



**Georgia
Commission on
Family
Violence**

FAMILY VIOLENCE STATISTICS AND TRENDS

**STATE OF GEORGIA
2018-2021**

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ABOUT THE GEORGIA COMMISSION ON FAMILY VIOLENCE

The Georgia Commission on Family Violence (GCFV) was created by the Georgia General Assembly in 1992 to create a comprehensive state plan for ending family violence in Georgia. The mission of GCFV is to provide leadership to end family violence by increasing victim safety, abuser accountability and improving the systemic response to family violence incidents. GCFV is led by 37 appointed Commissioners and a staff of nine. GCFV is administratively attached to the Georgia Department of Community Supervision.

ABOUT THIS PROJECT

GCFV's Family Violence Fatality Review Project (FVFRP) seeks to enhance the safety of victims and accountability for abusers through the study of fatal and near-fatal incidents of family violence. Since the project was introduced in 2004, it has conducted hundreds of in-depth case reviews and collected numerous data sets to develop recommendations for systemic changes in Georgia's community response to family violence.

A NOTE ON TERMINOLOGY IN THIS REPORT

Throughout this report terms including "domestic violence fatality," "family violence," "intimate partner" and "per capita," are used to refer to specific data sets and analysis. Below is a brief description of these terms and their usage.

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE FATALITY - In this report, the phrase "domestic violence fatality" is used to represent all incidents where one or more deaths stemmed from a violent event involving intimate partners. Domestic violence fatalities include incidents where: 1) one intimate partner kills the other; 2) an intimate partner dies by suicide during or immediately following a domestic violence incident; 3) a bystander is killed in the course of an active domestic violence incident; or 4) an intimate partner is killed by law enforcement responding to a domestic violence incident or in the course of serving a family violence warrant or protective order. The term "bystander" in the context of a domestic violence fatality most often refers to one of the following: a new partner/spouse; family member; friend; child; intervener, such as law enforcement; or an unrelated witness or member of the public.

FAMILY VIOLENCE - Family violence is used to refer to all family violence incident report data reported to the Georgia Bureau of Investigation (GBI), the statewide administrator of the National Incident Based Reporting System (NIBRS). This data includes both intimate partner and familial relationships. This differs from the domestic violence fatality data which includes only intimate partner relationships. The data is understood to be an undercount because not all family violence

A NOTE ON TERMINOLOGY IN THIS REPORT

incidents are reported to law enforcement and not all law enforcement agencies within the state are reporting family violence incidents in their jurisdiction to the GBI.

INTIMATE PARTNER - The term “intimate partner” as used throughout this report includes current/former dating partners or current/former spouses. Georgia law uses the term “family violence” and enumerates the qualifying relationships under it. Under Georgia law (O.C.G.A. § 19-13-1 et. seq.), dating partners are excluded from the definition unless they have a child together or have resided in the same household. Georgia's family law definition also includes familial relationships, which are not included in the domestic violence fatality data analyzed in this report.

PER CAPITA - Per capita is a statistical measure that allows direct comparison of places with different population sizes. Per capita means an average per person. We use it in this report to measure and understand differences between areas of the state relative to certain data metrics (e.g., family violence incidents, Temporary Protective Orders granted, domestic violence fatalities, etc.). This report analyzes Georgia's family violence data on a per capita basis, with per capita representing every 100,000 people in a population. This apples-to-apples approach presents a more accurate way to compare the data and sends useful signals about the response to family violence in areas around the state. It is also an accurate way to evaluate trends.

ABOUT THIS REPORT

The State of Georgia is constantly working to improve its understanding and response to family violence. With support from other state agencies including the Georgia Bureau of Investigation and the Criminal Justice Coordinating Council, GCFV has become the clearinghouse for family violence-related data in Georgia. Cultivating centralized family violence data has increased GCFV’s ability to provide in-depth, evidence-based insights on this pervasive and complex issue for local and statewide multidisciplinary stakeholders. Our goal is to equip stakeholders and policy-makers to make informed decisions regarding family violence prevention, intervention, and response.

The Georgia data in this report analyzes family violence incidents reported to law enforcement, issuance of Family Violence and Stalking Temporary Protective Orders (TPOs), victims served by state-certified family violence programs, and access to state-certified Family Violence Intervention Programs (FVIPs).

Unfortunately, the statewide data presented throughout this report reflects only a portion of the actual prevalence of relationship abuse. Many abusive relationships are never known to criminal

ABOUT THIS REPORT

or civil justice systems and law enforcement are not aware of every abusive incident that occurs due to underreporting among these cases. Research suggests that known family violence statistics account for less than 50% of the total occurrence, making domestic violence one of the most chronically underreported crimes.¹ Further, many services provided to victims and abusers are shielded from public access by privilege or confidentiality protections. Despite all of this, data and research based on what is known provides relevant information about the underlying problems and causes of family violence. Further, we can rely on the data to give us information about the effectiveness of responses in known instances of family violence.

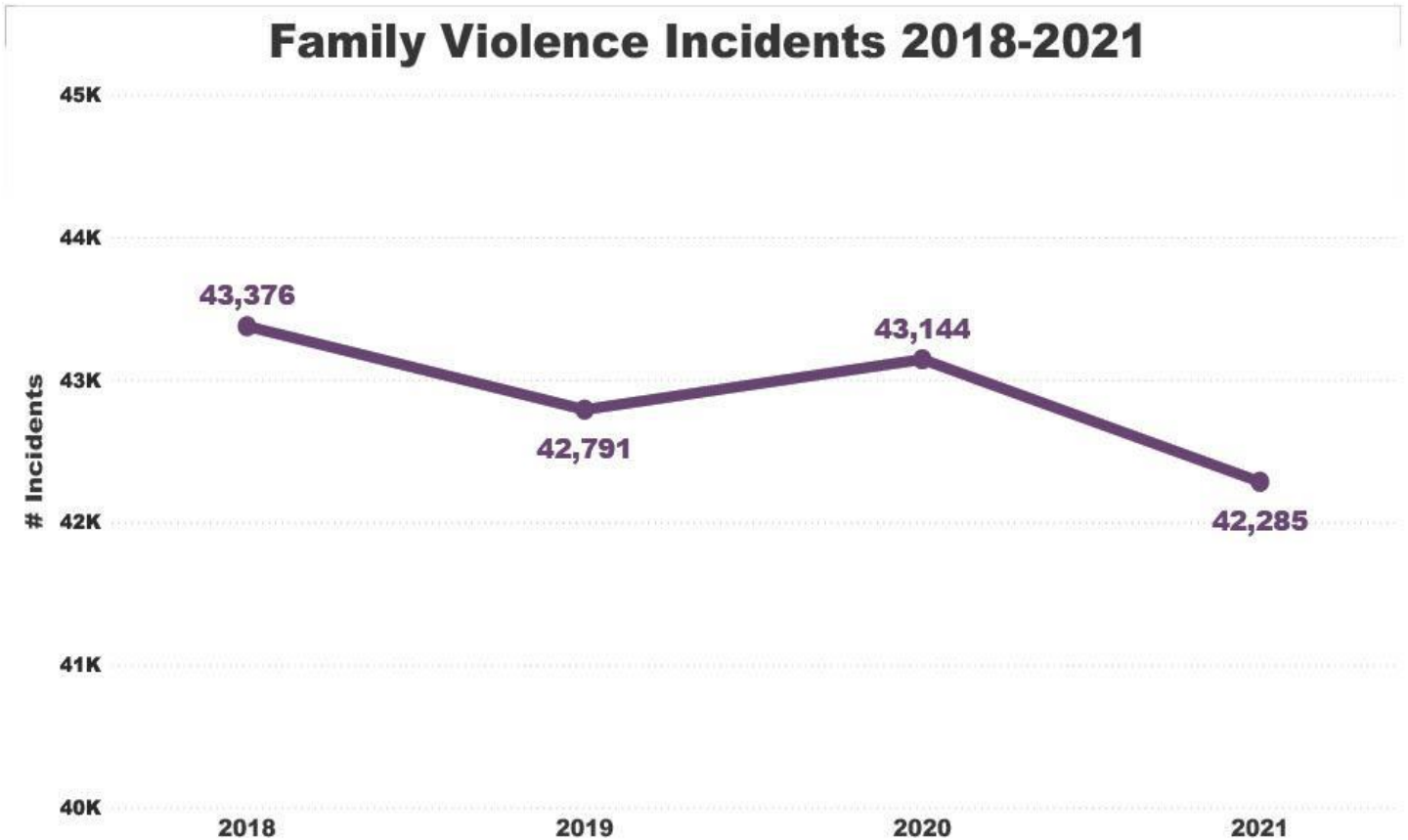
The root causes and warning signs of family violence today are known. Yet family violence remains a significant issue across the nation and in Georgia. While the true extent of family violence in Georgia remains unknown, the application of strong policies and laws, coupled with a coordinated community response implementing best practices and spreading awareness, can reduce family violence and ultimately save lives. A coordinated community response is when multidisciplinary community stakeholders (government agencies, community-based organizations, survivors of family violence, concerned community members, faith institutions, and other local professionals) work together, combining their efforts and expertise, to focus collectively on increasing victim safety and offender accountability. By coordinating local services to address family violence, communities can create systemic change by building an organized, interconnected response to family violence. GCFV recognizes that a coordinated community response is a vital part of reducing fatal and non-fatal family violence incidents. Every member of the community has a part to play in preventing this kind of violence and loss in our society.

This data report is designed to be used by Georgia's communities to aid in the development and implementation of an informed, localized, coordinated family violence response. In addition to the maps and charts on each page, the report includes critical questions, significant facts and resources, as tools for navigating and exploring its contents. The maps and charts in the body of this report reflect statewide data. County specific data is included in Appendices A (p. 27-31) and B (p. 32). Appendix C (p. 33-37) offers a discussion guide for facilitating critical conversations with involved system and community stakeholders. The guide provides examples to help community members analyze their local family violence data and response, with the goal of demonstrating how using data can translate into evidence-based action.

FAMILY VIOLENCE INCIDENTS: STATE OF GEORGIA (2018-2021)

FAMILY VIOLENCE INCIDENTS

From 2018-2021 in Georgia, 171,596 family violence incidents were reported to law enforcement. Over the course of the four-year period, incidents reported to law enforcement decreased by 2.5%. Family and intimate partner violence incidents are chronically underreported to law enforcement and the extent of unreported incidents is unknown, but research suggest it is significant.¹ Following the incident trends on a local or county level can offer direct evidence of the impact of system and community prevention and deterrence responses.



*Eight Georgia counties failed to report any family violence incidents during this time.

Significant facts, resources and critical questions about family violence in Georgia have been included in callout boxes throughout this report. This information should be utilized to clarify common misconceptions about family violence statewide, and to guide conversations within your community.

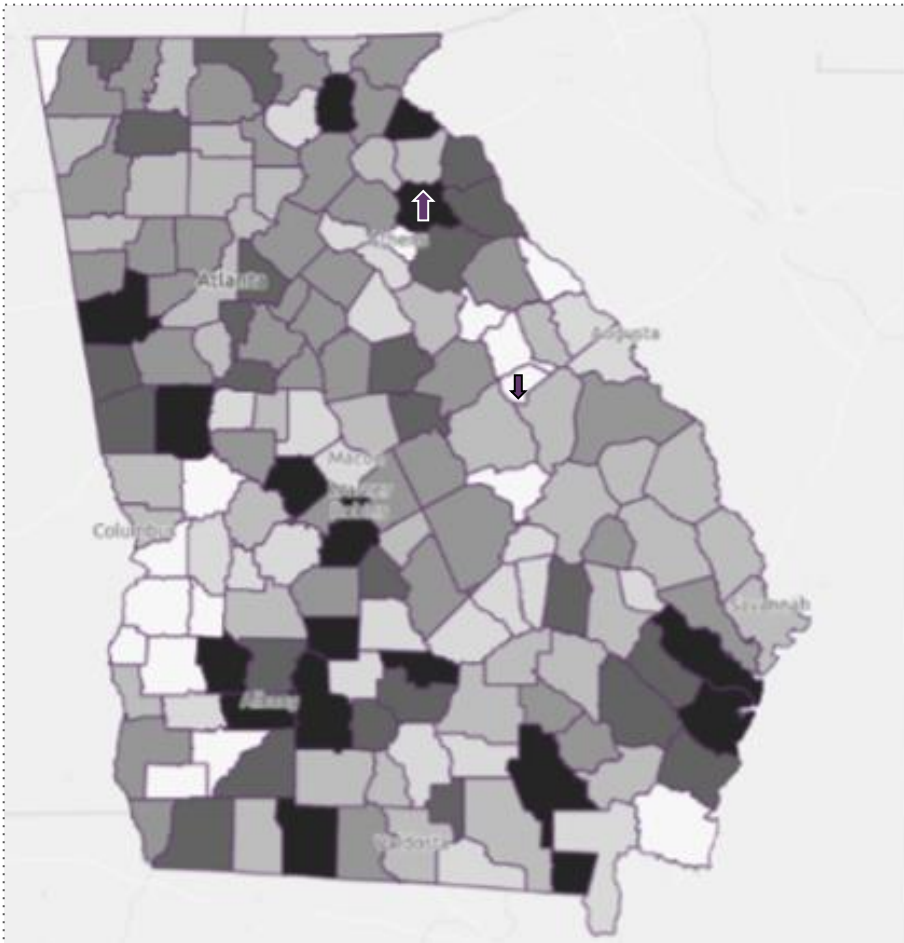
CRITICAL QUESTIONS

What factors might be contributing to the chronic underreporting of family and intimate partner violence? How could a coordinated community response reduce barriers and reluctance to report?

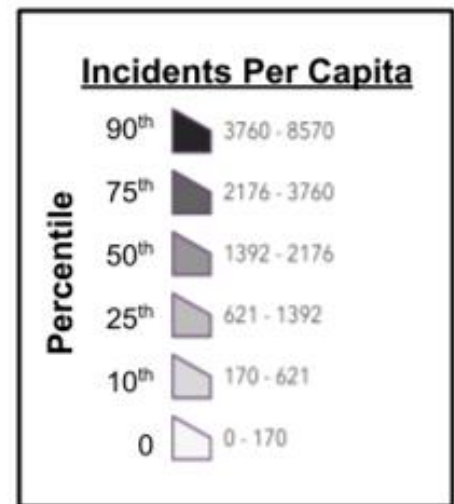
FAMILY VIOLENCE INCIDENTS: STATE OF GEORGIA (2018-2021)

FAMILY VIOLENCE INCIDENTS PER CAPITA

The statewide average (50th percentile) of family violence incidents is 1,718 incidents per capita between 2018-2021.² The distribution of incidents across Georgia provides a picture of the state of family violence by county. The darker colors on the map indicate family violence incidents reported at a higher number per capita and lighter colors indicate incidents reported at a lower number per capita than the statewide average. For instance, Madison County had the state's highest rate at 8,570 incidents per capita (denoted by ↑) and the state's lowest rate was in Glascock County at 35 incidents per capita (denoted by ↓).



Family Violence Incidents Per Capita 2018-2021



CRITICAL QUESTIONS

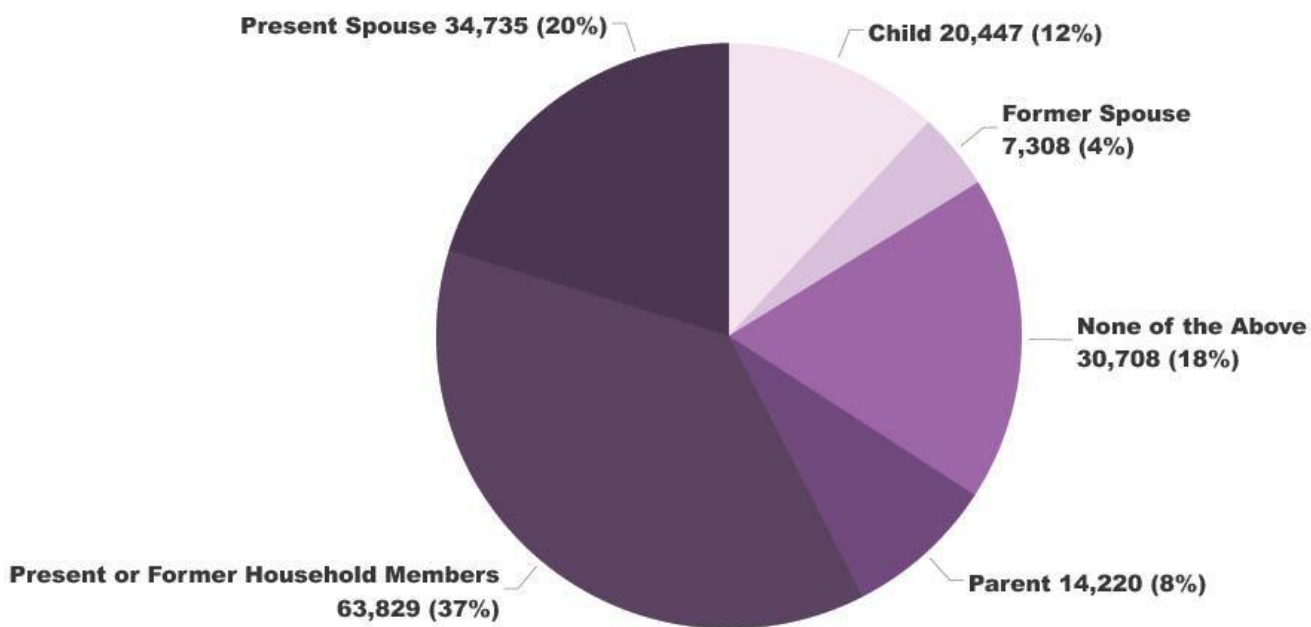
Using Appendix A (p. 27-31), find your county's incidents per capita. What percentile does your county fall within? Is your county above or below the state average? What could be some contributors to your county's percentile? How does your county compare to other counties immediately surrounding it or with similar population size/demographics?

FAMILY VIOLENCE INCIDENTS: STATE OF GEORGIA (2018-2021)

VICTIM-ABUSER RELATIONSHIPS IN FAMILY VIOLENCE INCIDENTS

Georgia's central family violence law is the Family Violence Act (OCGA 19-13-1 et al.). The Family Violence Act defines the relationship parameters for delineating what incidents will be treated as family violence offenses. It includes relationships that are both intimate partner and familial in nature. While some relationship categories more clearly indicate the presence of an intimate partner relationship than others, the current manner for collecting and recording incident report data statewide does not allow for comprehensive differentiation of relationship types. **Between 2018-2021, 20% of the relationships involved in reported family violence incidents in Georgia were present spouses and 4% were former spouses.** The 37% incidents identified as involving present or former household members also likely reflects a high volume of intimate partner relationships. The incidents categorized as involving parent (8%) or child (12%) are presumed to

Victim-Abuser Relationships in Family Violence Incidents 2018-2021



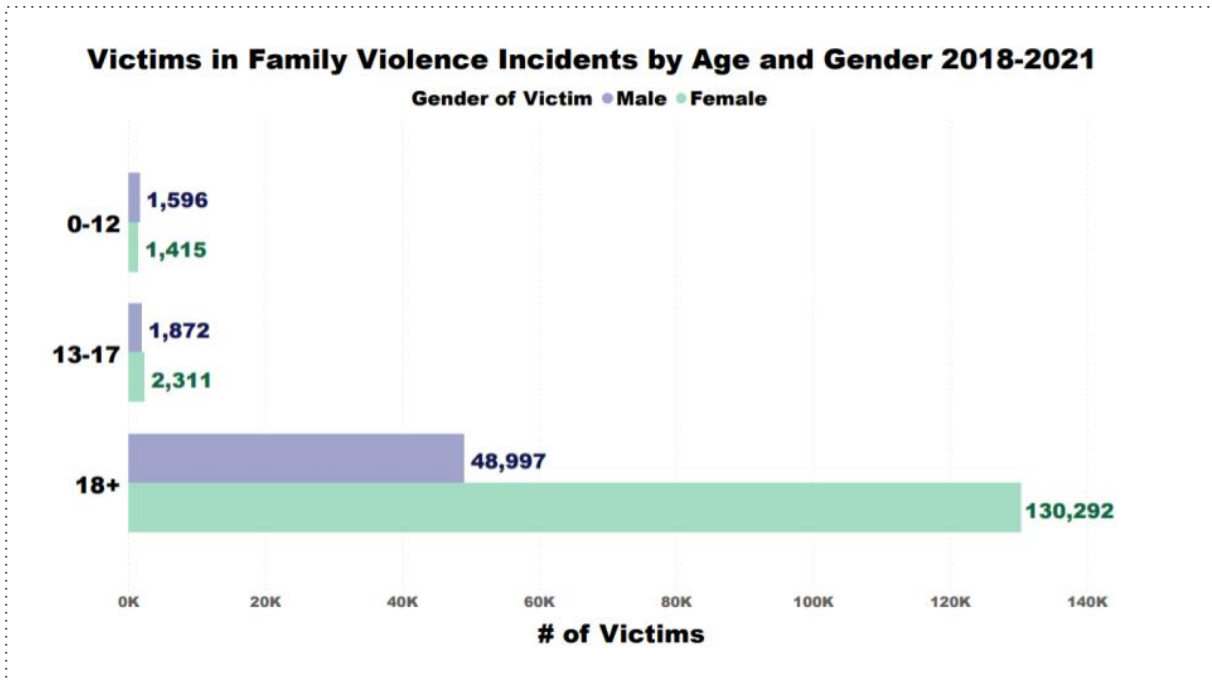
SIGNIFICANT FACT

In Georgia, not all incidents involving intimate partners are reported as family violence offenses. Georgia law does not recognize crimes committed between individuals who are in an intimate partner relationship but have neither lived in the same household nor have a child together as family violence crimes. Further, relationships which share a current pregnancy do not qualify as a crime of family violence unless they also meet one or both of those criteria.

FAMILY VIOLENCE INCIDENTS: STATE OF GEORGIA (2018-2021)

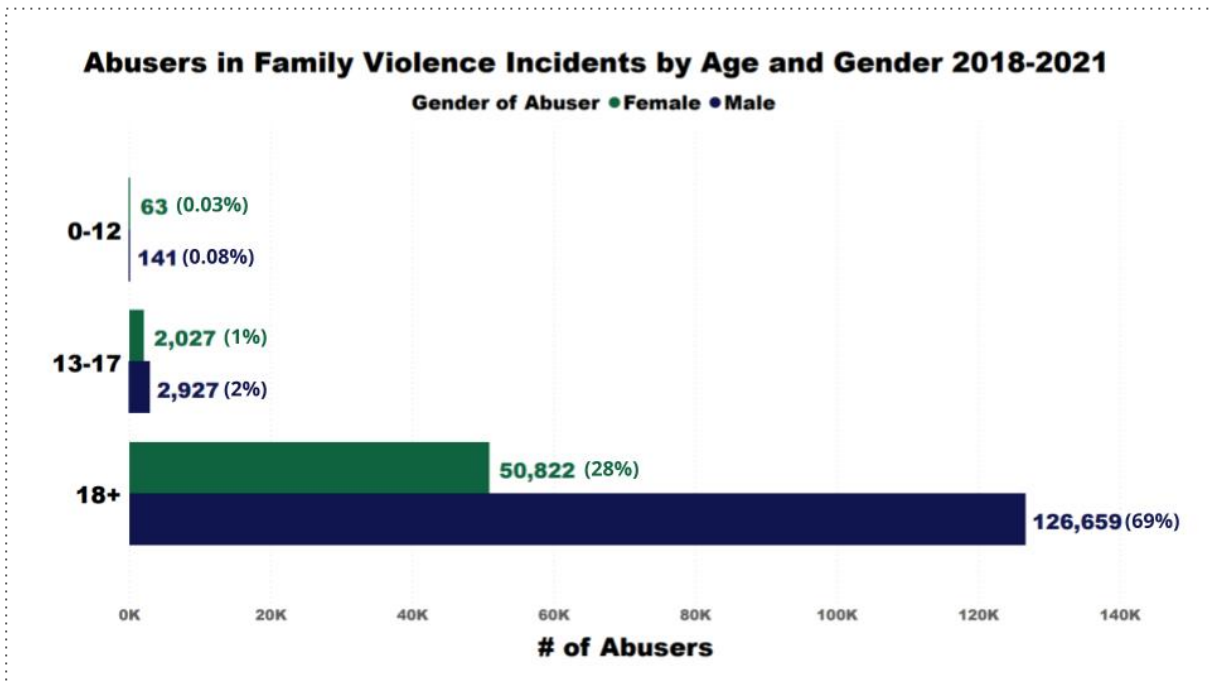
VICTIMS IN FAMILY VIOLENCE INCIDENTS BY AGE AND GENDER

From 2018-2021 in Georgia, reports identified 186,483 victims in family violence incidents. Overall, 72% of victims were female and 28% were male. The vast majority of both female victims (97%) and male victims (93%) were over the age of 18.



ABUSERS IN FAMILY VIOLENCE INCIDENTS BY AGE AND GENDER

From 2018-2021 in Georgia, reports identified 182,639 abusers involved in family violence incidents. Overall, 29% of abusers were female and 70% were male. The vast majority of both female abusers (96%) and male abusers (98%) were over the age of 18.

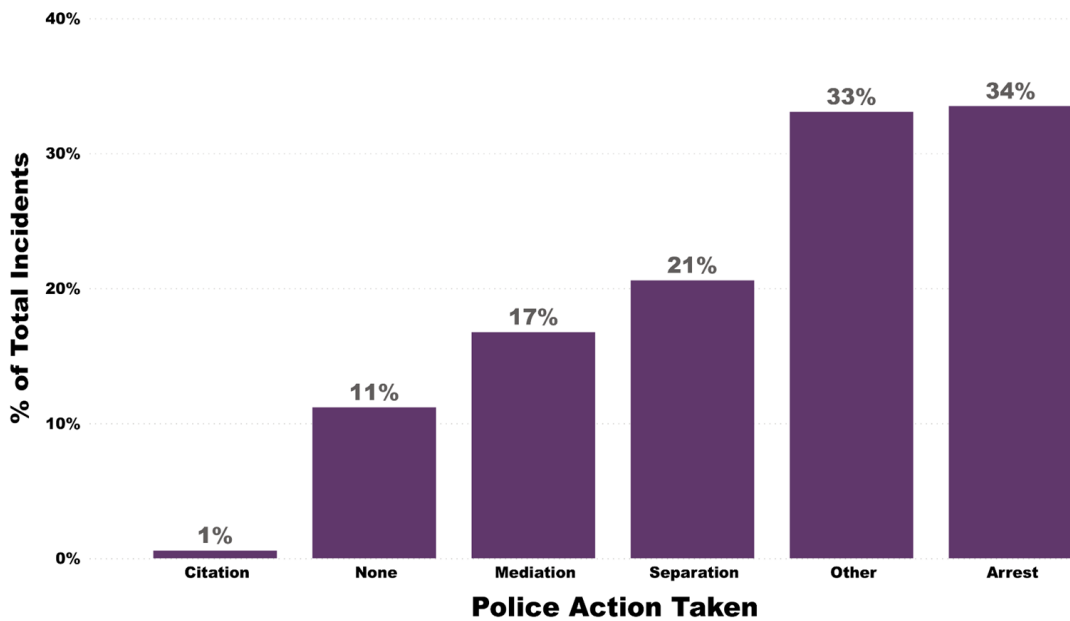


FAMILY VIOLENCE INCIDENTS: STATE OF GEORGIA (2018-2021)

POLICE ACTION TAKEN IN FAMILY VIOLENCE INCIDENTS

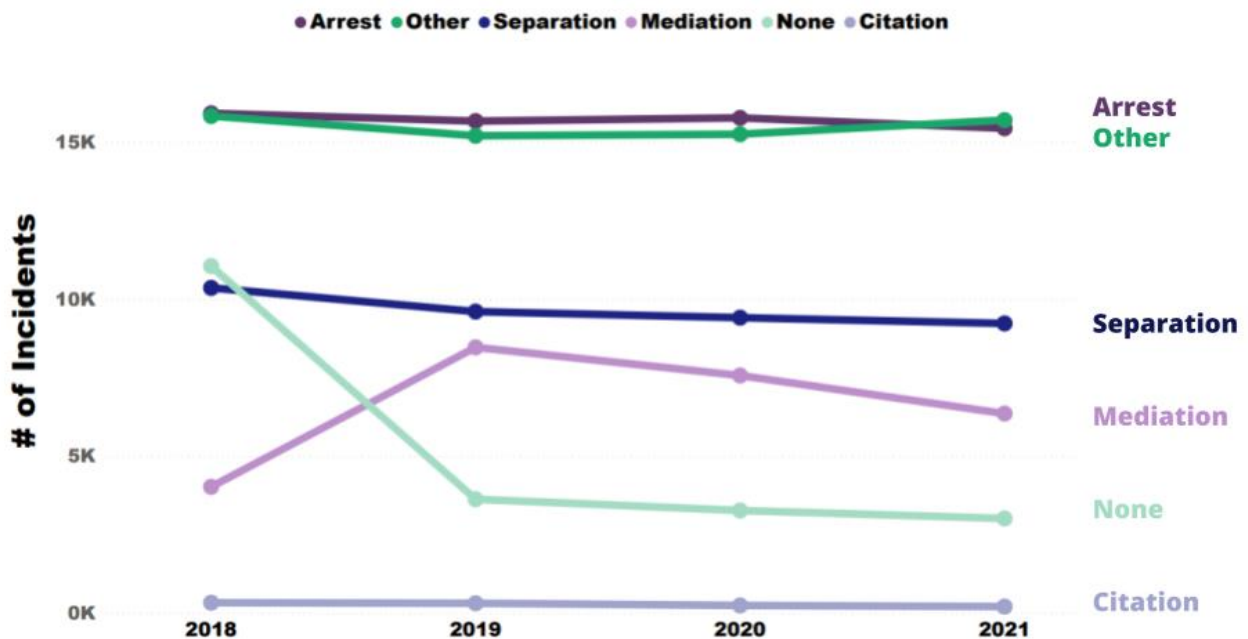
When law enforcement officers respond to a family violence incident, the cascade of events set into motion can significantly impact accountability for the abuser and the relative safety of the victim. **An arrest was made in 34% of all family violence incidents between 2018-2021.** While identifying and arresting the predominant aggressor is considered best practice, across the state most family violence incidents (66%) do not result in an arrest.

Police Action Taken in Family Violence Incidents 2018-2021



Police Action Taken	Total Number
Citation	1,078
None	20,966
Mediation	31,419
Separation	38,617
Other	62,033
Arrest	62,848

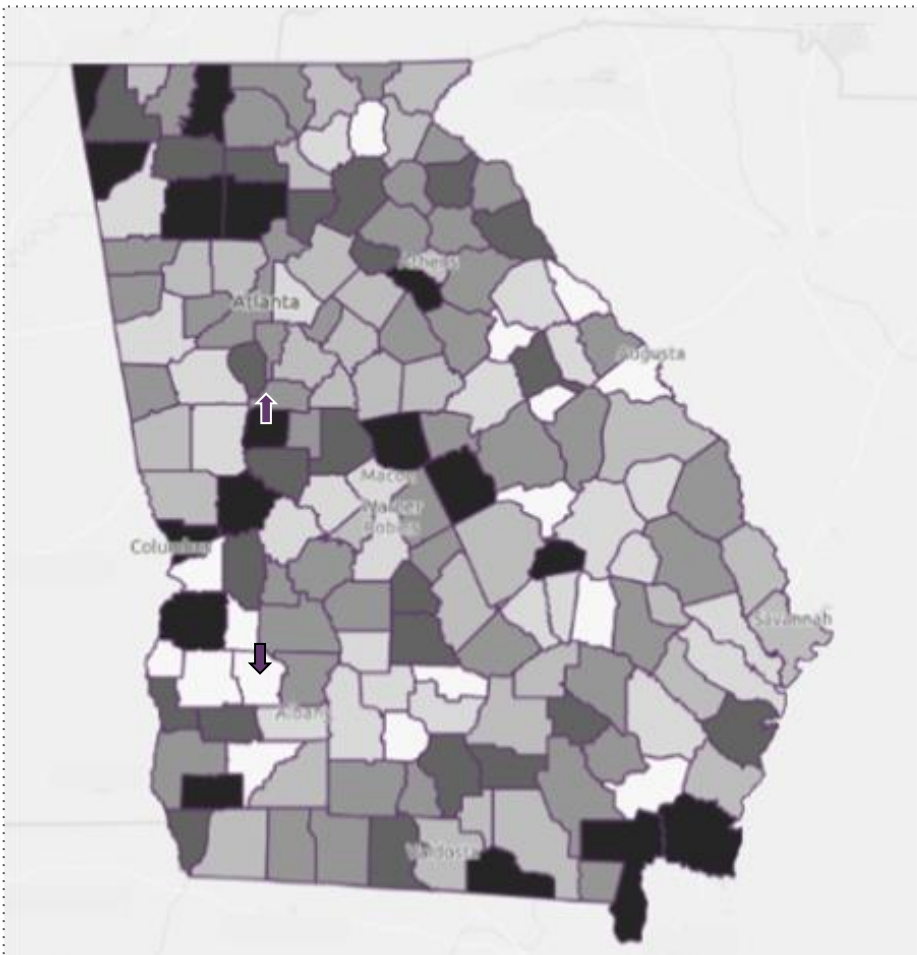
Police Action Taken in Family Violence Incidents 2018-2021



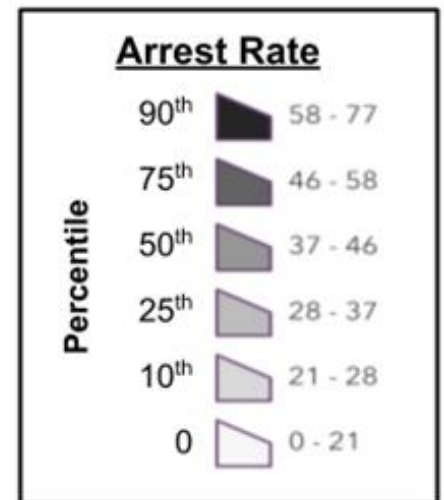
FAMILY VIOLENCE INCIDENTS: STATE OF GEORGIA (2018-2021)

ARREST RATE IN FAMILY VIOLENCE INCIDENTS

Despite the uniformity of state law, arrest rates in reported family violence incidents varied widely by county. Examining a county's family violence incident arrest rate over a given time period can offer insight into the policies and practices impacting the police response to family violence. Georgia's average (50th percentile) arrest rate in reported incidents of family violence is 34%. On the map, darker colors indicate counties with arrest rates higher than the state average, and counties shaded with lighter colors were below the state average. Between 2018-2021, Pike County had the highest arrest rate in family violence incidents, at 76% (denoted by ↑), while Terrell County's arrest rate was the lowest, at 8% (denoted by ↓).



Arrest Rate in Family Violence Incidents 2018-2021



CRITICAL QUESTIONS

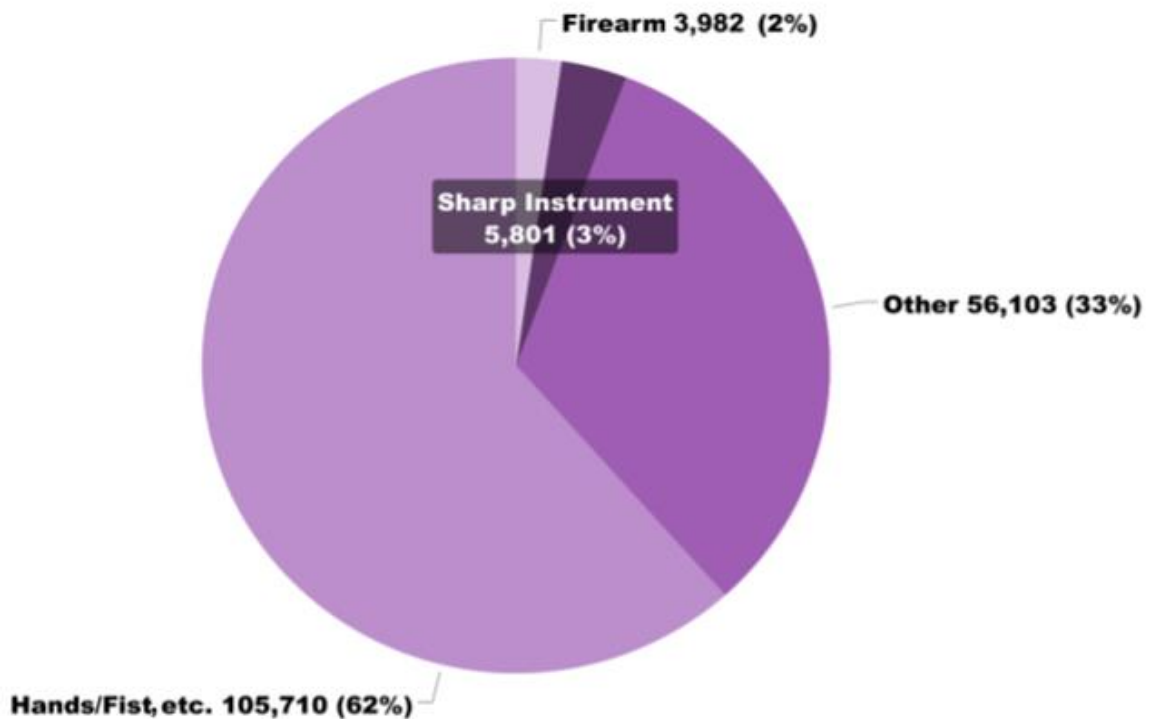
Look up your county's arrest rate in Appendix A (p. 27-31). What percentile does your county fall within? What factors might contribute to a high or low arrest rate in your county?

FAMILY VIOLENCE INCIDENTS: STATE OF GEORGIA (2018-2021)

WEAPON TYPE IN FAMILY VIOLENCE INCIDENTS

Sixty-two percent of family violence incidents reported between 2018-2021 identify the abuser's hands, fists, or other body part as the weapon type used. Other weapons, such as household objects, were the second most identified weapon type used, at 33%. Firearms (2%) and sharp instruments (3%) were the least involved weapon types in reported family violence incidents during the four-year period. The use of a weapon in a nonfatal family violence incident can signal risk of escalating violence to the victim, bystanders, and responders. The elevated risk should alert all involved that additional safety planning and other harm-reduction measures are needed.

Weapon Type in Family Violence Incidents 2018-2021



RESOURCES

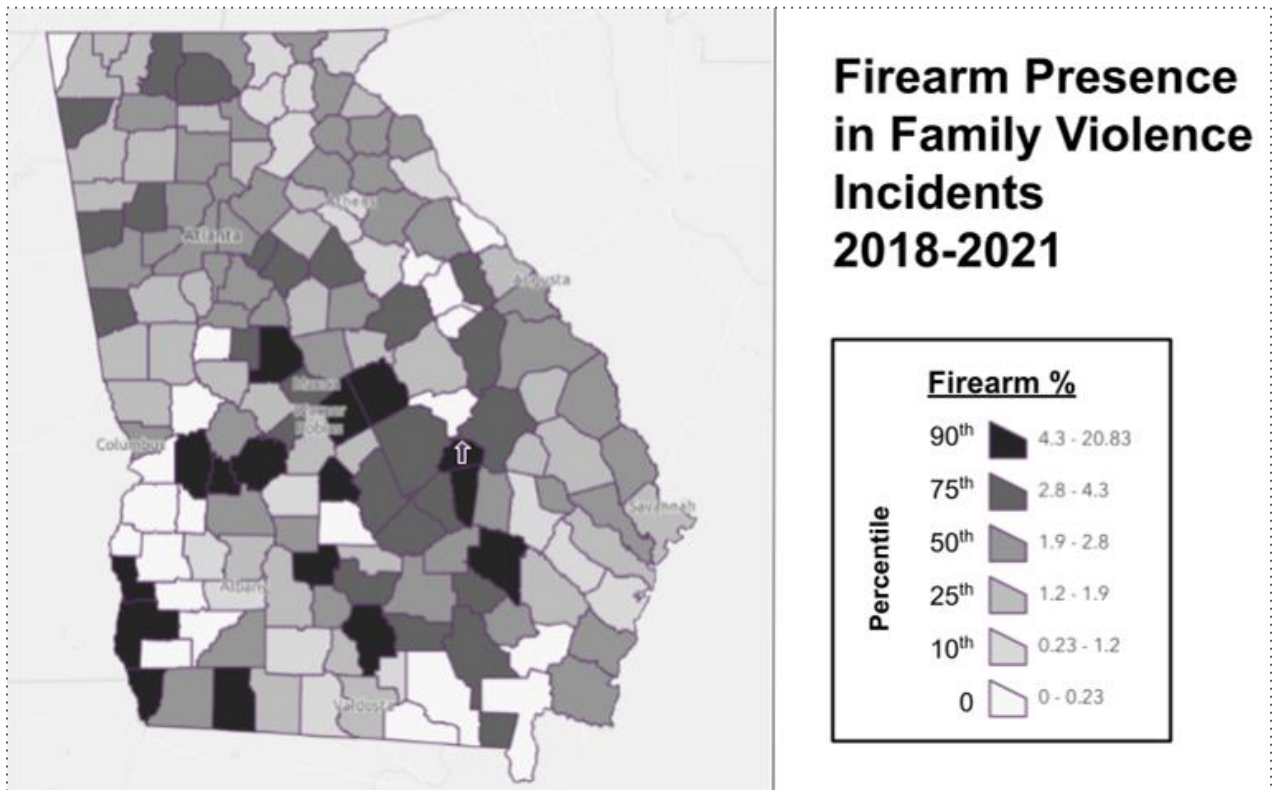
Appropriately assessing escalating risks, such as using or threatening to use a weapon, is vital to successful intervention in family violence incidents. Evidenced-based risk assessment tools, like the Lethality Assessment Program (LAP), are an effective component of homicide prevention when used by first responders.³

Information about the LAP is available at bit.ly/MNADV-LAP.

FAMILY VIOLENCE INCIDENTS: STATE OF GEORGIA (2018-2021)

FIREARM PRESENCE IN FAMILY VIOLENCE INCIDENTS

Firearms were present on average in 2% of reported family violence incidents in Georgia, between 2018-2021. It is well established that the presence of a firearm significantly increases the likelihood that violence will escalate to homicide.⁴ **Family violence incidents involving a firearm pose a significant threat to public safety because in addition to the primary victim, there is heightened risk that a bystander, law enforcement official, and or the abuser could be seriously injured or killed.** Therefore, evaluating and adopting policies and practices that limit family violence abusers' access to firearms is essential. The map shows the four-year average rate of family violence incidents where a firearm was present in each Georgia county. The darker colors represent counties above the statewide average and lighter colors reflect a below average rate. Twenty-one Georgia counties reported zero family violence incidents involving firearms, while Treutlen County's 21% rate (denoted by ↑) was far above the 2% statewide average.



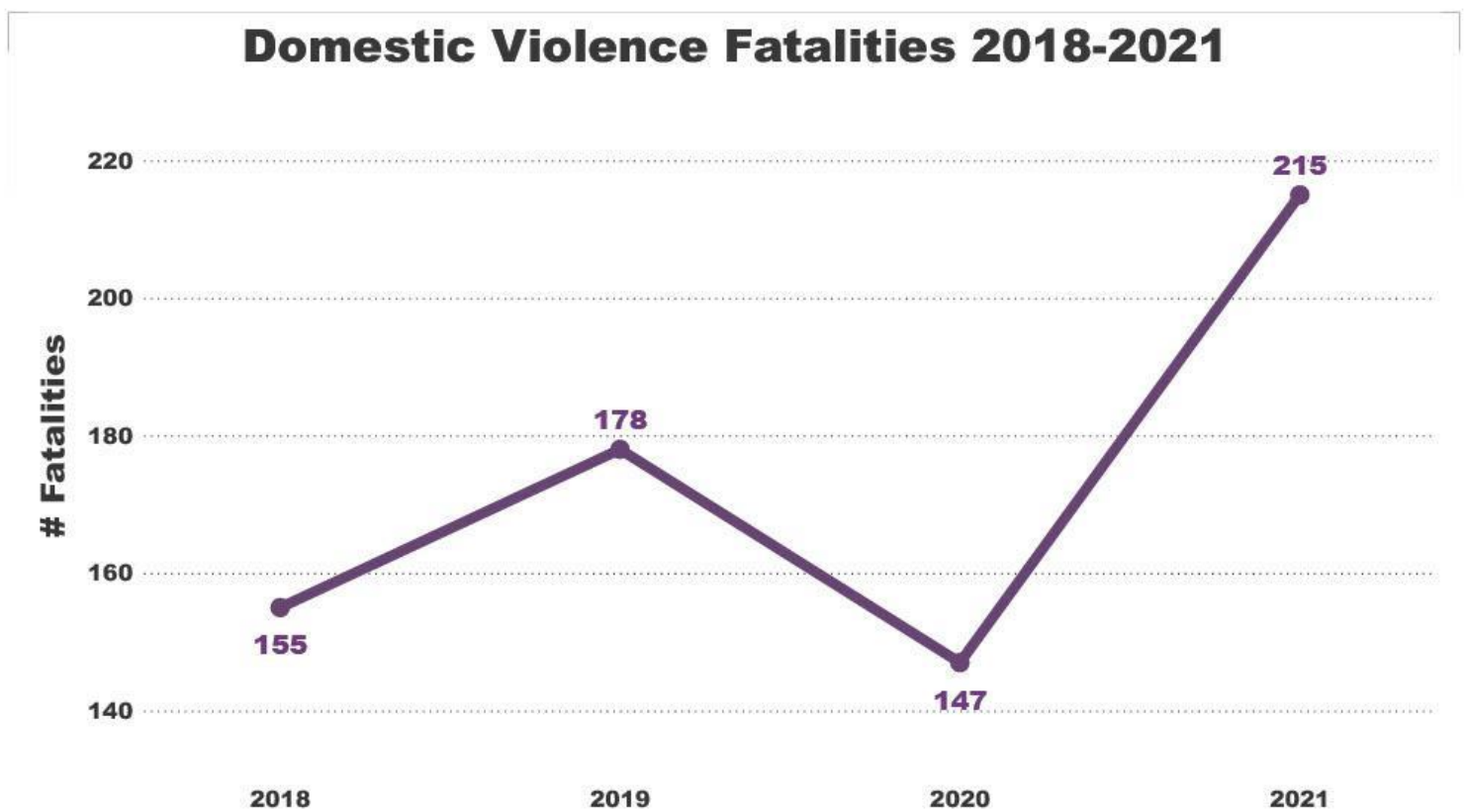
CRITICAL QUESTIONS

Look up your county's firearm presence in Appendix A (p. 27-31). How does your county compare to the rate of firearm presence in family violence incidents statewide and in counties similar to yours?

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE FATALITIES: STATE OF GEORGIA (2018-2021)

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE FATALITIES

Over the four-year period examined, less than 1% of all reported incidents resulted in fatal violence. However, 1% represents 554 fatal domestic violence incidents and 695 associated deaths. This means **approximately every two days, someone in Georgia dies in a domestic violence incident**. The graph below shows a 39% increase in fatalities over the four-year period. In-depth reviews of domestic violence fatalities can provide valuable insight into the dynamics of abuse and inform needed changes in local and statewide policies and responses to reduce future domestic violence fatalities.



Family Violence Incidents include both familial and intimate relationships.

Domestic Violence Fatalities includes only intimate partner relationships.

CRITICAL QUESTIONS

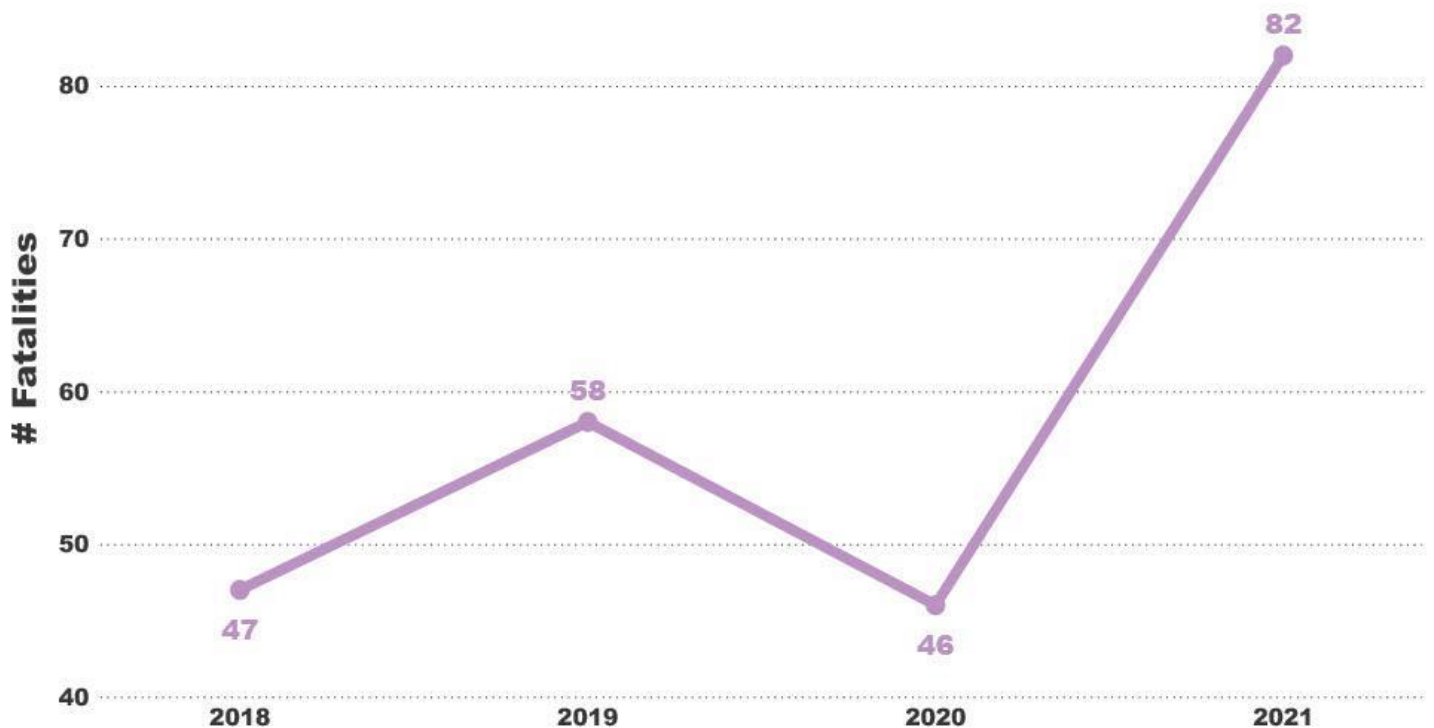
What factors might be contributing to the increase in domestic violence fatalities in Georgia over the four-year reporting period? Why might reported family violence incidents be decreasing (see p. 5) in the same period when domestic violence fatalities are increasing?

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE FATALITIES: STATE OF GEORGIA (2018-2021)

MURDER-SUICIDE FATALITIES

The intersection of murder-suicide incidents and domestic violence is a significant problem in Georgia.⁵ Annually, murder-suicide incidents are responsible for more than one third of all domestic violence fatalities. **Between 2018-2021, deaths due to domestic violence murder-suicide incidents rose 75%.** During this four-year period, 233 people were killed in a murder-suicide incident.

Murder-Suicide Fatalities 2018-2021



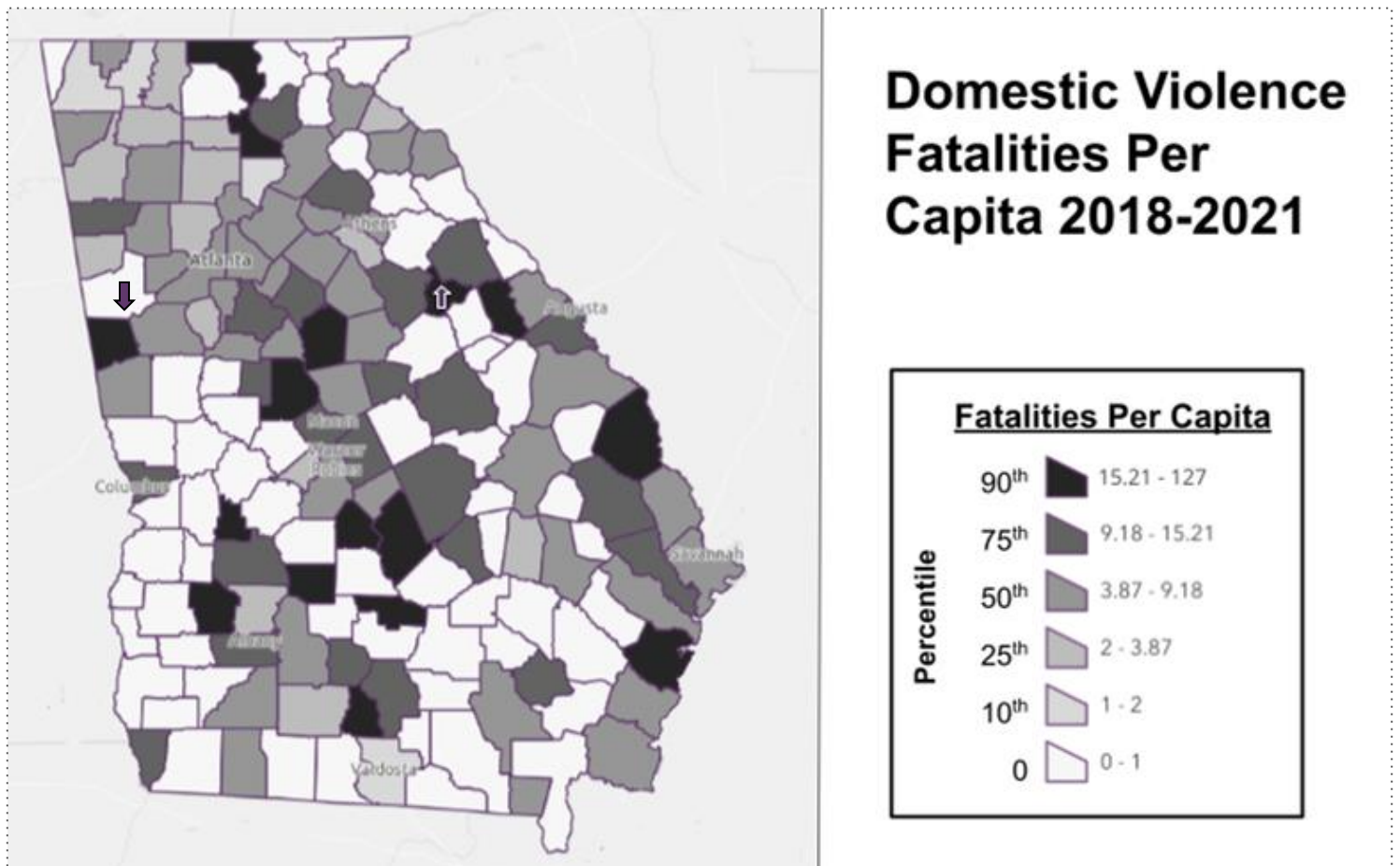
RESOURCES

In response to rising murder-suicide incidents in Georgia, GCFV offers specialized advocacy services and support groups for loved ones left behind through the Support for Survivors of Murder-Suicide Project. Information about these services is available at gcfv.georgia.gov/ssms.

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE FATALITIES: STATE OF GEORGIA (2018-2021)

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE FATALITIES PER CAPITA

The rate of domestic violence fatalities in the statewide population is a starting point for evaluating these incidents at a local county level. **Georgia averaged seven domestic violence fatalities per capita statewide, between 2018-2021.**² On the map, darker colors indicate domestic violence fatalities at a higher rate per capita than the state average, and lighter colors indicate a rate lower than average. There were 61 counties statewide with no known domestic violence fatalities during the four-year period. Carroll County had the lowest non-zero rate of domestic violence fatalities, with one death per capita (denoted by ↓). On the opposite end of the spectrum, Taliaferro County had the highest rate of domestic violence fatalities per capita with 127 deaths per capita (denoted by ↑).



SIGNIFICANT FACTS

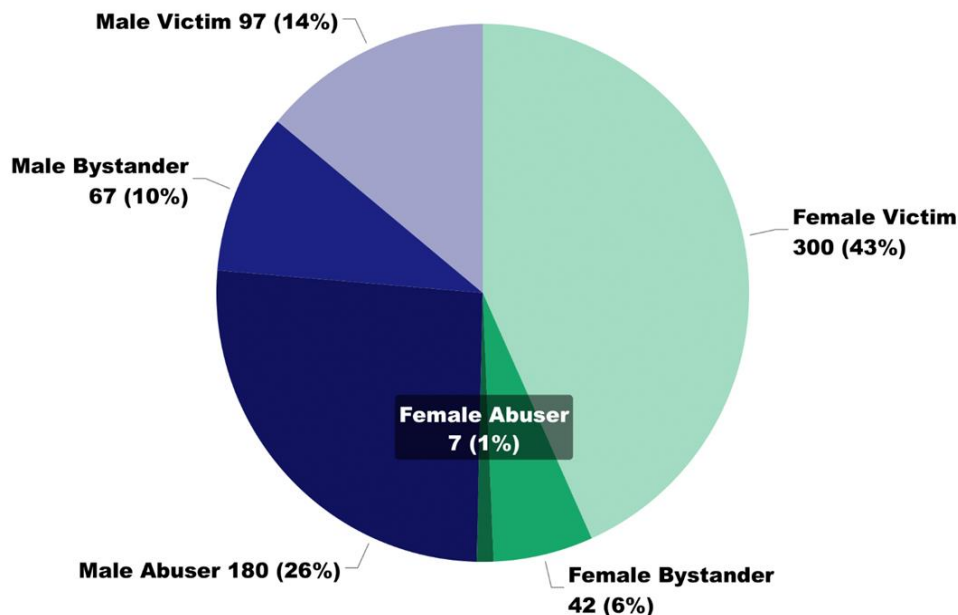
On average, less densely populated counties in Georgia experience higher rates of domestic violence fatalities per capita than the more densely populated counties statewide.⁶

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE FATALITIES: STATE OF GEORGIA (2018-2021)

GENDER AND ROLE IN DOMESTIC VIOLENCE FATALITIES

Georgia's domestic violence fatalities include both homicide and murder-suicide incidents. **In fatal domestic violence incidents statewide, male abusers killed more than five times as many people as female abusers, and female victims outnumber male victims three-to-one.** While the overall number of male (344) and female (349) fatalities in the incidents were relatively close, the majority of female fatalities were victims (86%) and the majority of male fatalities were abusers (52%). Further, the data shows that 109 male and five female abusers died by suicide. Suicide by male abusers accounted for nearly one third of the total fatalities among males and was a significant factor contributing to the fact that the total of male fatalities nearly equaled that of female fatalities. This highlights the need to integrate suicide prevention work into domestic violence intervention and prevention measures.

Gender and Role in Domestic Violence Fatalities 2018-2021



CRITICAL QUESTIONS

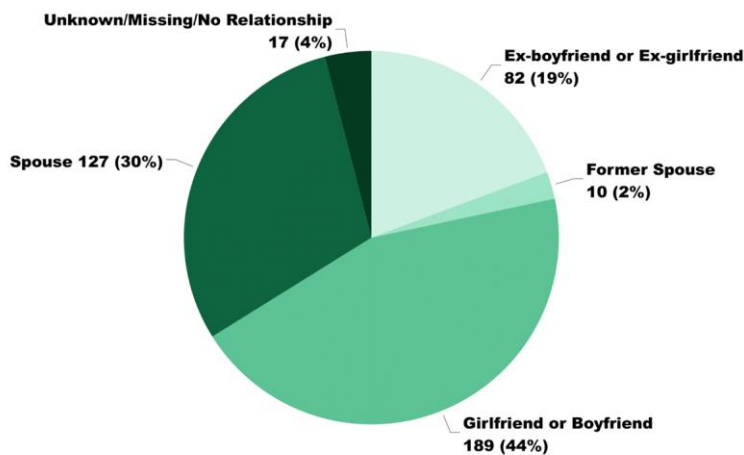
What factors might be contributing to the high number of male abuser fatalities by suicide? Look up your county's fatalities and murder-suicide fatalities in Appendix A (p. 27-31). How do these numbers compare? In addition to 9-8-8, what resources are available in your county for people experiencing suicide crisis?

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE FATALITIES: STATE OF GEORGIA (2018-2021)

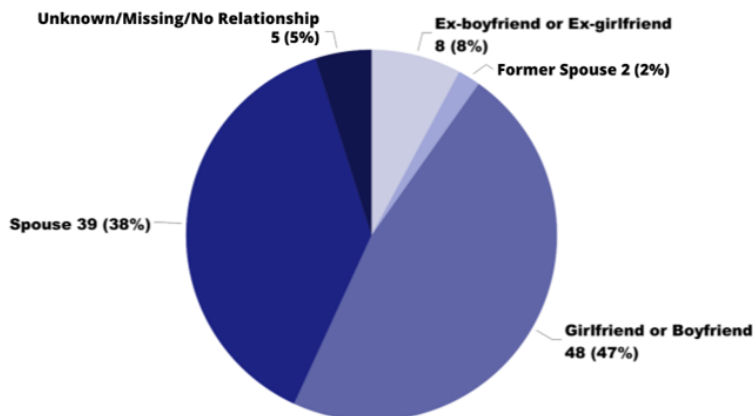
VICTIM-ABUSER RELATIONSHIPS IN DOMESTIC VIOLENCE FATALITIES

Nearly half of all domestic violence fatalities were committed by the victim's current boyfriend or girlfriend. This was the case for both male and female victims, at 47% and 44% respectively. An ex-boyfriend or ex-girlfriend was responsible for the deaths of 19% of female victims and 8% of male victims. Current and former spouses were the second largest category of abusers who killed their partners, accounting for 32% of female and 40% of male victims. It should be noted that findings from GCFV's prior in-depth fatality reviews, as well as prominent research in the field, have shown that fatal incidents are often preceded by the victim planning, attempting, or signaling their intent to leave the relationship.^{7,8}

Victim-Abuser Relationships in Female Victim Domestic Violence Fatalities 2018-2021



Victim-Abuser Relationships in Male Victim Domestic Violence Fatalities 2018-2021



RESOURCES

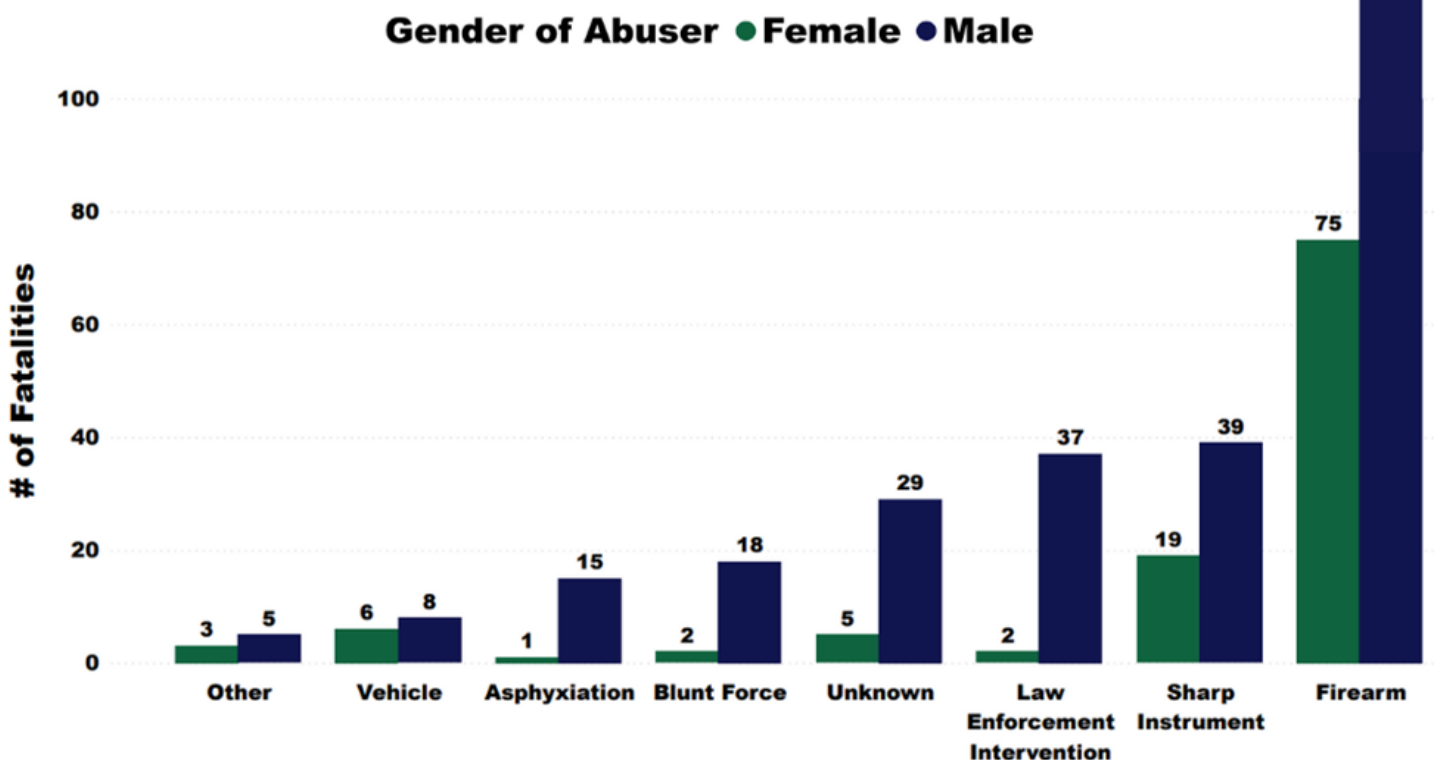
Victims in Georgia can access supportive services including safety planning, shelter, and advocacy 24 hours a day in both English and Spanish by calling the Statewide Domestic Violence Hotline at 1-800-33-HAVEN (1-800-334-2836)

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE FATALITIES: STATE OF GEORGIA (2018-2021)

WEAPON TYPE USED BY ABUSERS IN DOMESTIC VIOLENCE FATALITIES BY GENDER

An abusive partner with access to any weapon can create a lethal situation. However, firearms are consistently the most used and the most deadly weapon in fatal domestic violence incidents. **A firearm was the cause of death in 78% of domestic violence fatalities statewide between 2018-2021.** During that four-year period, a male abuser with a firearm was responsible for 468 deaths, amounting to 85% of deaths by firearm, and a female abuser with a firearm was responsible for 75 deaths. The number of fatalities by firearm eclipsed the combined total of every other weapon type by nearly three-to-one.

Weapon Type Used by Abusers in Domestic Violence Fatalities by Gender 2018-2021



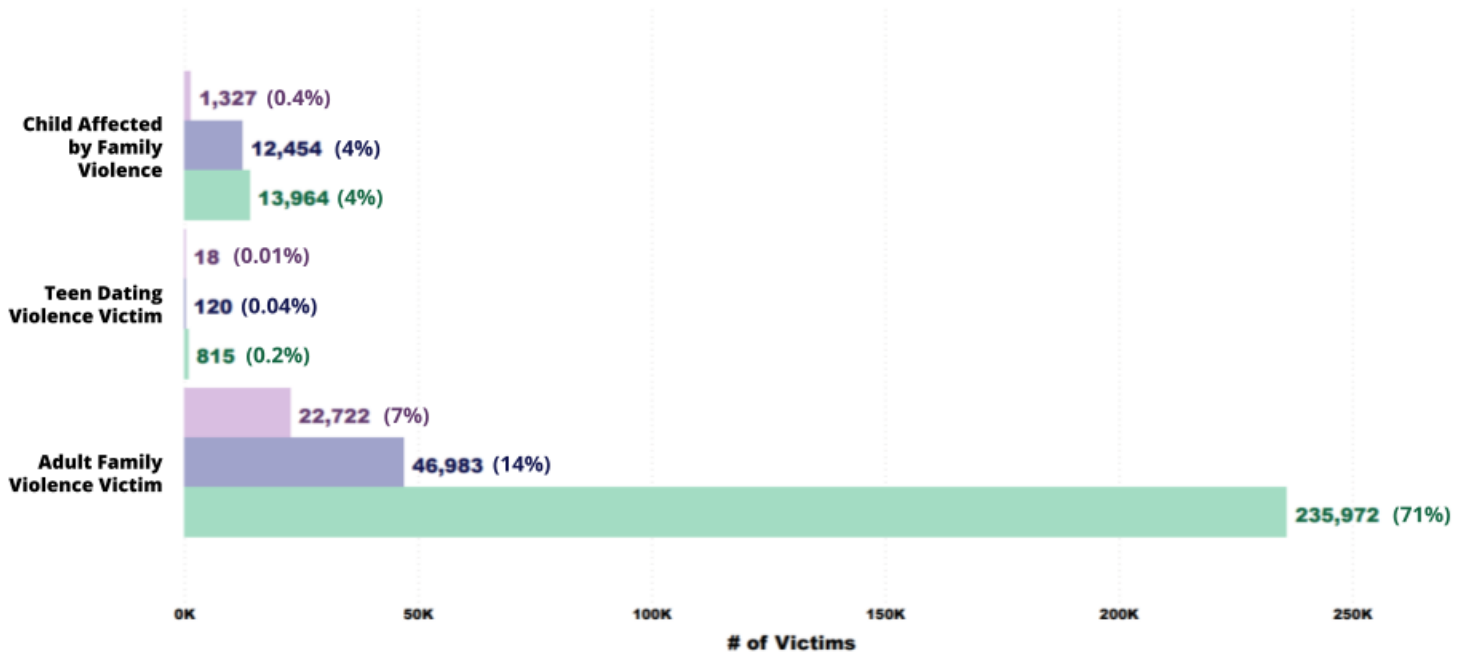
FAMILY VIOLENCE SERVICES: STATE OF GEORGIA (2018-2021)

FAMILY VIOLENCE VICTIMS SERVED BY AGE GROUP AND GENDER

Georgia's state-certified family violence programs served 381,358 victims from 2018-2021. Adult females were the largest victim group to receive services from family violence programs (71%). Females also comprised the largest category of victims in family violence incidents (72%). While the rates of victims in reported incidents and those served are highly correlated, the volume differs significantly (see p. 8). Nearly twice as many victims were served by a family violence program as were included in reported incidents. This data also indicates the need to evaluate access to and resources available for all victim groups relative to their share of reported victimization given discrepancies such as adult males representing 27% of victims in reported incidents, but just 14% of victims served by family violence programs during the four-year period.

Family Violence Victims Served by Age and Gender 2018-2021

Gender of Victim ● Unknown ● Male ● Female



RESOURCES

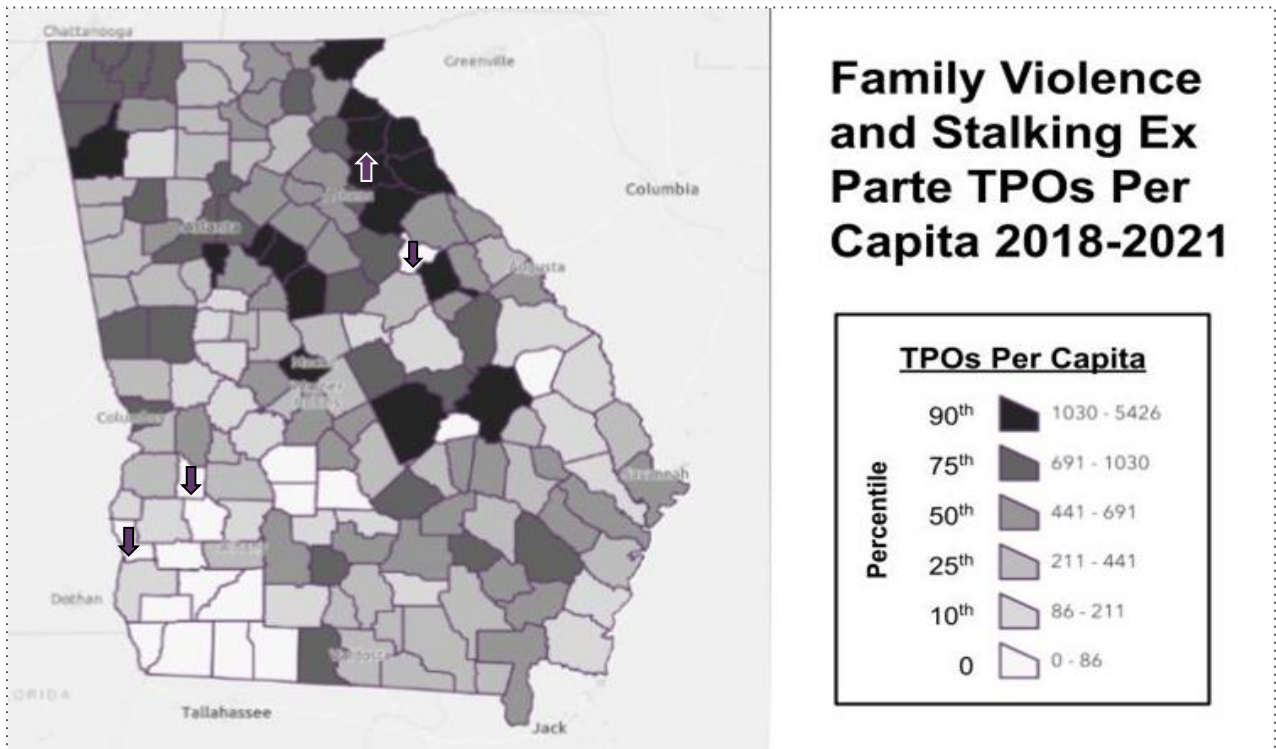
In 2023, Georgia has 48 state-certified family violence programs statewide. These programs offer a variety of services to victims of all ages, genders, racial and cultural backgrounds, and sexual orientations. A list of programs is maintained by the Georgia Criminal Justice Coordinating Council and is available on their website at bit.ly/family_violence_programs

FAMILY VIOLENCE SERVICES: STATE OF GEORGIA (2018-2021)

FAMILY VIOLENCE AND STALKING EX PARTE TEMPORARY PROTECTIVE ORDERS

Temporary Protective Order (TPOs) can be an effective tool for preventing future violence. Studies show that their effectiveness depends on the comprehensiveness of relief granted, coupled with how well the orders are enforced.⁹ Given this, TPOs are a helpful marker for assessing the health of local practices and attitudes concerning the appropriate systemic response to family violence incidents. **There were 115,312 Family Violence and Stalking TPOs granted statewide in the four-year reporting period.** Other types of TPOs exist in Georgia, however these two types of TPOs specifically relate to family violence incidents.

The number of Ex Parte TPOs granted per capita is one indicator of the overall health of the community response to family violence. Ex Parte TPOs are emergency orders issued when a person goes before a judge, without the participation of the other party, seeking relief from abusive or stalking behavior. **In Georgia Ex Parte TPOs were granted at an average rate of 652 orders per capita (50th percentile).**² The map below displays average Ex Parte TPOs granted per capita. The darker shades indicate counties with rates above the state average and the lighter shades have rates below the state average. Clay, Taliaferro, and Webster Counties issued zero protective orders during the four-year period (denoted by↓). Madison County had the highest Ex Parte TPO rate at 5,426 Ex Parte TPOs per capita (denoted by↑).

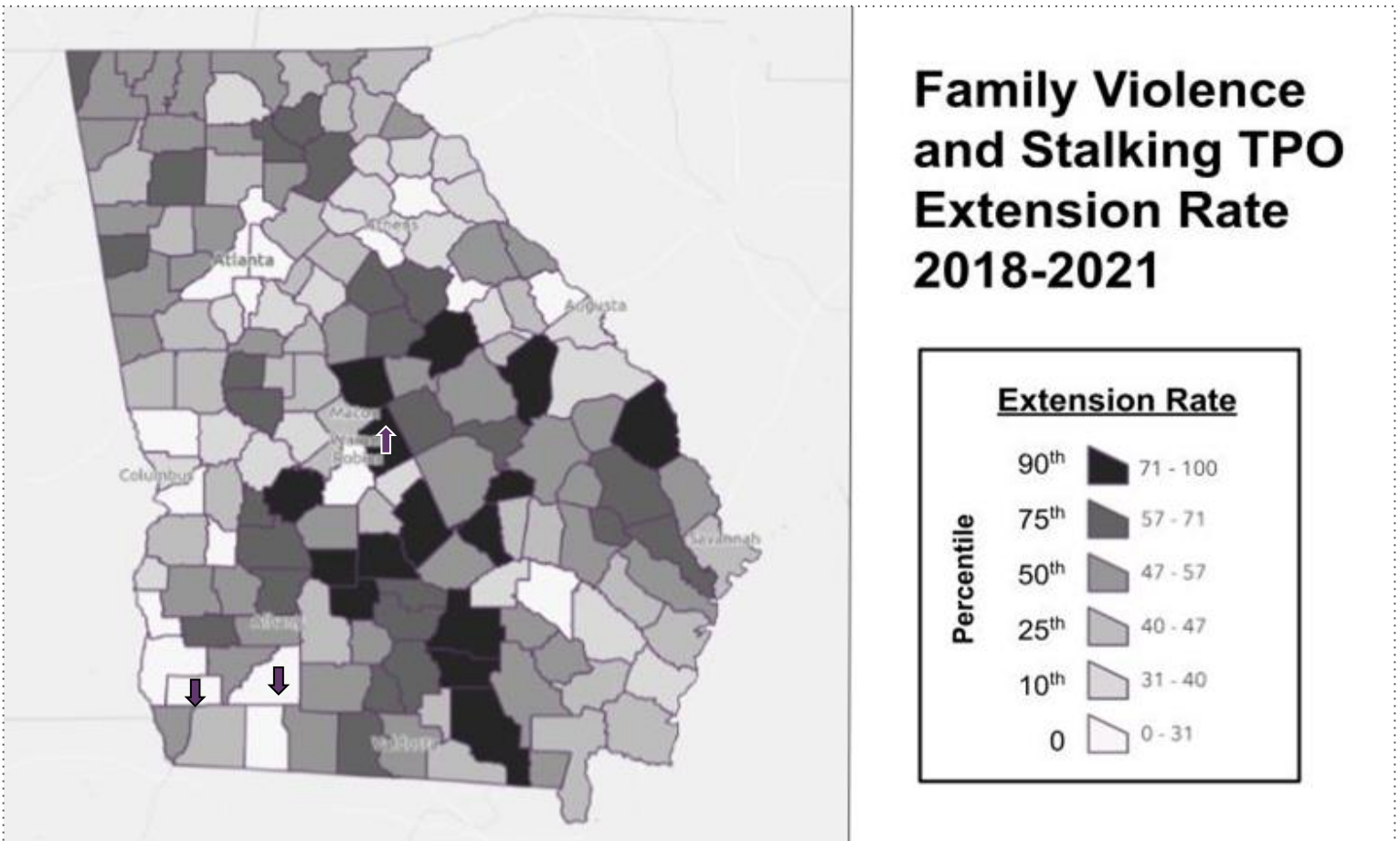


Order Type	Ex Parte TPO	6-Month TPO	12-Month TPO	3-Year TPO	Miscellaneous/ Criminal Order	Total TPOs (All Types)
Family Violence	50,693	1,676	18,073	1,020	14,340	85,802
Stalking	20,473	658	7,322	457	600	29,510

FAMILY VIOLENCE SERVICES: STATE OF GEORGIA (2018-2021)

FAMILY VIOLENCE AND STALKING TEMPORARY PROTECTIVE ORDERS EXTENSION RATE

The length of time a TPO stays in effect contributes to a victim's safety, with longer-term orders associated with positive outcomes for victims.⁹ Thus, the rate at which Ex Parte TPOs are extended to 6-month or 12-month orders is another important indicator of the civil justice system's response to family violence. **Between 2018-2021 in Georgia, 39% of TPOs were extended from an Ex Parte to a longer-term order.** On the map, counties shaded in darker colors had extension rates above the state average, while counties shaded in lighter colors were below the state average. During the four-year period, Twiggs County had the highest TPO extension rate statewide at 95% (denoted by↑). Conversely, in both Miller and Mitchell Counties, no Ex Parte TPOs were extended (denoted by↓).



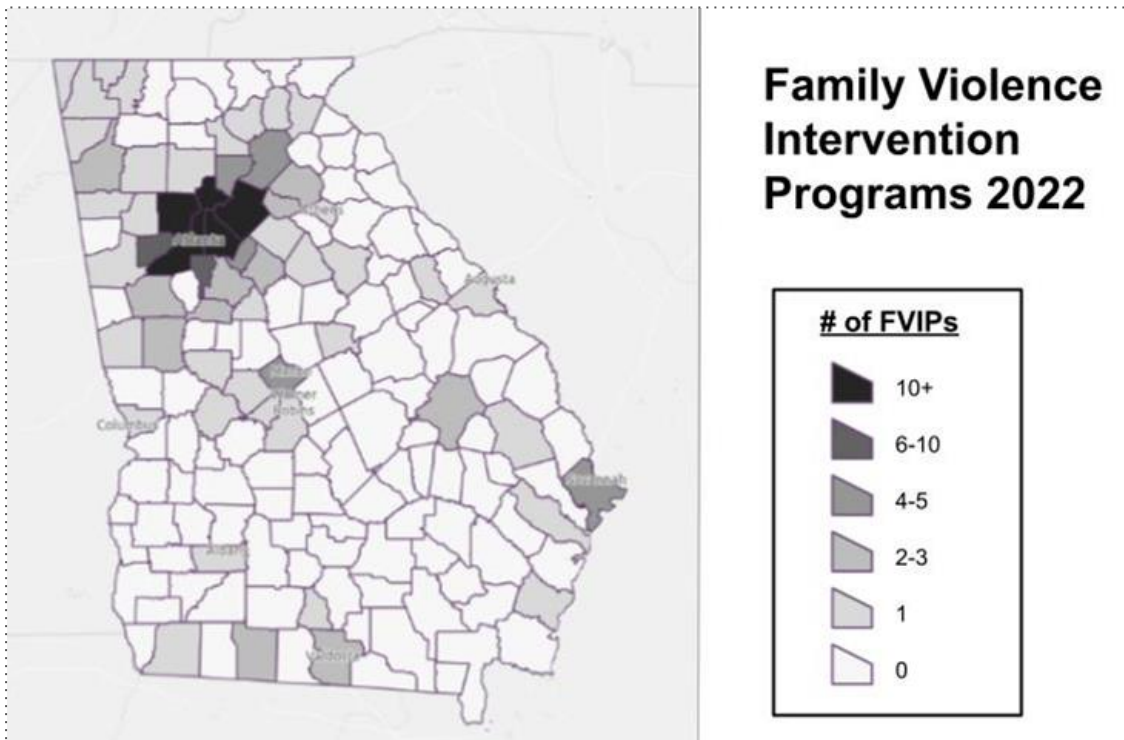
CRITICAL QUESTIONS

Using Appendix A (p. 27-31), find your county's TPO extension rate. How does your county compare to other counties immediately surrounding it and to those with a similar population size or demographics? What do these comparisons suggest to you about TPOs in your community?

FAMILY VIOLENCE SERVICES: STATE OF GEORGIA (2018-2021)

FAMILY VIOLENCE INTERVENTION PROGRAMS

Family Violence Intervention Programs (FVIPs) are 24-week psychoeducational classes available in Georgia for people who use violence in intimate partner relationships. Georgia law requires judges to order a person to FVIP in three instances: 1) when sentencing a defendant convicted for a family violence offense, 2) during probation revocation for committing an act of family violence, or 3) when imposing a family violence TPO.¹⁰ FVIP is an important accountability and rehabilitation tool, therefore it is vital to ensure adequate accessibility to programs throughout the state. Tracking program concentration statewide provides direct information about the accountability challenges and barriers some jurisdictions face. The lighter shades on the map represent areas with few or no FVIP programs, while darker shades are areas with higher concentrations of programs available. **As of April 2023, there are no certified FVIPs in 13 judicial circuits.** This creates a significant barrier for courts in those jurisdictions to ensure appropriate accountability measures in family violence cases. As a result, some areas of the state are missing a key accountability tool for responding to family violence and improving safety for victims.



SIGNIFICANT FACTS

In Georgia there are currently 100 state-certified Family Violence Intervention Programs (FVIP) and 169 certified FVIP facilitators which host in-person and virtual group classes designed to rehabilitate abusers.

SUMMARY

GCFV is committed to ending family violence in Georgia. Awareness, intervention, and prevention best practices in family violence response continue to evolve, and the need for thorough data analysis on family violence incidents, domestic violence fatalities, law enforcement actions, court outcomes, and available services are integral to that effort. GCFV will continue to collect and analyze Georgia's family violence data, publish reports, and provide training for stakeholders statewide. However, using data to understand the family violence problem in Georgia is only a part of the solution.

Reducing family violence in our communities, requires a collaborative, community-led approach that supports victims, holds abusers accountable, and ultimately saves lives. Law enforcement agencies must be adequately staffed and trained to understand the dynamics of family violence and how to investigate the issue to identify the predominant aggressor and take appropriate action on the scene.

Civil and criminal courts must adopt best practices designed to give victims confidence that they will be protected and abusers will be held accountable. Temporary protective orders should be granted with appropriate and comprehensive remedies, and consequences for violations must be swiftly and consistently enforced. Further, victim services programs and Family Violence Intervention Programs for abusers must be widely available, accessible, and adequately funded.

Family violence is inexcusable and preventable. To address this issue Georgia must pursue victim safety and abuser accountability with equal measure. Communities must identify and correct inconsistencies and ineffective practices. Adopting evidence-based best practices will better support victims, hold abusers accountable, and save lives.

SUPPORT VICTIMS. HOLD ABUSERS ACCOUNTABLE. SAVE LIVES.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Project Staff

***Family Violence Statistics and Trends in the State of Georgia 2018-2021* was authored by Carolynn Brooks, Samar Abdelmageed, and Niki Lemeshka.**

All authors contributed to the report's conception and design. Carolynn Brooks, GCFV Fatality Review Coordinator, contributed to data interpretation, wrote the report draft, and finalized the report content. Samar Abdelmageed, GCFV Data Analyst, contributed to the data collection, analysis, and provided all data visualizations for the report. Niki Lemeshka, GCFV Program Manager, supervised the project and contributed content feedback and revisions.

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This report would not be possible without the financial support of the Criminal Justice Coordinating Council and the project support of GCFV staff and Commission members, particularly GCFV Executive Director April W. Ross.

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- District Attorney's Office Victim Witness Assistance Programs, county Medical Examiners Offices, law enforcement agencies, and domestic violence programs statewide
- The Criminal Justice Coordinating Council's Statistical Analysis Center

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DATA SOURCES

Family Violence Incidents (p. 5-12)

Reported family violence incident data was obtained from the Georgia Bureau of Investigation (GBI), the statewide administrator of the National Incident Based Reporting System (NIBRS). The statewide family violence incident data utilized by GCFV and presented in this report does not represent the true prevalence of family violence happening in Georgia. The data is understood to be an undercount because not all family violence incidents are reported to law enforcement and not all law enforcement agencies within the state are reporting family violence incidents in their jurisdiction to the GBI. Despite being an undercount, the family violence incident data set used for the analysis in this report is a representative snapshot of the state of family violence in Georgia and is an important aid for evaluating and examining family violence trends and systemic responses statewide and locally.

Domestic Violence Fatalities (p. 13-18)

GCFV uses media monitoring and other source tracking as a primary means to identify and collect domestic violence fatality incident data. Each incident is verified through state partners such as District Attorney's offices, Medical Examiner's offices, law enforcement agencies, and family violence programs.

In this report, the phrase "domestic violence fatality" is used to represent all incidents where one or more deaths stemmed from a violent event involving intimate partners. Domestic violence fatalities include incidents where: 1) one intimate partner kills the other; 2) an intimate partner dies by suicide during or immediately following a domestic violence incident; 3) a bystander is killed in the course of an active domestic violence incident; or 4) an intimate partner is killed by law enforcement responding to a domestic violence incident or in the course of serving a family violence warrant or protective order. The term "bystander" in the context of a domestic violence fatality most often refers to one of the following: a new partner/spouse; family member; friend; child; intervener, such as law enforcement; or an unrelated witness or member of the public.

The term "intimate partner" as used throughout this report includes current/former dating partners or current/former spouses. Georgia law uses the term "family violence" and enumerates the qualifying relationships included under it. Under Georgia law (O.C.G.A. § 19-13-1 et. seq.), dating partners are excluded from the definition unless they have a child together or have ever resided in the same household. Georgia's family law definition also includes familial relationships, which are not included in the domestic violence fatality data analyzed in this report.

Family Violence Services (p. 19-22)

The Statistical Analysis Center (SAC) of the Georgia Criminal Justice Coordinating Council (CJCC) provided family violence program data for this report. Family violence programs offer various services to victims of all ages, genders, racial and cultural backgrounds, and sexual orientations.

Data on Temporary Protective Orders (TPOs) was obtained from the Georgia Protective Order Registry, administered by the GBI's Georgia Crime Information Center (GCIC). The extension rate is determined by comparing the total of longer-term orders (6-month, 12-month) of each type (family violence, stalking) to the total number of Ex Parte orders of each type within the reporting period. GCFV acknowledges that the rate represents only a general trend. Individual case outcomes were not tracked and this method does not account for the factual variations in cases.

GCFV is the state agency that certifies and monitors Family Violence Intervention Programs (FVIPs) statewide and tracks data on FVIPs using a website portal populated by FVIP providers and staff members. FVIPs are 24-week psychoeducational programs designed to rehabilitate participants by emphasizing taking accountability for using violence and abusive behavior, while prioritizing victims' safety.

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APPENDIX A: FAMILY VIOLENCE DATA BY COUNTY

2018-2021		Family Violence Incidents				Domestic Violence Fatalities				Family Violence Services				
County	Population	Number of Incidents	Incidents Per Capita	Arrest Rate	Percent of Incidents w/Firearm Presence	Number of Fatalities	Fatalities Per Capita	Firearms as Cause of Death	Murder-Suicide Fatalities	Number of FV Programs Serving County	Number of FVIP Programs Serving County	Number of Ex Parte TPOs Granted	Ex Parte TPOs Per Capita	TPO Extension Rate
Appling	18,509	165	891	48%	5.5%	0	0	N/A	0	1	0	17	384	31%
Atkinson	8,269	48	580	56%	4.2%	0	0	N/A	0	1	0	1	181	88%
Bacon	11,163	195	1,747	55%	4.1%	0	0	N/A	0	1	0	17	753	49%
Baker	2,928	0	N/A	N/A	N/A	0	0	N/A	0	1	0	1	72	50%
Baldwin	43,876	1,058	2,411	41%	1.9%	5	11	80%	2	1	1	4	152	52%
Banks	18,061	149	825	51%	3.4%	0	0	N/A	0	1	0	37	1,002	40%
Barrow	82,138	453	552	51%	1.5%	4	5	0%	2	1	3	165	654	35%
Bartow	107,868	1,455	1,349	64%	1.9%	10	9	90%	3	1	1	67	203	58%
Ben Hill	17,237	1,081	6,271	20%	1.3%	4	23	100%	4	1	0	11	205	66%
Berrien	18,195	53	291	58%	5.7%	2	11	100%	0	1	0	12	335	71%
Bibb	156,711	510	325	25%	4.1%	23	15	74%	4	1	5	441	1,116	47%
Bleckley	12,562	110	876	39%	1.8%	1	8	0%	0	1	0	9	489	36%
Brantley	18,072	148	819	18%	0.0%	0	0	N/A	0	1	0	15	619	43%
Brooks	16,254	180	1,107	77%	1.1%	0	0	N/A	0	1	0	36	736	58%
Bryan	43,278	708	1,636	26%	2.1%	6	14	67%	2	1	0	3	88	61%
Bulloch	79,635	849	1,066	46%	1.4%	8	10	88%	3	1	1	26	147	69%
Burke	24,231	323	1,333	37%	2.5%	1	4	100%	0	1	0	9	185	36%
Butts	24,950	455	1,824	34%	2.0%	2	8	0%	2	1	1	45	644	44%
Calhoun	5,668	4	71	100%	0.0%	0	0	N/A	0	1	0	2	56	67%
Camden	54,256	47	87	62%	2.1%	3	6	100%	1	1	0	12	142	40%
Candler	10,885	148	1,360	30%	2.0%	0	0	N/A	0	1	0	7	383	47%
Carroll	118,402	5,658	4,779	26%	2.4%	1	1	0%	0	1	1	183	398	48%
Catoosa	67,579	1,526	2,258	39%	1.8%	3	4	100%	2	1	1	101	762	55%
Charlton	12,416	64	515	75%	0.0%	0	0	N/A	0	1	0	13	636	43%
Chatham	294,815	1,858	630	36%	1.9%	23	8	78%	12	1	5	371	556	42%
Chattahoochee	9,533	0	N/A	N/A	N/A	0	0	N/A	0	1	0	7	347	18%
Chattooga	24,898	162	651	71%	3.1%	1	4	100%	0	1	1	51	840	50%
Cherokee	262,155	1,771	676	64%	2.1%	9	3	100%	3	1	1	249	318	43%
Clarke*	128,195	9,344	7,289	42%	1.2%	11	9	82%	0	1	1	353	826	40%
Clay	2,883	34	1,179	65%	5.9%	0	0	N/A	0	1	0	0	0	N/A
Clayton	294,335	6,298	2,140	50%	3.4%	26	9	85%	5	1	8	1,545	1,416	30%
Clinch	6,737	65	965	35%	0.0%	0	0	N/A	0	1	0	6	267	95%
Cobb	762,500	12,717	1,668	37%	2.2%	29	4	76%	8	2	14	630	416	48%
Coffee	43,048	463	1,076	44%	2.8%	0	0	N/A	0	1	0	4	654	100%
Colquitt	45,800	495	1,081	42%	1.0%	1	2	0%	0	2	0	29	202	48%
GEORGIA	10,625,615	180,804	1,702	34%	2.3%	695	7	78%	233	48	171	18,682	652	39%

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Columbia	154,274	890	577	43%	1.5%	11	7	82%	6	1	0	125	337	31%
Cook	17,188	213	1,239	41%	1.4%	3	17	0%	0	1	1	11	296	68%
Coweta	144,928	2,815	1,942	26%	1.7%	8	6	100%	4	1	3	158	283	45%
Crawford	12,159	418	3,438	32%	1.9%	0	0	N/A	0	1	1	15	507	40%
Crisp	20,524	809	3,942	28%	2.5%	3	15	100%	0	1	0	6	82	83%
Dade	16,313	6	37	67%	0.0%	0	0	N/A	0	1	1	27	538	60%
Dawson	26,202	419	1,599	31%	1.9%	5	19	100%	4	1	1	38	462	70%
Decatur	29,020	742	2,557	36%	2.3%	0	0	N/A	0	1	1	1	27	44%
Dekalb	758,634	20,800	2,742	28%	3.1%	65	9	72%	13	3	22	1,978	942	25%
Dodge	20,089	389	1,936	30%	3.3%	4	20	50%	2	1	0	14	409	87%
Dooly	11,546	63	546	98%	1.6%	0	0	N/A	0	1	0	4	86	56%
Dougherty	86,825	5,072	5,842	28%	1.4%	9	10	89%	2	1	1	100	376	50%
Douglas	143,520	2,393	1,667	40%	2.4%	9	6	67%	3	1	6	225	623	48%
Early	10,813	207	1,914	47%	6.8%	0	0	N/A	0	1	0	4	129	13%
Echols	3,691	18	488	78%	0.0%	0	0	N/A	0	1	0	2	248	46%
Effingham	63,448	490	772	42%	2.9%	4	6	75%	2	1	0	30	260	53%
Elbert	19,453	448	2,303	65%	1.1%	0	0	N/A	0	1	0	112	2,227	33%
Emanuel	22,739	98	431	45%	5.1%	2	9	100%	0	1	2	93	1,938	47%
Evans	10,761	39	362	31%	2.6%	0	0	N/A	0	1	0	7	485	61%
Fannin	25,198	554	2,199	45%	2.0%	7	28	100%	7	1	0	22	320	48%
Fayette	117,828	848	720	56%	1.9%	4	3	25%	1	1	0	101	364	39%
Floyd	98,210	1,467	1,494	28%	1.7%	2	2	100%	0	1	2	657	2,532	41%
Forsyth	245,754	2,697	1,097	50%	1.2%	5	2	60%	2	1	4	295	347	49%
Franklin	23,256	230	989	53%	2.6%	2	9	50%	0	1	0	102	1,612	33%
Fulton	1,054,286	6,933	658	39%	2.8%	73	7	78%	20	2	20	3,071	939	28%
Gilmer	31,047	604	1,945	49%	4.3%	0	0	N/A	0	1	0	29	344	35%
Glascok	2,903	1	34	0%	0.0%	0	0	N/A	0	1	0	2	492	42%
Glynn	84,373	2,529	2,997	35%	2.0%	5	6	60%	0	1	1	14	103	38%
Gordon	57,274	1,595	2,785	51%	2.5%	2	3	50%	0	1	0	76	486	56%
Grady	26,076	346	1,327	46%	4.9%	2	8	100%	0	1	0	0	11	17%
Greene	18,461	91	493	52%	1.1%	2	11	100%	2	1	1	22	692	69%
Gwinnett	948,505	17,587	1,854	30%	2.1%	41	4	71%	16	2	16	1,436	582	43%
Habersham	45,767	895	1,956	37%	2.0%	2	4	0%	0	1	1	92	691	46%
Hall	201,703	2,223	1,102	84%	1.5%	19	9	79%	14	1	5	145	254	61%
Hancock	8,652	107	1,237	26%	3.7%	0	0	N/A	0	1	0	8	337	79%
GEORGIA	10,625,615	180,804	1,702	34%	2.3%	695	7	78%	233	48	171	18,682	652	39%

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Haralson	29,685	597	2,011	45%	4.4%	1	3	100%	0	1	0	36	219	65%
Harris	34,316	292	851	42%	1.7%	0	0	N/A	0	1	0	62	440	31%
Hart	25,808	740	2,867	42%	3.1%	2	8	50%	0	1	0	154	2,011	34%
Heard	11,440	322	2,815	48%	4.7%	2	17	50%	0	1	0	18	433	57%
Henry	236,615	3,442	1,455	39%	2.6%	23	10	83%	6	1	3	387	566	38%
Houston	161,177	6,495	4,030	27%	1.4%	9	6	89%	3	1	1	201	655	22%
Inwin	9,615	239	2,486	22%	3.3%	0	0	N/A	0	1	0	12	598	68%
Jackson	73,839	1,123	1,521	45%	2.4%	9	12	89%	5	1	2	155	676	38%
Jasper	14,478	211	1,457	31%	1.9%	3	21	100%	2	1	0	46	1,114	54%
Jeff Davis	14,753	74	502	76%	5.4%	0	0	N/A	0	1	0	13	523	36%
Jefferson	15,708	134	853	38%	3.0%	0	0	N/A	0	1	0	31	776	72%
Jenkins	8,693	55	633	24%	1.8%	0	0	N/A	0	1	0	2	69	50%
Johnson	9,272	0	N/A	N/A	N/A	0	0	N/A	0	1	0	14	764	62%
Jones	28,297	288	1,018	63%	2.1%	2	7	50%	1	1	0	20	350	71%
Lamar	18,482	99	536	47%	4.0%	2	11	100%	0	1	0	10	308	43%
Lanier	9,874	256	2,593	36%	0.8%	0	0	N/A	0	1	0	5	366	46%
Laurens	49,202	796	1,618	30%	3.9%	6	12	83%	0	1	0	168	1,339	51%
Lee	32,547	924	2,839	42%	1.5%	1	3	100%	0	1	0	8	114	64%
Liberty	64,334	2,403	3,735	23%	1.7%	6	9	83%	2	1	1	103	584	52%
Lincoln	7,686	0	N/A	N/A	N/A	0	0	N/A	0	1	0	16	446	53%
Long	16,398	236	1,439	59%	1.7%	0	0	N/A	0	1	0	32	606	45%
Lowndes	117,437	1,200	1,022	35%	1.3%	2	2	50%	0	1	2	63	302	53%
Lumpkin	33,188	108	325	28%	0.9%	4	12	100%	3	1	1	70	597	66%
Macon	12,330	73	592	55%	6.8%	0	0	N/A	0	1	0	1	116	71%
Madison	29,906	864	2,889	42%	2.3%	0	0	N/A	0	1	0	160	5,426	29%
Marion	7,563	21	278	62%	4.8%	0	0	N/A	0	1	0	16	511	45%
McDuffie	21,727	218	1,003	27%	4.1%	5	23	60%	3	1	1	35	498	47%
McIntosh	11,291	380	3,366	52%	0.8%	6	53	100%	7	1	0	1	234	47%
Meriwether	20,659	399	1,931	53%	3.5%	0	0	N/A	0	1	2	40	875	46%
Miller	5,984	4	67	100%	0.0%	0	0	N/A	0	1	0	0	17	0%
Mitchell	21,940	796	3,628	32%	2.4%	1	5	100%	0	1	0	1	19	0%
Monroe	27,825	140	503	54%	5.0%	5	18	60%	3	1	0	7	347	41%
Montgomery	8,701	13	149	31%	7.7%	0	0	N/A	0	1	0	14	623	44%
Morgan	19,694	49	249	41%	4.1%	1	5	100%	0	1	1	17	477	64%
Murray	39,853	368	923	71%	3.5%	1	3	100%	0	1	0	90	1,021	57%
GEORGIA	10,625,615	180,804	1,702	34%	2.3%	695	7	78%	233	48	171	18,682	652	39%

APPENDIX A: FAMILY VIOLENCE DATA BY COUNTY

2018-2021	Family Violence Incidents				Domestic Violence Fatalities				Family Violence Services					
	Population	Number of Incidents	Incidents Per Capita	Arrest Rate	Percent of Incidents w/Firearm Presence	Number of Fatalities	Fatalities Per Capita	Firearms as Cause of Death	Murder-Suicide Fatalities	Number of FV Programs Serving County	Number of FVIP Programs Serving County	Number of Ex Parte TPOs Granted	Ex Parte TPOs Per Capita	TPO Extension Rate
Muscookee	204,366	1,939	949	60%	2.6%	30	15	73%	7	1	463	884	32%	
Newton	111,262	2,053	1,845	32%	3.2%	12	11	83%	2	1	3	1,264	38%	
Oconee	41,006	222	541	69%	0.5%	1	2	100%	0	1	0	63	27%	
Oglethorpe	14,779	330	2,233	38%	2.1%	0	0	N/A	0	1	0	46	37%	
Paulding	165,688	3,628	2,190	32%	3.4%	9	5	67%	5	1	309	793	46%	
Peach	27,822	493	1,772	35%	4.1%	1	4	0%	0	1	1	23	41%	
Pickens	32,814	434	1,323	49%	1.4%	1	3	100%	0	1	0	41	312	
Pierce	19,644	318	1,619	44%	2.8%	2	10	100%	2	1	0	16	457	
Pike	18,754	72	384	76%	0.0%	0	0	N/A	0	1	0	6	141	
Polk	42,692	522	1,223	41%	1.9%	5	12	100%	4	1	1	51	325	
Pulaski	10,001	208	2,080	47%	6.3%	2	20	100%	2	1	0	4	573	
Putnam	21,870	466	2,131	37%	2.1%	1	5	100%	0	1	0	51	810	
Quitman	2,249	0	N/A	N/A	N/A	0	0	N/A	0	1	0	1	92	
Rabun	16,731	251	1,500	35%	0.4%	0	0	N/A	0	1	0	50	1,300	
Randolph	6,503	0	N/A	N/A	N/A	0	0	N/A	0	1	0	3	97	
Richmond	205,772	477	232	16%	2.1%	21	10	71%	7	1	173	532	39%	
Rockdale	92,983	1,323	1,423	39%	3.3%	8	9	50%	0	1	5	236	1,149	
Schley	4,622	14	303	43%	14.3%	1	22	100%	0	1	0	0	314	
Screven	14,028	118	841	52%	2.5%	3	21	100%	0	1	0	2	115	
Seminole	9,108	128	1,405	57%	4.7%	1	11	100%	0	1	0	0	22	
Spalding	66,722	1,968	2,950	48%	3.2%	6	9	100%	4	1	2	19	194	
Stephens	26,641	1,056	3,964	41%	1.4%	1	4	0%	0	1	0	92	1,319	
Stewart	5,347	3	56	67%	0.0%	0	0	N/A	0	1	0	3	213	
Sumter	29,690	263	886	45%	2.3%	3	10	67%	0	1	0	11	321	
Talbot	5,837	2	34	100%	0.0%	0	0	N/A	0	1	0	0	182	
Taliaferro	1,574	0	N/A	N/A	N/A	2	127	100%	2	1	0	0	0	
Tattnall	23,211	166	715	47%	1.2%	2	9	50%	0	1	0	18	291	
Taylor	7,857	71	904	28%	2.8%	0	0	N/A	0	1	1	4	184	
Telfair	12,860	33	257	42%	3.0%	0	0	N/A	0	1	0	32	917	
Terrell	9,102	684	7,515	8%	0.6%	3	33	100%	3	1	0	0	44	
Thomas	45,669	2,335	5,113	38%	1.3%	0	0	N/A	0	1	2	11	70	
Tift	41,148	1,181	2,870	14%	2.3%	4	10	75%	1	1	0	102	947	
Toombs	26,956	610	2,263	15%	2.1%	1	4	100%	0	1	0	27	619	
Towns	12,300	141	1,146	43%	2.8%	0	0	N/A	0	1	0	17	442	
Treutlen	6,410	24	374	58%	20.8%	0	0	N/A	0	1	0	0	16	
GEORGIA	10,625,615	180,804	1,702	34%	2.3%	695	7	78%	233	48	171	18,682	652	39%

APPENDIX A: FAMILY VIOLENCE DATA BY COUNTY

County	2018-2021 Population	Family Violence Incidents			Domestic Violence Fatalities			Family Violence Services						
		Number of Incidents	Incidents Per Capita	Arrest Rate	Percent of Incidents w/Firearm Presence	Number of Fatalities	Fatalities Per Capita	Firearms as Cause of Death	Murder-Suicide Fatalities	Number of FV Programs Serving County	Number of FVIP Programs Serving County	Number of Ex Parte TPOs Granted	Ex Parte TPOs Per Capita	TPO Extension Rate
Troup	69,483	1,617	2,327	32%	1.5%	3	4	67%	0	1	142	801	41%	
Turner	8,856	27	305	22%	11.1%	0	0	N/A	0	1	0	200	100%	
Twiggs	8,034	110	1,369	39%	4.5%	1	12	100%	0	1	0	396	95%	
Union	24,183	412	1,704	38%	0.2%	0	0	N/A	0	1	0	672	44%	
Upson	27,424	394	1,437	54%	1.3%	0	0	N/A	0	1	11	180	69%	
Walker	67,772	1,286	1,898	53%	1.7%	1	1	100%	0	1	131	820	52%	
Walton	95,453	2,047	2,145	34%	1.7%	6	6	83%	5	1	107	517	47%	
Ware	36,084	1,645	4,559	37%	2.9%	3	8	67%	2	1	0	392	52%	
Warren	5,218	2	38	100%	0.0%	0	0	N/A	0	1	0	1,237	36%	
Washington	20,052	271	1,351	44%	1.5%	3	15	67%	0	1	0	157	57%	
Wayne	30,118	279	926	63%	3.2%	0	0	N/A	0	1	0	703	33%	
Webster	2,372	0	N/A	N/A	N/A	0	0	N/A	0	1	0	0	N/A	
Wheeler	7,568	31	410	23%	3.2%	1	13	100%	0	1	0	294	76%	
White	27,886	1,598	5,730	21%	0.4%	0	0	N/A	0	1	1	52	887	
Whitfield	103,076	1,830	1,775	43%	1.3%	2	2	0%	0	1	1	216	864	
Wilcox	8,841	21	238	57%	0.0%	0	0	N/A	0	1	0	46	75%	
Wilkes	9,643	180	1,867	26%	2.2%	1	10	0%	0	1	0	545	51%	
Wilkinson	8,931	124	1,388	65%	6.5%	0	0	N/A	0	1	0	870	71%	
Worth	20,824	408	1,959	52%	2.7%	1	5	100%	1	1	0	544	45%	
GEORGIA	10,625,615	180,804	1,702	34%	2.3%	695	7	78%	233	48	171	18,682	652	39%

*Incident numbers for Clarke County differ in the appendix from other analysis throughout the report due to additional information received from partners within Clarke County. Images and analysis within the report are not substantially changed by these adjustments, and have been preserved in their original form from the time of the report's publication in May 2023.

APPENDIX B: FAMILY VIOLENCE INTERVENTION PROGRAM DATA

Judicial District	Judicial Circuit	Counties	Number of FVIPs
1st District	Atlantic	Bryan, Evans, Liberty, Long, McIntosh, and Tattnall	1
	Brunswick	Appling, Camden, Glynn, Jeff Davis, and Wayne	1
	Eastern	Chatham	5
	Ogeechee	Bulloch, Effingham, Jenkins, and Screven	1
	Waycross	Bacon, Brantley, Charlton, Coffee, Pierce, and Ware	0
2nd District	Alapaha	Atkinson, Berrien, Clinch, Cook, and Lanier	1
	Dougherty	Dougherty	1
	Pataula	Clay, Early, Miller, Quitman, Randolph, Seminole, and Terrell	0
	South Georgia	Baker, Calhoun, Decatur, Grady, and Mitchell	1
	Southern	Brooks, Colquitt, Echols, Lowndes, and Thomas	4
	Tifton	Irwin, Tift, Turner, and Worth	0
3rd District	Chattahoochee	Chattahoochee, Harris, Marion, Muscogee, Talbot, and Taylor	2
	Houston	Houston	1
	Macon	Bibb, Crawford, and Peach	7
	Southwestern	Lee, Macon, Schley, Stewart, Sumter, and Webster	0
4th District	Rockdale	Rockdale	5
	Stone Mountain	DeKalb	22
5th District	Atlanta	Fulton	20
6th District	Clayton	Clayton	8
	Coweta	Carroll, Coweta, Heard, Meriwether, and Troup	7
	Flint	Henry	3
	Griffin	Fayette, Spalding, Pike, and Upson	3
	Towaliga	Butts, Lamar, and Monroe	1
7th District	Cherokee	Bartow and Gordon	1
	Cobb	Cobb	14
	Conasauga	Murray and Whitfield	1
	Douglas	Douglas	6
	Lookout Mountain	Catoosa, Chattooga, Dade, and Walker	4
	Paulding	Paulding	1
	Rome	Floyd	2
	Tallapoosa	Haralson and Polk	1
8th District	Cordele	Ben Hill, Crisp, Dooly, and Wilcox	0
	Dublin	Laurens, Johnson, Treutlen, and Twiggs	0
	Middle	Candler, Emanuel, Jefferson, Toombs, and Washington	2
	Ocmulgee	Baldwin, Greene, Hancock, Jasper, Jones, Morgan, Putnam, and Wilkinson	3
	Oconee	Bleckley, Dodge, Montgomery, Pulaski, Telfair, and Wheeler	0
9th District	Appalachian	Fannin, Gilmer, and Pickens	0
	Bell-Forsyth	Forsyth	4
	Blue Ridge	Cherokee	1
	Enotah	Lumpkin, Towns, Union, and White	2
	Gwinnett	Gwinnett	16
	Mountain	Habersham, Rabun, and Stephens	1
	Northeastern	Dawson and Hall	6
10th District	Alcovy	Newton and Walton	4
	Augusta	Burke and Richmond	1
	Columbia	Columbia	0
	Northern	Elbert, Franklin, Hart, Madison, and Oglethorpe	0
	Piedmont	Banks, Barrow, and Jackson	5
	Toombs	Glascok, Lincoln, McDuffie, Taliaferro, Warren, and Wilkes	1
Western	Clarke and Oconee	1	

Note: For more information about FVIPs visit <https://gcfv.georgia.gov/family-violence-intervention-programs>.

APPENDIX C: CRITICAL QUESTIONS AND CONVERSATIONS

A collaborative, community-led approach is necessary to help those in immediate need and reduce family violence. Community members (e.g., family violence task force members, victim advocacy organizations, law enforcement, prosecutors, courts, Family Violence Intervention Programs, schools, etc.) must operate with a shared understanding of the underlying issues and challenges in their area to approach family violence with the goals of enhancing support, safety and accountability, and saving lives. The following discussion guide uses Georgia data to allow community members to visualize and analyze family violence data and its implications on response in their community. Questions after each example are designed to engage community members in assessing local data and conducting critical conversations about prevention, intervention, and the current response locally and statewide.

Example 1 - Family Violence Incidents Per Capita

From 2018-2021, Georgia had 1,718 reported family violence incidents per capita. Madison County had the highest number of incidents at 8,570 per capita and Glascock County had the lowest at 35 reported incidents per capita. A high number of reported incidents may reflect a community with a greater trust in law enforcement's ability to respond and help appropriately; it could also signal that family violence incidents are occurring at a higher rate in that county. A high number of reported incidents could also create strains on the ability of the community's resource providers to meet the demand for supportive services to victims. Low per capita incidents could mean that victims are not reporting, or the incidents are not being reported properly. The per capita incident rate is a starting point to ask more detailed questions about family violence at the local level and compare it to other counties and the state.

Look up your county's data in Appendix A (p. 27-31) under the column titled Incidents Per Capita and consult the family violence incidents chart and map (p. 5-6). Using that information consider the following:

- *How does your county compare to the rate of incidents per capita statewide?*
- *How does it compare to the rate of incidents per capita in other counties similar to yours?*
- *What do the comparisons suggest about family violence in your community?*
- *What additional questions do you have about your community as the result of these comparisons and who could you consult for the answers?*
- *Can you identify at least one local practice that might impact the rate of incidents per capita? (e.g., a specialized family violence unit, a greater degree of trust in law enforcement's ability to help, fear or reluctance to report abuse due to concerns that confidentiality may not be maintained, etc.)*

APPENDIX C: CRITICAL QUESTIONS AND CONVERSATIONS

Example 2 - Family Violence Incidents and Arrest Rates

From 2018-2021, Georgia's average arrest rate in family violence incidents was 34%. Pike County had the highest arrest rate at 76% and Terrell County had the lowest rate at 8%. Identifying and arresting the predominant aggressor in family violence cases is considered to be the best practice. If a victim is incorrectly identified and arrested as the predominant aggressor or if an officer cannot determine the predominant aggressor and arrests both the victim and the abuser (referred to as "dual arrest"), the victim's safety is adversely impacted. One major impact for a victim in this circumstance is that they become ineligible for many supportive services due to their official status in the police report as the arrestee/defendant rather than the victim. Dual or wrongful arrests in family violence cases also significantly erode the system's ability to hold abusers accountable effectively. Other adverse effects include the reduced likelihood of a successful prosecution and decreased likelihood that a victim will seek assistance or intervention from the criminal justice system in the future.

Look up your county's data in Appendix A (p. 27-31) under the column titled Arrest Rate and consult the Police Action Taken and Arrest Rate map (p. 9-10). Using that information consider the following:

- *How does your county compare to the statewide arrest rate?*
- *How does it compare to the arrest rate in counties similar to yours?*
- *What do the comparisons suggest about family violence in your community?*
- *How often are wrongful or dual arrests of a victim occurring in your community? How could you find this information?*
- *What additional questions do you have about your community as the result of these comparisons and who could you consult for the answers?*
- *Can you identify at least one practice that might impact the arrest rate in your community? (e.g., training on the dynamics of abuse and/or predominant aggressor identification; creating specialized or high risk assessment response teams; local in-depth fatality reviews, etc.)*

APPENDIX C: CRITICAL QUESTIONS AND CONVERSATIONS

Example 3 - Family Violence Incidents and Firearms*

Between 2018-2021, the statewide average for family violence incidents involving a firearm was 2%. Treutlen County had a 21% average for family violence incidents involving firearms, while 21 Georgia counties did not report having any family violence incidents involving firearms across the four year period. Most family violence incidents do not end in fatal violence. However, a firearm significantly increases the risk of a fatality occurring.

Look up your county's data in Appendix A (p. 27-31) under the column titled Percent of Incidents w/Firearm Presence and consult the Weapon Type chart and Firearms map (p. 11-12). Using that information consider the following:

- *How does your county's average compare to the statewide average for incidents involving firearms?*
- *How does it compare to counties similar to yours?*
- *What do these comparisons suggest about the use of firearms in family violence incidents in your community?*
- *What additional questions do you have about your community as the result of these comparisons and who could you consult for the answers?*

Example 4 - Domestic Violence Fatalities and Firearms*

From 2018-2021, a firearm was the weapon used in 78% of the domestic violence fatalities in Georgia. Consistently, firearms are the leading cause of death in fatal domestic violence incidents. While 21 Georgia counties reported zero family violence incidents involving firearms, in one of those counties (Taliaferro County) there were two verified domestic violence fatalities committed with a firearm.

Look up your county's data in Appendix A (p. 27-31) under the column titled Firearms as Cause of Death and consult the Weapon Type Used By Abusers In Domestic Violence Fatalities By Gender chart (p. 18). Using that information consider the following:

- *Looking at the statewide average of domestic violence fatalities involving firearms, how does your county compare? How does it compare to counties similar to yours?*
- *What do the comparisons suggest about the impact of firearms on domestic violence fatalities in your community?*
- *Discuss factors that may be contributing to the increase in domestic violence fatalities statewide.*
- *Identify and discuss at least one practice that might help reduce family violence incidents involving firearms in your community.*
- *Discuss key steps that would be necessary to implement your idea. Whose buy-in would be needed to make it happen?*

*For Family Violence Incidents and Domestic Violence Fatalities definitions refer to page 2-3.

APPENDIX C: CRITICAL QUESTIONS AND CONVERSATIONS

Example 5 - Temporary Protective Orders

Victims of family violence can petition the court for a Temporary Protective Order (TPO) to restrain an abuser from harassing, stalking, or threatening their physical safety. From 2018-2021, Georgia averaged 652 TPOs granted per capita (per 100,000). The number of Ex Parte TPOs granted per capita, considered with the TPO extension rate, is one indicator of the health of a county's TPO process. Of the 71,166 Family Violence and Stalking Ex Parte TPOs issued between 2018-2021, 39% were extended to 6- or 12- month orders. Wide disparities between the Ex Parte TPO rate and the extension rate imply the need to review whether there are issues or practices impacting access to TPO services or barriers hindering victims from getting TPOs extended (e.g. delayed or low rates of service of orders, low access to victim advocacy services, etc.).

Look up your county's data in Appendix A (p. 27-31) under the columns titled Ex Parte TPOs Per Capita and TPO Extension Rate and consult the TPO maps (p. 20-21). Using that information consider the following:

- *Looking at the statewide average of Ex Parte TPOs granted per capita, how does your county compare? How does it compare to counties similar to yours?*
- *Identify challenges or helpful practices that exist in your community that might impact the rate Ex Parte TPOs are granted in your county. (e.g., access to TPO hearing schedule is difficult for working victims, positive working relationship between law enforcement agency and legal advocates, etc.)*
- *How does your county compare to the TPO extension rate statewide?*
- *How does it compare to the extension rate in counties similar to yours?*
- *Considering TPOs are an important tool for victim safety and longer-term TPOs contribute to better outcomes, what do the previous comparisons suggest about TPOs in your community?*
- *In your county, how does the EX Parte TPO rate per capita compare to the extension rate? Identify and discuss at least one factor that might be impacting the higher or lower TPO extension rate in your community. (e.g., TPOs are not consistently enforced so victims see no need to extend them, pro bono legal assistance to victims is provided, etc.)*

APPENDIX C: CRITICAL QUESTIONS AND CONVERSATIONS

Example 6 – Family Violence Programs

From 2018-2021, family violence programs in Georgia provided services to 381,358 adult, teen, and child victims. Females comprised the majority of victims served (71%), which is consistent with 72% of females being the victim in reported incidents of family violence. Male victims comprised 14% of all victims served by family violence programs despite men representing 27% of the victims family violence incidents. This disparity highlights an opportunity for family violence programs to focus on improving outreach and access to services for male victims.

Look up your county’s data in Appendix A (p. 27-31) under the column titled Number of Family Violence Programs Serving County. Using that information consider the following:

- *Considering factors such as population and geographic area, are there sufficient family violence programs and resources in your area? Why or why not?*
- *Are you aware of the services offered by the family violence program in your area? Are there any specialized services for child, teen, or male victims?*
- *Identify and discuss at least one practice that might improve family violence program services or resources in your area, for all victim groups or a specific group (e.g., a public awareness campaign, ensuring the program is accessible by public transportation, etc.).*

Example 7 - Family Violence Intervention Programs

FVIPs are 24-week psychoeducational programs designed to rehabilitate abusers by holding them accountable for abusive behavior while prioritizing victim safety. The lack of sufficient access to local FVIP programs presents a challenge for many judicial circuits. Currently, 13 judicial circuits are without a local FVIP program. Additionally, many judicial circuits that have an FVIP, still face access challenges due to insufficient sites across large service areas. Throughout the state, there is a need for expanded access to existing programs, or additional certified FVIPs in limited access areas.

Look up your county’s data in Appendix A (p. 27-31) under the column titled Number of FVIP Programs Serving County and Appendix B (p. 32), and consult the FVIP map (p. 22). Using that information, consider the following:

- *Based on the population and geographic area, are there sufficiently available and accessible FVIPs in your service area? Why or why not?*
- *Attending FVIP is required by Georgia law in three instances (see p. 22). Do you believe FVIP attendance is being regularly ordered by the courts in your area? Why or why not?*
- *Identify and discuss at least one practice or factor that might impact courts ordering FVIP as required by state law. How might your community implement or address it? (e.g., local training about the difference between FVIP and anger management classes, an FVIP program opening in the judicial circuit, etc.)*

NOTES



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