

FY16 Community Report on Domestic Violence in Mecklenburg County



Prepared by:

Mecklenburg County Community Support Services Department



Acknowledgements

Thank you to the following departments and agencies for your contribution 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.



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Executive Summary

Background:

The Domestic Violence Community Leadership Team (DV-CLT), 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. DV-CLT raises awareness about domestic violence and focuses on preventing domestic violence. In 2008, DV-CLT 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.

How to Read This Document:

This report has two sections: *Public Safety and Criminal Justice* and *Public Health and Provider Services*. *Public Safety and Criminal Justice* focuses on domestic violence related data from seven law enforcement agencies and data from the 26th Judicial District civil court system. *Public Health and Provider Services* 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. In each section, the County department or organization is described briefly followed by the relevant data from each organization's case management system(s). The data is by fiscal year, calendar year and academic school year. Notes conclude each section and provide definitions and details related to the tables and graphs.

Key Results:

- The total number of police incident reports filed with a domestic violence relationship is 9,325 in FY16.
- Simple Assault (5,583 offenses) and Communicating Threats (1,217 offenses) are the most frequent charges with a domestic violence connection in FY16.
- The Mecklenburg County Sheriff's Office served 3,277 protective orders in calendar year 2016.
- The Mecklenburg County Sheriff's Office seized and stored 422 weapons in the context of a domestic violence relationship in calendar year 2016.
- The number of Protective Orders filed in the 26th Judicial Civil District Court was 3,170 in FY16.
- The Mecklenburg County Public Health Department reports 2,078 Charlotte-Mecklenburg high school students responded to the Centers for Disease Control's 2015 *Youth Risk Behavior Survey*. In 2015, 8.9 percent of high school students responded affirmatively to being "physically hurt on purpose" by someone he or she is dating. Likewise, 10.1 percent responded affirmatively to being forced to do "sexual things when [he/she] did not want to" in the context of teen dating violence.
- The Mecklenburg County Community Support Services Department, NOVA program, reports a domestic violence offender recidivism rate of 11.7 percent in FY16.
- The domestic violence shelter, provided by Safe Alliance, served 462 adult victims of domestic violence in FY16 and 83.2 percent self-report living violence free three months after shelter exit.

***"We are building a community that does not tolerate domestic violence and stands united to prevent all forms of it." –
DV-CLT Leadership Team Vision***



Public Safety and Criminal Justice Section

Overview:

The *Public Safety and Criminal Justice Section*, of the DV Data report, includes domestic violence 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. Also, 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. This is the largest police force in the county – both in the number of incidents that occur and in the size (i.e., area and personnel) of the jurisdiction. 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.

Table 1 shows counts of the number of incident reports with a domestic violence relationship identified by police jurisdiction for FY16. (The time period for FY16 is July 1, 2015 – June 30, 2016.) The Charge Type column includes a list of charges that relate to domestic violence¹. The table shows subtotals by charge type and subtotals by police jurisdiction. The last column shows the totals by charge type and an overall total for the # of incident reports with a domestic violence relationship identified in FY16. The last row of the table provides comparison information for the previous fiscal year.

DV DATA

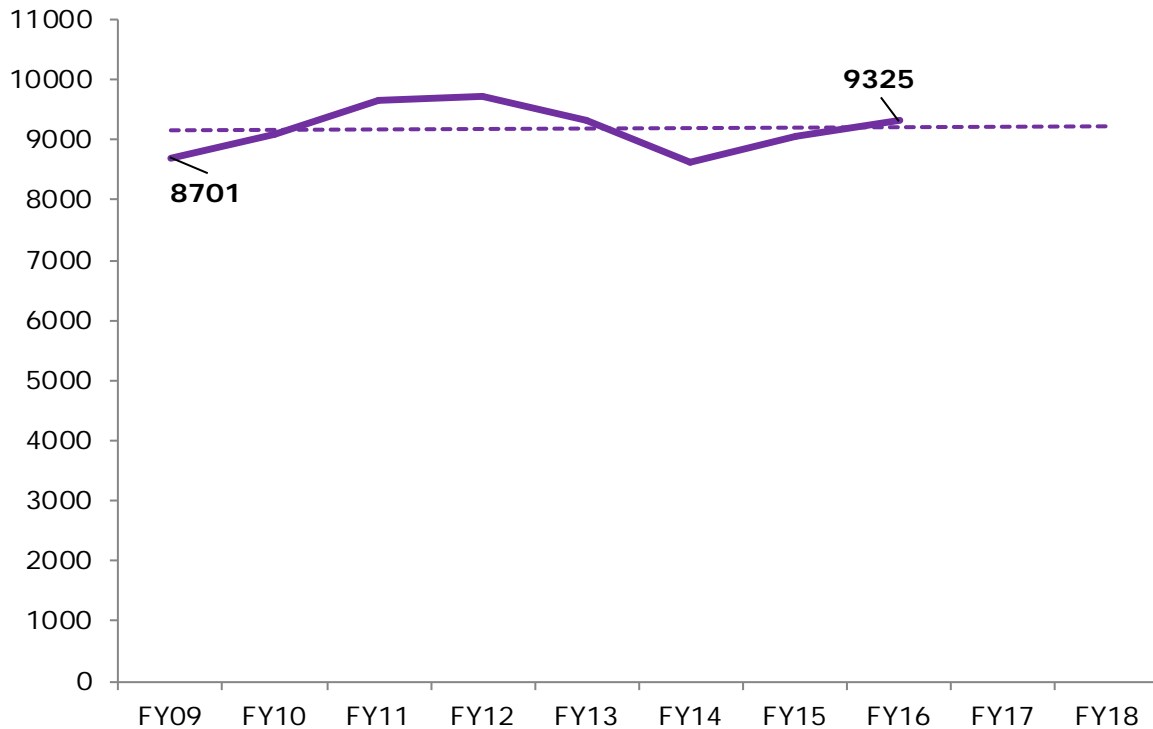
Table 1: Criminal Incident Reports where a Domestic Violence Relationship is noted

Charge Type ¹	Charlotte-Mecklenburg Police ^{2,3}	Cornelius Police ⁴	Huntersville Police	Mint Hill Police	Matthews Police	Pineville Police	Total Reports
	FY16	FY16	FY16	FY16	FY16	FY16	FY16
Homicide	10	1	0	0	0	0	11
Rape	64	2	2	2	0	2	72
Robbery	58	0	0	0	1	0	59
Aggravated Assault	841	25	14	1	2	11	894
Negligent Manslaughter	1	0	0	0	0	0	1
Assault on a Female	0	0	0	52	10	58	120
Non-Aggravated Assault	0	0	0	0	0	42	42
Simple Assault	5389	21	123	32	18	0	5583
Sex Offenses	0	0	0	10	0	0	10
Forcible Fondling	186	0	0	0	0	0	186
Forcible Sodomy	20	0	0	0	0	0	20
Sexual Assault w/ Object	9	0	0	0	0	0	9
Harassing Phone Calls	359	6	0	2	12	9	388
Stalking	46	0	0	0	0	3	49
Communicating Threats	1137	9	14	16	5	36	1217
Kidnapping	109	2	0	0	1	3	115
50-B Violations	441	6	0	7	1	14	469
Domestic Violence - 15A-534.1 (2090)	0	0	0	2	37	1	40
Other Offenses	0	1	38	1	0	0	40
FY16 Total DV-Related Incident Reports Filed	8670	73	191	125	87	179	9325
FY15 Total DV-Related Incident Reports Filed	8101	N/A	155	88	78	143	8565
Variance from previous year	569	N/A	36	37	9	36	760

In FY16, the total number of incident reports with a domestic violence relationship identified for Mecklenburg County is **9,325**. This is a slight increase from prior year. The Charlotte-Mecklenburg Police Department collects data on behalf of the Town of Davidson’s police department. The total (8,670) includes both police jurisdictions’ data for FY16. The Charlotte-Mecklenburg Police Department’s results represent 93 percent of the total number of incident reports with a domestic violence relationship filed in the county. Overall, there is an increase from prior year for all six police jurisdictions.

The two most frequent charges related to domestic violence is Simple Assault (5,583) and Communicating Threats (1,217) for FY16. Of the total number of incident reports with a domestic violence relationship (9,325), this represents 60 percent and 13 percent respectively.

Graph 1: Trend Data and Projected Forecast of Total Number of DV Incident Reports⁵



Graph 1 is new for this year’s DV Data report. The trend data plotted is the total number of incident reports with a domestic violence relationship for all seven of the county’s police jurisdictions. In terms of a range, the “low point” is in FY14 and is 8,634 total domestic violence incident reports, and the “high point” of the range is 9,722 total in FY12. The average over the eight-year period is 9,188, and the trend line is fairly consistent with slight dips and increases in the curve year after year.

Projections and forecasts help to predict outcomes in the future. It is good information to have for planning purposes; however, when dealing with human behavior, forecasting may not yield exact predictions in behavior and performance. A two-year projection was run on the trend data for FY17 and FY18. The dotted line represents the forecast, which appears stable for future years.



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 and destroying 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 2 provides a summary of domestic violence activity related to protective orders and weapons for five calendar years. In 2016, the MCSO received 4,499 protective orders, and of this total, the deputies served 3,277 orders. The trend line is increasing year over year for protective orders received and served. Weapons seized per a court order increased sharply from 2015 to 2016. In 2016, the MCSO seized 150 weapons and released 33 weapons back to their owners. After weapons are seized, the MCSO stores the weapons. There is a steady increase in the trend of the number of seized weapons stored by the MCSO. In 2016, the MCSO stored 422 seized weapons, an increase from prior year.

Table 2: Mecklenburg County Sheriff's Office Data Summary for Domestic Violence⁶

	<u>2012</u>	<u>2013</u>	<u>2014</u>	<u>2015</u>	<u>2016</u>
DV Orders Received	3,681	3551	3395	3727	4499
DV Orders Served	2,871	2890	2889	2889	3277
Weapons Seized ⁷	96	122	115	59	150
Weapons Destroyed ⁸	51	100	7	0	0
Weapons Released ⁹	42	47	99	39	33
Seized Weapons Currently Stored by MCSO ¹⁰	N/A	203	315	376	422

NC Administrative Office of the Courts, District 26:

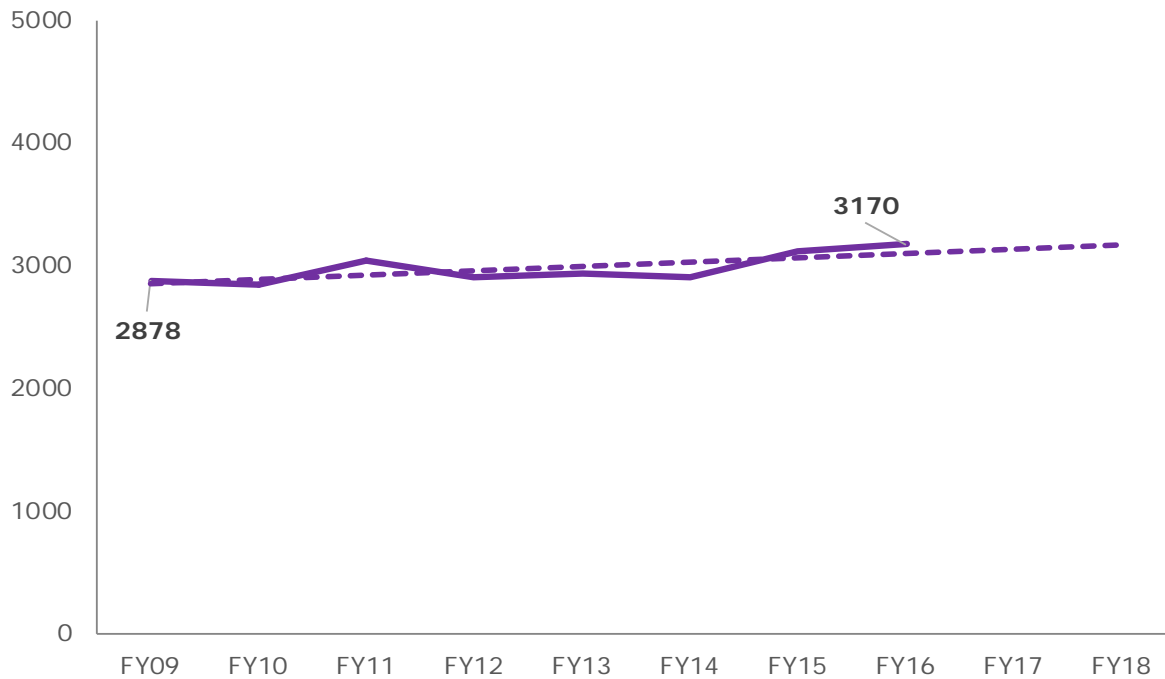
The North Carolina Administrative Office of the Courts (AOC) is charged with collecting data on case filings and dispositions in criminal and civil courts at the district and superior court levels. Domestic violence protective orders are filed and adjudicated in district civil court. Violations of the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

Table 3: Summary of Protective Order Case Filings in 26th Judicial Civil District Court¹¹

<u>Number of Case Filings</u>	<u>FY12</u>	<u>FY13</u>	<u>FY14</u>	<u>FY15</u>	<u>FY16</u>
Protective Order	2,909	2,934	2,898	3,111	3,170

Table 3 displays a count of the number of protective order case filings in district court for the 26th Judicial District, which is Mecklenburg County. In FY16, the number of protective orders filed is 3,170, a slight increase from prior year.

Graph 2: Trend Data and Projected Forecast of Protective Order Filings in 26th Judicial Civil District Court



Graph 2 is new for this year’s DV Data report. The trend data is for the total number of case filings of protective orders from FY09 to FY16. The trend line, the solid line, shows very slight peaks and valleys in the data year over year. Overall, the trend is consistent. From a range perspective, the “low point” is in FY10 at 2,843 protective order case filings, and the “high point” is in FY16 at 3,170. The eight-year average is 2,972.

Forecasts can aid in planning processes such as maintaining and controlling the size of a caseload. The dotted line represents a two-year forecast for FY17 and FY18. There is a very slight increase in the forecast but is overall consistent with prior year trend data.



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

¹ These 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.

² Data 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.

³ Charlotte-Mecklenburg Police data includes DV-related incident reports filed in the Town of Davidson. CMPD counts intimate partner and non-intimate partner relationships in its total.

⁴ Data for Cornelius police jurisdiction was not available in FY15.

Graph 1: Trend Data and Projected Forecast on Total Number of DV Incident Reports

⁵ All police jurisdictions in Mecklenburg County are included in FY16. Not all police jurisdictions are included in total count in FY15.

Table 2: Three-year MCSO Data Summary for Domestic Violence

⁶ Data 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.

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 ones 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 3: Summary of Protective Order Case Filings in Civil District Court

¹¹ Data is from the NC Administrative Office of the Courts' civil case processing system called "VCAP."



Public Health and Provider Services

Section Overview:

This section provides local teen dating violence data from the national *Youth Risk Behavior Survey*, which was compiled and reported on by the Mecklenburg County Health Department in collaboration with Charlotte Mecklenburg Schools. Following is data on domestic violence activity in the county from various County program services and local providers. This includes Mecklenburg County Community Support Services Department, Safe Alliance, formerly United Family Services, and the Mecklenburg County Department of Social Services. Notes and definitions are included in the back 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 high school students in Grades 9 through 12. The below table contains county data from the national YRBS survey. 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.

Table 1: YRBS Survey: Charlotte Mecklenburg High School Data by Academic Year¹

	<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%



Table 1 documents the previous year and the current year local data as compiled and produced by the Mecklenburg County Health Department. In 2015, the number of 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.

Mecklenburg County Community Support Services Department

Community Support Services (CSS), a department of Mecklenburg County, has three divisions: the Prevention and Intervention Services Division, the Homeless Services Division and the Veterans Services Division. Prevention and Intervention Services provides services to victims of domestic violence, child witnesses and offenders who are charged with a domestic violence related offense such as Communicating Threats or Stalking.

There are three program services under the Prevention and Intervention Services Division’s umbrella, which 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 Courts as batterers.

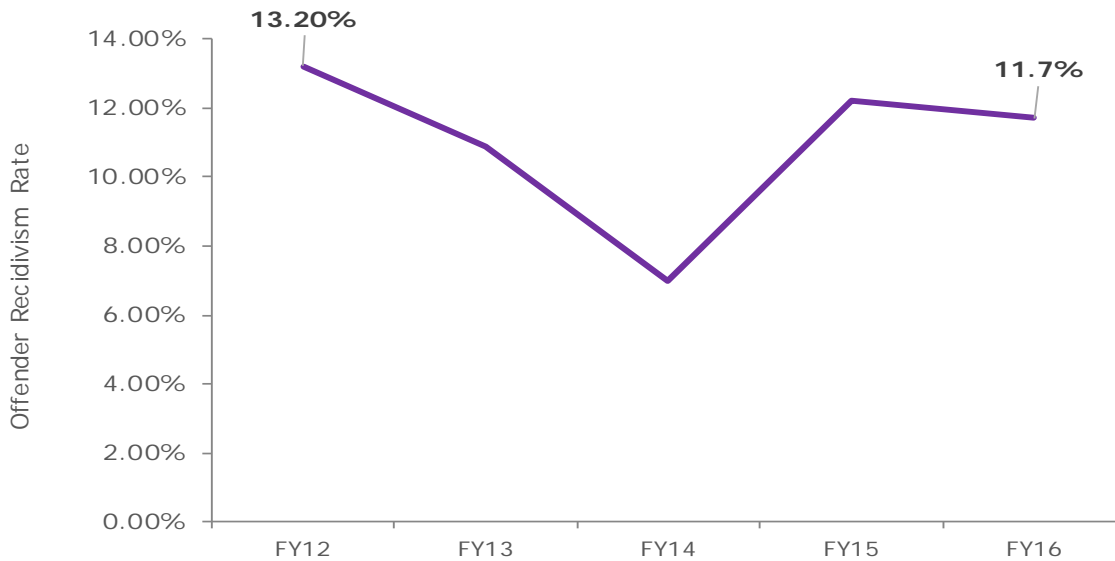
Table 2 provides an overview of the performance related to these three programs. Variations in the number of clients served depends on service demand, intermittent staff vacancies and in *NOVA*’s case, the judicial system’s ordering of clients to the program for service. In FY16, the number of clients served by the Adult DV Victim program is **1,100**, and the number of child witnesses served was **482**. In *NOVA*, the number of offenders served was **787** in FY16. 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, high and consistent for the past four fiscal years.

Table 2: Summary Data on Various Programs in CSS³

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

Graph 1 shows the recidivism rate for offenders who participated in the *NOVA* program. Recidivism means that an individual completed the *NOVA* program and was rearrested after 12 months of completion on a domestic violence related charge like Stalking or Simple Assault. Recidivism is a “reverse” measure, which means percentages and/or scores that are low in value are positive. In other words, success is a percentage rate that is below a defined target. The annual FY16 target for the Offender Recidivism Rate is 15 percent. The FY16 result is **11.7** percent; the target was achieved. The five-year trend is consistent with a major decrease in FY14.

Graph 1: Offender Recidivism Rate for NOVA Program



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.

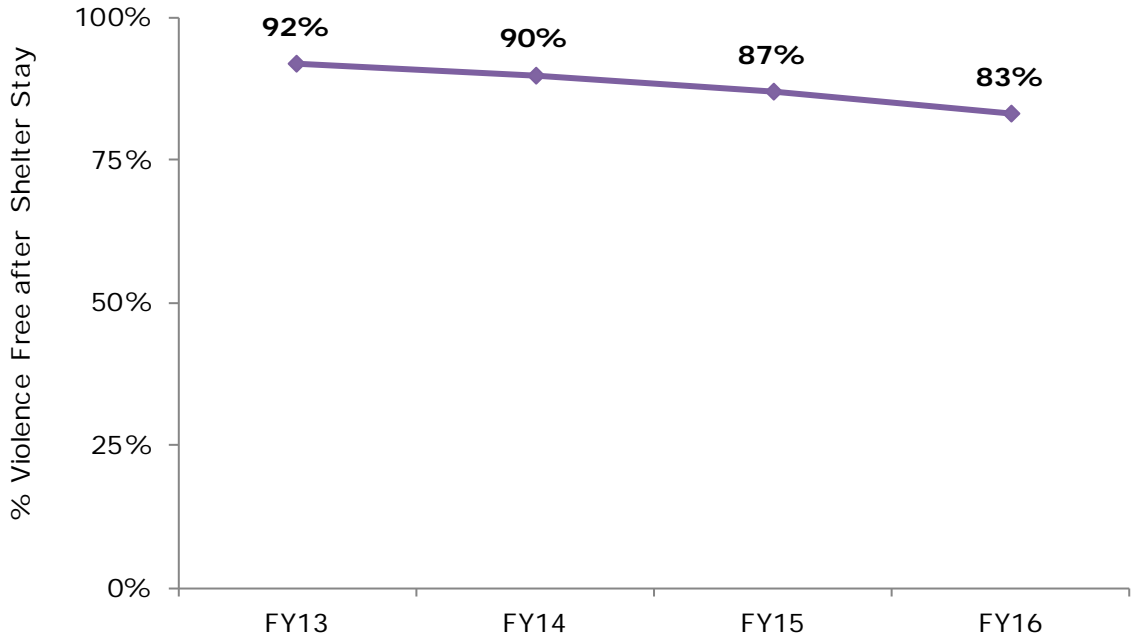
Table 3 shows summary data for the local domestic violence shelter by four fiscal years. In FY16, 911 adults and children received residential services from Safe Alliance. This is the aggregate of the totals listed for the Adult DV Victims and Child Witnesses program services for FY16.

Table 3: Summary Data on Clients Served by Safe Alliance

	<u>FY13</u>	<u>FY14</u>	<u>FY15</u>	<u>FY16</u>
DV Clients Served at DV Shelter and Hotel Partnership				
<i>Adult DV Victims</i> ⁵	510	419	446	462
<i>Child Witnesses</i>	422	394	449	449
Living Violence-Free after DV Shelter Stay ⁶	92.0%	90.4%	87.0%	83.2%
DV Client Accompanied to Court by Victim Services	4,950	4,284	4,695	5,135
Reported Increased Safety Post Exit ⁷	96.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%

An outcome measure shows how successful a program is at achieving its goals for its clients. **Graph 2** shows the results for “Living Violence Free after DV Shelter Stay.” This measure of safety is self-reported and is collected three months after the client exits the shelter. The results suggest a high percentage of clients exiting the shelter self-report living violence free; however, there is a slight decrease in this response year-after-year.

Graph 2: Living Violence Free





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 provides percentages for the past three years of the number of Child Protective Services reports that are accepted for investigation which have a domestic violence relationship identified. The percentage of reports with a domestic violence relationship is fairly consistent over the reporting period.

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

	<u>FY14</u>	<u>FY15</u>	<u>FY16</u>
% of Reports Accepted ⁸	16.9%	15.0%	17.0%



Notes for Public Health and Provider Services

“**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.”

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

¹ 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.

² In 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

³ Data 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.

⁶ This rate is self-reported and 3 months after DV Shelter exit. (Graph 2)

⁷ This rate is assessed for Victim Assistance Clients only.

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

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