202) within 30 days prior to the release of weapon(s).
6. All seized weapons are assessed a one-time \$25 administration fee (per weapon) and an additional \$1 per day (per weapon) storage fee. Ammunition (over 50 rounds) will also be assessed an additional \$1 per day storage fee. All storage fees are assessed beginning immediately upon collection of the weapon(s) and/or ammunition, through the date the weapon(s)/ammunition are returned by order to the owner.
7. The owner must obtain all necessary documentation for return of the weapon(s)/ammunition (including without limitation, a court order for return of the weapon(s)/ammunition) and pay all of the above fees in full before weapon(s)/ammunition will be released.
8. Once all of the required paperwork (including the court order for the release of the weapon(s)/ammunition, as well as the required Handgun Permit) is obtained, Jim Cathey must be contacted at (980) 314-5849 to schedule an appointment to pick up the weapon(s)/ammunition ordered to be released. Weapon(s) are released between 9:00 AM and 11:00 AM by appointment only. At the time the appointment is made, the total administration and storage fee charges that are owed (through the date of the appointment) is given. Failure to pick up the weapon(s)/ammunition at the designated time will cause all applicable storage fees to continue to accrue.
9. In order to satisfy all monetary obligations, the person the weapons are ordered returned to must bring cash (United States currency), money order, or bank certified check made out to Mecklenburg County Sheriff's Office. Failure to pick up the weapons(s)/ammunition within the statutorily permitted time frame will result in forfeiture of your weapon(s)/ammunition and the Mecklenburg County Sheriff's Office following NC law with regard to disposition of your forfeited weapon(s)/ammunition.
10. The "Order to Release", Handgun Permit, valid photo identification, and storage fee payment must be presented at the Sheriff's Office location as instructed for pick up. The required items listed above will be approved by an on-duty Sheriff's Deputy prior to releasing the weapon(s)/ammunition.

⁷⁻¹⁰ Data related to weapons seized, destroyed, released and stored means the MCSO has been directed by the courts to complete these tasks as part of a judicial order related to DV. Per Statute GS15-11.2 and regarding the destruction of firearms (i.e., measure "Weapons Destroyed"), the MCSO no longer destroys weapons; therefore, the data is not applicable for the past three years.

Disclaimer: These are the numbers that are reflected in the MCSO Paper Process System. The actual service numbers are somewhat fluid since there are carry over papers from prior year and at any time the report is run, there are outstanding processes pending service or other disposition. Also "Unserviceable" papers are one that are issued where no address is provided for the defendant. The Defendant may very well be listed as Homeless or with an unknown address and there is no record of employment, prior arrests, etc. to follow up on.

Table 4: Summary of Protective Order Case Filings in Civil District Court

¹¹ Data is from the NC Administrative Office of the Courts VCAP system or civil data management system.



Public Health and Provider Services System(s)

Overview:

This section provides the most recent and available data on teen dating relationships from the national *Youth Risk Behavior Survey (YRBS)*. The Mecklenburg County Health Department receives the *YRBS* data from the State and compiles and reports the data in collaboration with Charlotte Mecklenburg Schools. In addition, data on domestic violence activity in the county is included from various County program services and local providers. This includes Mecklenburg County Community Support Services Department, Safe Alliance, and the Mecklenburg County Department of Social Services. Notes and definitions are included at the end of the section for reference.

Public Health Department

Mecklenburg County Health Department's Youth Risk Behavior Survey [YRBS] Analysis

In August 2016, the Epidemiology Program, of the Mecklenburg County Health Department, collaborated with Charlotte Mecklenburg Schools and produced a report on teen dating violence amongst local high school students in Grades 9 through 12. The below table contains the Health Department's analysis of the *YRBS* survey data.

The high school students responded to survey questions related to being pushed and/or shoved or forced to take part in sexual activity when he or she did not want to from the perspective of a dating relationship. Since the inception of the national *YRBS* survey, the sample size and the survey questions changed; therefore, there are caveats regarding the data, which makes formulating conclusions and making year-to-year comparisons difficult.

Please note the 2017 *YRBS* data and corresponding analysis from the Mecklenburg County Health Department will be available in late spring. The current timetable is pending.

Table 1 shows prior year and the most recent, available local *YRBS* data as compiled and produced by the Mecklenburg County Health Department. In 2015, the number of local high school students participating in the national survey was 2,078. Question 1 represents the number of "Yes" responses to self-reported experiences with being pushed and/or shoved by someone he or she is dating. In 2015, 8.9 percent of Charlotte-Mecklenburg high school students responded affirmatively to this question. Question 2 represents the number of "Yes" responses to self-reported exposure to unwanted sexual activity with someone he or she is dating. In 2015, 10.1 percent of Charlotte Mecklenburg high school students responded affirmatively to this question on the national *YRBS* survey. In 2013, the teen dating violence *YRBS* question wording and related response sets changed



Table 1: *YRBS Survey: Charlotte Mecklenburg High School Data by Academic Year*¹

	<u>2005</u>	<u>2007</u>	<u>2009</u>	<u>2011</u>	<u>2013²</u>	<u>2015</u>
# of Students Participating	1,755	1,484	1,713	1,555	1,417	2,078
Que #1 "Yes" Responses	9.9%	10.7%	11.7%	13.6%	8.8%	8.9%
Que #2 "Yes" Responses	8.7%	7.2%	7.2%	10.3%	8.4%	10.1%

Mecklenburg County Community Support Services Department

The Prevention and Intervention Services Division, of the Mecklenburg County Community Support Services Department, provides services to victims and child witnesses of domestic violence and to offenders who are charged with a domestic violence related offense such as Communicating Threats or Stalking.

Three programs provided under the Prevention and Intervention Services Division’s umbrella are reported. The *Adult DV Victim* includes individual and group counseling, 12-week structured, psycho-educational and support groups for adult victims of domestic violence, including bilingual/bicultural counseling for Spanish-speaking victims of domestic violence and ancillary services to Temporary Assistance for Needy Families clients in domestic violence situations. *DV Children Services* includes trauma-informed care to child witnesses of domestic violence (ages 5-18) and teen victims of domestic violence and play therapy for child witnesses (ages 2-7) as well as ancillary services to clients in domestic violence situations served by Youth and Family Services, Department of Social Services. *NOVA, New Options for Violent Actions*, includes providing assessments and psycho-educational accountability groups to individuals identified by the court system as batterers.

Table 2 provides a summary of the effectiveness of these programs. Variations in the number of clients served depends on service demand, intermittent staff vacancies and in *NOVA*’s case, the judicial system’s ordering of clients to the program for service (i.e., the referral process). In FY17, the number of clients served by the Adult DV Victim program is **1,155**, and the number of child witnesses served was **562**. In *NOVA*, the number of offenders served was **828** in FY17. There are two outcome measures related to the survivors of domestic violence: Knowledge Improvement Rate and the Safety Planning Rate. Overall, the results are positive and consistent for the past five fiscal years.



Table 2: Summary Data on Various Programs in CSS³

	<u>FY13</u>	<u>FY14</u>	<u>FY15</u>	<u>FY16</u>	<u>FY17</u>
Clients Served					
<i>Adult DV Victims</i>	968	1,050	1,037	1,100	1,155
<i>Child Witnesses</i>	505	774	692	482	562
<i>Offenders</i>	713	758	787	787	828
Knowledge Improvement Rate					
<i>Adult DV Victims</i>	94.6%	94.0%	96.8%	90.5%	90.5%
<i>Child Witnesses</i>	96.8%	100.0%	98.7%	97.0%	97.0%
DV Victims Received Safety Planning⁴	99.5%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%
Offender Recidivism Rate	10.9%	7.0%	12.2%	11.7%	5.2%

Safe Alliance (formerly United Family Services)

Safe Alliance is a local non-profit organization that provides shelter services to domestic violence victims and their families, case management services and victim’s assistance services. In addition, Safe Alliance provides a 24-hour crisis hot-line for sexual assault/rape and domestic violence.

Table 3 shows summary data for the local domestic violence shelter by fiscal year. In FY17,

- **881** adult victims and children witnesses of domestic violence received residential and non-residential services;
- **64 percent** self-report, three months after shelter exit, living violence free;
- **1,250** individuals received assistance with the domestic violence protective order application process and
- **5,002** clients were accompanied to court by a staff member of victim’s assistance services.

Table 3: Summary Data on Clients Served by Safe Alliance

	<u>FY13</u>	<u>FY14</u>	<u>FY15</u>	<u>FY16</u>	<u>FY17</u>
DV Clients Served at DV Shelter and Hotel Partnership					
<i>Adult DV Victims⁵</i>	510	419	446	462	460
<i>Child Witnesses</i>	422	394	449	449	421
Living Violence-Free after DV Shelter Stay⁶	92.0%	90.4%	87.0%	83.2%	64.0%
DV Client Accompanied to Court by Victim Services⁷	4,950	4,284	4,695	5,135	5,002
Reported Increased Safety Post Exit	96.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	97.0%



Mecklenburg County Department of Social Services, Youth and Family Services Division

Youth and Family Services, a division of the Department of Social Services, of Mecklenburg County, provides services and information to protect children by "...strengthening the capacity of self-sufficiency of families whose children's health, welfare and safety are at risk." Child Protective Services Investigations "conducts investigations of abuse, neglect or dependency and formulates a plan to alleviate any risk factors." Instances of a domestic violence relationship may arise during the investigation and family assessment.

Table 4 shows the percentage of Child Protective Services reports that are accepted for investigation which have a domestic violence relationship identified. The trend is consistent over the past five fiscal years.

Table 4: YFS Reports Accepted for Investigation with a Domestic Violence Relationship Identified⁸

	<u>FY13</u>	<u>FY14</u>	<u>FY15</u>	<u>FY16</u>	<u>FY17</u>
% of Reports Accepted	16.9%	16.9%	15.0%	17.0%	15.9%



Notes for Public Health and Provider Services Systems

“**Domestic Violence**” is when two people get into an intimate relationship and one person uses a pattern of coercion and control against the other person during the relationship and/or after the relationship has terminated. It often includes physical, sexual, emotional, or economic abuse. (Source: North Carolina Coalition Against Domestic Violence).

The Domestic Violence **Knowledge Improvement Rate** is derived from a standardized tool administered from the WOC Adult and Child Victim Services programs. Adults and children receive a pre-test on their knowledge of domestic violence prior to receiving services. The same tool is administered to both groups upon program completion. The percentage results represent those with improved scores from pre to post testing. The overall score represents the average of the results for the two client groups.

“**NOVA**” or New Options for Violent Actions is a state certified Batterer Intervention Program designed to provide accountability groups on how to change abusive behaviors toward intimate partners.

For the purposes of the NOVA program, “**Recidivism**” is defined as individuals who complete the NOVA program and are re-arrested for an offense related to domestic violence one year after NOVA program exit date.

The **Youth Risk Behavior Survey (YRBS)** is a national survey conducted by the Centers for Disease Control. Typically, middle and high school students are surveyed. However, in 2015, there is local data available for Charlotte Mecklenburg Schools’ high school students (Grades 9 through 12) only. North Carolina participates on both the state and local levels. For Mecklenburg County, the Health Department’s Epidemiology Program collaborates with Charlotte Mecklenburg Schools and produces a report with the local YRBS data. This source is “Mecklenburg County Youth Risk Behavior Survey, 2011-2015 Teen Dating Violence – A collaborative report from Charlotte Mecklenburg Schools and the Mecklenburg County Health Department, Prepared by the Epidemiology Program, August 2016.” Please note the 2017 YRBS data and corresponding analysis from the Mecklenburg County Health Department will be available in late spring. The current timetable is pending.

There are two questions which relate to teen dating violence on the national YRBS survey. The questions reflect the percentage of high school students in Charlotte Mecklenburg Schools that self-report exposure to teen dating violence specifically experiences with physical and sexual abuse. Because both the sample size and the survey questions change, it is difficult to draw conclusions year-to-year from the data. It is difficult to forecast or make predictions regarding the data because human behavior is not easy to predict.

Table 1: YRBS Survey: Charlotte Mecklenburg High School Data by Academic Year

¹The 2017 YRBS data and corresponding analyses will be available in late spring by Mecklenburg County Public Health. Timetable pending. The YRBS survey is administered nationally to middle and high school students every other academic calendar year. Mecklenburg County’s Health Department collaborates with Charlotte Mecklenburg Schools and produces a report of the local YRBS data. The population for the 2015 survey is high school students (9th through 12th grades) only in Charlotte Mecklenburg Schools.

²In 2013, the teen dating violence question(s) wording and response set changed in the YRBS survey. These changes make comparisons to prior year data challenging.



2013 Question:

During the past 12 months, how many times did someone you were dating or going out with physically hurt you on purpose? (Count such things as being hit, slammed into something, or injured with an object or weapon.)

2013 Response Set:

A.I did not date or go out with anyone during the past 12 months B. 0 times C. 1 time D. 2 or 3 times E. 4 or 5 times F. 6 or more times

2011 Question:

Question: During the past 12 months, did your boyfriend or girlfriend ever hit, slap or physically hurt you on purpose?

2011 Response Set:

Yes; No

2013 Question:

During the past 12 months, how many times did someone you were dating or going out with force you to do sexual things that you did not want to do? (Count such things as kissing, touching, or being physically forced to have sexual intercourse.)

2013 Response Set:

A. I did not date or go out with anyone during the past 12 months B. 0 times C. 1 time D. 2 or 3 times E. 4 or 5 times F. 6 or more times

2011 Question:

Have you ever been forced to have sexual intercourse when you did not want to?

2011 Response Set:

Yes; No

Table 2: Summary Data on Various Programs in CSS

³Data source is Bell Data system, an internal case management system. Data is for the Adult DV Victims, Child DV Victims and NOVA programs.

⁴"DV Victims Received Safety Planning" is the average of the actual results for the DV Safety Plan Children and the DV Safety Plan Adult service level measures.

Table 3: Summary Data on Clients Served by Safe Alliance

⁵"DV Adult Victims" are residential (i.e., living in the DV Shelter) and non-residential clients.

⁶This rate is self-reported and 3 months after DV Shelter exit. In addition, 75 percent exit to safe housing, but an apples to apples comparison is 64 percent.

⁷This rate is assessed for Victim Assistance Clients only.

Table 4: YFS Reports Accepted for Investigation with a Domestic Violence Relationship Identified

⁸Prior year results are updated to reflect inconsistencies with pulling data from the DSS case management system.