

NEW YORK STATE OFFICE FOR THE  
PREVENTION OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

# DOMESTIC VIOLENCE ANNUAL REPORT 2010



# Domestic Violence Annual Report 2010

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STATE OF NEW YORK  
**EXECUTIVE CHAMBER**  
ALBANY 12224

**ANDREW M. CUOMO**  
GOVERNOR

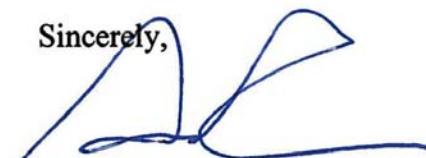
Dear Fellow New Yorkers:

I am pleased to present the third New York State Domestic Violence Annual Report, which highlights the expansive steps the State took to combat the insidious problem of domestic violence in 2010.

A reality for far too many New Yorkers, domestic violence produces a range of catastrophic effects, including broken families, physical and emotional injury, harm to children, and, all too often, death. Led by the Office for the Prevention of Domestic Violence (OPDV) – the nation's only executive level state agency dedicated to this critical issue – New York State remains tireless in its efforts to end domestic violence through a multi-pronged, multi-agency approach.

Last year, OPDV partnered with state agencies, local governments, and non-profit organizations to provide safety, support, and justice to victims and their families and to educate the public about the impact of domestic violence. Together with an informed public and vigilant communities, we continue to strengthen our State's laws to enhance victim safety, hold offenders accountable, and send the message that violence against an intimate partner will not be tolerated in New York State.

I applaud all affiliated with our State's ongoing effort to stop domestic violence and look forward to continued progress in ensuring safety for all New Yorkers.

Sincerely,  
  
ANDREW M. CUOMO

## INTRODUCTION

**A**s we release our third Annual New York State Domestic Violence Report, we would like to acknowledge the tireless efforts of all of our colleagues this past year. In a time of fiscal downturn, the needs of the population we seek to assist can be exacerbated, just as the programs designed to help them are struggling. Our partners at state agencies, nonprofit programs, and localities, are all working diligently to meet the needs of individuals in crisis despite the realities of fewer resources. As a state agency tasked with coordinating and leading interagency efforts on domestic violence, any success we achieve is thanks in large measure to the dedication of our colleagues.

This report is a product of the New York State Domestic Violence Advisory Council (NYS DV Advisory Council). The Council includes representation from 14 State agencies, as well as 9 appointed members who represent a broad cross section of service-providers from advocates, to civil and criminal attorneys, to judges and legislators. All members contribute information to the report to ensure the most accurate summary of the State's work possible. The Council is a good example of how regular and sustained collaboration across sectors can result in real systematic change, improved awareness of opportunities for improvement, and solutions that can arise only when people of different disciplines and backgrounds join forces.

Despite the ongoing fiscal challenges facing our state in 2010, this report summarizes some real accomplishments New York was able to achieve. The legislature passed and the Governor signed into law several important pieces of legislation; our public awareness efforts practically doubled from the previous year thanks to terrific participation from across the state; and the Municipal Police Training Council adopted a new and improved domestic incident policy which will help standardize police response across the state. One result of resource challenges is the need for longer timelines on projects, so 2010 also saw the creation and development of several important programs and tools that have been or will be implemented in 2011. While we share our colleagues' concerns about the prevalence of domestic violence – still representing the largest subset of serious assaults reported to police across the state – we are proud that our state's commitment to responding to the problem remains strong and sustained. We have become even more creative with ways to address these problems, from web-based training, to electronic publications, to using social media: our report concludes with the plans we have for 2011 and beyond.

We at OPDV, and on behalf of all of our government colleagues, want to extend our deepest thanks for the tireless work direct service providers do to support victims in their basic right to attain a safe and secure life. We are in your debt. We would also like to acknowledge the 89 individuals who lost their lives at the hands of their intimate partners; they are not forgotten. Please continue to share with us what more we can do to make sure that all new Yorkers can be safe in their intimate and family relationships.

## PUBLIC EDUCATION & AWARENESS

**C**hanging the public perception of domestic violence is critical to the response to, and prevention of it. The NYS Office for the Prevention of Domestic Violence conducts public education and outreach to increase the general public's understanding of domestic violence and, ultimately, change the social norms and behaviors that allow domestic violence to continue. Here are some ways in which OPDV and its partner agencies raised awareness in 2010:

### ***Shine the Light on Domestic Violence by Turning NYS Purple***

Purple is the color used to spread awareness of domestic violence. To raise awareness around the state, the New York State Office for the Prevention of Domestic Violence (OPDV) had the honor and privilege of partnering with more than 270 different entities across New York State, including non-profit service providers, private businesses, universities, chambers of commerce, government agencies, and law enforcement agencies. From lighting buildings and bridges purple, wearing purple, putting signs in storefronts or hosting a purple scavenger hunt – the participants all joined with domestic violence survivors and elected officials to “show their purple” during Domestic Violence Awareness Month.

With the number of 2010 participants more than double that of 2009, OPDV is excited to expand this effort every year, until everyone who sees purple understands why and vows to do their part to put an end to domestic violence. Show Your Purple in 2011!

For more information visit:

[www.opdv.state.ny.us/public\\_awareness/campaigns/shinethelight/index.html](http://www.opdv.state.ny.us/public_awareness/campaigns/shinethelight/index.html)

### ***OPDV e-Bulletin***

OPDV published four issues of its e-Bulletin covering substantive topics such as Predicting Reabuse and Murder of Intimate Partners, the Use of Technology in Stalking, Intimate Partner Violence and Sexual Assault, Domestic Violence and Substance Abuse, Domestic Violence and Animal Abuse, Language Access for Limited English Proficient (LEP) Victims of Domestic Violence, Media Coverage of Domestic Violence, and Domestic Violence and Suicide. The Bulletin also highlights local and State government programs that deserve statewide recognition. Nearly 2,000 individuals receive the e-Bulletin, and it has been used in trainings across the state.

For more information visit: [www.opdv.state.ny.us/publicawareness/bulletins/index.html](http://www.opdv.state.ny.us/publicawareness/bulletins/index.html)

## Domestic Violence Annual Report 2010 *Public Education & Awareness*

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### ***For the Media***

OPDV, in partnership with Albany Mayor Gerald Jennings, held a press event at Albany City Hall and a press release was issued regarding Domestic Violence Awareness Month and the “Shine the Light on Domestic Violence” initiative. Press releases were also issued to announce the Verizon Wireless Domestic Violence Entrepreneurship Grant Program and Teen Dating Violence Awareness and Prevention Month. Joining forces with the NYS Division of Criminal Justice Services when the 2009 Intimate Partner Homicide report was released, OPDV participated in a press release and media availability which also announced the 2009 Domestic Violence Dashboard Project and the 2009 New York State Domestic Violence Annual Report.

A team of students from New York University’s Robert F. Wagner School of Public Service, through the Capstone initiative, examined New York State print media’s reporting of domestic violence. OPDV analyzed the results and then developed tip sheets for the media and for domestic violence programs who work with the media.

For more information visit:

[www.opdv.state.ny.us/public\\_awareness/press/opdv\\_releases/index.html](http://www.opdv.state.ny.us/public_awareness/press/opdv_releases/index.html) and  
[http://www.opdv.ny.gov/public\\_awareness/media/index.html](http://www.opdv.ny.gov/public_awareness/media/index.html)

### ***OPDV Website***

The total number of OPDV website pages viewed in 2010 was 1,469,499, representing a striking *76% increase over the previous year*. The website is OPDV’s primary means for disseminating information to many people - professionals and victims, systems and individuals. The homepage is regularly updated, frequently featuring web-banners that proclaim awareness events including Stalking Awareness Month, Teen Dating Violence Awareness & Prevention Week, Crime Victims Rights Week, Sexual Assault Awareness Month, and Domestic Violence Awareness Month.

Major content additions to the website include a new “For the Media” section, “Unemployment Insurance Benefits for Domestic Violence Victims: Frequently Asked Questions,” a new campus resource section and additions to the “Shine the Light on Domestic Violence” campaign section, including an extensive photo gallery, commemorative ribbon graphic, image slideshow and sortable table of all participants. The website was utilized to disseminate the following reports: New York State Domestic Violence Dashboard Project - 2009 Data, Domestic Violence Annual Report 2009, and the Advisory Council Transition Report. The website is regularly updated with new, topical information. For more information visit: [www.opdv.state.ny.us](http://www.opdv.state.ny.us)

## Domestic Violence Annual Report 2010

### *Public Education & Awareness*

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#### ***Social Media***

OPDV launched a page on Facebook to kick off Teen Dating Violence Prevention and Awareness Month. Regular posts, which also appear on a Twitter feed, cover awareness activities, topics in the news, grant opportunities, suggestions for how people can get involved, links to resources and links to the OPDV website. By the end of the year, there were more than 1,100 “fans” of the page. A video version of the teen dating violence web banner was posted on YouTube.

OPDV’s page on Facebook is: [www.facebook.com/NYSdomesticviolence](http://www.facebook.com/NYSdomesticviolence)

## PUBLICATIONS

The following members of the NYS DV Advisory Council developed new publications for 2010:

***NYS Coalition Against Domestic Violence (NYSCADV)***

- Published 5 Technical Assistance Packets for member programs, covering the following topics: Expanded Access to Family Court, Strangulation, Traumatic Brain Injury and Domestic Violence, Safety Planning frameworks and the Intersections of Mental Health, Trauma and DV.

For more information visit: [www.nyscadv.org](http://www.nyscadv.org)

***NYS Office for the Prevention of Domestic Violence (OPDV)***

- OPDV published two informational guides in 2010:
  - Animal Cruelty and Domestic Violence. For more information visit: <http://www.opdv.state.ny.us/whatisdv/dvanimalcrlty.html>
  - Lesbian/Gay/Bisexual/Transgender/Queer Domestic Violence Information Guide. For more information visit: <http://www.opdv.state.ny.us/whatisdv/lgbtqdvinfo.html>
- OPDV developed a web page for the media, and produced the following tip sheets:
  - Covering Domestic Violence: Tips for the Media
  - Working with Reporters: Tips for Domestic Violence Service Providers.  
For more information, visit  
[http://www.opdv.state.ny.us/public\\_awareness/media/index.html](http://www.opdv.state.ny.us/public_awareness/media/index.html)
- The following articles were disseminated to all NYS law enforcement via eJustice:
  - “The New Strangulation Statute & Domestic Violence Cases”
  - “Review of Expanded Access Two Years Later”
- OPDV Counsel Johanna Sullivan and Saratoga District Attorney Jim Murphy III co-authored an article which appeared in the newsletter of the New York Prosecutors Training Institute, Inc.: “Coordinated and Consistent Enforcement of

# Domestic Violence Annual Report 2010

## *Publications*

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Violations of Orders of Protections Can be a Crucial Tool in Stopping Domestic Violence.”

- OPDV produced and distributed the following reports:
  - [New York State Domestic Violence Dashboard Project - 2009 Data](#)
  - [Domestic Violence Annual Report 2009](#)
  - [Advisory Council Transition Report](#)
- OPDV developed “Implementation Guidelines for Revision to Education Law: Addressing Domestic Violence and Stalking on College Campuses” to assist colleges and universities in implementing a new education law. The Implementation Guidelines coordinate with a new comprehensive webpage on domestic violence, sexual assault and stalking on college campuses. The guidelines and links were distributed to every public and private higher education facility in New York State.

For more information, visit <http://www.opdv.state.ny.us/professionals/campus/>  
For a copy of the Implementation Guidelines, send a request to:  
[opdvpolicyinfo@opdv.state.ny.us](mailto:opdvpolicyinfo@opdv.state.ny.us)

## *NYS Office of Probation and Correctional Alternatives (OPCA)*

- Released the Probation Response to Domestic Violence: A Model Investigation and Supervision Procedural Package. This comprehensive document includes important information regarding the issue of intimate partner stalking.
- Released the Probation Officer Domestic Violence Policy guidance to assist probation administrators in the development of consistent local policies and responses to domestic violence when perpetrated by or against probation officers.

For more information visit: [www.dPCA.state.ny.us](http://www.dPCA.state.ny.us)

## POLICIES, PROJECTS & PROGRAMS

**D**uring 2010 the following members of the NYS DV Advisory Council developed new policies and/or participated in domestic violence projects and programs:

### **NYS Office for the Aging (OFA)**

- Worked with Lifespan of Greater Rochester and the NYS Office of Children and Family services to review and revise an MOU on Protective Services for Adults, including elder abuse, to support better coordination and collaboration at the local level, to serve as a model and provide guidance for local agreements.
- Updated their Domestic Violence and the Workplace Policy to accommodate new legislation and submitted bi-annual reports to OPDV.

For more information visit: [www.aging.ny.gov](http://www.aging.ny.gov)

### **NYS Office of Alcoholism & Substance Abuse Services (OASAS)**

- Developed a system to notify providers annually that Congress and New York State have proclaimed the entire month of February to be Teen Dating Violence Awareness and Prevention Month.
- Included recognition of Teen Dating Violence Awareness and Prevention Month as part of their webpage, including a link to the OPDV website.
- Educated providers on the co-occurring risk of teen substance abuse and dating violence, and addressed how both issues can be addressed concurrently.
- Updated their Domestic Violence and the Workplace Policy to accommodate new legislation and submitted bi-annual reports to OPDV.
- Promoted the donation of old cell phones for victims of domestic violence.
- Instituted and documented the responses to system-wide discharge questions pertaining to domestic violence. The data below represents discharges for 2010. The level of those identified as a victim rose from 7.5% in 2009 to 11.3% in 2010. The level of those identified as perpetrators rose from 3.3% in 2009 to 5% in 2010.
- Arranged for survey questions to be added to the 2011 Local Services Plan questionnaire related to whether or not chemical dependency treatment providers

## Domestic Violence Annual Report 2010

### *Policies, Projects & Programs*

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screen clients for domestic violence histories and if so, what domestic violence services they refer them to.

- Updated their Domestic Violence and the Workplace Policy to accommodate new legislation and submitted bi-annual reports to OPDV.

For more information visit: [www.oasas.state.ny.us](http://www.oasas.state.ny.us)

### ***NYS Office of Children and Family Services (OCFS)***

- Convened workgroup to address the State Administrative Procedures Act (SAPA) Petition filed with OCFS by Erie County. This petition requested an alternate approach to compliance with specific sections of the non-residential program regulations. OCFS will make a final decision in early 2011.
- Co-facilitated the Domestic Violence Regulatory Workgroup with OPDV and the Office for Temporary and Disability Assistance (OTDA). The workgroup includes domestic violence program and local social service district representatives, with the goal to re-assess the regulations and to make recommendations for improvements aligned to current issues and practices.
- Used the data in the Domestic Violence Information Systems to develop profiles for each county, providing information about the approved residential and non-residential programs as well as data and trends related to occupancy rates and length of stay.
- Provided technical assistance through a variety of sources to all residential and non-residential domestic violence programs. Through its home and regional offices, OCFS staff provided on-site monitoring and technical assistance in program and policy development as well as in licensing, financial and contract issues.
- OCFS collaborated with OPDV to develop domestic violence training for the Healthy Families New York programs. The training's goal is to help the home visiting staff recognize signs of domestic violence in a household and give them strategies on how to handle DV in a safe and respectful way for all involved.
- Participated in Domestic Violence Awareness Day by encouraging staff to wear purple. On "Purple Day" employees from the Domestic Violence Unit staffed display tables, answering questions and disseminating literature, in the OCFS Central Office lobby.
- Submitted their bi-annual Domestic Violence and the Workplace reports to OPDV.

For more information visit: [www.ocfs.state.ny.us](http://www.ocfs.state.ny.us)

## Domestic Violence Annual Report 2010 *Policies, Projects & Programs*

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### **New York State Coalition Against Domestic Violence (NYSCADV)**

- Managed The Rural Project, through a grant from the Office on Violence Against Women (OVW). This project is working in 6 rural communities to improve the health care response to domestic violence victims. A needs assessment was completed and a quick reference card was created for health care professionals.
- Managed the Domestic Violence Prevention Enhancement and Leadership Through Alliances (DELTA) Project. Released a copy of the state plan to the consortium for their feedback with a public release date of 2011. Additionally, learning exchanges were held for each of the three DELTA programs. DELTA also supported the work of the Rockland Family Shelter to create a workplace violence policy that was implemented by a major utility company in the lower mid-Hudson area
- Staff traveled and lent support to local member program events during National Domestic Violence Awareness Month in October
- Participated in the Shine the Light on Domestic Violence campaign engaging domestic violence advocates around the state to commemorate Domestic Violence Awareness Month.
- Collaborated with the Connecticut Coalition Against Domestic Violence to heighten awareness during October with their Purple Tie Campaign.
- Restructured The Communication Update which is now sent to member programs on a bi-monthly basis. Additionally, Action Alerts and Policy Updates were moved to Constant Contact to add consistency to the messages and delivery schedules.

For more information visit: [www.nyscadv.org](http://www.nyscadv.org)

### **NYS Department of Corrections (DOCS)**

- Posted the “You Are Not His Property” posters to acknowledge Teen Dating Awareness and Prevention Month in February.
- Superintendents and managers were encouraged to sponsor a domestic violence awareness activity during National Domestic Violence Awareness Month in October. The OPDV flyer was distributed for posting.
- Facilities conducted awareness programs distributing materials and purple ribbons and encouraged employees to wear purple on October 20<sup>th</sup>.
- During the month of October, the lights in the Albany Training Academy tower were purple.
- Updated their Domestic Violence and the Workplace Policy to accommodate new legislation and submitted bi-annual reports to OPDV.

## Domestic Violence Annual Report 2010

### *Policies, Projects & Programs*

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- Provided safety planning for victims in preparation for the inmate's release and assistance in establishing the victim notification of release throughout the Department's Office of Victim's Services.
- Conducted ongoing programs for inmates such as:
  - Fatherhood and Parenting/Domestic Violence Program to explore parental roles and dynamics within the family.
  - Aggression Reduction Therapy and Thinking for a Change to encourage individuals to reflect on their behaviors.
  - Trauma counseling.

For more information visit: <http://www.docs.state.ny.us>

### *Office of Court Administration (OCA)*

- NYS domestic violence courts, each staffed by a designated judge, took in more than 23,800 new cases.
- NYS integrated domestic violence (IDV) courts use a "one family-one judge" model to bring before a single judge in Supreme Court the multiple criminal, family, and matrimonial disputes for families where domestic violence is an underlying issue. In 2010 more than 3,200 new families and 17,300 new cases entered the 46 IDV courts around the state.
- Established integrated domestic violence court initiatives (IDVI) in Schuyler and Tioga counties in the sixth judicial district (joining IDVI's in the fifth and seventh judicial districts). Unlike IDV courts, the IDVI's do not involve the transfer of cases to one court; the cases remain where they are, however the IDVI's bring many of the IDV court benefits – including better information to judges regarding the status of related cases in other courts, enhanced training for judges and court staff, better integration with services, and judicial monitoring of offenders – to counties that do not have IDV courts. In 2010 the IDVI's served 203 new families and took in 738 new cases.
- Continued operation of three youthful offender domestic violence courts (YODVC's) in Brooklyn, the Bronx, and Yonkers. These YODVC's handle cases involving teen defendants charged with crimes of domestic violence. Responses and sentences imposed are tailored to the particular circumstances of adolescent defendants; they work with programs developed for teens and have available intensive advocacy aimed at supporting complaining witnesses, many of whom are teens as well.
- Continued implementation of the Domestic Violence and the Workplace Policy, offered work/life assistance, domestic violence and sexual violence hotline and contact information for all 62 counties.

For more information visit: [www.courts.state.ny.us](http://www.courts.state.ny.us)

## Domestic Violence Annual Report 2010 *Policies, Projects & Programs*

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### **NYS Division of Criminal Justice Services (DCJS)**

- **Operation IMPACT** continues to integrate domestic violence initiatives into its crime reduction strategy. IMPACT provides resources and services to the 17 counties and primary law enforcement jurisdictions outside of NYC that account for approximately 80% of the non-NYC crime. Certain jurisdictions focused their IMPACT actions on domestic violence and funding was provided by DCJS for personnel to support that effort. Those positions were within the police departments, District Attorney's offices, probation and Sheriff's offices.
  - Erie County – The Erie Crime Analysis Center (ECAC) has automated and scanned Domestic Incident Reports from 2008, 2009 and 2010. The Center is now able to connect incident reports to repeat offenders. This year the ECAC has tracked all Domestic Violence Repeat Offenders. When a repeat offender is arrested, all pertinent information regarding the offender such as criminal history, criminal incident reports, probation-parole information, domestic incident reports and warrant history is sent to the Erie County District Attorney's Domestic Offender Section. This information is sent, in most cases, before arraignment. The Judge is able to see a complete picture of the offender before setting bail. This information also assists with the presentence investigation. Since May of 2010 ECAC staff has produced over two hundred repeat offender packets. ECAC is also working with the Buffalo Police Department to develop a procedure to investigate serious domestic violence incidents and incidents committed by repeat offenders by assigning detectives immediately after the incident. The detective will treat the incident the same way other serious crimes are investigated such as murders and armed robberies.
  - Monroe County – The Probation Department implemented a Domestic Violence Intensive Supervision Unit, which includes four Probation Officers, one Senior Probation Officer and one Probation Supervisor, who are responsible for the supervision of approximately 250 offenders convicted of domestic violence related crimes. Approximately 750 additional offenders are supervised by other Probation Officers, who committed domestic violence offenses, but have not necessarily been convicted of domestic violence crimes. An added component of the supervision of both of these populations includes routine contact with victims who are receptive to intervention. The enhanced victim component is supported by a DCJS Award, which allowed for the hiring of an additional Sr. Probation Officer who trains Probation staff on domestic violence issues, supervises probationers with domestic violence histories and acts as the liaison between Probation and the Monroe County Domestic Violence Consortium Partners. An added component to that grant was the hiring of a Probation Assistant, who works directly with Probation Officers who maintain general supervision caseloads and prepare pre-sentence investigations, by contacting identified victims of criminal matters to provide advocacy services. The Probation Assistant is

# Domestic Violence Annual Report 2010

## *Policies, Projects & Programs*

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also the liaison between Probation and local law enforcement and provides limited support to the Domestic Violence Intervention Unit in the preparation of Family Court petitions for orders of protection.

- **Niagara County** – The Niagara Falls Police Department and its IMPACT partners began to take a closer look at domestic related assaults and established Domestic Violence Intervention Teams (DVIT) as a way to help address the issue. The (DVIT) consists of specially trained Domestic Violence Investigators and Victim Advocates from the Niagara Falls Police Department, the Niagara County District Attorney's Office, the New York State Police, Probation and the Niagara County Sheriff's Office. The (DVIT) takes a proactive approach by conducting home visits, enforcing orders of protection and executing domestic violence related warrants. The DVIT members are trained to make an assessment of the immediate needs of the victim and the advocate is present to inform the victim of available services and to provide advocacy. In addition, the probation officer ensures compliance from their probationers. This project created a way to take a more aggressive approach to the domestic violence problem by enabling investigators to follow-up with victims and enforce orders of protection and domestic violence related warrants. DVIT members also ensure that both the victims and suspects abide by the orders of protection issued by the courts and if necessary execute an arrest for violation of orders or any outstanding warrants.
- **Oneida County** – The county now has a designated a team of Probation Officers and Utica Police Officers who are assigned Domestic Violence cases to make home visits. Collaborative visits (12-15 per month) include Domestic Violence probationers and their victims, offenders who have frequent contact with the Utica City Domestic Violence Court including defendants released on recognizance, and cases of concern to the County Domestic Violence Court. The designated Domestic Violence visits have been extremely successful.
- **Domestic Incident Report Repository:** Throughout 2010 the Division of Criminal Justice Services and the New York State Office for the Prevention of Domestic Violence continued the creation of a statewide "Domestic Incident Report" repository/database. A Domestic Incident Report (DIR) is completed whenever the police respond to a domestic incident-related call for service. The DIRs are in turn sent to DCJS and filed as paper reports with no mechanism for capturing the data from each of the reports electronically. Once completed in early 2011, the repository will give law enforcement, prosecutors, probation and parole personnel the ability to search – by victim or offender name, incident address or document number. DIRs are filed by more than 550 police agencies in the 57 counties outside of New York City.

For more information visit: [www.criminaljustice.state.ny.us](http://www.criminaljustice.state.ny.us)

## Domestic Violence Annual Report 2010 *Policies, Projects & Programs*

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### **NYS Domestic Violence Advisory Council**

- The Council met twice in 2010 providing domestic violence information and updates from member agencies and systems.
- Released the 2009 New York State Domestic Violence Annual Report.
- Identified “Prevention” as the Council’s topic of focus for 2011.
- Prepared a Transition Report for new administration highlighting the importance of the Advisory Council and its domestic violence initiatives.

### **NYS Education Department (SED)**

- Implemented Executive Order #19.
- Promoted October as “National Domestic Violence Awareness Month.”

For more information visit: [www.nysesd.gov](http://www.nysesd.gov)

### **NYS Department of Health (DOH)**

- Continued monitoring domestic violence with the Pregnancy Risk Assessment Monitoring System (PRAMS), an on-going telephone and mail survey of mothers who have recently had a baby. The following results questions were asked of new mothers:
  - During the 12 months before you got pregnant, did an ex-husband or ex-partner push, hit, slap, kick, choke or physically hurt you in any other way?
  - During the 12 months before you got pregnant, were you physically hurt in anyway by your husband or partner?
  - During your most recent pregnancy, did an ex-husband or ex-partner push, hit, slap, kick, choke or physically hurt you in any other way?
  - During your most recent pregnancy, were you physically hurt in anyway by your husband or partner?
- Managed the Adolescent Health Program that helps community based organizations create, implement and enhance education programming and services that promote individual and group skills to form positive dating/sexual relationships, enhance partner communication skills, set appropriate boundaries, reduce anger and violent behaviors, act responsibly and to communicate with parents and other trusted adults. Programming also directs adolescents to domestic violence services within their communities.

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### *Policies, Projects & Programs*

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- A Research Brief on Teen Dating Violence and other information on healthy relationships was posted on the DOH-funded ACT for Youth Center of Excellence web site: [www.actforyouth.net](http://www.actforyouth.net)

For more information visit: <http://www.nyhealth.gov>

#### ***NYS Department of Labor (DOL)***

- Posted teen dating violence information on intranet site; our youth are our most precious resource, but unfortunately, the crime of teen dating violence is a reality for many of them. Included is the fact that “control isn’t love” and that abuse may not always be physical. Staff was encouraged to learn how to spot the warning signs of this form of domestic violence and ensure the safety and well-being of young people. Links were provided to OPDV’s Teen Dating Violence Fact Sheet, Teen Dating Violence Information guide and other resources.
- Provided intranet links to the agency Domestic Violence Policy, to Executive Order #19, and to various on-line brochures, fact sheets and posters.
- Provided teen dating violence and domestic violence information at One Stop Employment and training Offices and Displaced Homemaker Centers.
- Continued communication with agency employees assuring that assistance for domestic violence is available and encouraging help through the Employee Assistance Program.
- Updated their Domestic Violence and the Workplace Policy to accommodate new legislation and submitted bi-annual reports to OPDV.

For more information visit: [www.labor.ny.gov](http://www.labor.ny.gov)

#### ***NYS Office of Mental Health (OMH)***

- Distributed “This Isn’t Love” materials and resource information during Teen Dating Violence Awareness Month. Campaign materials and links to web-based information were distributed to programs representing a wide variety of child-serving state agencies, private providers/agencies and not-for-profit providers/agencies.
- Updated their Domestic Violence and the Workplace Policy to accommodate new legislation and submitted bi-annual reports to OPDV.

For more information visit: [www.omh.state.ny.us](http://www.omh.state.ny.us)

#### ***NYS Division of Parole (DOP)***

- Supported the Teen Dating Violence Awareness Campaign by making available the poster, and various related materials.

## Domestic Violence Annual Report 2010 *Policies, Projects & Programs*

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- Incorporation and expansion of the Domestic Violence Alert process and reporting system on the Division's Case Management System.
  - Developed flashing DV alert system and "Guidelines for entering DV Alerts o CMS"
- Developed Parole Operations Domestic Incident Report (DIR) Directive in response to CPL140.10(5), outlining DOP Policy and Procedure surrounding the transmission of a DIR.
- Developed Domestic Incident Report Tracking Sheet, and Domestic Incident Report Spreadsheet.
- Updated and distributed the Statewide Directory of NYS Courts.
- Updated and distributed the Offender Accountability and Victim's Services Resource Guide.
- Participated in October's Domestic Violence Awareness Month by sending a letter and packet to all Regional Directors. Packet documents disseminated to staff included:
  - DV and the Workplace Poster
  - Flyer on DV Awareness
  - Finding Safety and Support
  - Display a Purple Ribbon
  - "Shine the Light" October 20, 2010
  - Agency wide cell phone drive
  - Webpage highlighting DV Awareness Month
- Updated their Domestic Violence and the Workplace Policy to accommodate new legislation and submitted bi-annual reports to OPDV.

For more information visit: [www.parole.state.ny.us](http://www.parole.state.ny.us) (link not working?)

### ***NYS Office for the Prevention of Domestic Violence (OPDV)***

- **Community Corrections/Grants to Encourage Arrest Programs (GTEAP):** During 2010, Community Corrections (Probation and Parole) efforts within OPDV were merged into a more formal relationship, thanks to the requirements of a federal GTEAP grant allowing for a more formal, state-level partnership with NYS Office of Probation and Correctional Alternatives (OPCA) and the NYS Division of Parole (DOP). As a result of the initiatives and efforts of the GTEAP project, the team was able to bridge the long-standing gap between probation and parole in order to combine shared efforts and services while simultaneously distinguishing between their critical and often misunderstood roles, duties, and directives. Some of the joint efforts of Probation and Parole in 2010 included:

## Domestic Violence Annual Report 2010

### *Policies, Projects & Programs*

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- The creation of training curricula for NYS probation officers and supervisors as well as parole officers, revocation specialists, and Administrative Law Judges (ALJs) on the topics of offender accountability, Expanded Access, and interview techniques for offenders and victims of DV and Intimate Partner Sexual Assault (IPSA);
- The development of a plan to deliver training to and solicit feedback from these professionals: OPCA will deliver training to Probation professionals and DOP will deliver to parole during 2011. Upon receipt of feedback from trainees, OPCA and DOP will revise materials accordingly and produce final curricula;
- The development of a plan to create interactive training tools for probation and parole training audiences (based on review and revision of written curricula above) for eventual statewide promulgation and long-term, institutionalized training on domestic violence and intimate partner sexual assault within their respective fields;
- As a result of this project, OPCA and DOP formed close collaborative partnerships with OPDV as well as the NYS Coalition Against Domestic Violence (NYSCADV) and the NYS Coalition Against Sexual Assault (NYSCASA), all of which have enhanced the community corrections response to victims and victim safety even as they focus on offender accountability and orders and conditions specific to the offenders they supervise.
- **Domestic Violence Dashboard:** In 2010, for the third year, the Dashboard Project released a document that tries to paint a picture of both the prevalence of domestic violence, and the strength of New York State's response to it, based on available information. Upon examination of three years' worth of information, the data suggested that New York, like many other places, experienced an increase in indicators of domestic violence from 2007 to 2010. By collecting this cross-system data, we are improving our ability to measure the totality of the domestic violence challenge in our state, and identifying that there is an even greater need for our systems to work together. For more information visit:  
<http://www.opdv.state.ny.us/statistics/nydata/index.html>
- **Domestic Violence Regulation Work Group:** Continued work on finalizing the domestic violence regulations. OPDV worked closely with OCFS and OTDA to incorporate the input from domestic violence service providers and local social service districts into a comprehensive update of the thirty year old governing regulations. It is anticipated that the process of approval will be completed in 2011.
- **Domestic Violence and the Workplace** NYS agencies continue to operate with a Domestic Violence and the Workplace Policy in place, and report pertinent domestic violence information to OPDV twice a year. The following reflects the information reported by NYS Agencies for 2010:

## Domestic Violence Annual Report 2010 *Policies, Projects & Programs*

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- 39 Incidents of DV occurring in the workplace
- 270 Employees reporting that they were victims of DV
- 66 Employees reporting others were victims of DV
- 299 Employees requesting DV information
- 184 Referrals made to DV service providers
- 112 Orders of protection were disclosed to agencies

OPDV, upon request, provided technical assistance and training to the City of Philadelphia Department of Health to assist in development of their Domestic Violence and the Workplace initiative.

- **Expanded Access to Family Court:** In July of 2008, New York State expanded access to Family Court for victims of domestic violence by broadening the definition of who could petition the court for an order of protection, adding “...persons . . . who are or have been in an intimate relationship regardless of whether such persons have lived together at any time.” The legislature anticipated that this expanded definition would result in an increased demand on law enforcement resources and the court system. The law mandated that OPDV and the Division of Criminal Justice Services (DCJS) submit a report, detailing the effects of the amendment on police practices, by July, 2011.
  - OPDV worked with our partners from the Office of Court Administration, DCJS and the New York City Police Department to establish mechanisms to collect and analyze available data on court filings and police response. In 2010, quarterly reports on the number of family offense petitions filed were developed and are now available on OPDV’s website.
  - To address the impact of the new law on local communities, OPDV conducted three webinars in 2010 with resource partners, the New York State Coalition Against Domestic Violence and the Empire Justice Center. The webinars provided basic background on the new law, information on the evolving interpretation of the law by the courts and offered opportunities for webinar participants to raise questions and share local challenges regarding implementation of the law.
- **Home Visiting Program:** In 2010, DCJS partnered with OPDV to develop and implement the Home Visiting Program in the following eleven (11) law enforcement agencies throughout New York State: Auburn PD, Cortland PD, Oswego PD, Saratoga Springs PD, Rome PD, Gloversville PD, Greece PD, Cheektowaga PD, Tonawanda PD, West Seneca PD and Cattaraugus Sheriff’s Office. DCJS provided \$275,000 to be equally divided between each of the law enforcement agencies. A variety of criteria was used to determine which agencies would receive grants to conduct follow-up visits, including the number of domestic violence incidents, and whether they had an existing infrastructure in

## Domestic Violence Annual Report 2010

### *Policies, Projects & Programs*

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place, such as a dedicated officer and/or a specialized team, to adequately follow up on domestic violence incidents and whether they had established relationship with the domestic violence service provider in their community. Each agency is required to develop its own specific protocols for the follow-up visits based on guidelines developed in conjunction by OPDV and DCJS.

The overall goal of the program aims to improve the long-term criminal justice response to domestic violence. Through planning and coordinated follow-up visits to homes where at least one recent domestic incident has occurred, designated home visiting police officers are now able to collect additional evidence that is often not readily available at the time of a domestic incident. Additionally, the ongoing presence of home visiting officers enforces offender accountability while allowing police to maintain contact and establish rapport with victims. The long-term goal of the program is more immediate evidence collection of subsequent violence through immediate documentation and swift police response.

DCJS and OPDV worked collaboratively to develop this program. The following steps were taken in 2010 in its development:

- Defined the purpose and goals of the program;
- DCJS provided \$25,000 awards to each jurisdiction to cover costs associated with implementing program;
- Created and delivered training for all Home Visiting jurisdictions in Fall, 2010 (training was provided at three (3) regional sites: Erie, Onondaga, and Albany counties);
- Reviewed, revised, and approved of jurisdictions' required Home Visiting policies and procedures;
- OPDV provided outreach to the local domestic violence service providers in all eleven home visiting jurisdictions to support local collaborative efforts and offer assistance where needed;
- Provided assistance and support to individual departments, as needed;
- Scheduled an April 2011 meeting when all of the jurisdictions and respective service providers will be brought together for a facilitated discussion about the program and its next steps.
- **Joint Reporting Project:** A feasibility study regarding the creation and/or adoption of a joint reporting system for agencies receiving domestic violence and/or sexual assault funds from any NYS government agency was completed in 2010. The goal is to reduce the burden of reporting similar information by providers to multiple funders, as well as to assist NYS in improving data collection. A proposal for the creation of a joint reporting system was developed and all partner agencies agreed that efforts to create a system should move forward.

## Domestic Violence Annual Report 2010 *Policies, Projects & Programs*

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- **LGBT Domestic Violence Network:** OPDV staff participated in a work group that developed educational materials for individuals who recently gained access to Family Court. In addition, OPDV participated in a work group on services to LGBT youth who are abused or are abusive to their partners.
- **Law Enforcement:**
  - NYS Model Statewide Domestic Incident Policy was submitted by OPDV and approved by Municipal Police Training Council.
  - Developed and implemented the training for DCJS' Home Visit Initiative and developed the initial policy recommendations for the project.

For more information visit: [www.opdv.state.ny.us](http://www.opdv.state.ny.us)

### ***NYS Office of Probation and Correctional Alternatives (OPCA)***

- Collaborated with local probation administrators to review and approve the implementation of a Domestic Incident Report Response Policy in every county. The statewide directory of Probation Domestic Violence Liaisons for each county was updated and published to assist law enforcement compliance with requirement to transmit copies of Domestic Incident Reports to probation for individuals under supervision.
- Convened two focus group meetings of probation officers, law enforcement and victim advocates from rural jurisdictions and those that include Native American communities to discuss and develop the Probation Response to Domestic Violence in rural and Native American Communities training curriculum and other resources.
- Responded to 82 requests for technical assistance on domestic violence issues including officer-involved domestic violence, new strangulation laws, firearms prohibitions, certificates of relief from disabilities, rural and Native American domestic violence training materials, domestic violence in military families, information for judges and magistrates, Domestic Incident Reports, expanded access to Family Court and domestic violence policy development.
- Updated Domestic Violence and the Workplace Policy to accommodate new legislation and submitted bi-annual reports to OPDV.

For more information visit: [www.dPCA.state.ny.us](http://www.dPCA.state.ny.us)

### ***NYS Office of Temporary and Disability Assistance (OTDA)***

- Continued supervision of Family Violence Option (FVO) through which Domestic Violence Liaisons (DVL's) provide waivers from social service program requirements (i.e. employment, child support) if participation would further endanger a victim of domestic violence.

## Domestic Violence Annual Report 2010

### *Policies, Projects & Programs*

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- Supervised programs that assist victims of domestic violence with public assistance benefits and shelter expenses.
- Continued mediation services for providers and local social services districts to help settle questionable payments.
- Participated in Domestic Violence Awareness Month by encouraging staff to wear purple to work on October 20<sup>th</sup> to show their support and raise awareness.
- Updated OTDA Domestic Violence Team roster.
- Updated Domestic Violence and the Workplace Policy to accommodate new legislation and submitted bi-annual reports to OPDV.

For more information visit: [www.otda.ny.gov](http://www.otda.ny.gov)

### *NYS Office of Victim Services*

- Participated in the February 11, 2010 Teen Dating Violence press conference in Washington County, along with OPDV and NYSCADV.
- Featured “This Is Not Love” banner on website in recognition of Teen Dating Violence Awareness Month.
- Approved an expansion of acceptable documentation for processing domestic violence based claims to include a copy of a Family Court order of protection and a copy of the related petition to the Family Court that includes sufficient facts to establish that a crime occurred when no criminal justice report has been filed.

For more information visit: [www.ovs.ny.gov](http://www.ovs.ny.gov)

### *Sanctuary for Families*

- Expanded outreach, training and services to teen victims as part of 2010 Strategic Plan.
- Extensive school based workshops for teen groups, including groups of teen boys.
- Clinical staff at Sanctuary’s Bronx Family Justice Center participated in the Start Strong Bronx initiative in collaboration with Bronx Lebanon Hospital, the Bronx Borough President’s office and the New York City Department of Education.
- Sponsored Denim Day – rally for teens to speak out against sexual and dating violence and to promote positive and healthy relationships.
- Partnered with Start Strong Bronx in the production of “Texting for Life” an interactive play about teen dating violence with a specific focus on teen dating and technology.

For more information visit: [www.sanctuaryforfamilies.org](http://www.sanctuaryforfamilies.org)

## Domestic Violence Annual Report 2010 *Policies, Projects & Programs*

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### **Saratoga County Domestic Violence and Rape Crisis Services (DVRC)**

- Launched a community mobilization project in the Ballston area community to involve all community members in environmental strategies to reduce teen sexual violence.
- Launched an innovative sexual assault early intervention program at the park during selected summer concerts in cooperation with the Saratoga State Park. DVRC provided advocates on site for early interventions to reduce risks of sexual assault at concerts that attract large crowds of youth and have historically had high levels of drug/alcohol consumption.

For more information visit: [www.dvrcsaratoga.org](http://www.dvrcsaratoga.org)

### **Saratoga County District Attorney**

- Developed and created a presentation to educate thousands of teens in the Capital district regarding the dangers of sexting, domestic violence in teenage relationships, and the importance of speaking out when they believe they or one of their friends is in a relationship where violence is occurring or threatened.
- Linked with fourteen school districts in and around Saratoga County and presented information to students and teachers regarding domestic violence prevention in school, during school transportation, and at home. Wrote, printed and mailed to thousands of parents in the county information regarding teenage violence, dating, bullying, cyberbullying and sexting. Materials informed parents how to recognize the signs they should be aware of to help protect their children. Informed parents, teachers and students who to contact to seek assistance and what steps can and should be taken to keep them safe.
- Created and wrote a song to help educate students of the dangers associated with sexting, including information on how information sent during a relationship could be used in negative ways once the relationship ends.

#### **A Girl named Molly Ann**

*Written and sung by*

*Assistant District Attorney Jesse L. Ashdown*

Now let me tell you a story, bout a girl named Molly Ann,  
She lived in Terra Hills, and had a boyfriend named Dan,  
She just couldn't believe they'd been together 18 weeks,  
She thought this might be the love that every young girl seeks.

So last November 20, it was Dan's 16<sup>th</sup> Birthday,  
Molly Ann got a crazy idea, but figured it would be OK,  
She took a naughty picture of herself, with her shiny new cell phone,  
And texted it Dan, with a note said "For your Eyes Only"

# Domestic Violence Annual Report 2010

## *Policies, Projects & Programs*

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### Chorus

I got a message for Schuylerville School  
You see you can't put the toothpaste back in the tube  
Once you take a naughty picture and text it to a friend,  
It might be seen around the world again and again,

When Dan got that photo, he couldn't believe his eyes,  
He just couldn't resist, forwarding it to some other guys,  
The next thing you know, it was around the whole school,  
Now Molly Ann lay in her bed cryin', feelin' like a fool,

The principal called her Mom and Dad,  
You can guess that they were livid  
Dad yelled, "Who took this picture,"  
Molly Ann said, "I did"

### Chorus Again

### Bridge

You know you can't take it back  
A part of you can never relax,  
Knowing that somebody's lookin' at you,  
It's like always bein' under attack

Next day the police came to the school, arrested Dan and some friends,  
They couldn't believe all this, came just from pressing "send"  
Charged with possessing child pictures, a Class E Felony,  
He had to pay three thousand dollars, to hire an attorney

The DA came in and said "Molly could be charged with this stuff."  
But they decided in the end, she'd been through enough  
She now had to live carrying the heavy load,  
Not knowing if that picture might pop up down the road

### Chorus

For more information visit: <http://jimmurphyda.com>

## 2010 SERVICES

**D**irect services were provided by some members of the NYS Advisory Council. Below is a snapshot of those services for 2010:

### *NYS Office of Alcoholism and Substance Abuse services (OASAS)*

- **Bronx Addiction Treatment Center (ATC) Domestic Violence Program**

In collaboration with the Jewish Board of Family and Children Services' Domestic Violence Coordination and Training Program, the OASAS operated Bronx ATC (BTAC) provides initial consultations, psycho-education, individual counseling, group therapy, aftercare planning, safe-haven, family interventions, and post-discharge advocacy and support for men and women with histories of, or concerns about domestic violence. In the Bronx ATC IPV/DV services were facilitated during the 2010 fiscal year as follows:

- Of the 590 clients admitted to the Bronx ATC 580 clients received some form of DV services with initial screening/assessment process and 1 weekly workshop targeting perpetrators and 1 weekly session targeting victims.
- Eighty two percent (482) of our admitted patients were male, and half of them admitted to having been involved in some form of abusive relationships mainly as the abusive partner.
- Of the 104 female clients admitted to the Bronx ATC, approximately 70% of them identified as victims, 10% as abusive partners, while the remaining 20% may have denied being involved in abusive relationships as adult, some admitted to having witnessed DV as children.
- 482 clients attended structured workshop on IPV.
- 104 clients attended Weekly Women and DV Support Group. This group addresses issues related to DV such as addiction, codependency, effects of DV on children as well as safety planning. Identified victims are linked to specialized/supportive services at discharge.
- 19% of our patient population had criminal justice involvement; working with this group we observed a link between CJ and DV. One of our core workshops addresses the different types of violence. The session focuses on defining and understanding: battering, reactive, situational, antisocial and pathological violence.

For more information visit: [www.oasas.state.ny.us](http://www.oasas.state.ny.us)

## Domestic Violence Annual Report 2010

### *2010 Services*

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#### ***NYS Office of Children and Family Services (OCFS)***

- Federal Family Violence Prevention Services Act (FFVPSA) funds were administered equally to all approved residential and non-residential domestic violence programs in the state on a non-competitive basis. Each of the 95 applicants was eligible to receive an award of up to \$38,808 to support general operating expenses, health and safety improvements and/or program enhancements.
- Funded eleven Child Protective/Domestic Violence collaboration projects. The 2010 CFSR data showed domestic violence to be one of the most frequent risk factors in indicated CPS cases. In each funded project a domestic violence advocate is located at the CPS office and typically provides case consultation, participates in home visits and cross training and works jointly with case workers to develop safety plans with victims of domestic violence and their children. In 2010, approximately 1,700 families received specialized services through the collaboration projects. In 84% of the indicated CPS reports in the project, the children remained safely with the non-offending parent. In 92% of the unfounded reports, families were able to access necessary support and services.

For more information visit: [www.ocfs.state.ny.us](http://www.ocfs.state.ny.us)

#### ***NYS Division of Criminal Justice Services (DCJS)***

- DCJS Violence Against Women Act (VAWA) Unity awarded \$13,060,105 in Services, Training, Officers and Prosecution (STOP) VAWA funding supporting 174 grants:
  - 116 grants were awarded \$6,311,344 in VAWA funding.
  - 2 grantees were awarded \$150,000 in VAWA Recovery funding.
  - 69% of funds went to domestic violence or dating violence programs.
  - 29% went to sexual assault programs.
  - 2% went to anti-stalking activities.

For more information visit: [www.criminaljustice.state.ny.us/ofpa/vawamain.htm](http://www.criminaljustice.state.ny.us/ofpa/vawamain.htm)

#### ***NYS Department of Health (DOH)***

- Provided approximately 3,500 home visits to high-risk pregnant women and their families through the Community Health Worker Program (CHWP). Community Health Workers provide information, education and referrals on a variety of maternal and child health topics which may impact health outcomes, including domestic violence, its risk factors and resources available.
- The Rape Crisis and Sexual Violence Prevention Program (RCSVPP) provides services to victims of rape/sexual violence. Crisis intervention services were

## Domestic Violence Annual Report 2010 *2010 Services*

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provided to more than 35,000 people through telephone hot-line calls, individual or group counseling, accompaniment of victims to medical facilities and advocacy on behalf of victims within the criminal justice system. The RCSVPP funds at least one Rape Crisis Center in every county.

For more information visit: [www.nyhealth.gov](http://www.nyhealth.gov)

### ***NYS Department of Labor (DOL):***

- Provided unemployment insurance to 184 NYS clients who lost or had to leave employment due to domestic violence issues.

For more information visit: [www.labor.state.ny.us](http://www.labor.state.ny.us)

### ***NYS Office for the Prevention of Domestic Violence (OPDV)***

- New York State supports two statewide victim hotlines, which together received 14,223 calls from individuals seeking help.
- Victim Resource Services: Provided through a partnership with the Office of Victims Services and OPDV, the Victim Resource Coordinator provided compensation claims assistance, telephone support, information and referral, criminal justice support advocacy, emergency assistance, and personal advocacy, for 269 callers and 249 emails and written correspondence in 2010. Victims of crime call for help with many issues, including but not limited to systems failures (police, courts, and social services), immediate crisis, lack of permanent housing, advocacy and appropriate referrals.

For more information visit: [www.opdv.state.ny.us](http://www.opdv.state.ny.us)

### ***NYS Office of Temporary and Disability Assistance (OTDA)***

- Provided \$3,262,450 in Homeless Housing Assistance Program (HHAP) funding to Unity House for relocation and expansion. Unity House has had to turn away significant numbers of victims and their children because the existing shelter was either at capacity or could not accommodate a family of the composition in need of shelter. In addition the existing shelter was not handicapped accessible, could not group single adults with special needs together, but separate from families, and could not accommodate state of art safety and security systems. Construction of the new shelter began during 2010 and is expected to be completed in 2011.

For more information visit: [www.otda.ny.gov](http://www.otda.ny.gov)

## Domestic Violence Annual Report 2010

### *2010 Services*

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#### ***Sanctuary for Families (NYC)***

- Began screening for teen dating violence from within our population of child clients who come for services along with their adult caregiver. Provide direct counseling, case management and advocacy services to identified teens.
- Served over 11,400 adult victims and children through direct counseling, legal, shelter and economic stability services.
- Shelter: Provided safe refuge and supplementary services to 550 women and children at five crisis and transitional shelters (approximately 200 each night).
- Crisis Intervention: Hotline assistance, safety planning, legal advice, and referrals for 4,200 victims.
- Counseling: Individual counseling, support groups, and psychiatric services in multiple languages for 1,000 adults and 500 children.
- Legal Services: Legal representation and advocacy for 3,400 clients in family law, immigration, public benefits, matrimonial and other specialty areas.
- Children's Services: Educational advocacy, tutoring, childcare, recreation activities, and other services for 2,000 children.
- Economic Empowerment Services: Job readiness, career planning, personal finance education, housing support, economic advocacy, and referrals for 700 victims.
- Financial Assistance: Over \$280,000 in carefully screened, need-based emergency stability grants for 230 clients, including rent for eviction prevention, college tuition, and furniture for new apartments.
- Education, awareness-building and advocacy initiatives connected with more than 20,000 concerned community members, including local leaders, social service and legal professionals, law enforcement officials, potential victims and many others.
- Continued providing services to clients in 33 languages, has a roster of over 500 pro bono attorneys, and utilizes support services of over 2,000 volunteers.
- *Continued providing advocacy for improved laws and policies on domestic violence and related issues working directly with City and State legislators and officials, as well as with a wide range of coalitions and working groups.*

For more information visit: [www.sanctuaryforfamilies.org](http://www.sanctuaryforfamilies.org)

#### ***Saratoga County Domestic Violence and Rape Crisis Services (DVRC)***

- Shelter: Housed 63 women and 30 children for a total of 2,567 bed nights.
- Provided in-person services to 735 clients.
- Crisis Intervention: Responded to 2,030 hotline calls.

## Domestic Violence Annual Report 2010 *2010 Services*

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- Legal Services: Provided legal advocates to assist with 93 petitions for orders of protection, temporary custody or temporary support.
- Economic Empowerment Services: Assisted 46 women to find jobs and another 14 with career advances that increased household financial independence.
- Housing: Assisted 37 households to find permanent, violence-free homes. Provided transitional and permanent supportive housing with weekly supportive services to 20 women and 27 children.
- Provided advocacy and follow-up services to 35 sexual assault victims accessing forensic examinations.

For more information visit: [www.dvrcsaratoga.org](http://www.dvrcsaratoga.org)

### ***NYS Office of Victim Services (OVS)***

- Received 5,460 domestic violence claims for reimbursement.
- Paid nearly \$3 million in compensation to domestic violence claimants to cover costs such as: medical, counseling, loss of support, loss of wages, essential personal property and funerals.
- Provided \$7,880,744 in federal funds and \$1,970,186 in state funds to victim assistance programs that serve domestic violence victims.
- Funded 48 domestic violence programs, 28 sexual assault programs, 20 dual domestic violence and rape crisis programs and 86 comprehensive programs that service both victims of domestic violence and sexual assault victims for a total of 182 programs across the state.
- Funded victim's assistance programs served 92,154 primary and 6,146 secondary domestic violence victims.

For more information visit: [www.ovs.ny.gov](http://www.ovs.ny.gov)

### ***YWCA of Genesee County, Inc.***

- Provided services for 747 victims of domestic violence and their children, including criminal justice advocacy, court accompaniment, personal advocacy, emergency shelter, one to one telephone counseling, information about domestic violence and referrals to other community resources.
- Started a support group that provides emotional support and information about domestic violence at Hope Haven (alcohol & substance abuse rehabilitation facility) and GCSASA (Genesee Counsel on Alcohol and Substance Abuse).

For more information visit [www.ywcagenesee.org](http://www.ywcagenesee.org)

## LEGISLATION

**S**everal laws were enacted in 2010 that will significantly affect domestic violence victims. Strangulation became a separate and distinct crime in NYS, enabling law enforcement to charge perpetrators for life-threatening actions that are often seen in domestic violence cases. Sweeping changes were made to NYS divorce laws, including establishing a no-fault option and providing for temporary maintenance and counsel fees to the less moneyed spouse. In addition, several laws were passed to improve the service and viability of orders of protection.

Some of the new laws are summarized below. For more information and a complete list of domestic violence-related laws passed in 2010, please visit:

[http://www.opdv.state.ny.us/law/summ\\_year/sum10.html](http://www.opdv.state.ny.us/law/summ_year/sum10.html)

### ***Strangulation***

This law creates a new Article 121 in the Penal Law, titled "Strangulation and Related Offenses," establishing the new crimes of criminal obstruction of breathing or blood circulation (A misdemeanor), strangulation in the second degree (D violent felony), and strangulation in the first degree (C violent felony). All offenses are added to the list of family offenses. In addition, the strangulation offenses are added to various sections of existing law for other considerations, such as DNA collection and hate crime prosecution.

### ***No-fault Divorce***

This law allows a spouse to file for divorce on the grounds that the relationship has irretrievably broken down for at least six months. A divorce cannot be granted until the issues of marital property distribution, spousal or child support, child custody and visitation, and counsel's fees have been resolved by the parties or the court.

### ***Post Marital Maintenance***

Under this law, courts are required to assess the respective incomes of divorcing parties and award temporary maintenance, determined by an established formula and set of factors, to the less moneyed spouse. The law also requires the NYS Law Revision Commission to assess the economic consequences of divorce on married couples, to review the spousal maintenance laws of the state and to submit a preliminary and a final report to the legislature and the Governor with recommendations for revisions to spousal maintenance laws (effective immediately).

### ***Counsel and Expert Witness Fees in Divorce Cases***

This law establishes a presumption that the less moneyed spouse in a divorce case is entitled to payment of counsel and expert witness fees and requires the parties to submit financial information to the court to determine payment by the other spouse.

## Domestic Violence Annual Report 2010 *Legislation*

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### ***Extension of Order of Protection***

This law authorizes Family Court to extend a current order of protection for a reasonable period of time, upon a showing of good cause or consent of the parties. The fact that abuse has not occurred while the order has been in effect cannot, in itself, constitute sufficient ground for denying, or failing to extend, the order. The new law requires the court to state the basis for its decision on the record.

### ***Electronic Transmission of Orders of Protection***

This law allows Family Courts and Supreme Courts to fax or electronically transmit temporary and final orders of protection, and any accompanying papers, to local police agencies for service on respondents. This will allow for easier and faster service of orders from Family Court and in matrimonial cases.

### ***Police Service of Orders of Protection, Extensions and Violations***

Under this law, police officers are required to serve, or provide for the service of, temporary and permanent orders of protection, and any accompanying papers. The requirement also applies to extensions, modifications and violations of orders. The law extends the previous prohibition against charging fees for service of these additional orders. If service cannot be completed, the officer must provide to the court proof of attempted service, including the manner in which the service was attempted.

### ***Orders of Protection Based on Non-contemporaneous Acts***

This law prohibits Family Courts or Supreme Courts from dismissing a petition or denying an order of protection solely on the basis that the acts or events alleged are not relatively recent. The law also states that the duration of a temporary order cannot, by itself, be a factor in issuing or determining the length of a final order.

For more information about domestic violence laws passed in previous years visit:

[http://opdv.state.ny.us/law/summ\\_year/sum09.html](http://opdv.state.ny.us/law/summ_year/sum09.html)

## TRAINING

**O**PDV and NYS continue to struggle with the challenge of bringing quality training to the healthcare, human service and criminal justice/legal professionals that need it most. As a result, we continue to bring classroom based face-to-face trainings to communities around the state. In addition, we collaborate with a variety of agencies to provide remote learning opportunities via webinars, web-casts, and other e-learning venues. The Advisory Council provided or participated in the following training activities:

### ***NYS Office of Alcoholism & Substance Abuse Services (OASAS)***

- Hosted a webcast entitled “Domestic Violence – Effects on Children and Mandatory Reporting Issues” presented by Sue Parry and Pam McClelland from OPDV. Webinar was broadcast to 242 sites with 907 attendees.

For more information visit: [www.oasas.state.ny.us](http://www.oasas.state.ny.us)

### ***NYS Office of Children and Family Services (OCFS)***

- NYC regional office sponsored a one day forum “Love without Pain, Working with families Across Systems.” Co-sponsors of the event included New York State domestic violence providers, community organizations, NYC Administration for Children’s Services and NYC Human Resource Administration. The forum included workshops on DV in the elderly, teen dating abuse, working with the LGBTQ community, human trafficking, immigration and technology in relationships.

For more information visit: [www.ocfs.state.ny.us](http://www.ocfs.state.ny.us)

### ***NYS Coalition Against Domestic Violence (NYSCADV)***

- Provided training in 8 of the 9 regions throughout the state. Topics included:
  - Safety Planning
  - Understanding Technology
  - Vicarious trauma
  - Facilitative Leadership
  - Advance Support Group Facilitation

- Principles for Practice
- Introduction to the Criminal Justice System
- Partnered with OPDV on a federal grant to develop written curricula and deliver training to domestic violence service providers on the three high-priority topics of offender accountability, Expanded Access, and interview techniques for victims of domestic violence and intimate partner sexual assault. The overall goal of the project, comprised of five NYS agency partners, is the statewide promulgation of interactive training tools for advocates, to institutionalize a consistent, long-term response to victim safety and services.
- Partnered with OPDV to hold a webinar on Expanded Access to Family Court.
- 2 DELTA Program trainings for Long Island.
- Training on the Intersection of Domestic Violence and Poverty in Baton Rouge, Louisiana for prosecutors, judges, police departments and domestic violence advocates.

For more information visit: [www.nyscadv.org](http://www.nyscadv.org)

***NYS Office of Court Administration (OCA)***

- Domestic violence training is provided at the annual new judges seminars and is a component of the training at the Court Officers Academy.
- Family Violence Task Force training program for judges and court attorneys focused on risks and remedies, strangulation and orders of protection.
- Integrated Domestic Violence Initiatives judges and staff received training from national speakers on judicial skills in domestic violence cases.
- The Unified Court System (UCS) held two training programs, in Brooklyn and Syracuse, for family court judges covering issues in sexual assault cases.
- UCS offered four day-long sessions of attorney-for-the-child trainings on advocating for children in cases involving domestic violence. Sessions were held in Manhattan, White Plains, Syracuse and Buffalo.
- UCS in partnership with the Center for Court Innovation developed an Online Learning System, available through the court system's public website at <http://e-learning.nycourts.gov/> Programs currently available through the System include "Working with Juveniles and Young Adults" which provides information relevant to judges presiding over cases involving teen defendants, including domestic violence cases.

For more information visit: [www.courts.state.ny.us](http://www.courts.state.ny.us)

***NYS Department of Health (DOH)***

## Domestic Violence Annual Report 2010

### *Training*

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- The Rape Crisis and Sexual Violence Prevention Program (RCSVPP) provided 4,145 multi-session educational programs to 58,834 young people. Topics included bullying, sexual harassment, dating violence and healthy relationships.
- The Family Planning Program contracts with 51 providers with 201 clinic sites. Each of these programs provided training to staff on domestic violence and developing policies and procedures for domestic violence screening.

For more information visit: [www.nyhealth.gov](http://www.nyhealth.gov)

### *NYS Department of Labor (DOL)*

- Mandatory domestic violence and the workplace training continues to be conducted for all DOL employees. Course initiated in 2009, by the end of 2010 more than 3,000 employees were trained.

For more information visit: [www.labor.state.ny.us](http://www.labor.state.ny.us)

### *NYS Division of Parole (DOP)*

- Annual state-wide training of Domestic Violence and the Workplace.
- Collaboration and development of draft Curricula for training for Administrative Law Judges, Parole Revocation Specialists and investigators surrounding GTEAP grant objectives.

For more information visit: [www.parole.state.ny.us](http://www.parole.state.ny.us)

### *NYS Office for the Prevention of Domestic Violence (OPDV)*

Professionals from around the state have looked to OPDV for state-of-the-art training, and OPDV prides itself on the delivery of training specific to the subject area being requested. Our training provides professional support for many institutions that victims of domestic interact with. These professionals include child protective specialists, law enforcement officers, temporary assistance workers mental health and substance abuse professionals and many others. In 2010, OPDV added training programs for home visiting staff, expanded training for homeless shelter staff in NYC and developed a curriculum on traumatic brain injury. An on-line training on domestic violence and the workplace was designed to add to the list of trainings available through the Governor's Office of Employee Relations' eLearning system. In 2011, we will work to revise the law enforcement basic training and develop a curriculum for training child protective supervisory staff.

*Child Protective Services (CPS):* 334 CPS workers completed the two-day state-mandated "Domestic Violence Training for CPS Workers" conducted by OPDV in collaboration with OCFS. These 18 skill-based, interactive trainings helped

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CPS workers better understand how domestic violence impacts the families they work with and assisted them in their case practice.

*Child Welfare (CW):* 267 CW workers completed the voluntary two-day “Domestic Violence Training for Child Welfare Workers” conducted by OPDV in collaboration with OCFS. These 18 trainings were skill based and highly interactive providing an understanding of how domestic violence impacts families.

*Healthy Families New York (HFNY):* OPDV and OCFS collaborated on the development of curriculum for a one-day training program, “Domestic violence training for HFNY Workers.” HFNY is a new target population for OPDV’s training. Workers provide home visiting services to families who are either expecting a baby, or are recent parents, until the children are 5 years of age. 200 workers completed the 10 skill-based and highly interactive trainings.

*Domestic Violence and the Workplace:* Eighteen full-day and eight half-day Domestic Violence and the Workplace trainings were offered including 3 webcasts with more than 840 NYS employees trained. 54 participants then completed one of the 3 follow-up ½ day train the trainer programs. In addition, eleven shorter Domestic Violence and the Workplace presentations were provided for several state agencies.

In late 2010 work was completed on the Domestic Violence and the Workplace on-line training available to all NYS employees through the NYS E-Learn and the Governor’s Office on Employee Relations (GOER).

One full-day Domestic Violence and the Workplace session was conducted for the Department of Health in Philadelphia.

*Local District Social Services (LDSS) Training:* OTDA proved funding to OPDV to provide 28 one-day domestic violence training sessions for LDSS staff. This course trained 353 Temporary Assistance, Child Support Enforcement and Employment workers about the barriers related to domestic violence.

*Family Violence Option/Domestic Violence Liaison Training Institute (DVLTI):* The DVLTI is a collaborative effort coordinated by the State University of New York (SUNY), Professional Development Program (PDP) with training and technical assistance from OPDV. Four four-day mandatory institutes provided 24 participants with the knowledge and skills necessary to fulfill the job responsibilities of the Domestic Violence Liaison position.

*Homeless Shelter Training:* OPDV conducted four one-day domestic violence training sessions for 120 participants. The course provides the staff of homeless shelters with fundamental knowledge on the issue of domestic violence so that staff can better understand/interact with victims.

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*Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI):* OPDV provided seven trainings and conference presentations on TBI, many in collaboration with the NYS Brain Injury Association.

*Domestic Violence Mental Health & Substance Abuse:* OPDV provided four presentations on topics related to substance abuse and mental health issues for treatment providers and court personnel.

*LGBT Domestic Violence Curriculum:* OPDV created a newly revised curriculum on Domestic Violence in the Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender Communities. The revised curriculum is available on VAWnet, where it is one of their most popular downloads.

*NYS Victim Assistance Academy (SVAA):* The 6<sup>th</sup> Annual Victim Assistance Academy was held in June at Marist College for 35 crime victim service providers from across the state. The SVAA is a project of the NYS Coalition Against Sexual Assault. OPDV staff served on the Advisory Committee and Curriculum Committee and also provided core faculty for the Academy.

*Center for Court Innovation:* Staff participated in two trainings for judges and resource coordinators in the 5<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> judicial districts..

*Law Enforcement:* 45 presentations were held for NYS law enforcement personnel with 1,104 trained.

*Health Care – NYC Program:* Conducted trainings and presentations for providers in the health care system in New York City and the metropolitan regional area. The focus was on universal screening, assessing and intervening for all female patients. Technical assistance was also provided along with support for battered victims when needed.

- 4 trainings for 60 participants within the Maternal and Child health care system.
- 42 general awareness presentations were attended by 887 health care providers.
- 9 presentations were conducted for 60 participants on domestic violence as a public health issue.
- 25 presentations on Domestic Violence and Cultural Competency Within the Health Care System and Domestic Violence and Immigrant Women in the Health Care System were attended by 514 providers.

*Health Care – Upstate Program:* Conducted Domestic Violence and Health Care training for 2<sup>nd</sup> year medical students and physician assistant students at Albany

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Medical Center. Presented general domestic violence and health care information at Albany Medical Center Grand Rounds for Psychiatric staff.

For more information please visit: [www.opdv.state.ny.us](http://www.opdv.state.ny.us)

### **NYS Office of Probation and Correctional Alternatives (OPCA)**

- Conducted *Motivational Interviewing and Cognitive Behavioral Programs: Effective Probation* tools statewide orientation series on evidence-based practices in 6 regions for 139 probation professionals. The series included specific information on how these particular programs can be used for domestic violence offenders.
- Conducted 5 regional trainings of a new program: *Probation Response to Domestic Violence in Rural and Native American Communities* for 48 probation professionals statewide.
- Presented domestic violence workshops at the NYS Minorities in Criminal Justice Annual Training Institute in Batavia, NY and the NYS Probation Officers Association Conference in Albany, NY for over 60 probation and other criminal justice practitioners from across New York State.
- Facilitated *Motivational Interviewing: Practical Application for the Probation Officer* training program that included information in the use of Motivational Interviewing for domestic violence cases and other special offender populations.
- Provided training for over 70 probation officers and staff of the Albany County Probation Department.
- Conducted domestic violence training for 41 new probation officers during the *OPCA fundamentals of Probation Practice* training program with a focus on holding offenders accountable and working to enhance victim safety.

For more information visit: [www.dPCA.state.ny.us](http://www.dPCA.state.ny.us)

### **NYS Office of Temporary and Disability Assistance (OTDA)**

- The Division of Child Support Enhancement invited OPDV to provide an overview of domestic violence services in local districts at the child support coordinator's training.
- BHR Personnel Administrators attended OPDV Domestic Violence and the Workplace training sessions.
- Provided OTDA staff access to Domestic Violence and the Workplace awareness video.

For more information visit: [www.otda.state.ny.us](http://www.otda.state.ny.us)

### **NYS Office of Victim Services (OVS)**

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### *Training*

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- Provided training that focused on sexual assault and intimate partner/stalking crimes with young adults as victims for the Summer Campus Public Safety/Peace Officer – Zone 5 Police Academy.

For more information visit: [www.cvb.state.ny.us](http://www.cvb.state.ny.us)

### *Sanctuary for Families (NYC)*

- Sanctuary for Families in collaboration with Planned Parenthood provided training to teens on gender roles and healthy relationships.

For more information visit: [www.sanctuaryforfamilies.org](http://www.sanctuaryforfamilies.org)

### *Saratoga County Domestic Violence and Rape Crisis Services (DVRC)*

- Teen initiative provided 174 prevention education programs to a total of 6,259 persons.
- Provided training for specially trained sexual assault forensic nurse examiners at Saratoga Hospital, funded by DCJS.

For more information visit: [www.dvrcsaratoga.org](http://www.dvrcsaratoga.org)

## LEADING THE FIELD

The NYS Office for the Prevention of Domestic Violence is seen as a reliable resource for information on domestic violence. In 2010, OPDV was contacted by state and national media for interviews, background, and opinions. OPDV's Executive Director and senior staff were interviewed and quoted on television, radio, and in newspapers. The Executive Director participated in Liz Claiborne's by-invitation-only national radio broadcast event, "It's Time to Talk Day" Talk Radio Row. She was also heavily quoted in a Sports Illustrated article following a high profile murder. Upon request, OPDV provided extensive information and resources to television shows and networks.

OPDV officials provided guidance to government and advocacy groups throughout the United States. The Executive Director gave the keynote address at Fordham University's 14<sup>th</sup> Annual Domestic Violence Conference and at the Suffolk County Task Force to Prevent Domestic Violence's annual symposium. She also received the "In the Trenches Award, Recognizing Indomitable Courage, Vision, and Dedication to Ending Violence Against Women" from the Lawyers Committee Against Domestic Violence. OPDV senior staff facilitated at the National Judicial Institute and was nominated to the National Advisory Committee on Violence Against Women, assembled by the US Attorney General. This staff is also on the national steering committee of the National Conference on Health and Domestic Violence.

The NYS Office for the Prevention of Domestic Violence partnered with Verizon to create the "Verizon Wireless Domestic Violence Entrepreneurship Program," which provides funding to entrepreneurs in New York State who have escaped domestic violence and are working to get a home or small business off the ground.

OPDV granted requests from other states and tribal governments to reproduce OPDV publications, and provided assistance to undergraduate and graduate students from colleges, universities and law schools in New York State and around the nation.

New York State is also seen as a cutting-edge domestic violence expert on the international front. The Executive Director met with a Chechyan delegation visiting the United States to learn about ending violence against women in their war-torn area. Advocates from London, Ontario sought guidance from OPDV on replicating the "Shine the Light on Domestic Violence" campaign in their city.

## PLANS FOR 2011

**A**s always, much of the work done in 2010 will bear fruit in 2011 and beyond. In addition, a few new efforts are scheduled to start in 2011. Already this year we have seen initial results of the strangulation statute passed in 2010, showing that in the first 15 weeks of its existence it was charged over 2,000 times across the state, a remarkably rapid and robust utilization of new legislation. The Municipal Police Training Council also adopted a model curriculum in March that accompanies the model Domestic Incident Policy they adopted last December, creating a comprehensive package that will be received by certified domestic violence trainers this summer. We held a competition among teens earlier this year to identify a slogan for a new dating abuse webpage and Facebook page we plan to launch this summer and new domestic violence legislation is already being generated by the legislature. It promises to be a productive year!

At the start of this New Year, and with the strong support of a new administration, we look forward to moving forward on the following projects in 2011:

- Launch of a statewide Domestic Incident Report repository;
- Launch of an OPDV dating abuse webpage and Facebook page;
- Training of certified domestic violence police trainers to the updated Domestic Incident Policy;
- Issuance of new informational guides on topics such as firearms and domestic violence, family justice centers, and trafficking;
- Publication of a report to the legislature in July regarding the impact of the expanded access to Family Court law;
- All NYS DV Advisory Council members will address prevention in some way during the course of the year;
- Issuance of 2011 dashboard, annual report, and domestic homicide report;
- Enhanced “Shine the Light” effort in October, including a webinar with local providers explaining to their colleagues how to “go purple”:  
[http://www.opdv.state.ny.us/public\\_awareness/shinethelight10.html](http://www.opdv.state.ny.us/public_awareness/shinethelight10.html)
- Completion of roll call video trainings for police on best practice regarding the completion of domestic incident reports;
- Release of a web-based training tool for police and supervising agencies on the topics of mandatory arrest and expanded access to family court, and interview techniques for victims and perpetrators of domestic violence and/or sexual assault;

## Domestic Violence Annual Report 2010

### *Plans for 2011*

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- Creation of statewide guidelines for the safe use of supervised visitation in family court cases that involved domestic violence;
- Ongoing training of thousands of governmental employees in police, probation, child welfare, public assistance, mental health, and other disciplines.



## OPDV MISSION:

To improve New York State's response to and prevention of domestic violence with the goal of enhancing the safety of all New Yorkers in their intimate and family relationships.

## OPDV VISION:

To create a State in which communities and systems are committed to supporting and promoting equality, dignity and respect so that individuals can feel safer in their intimate and family relationships.

The NYS Domestic Violence Advisory Council is coordinated by OPDV. Its members:

*Maggie Fronk, Executive Director*

*Domestic Violence and Rape Crisis Services of Saratoga County*

*Barbara Hale, Executive Director*

*YWCA of Genesee County, Inc.*

*Mary Kornman, Chief, Bureau of Strategic Planning & Crime Control Strategies*

*Westchester County District Attorney's Office*

*Susan John, Assemblywoman*

*James Murphy III, District Attorney*

*Saratoga County District Attorney's Office*

*Sharon Townsend, Vice Dean for Family and Matrimonial Law,*

*New York State Judicial Institute*

*Michele McKeon, Executive Director*

*NYS Coalition Against Domestic Violence*

*Helene Weinstein, Assemblywoman*

*Angela Yeboah, Attorney*

*Sanctuary for Families*

*NYS Office of Victim Services*

*NYS Department of Correctional Services*

*NYS Department of Health*

*NYS Department of Labor*

*NYS Division of Criminal Justice Services*

*NYS Division of Parole*

*NYS Office of Probation and Correctional Alternatives*

*NYS Education Department*

*NYS Office for the Aging*

*NYS Office of Alcoholism and Substance Abuse Services*

*NYS Office of Children and Family Services*

*NYS Office of Court Administration*

*NYS Office of Mental Health*

*NYS Office of Temporary and Disability Assistance*