

# **GEORGIA'S FAMILY VIOLENCE PATTERNS**

**HOW GCFV IS USING FV DATA TO  
FOCUS ON SYSTEM IMPROVEMENT**



**Georgia  
Commission on  
Family  
Violence**

# GEORGIA COMMISSION ON FAMILY VIOLENCE

- State agency created in 1992 by Georgia Legislature
  - Study and evaluate needs and services relating to family violence in Georgia
  - Evaluate and monitor the effectiveness of existing family violence laws and initiate the development of family violence legislation
- **Key Projects**
    - Annual Family Violence Conference
      - September 8-11, 2019
      - Athens, GA
    - Family Violence Intervention Program (FVIP) Certification and Monitoring
    - Family Violence Task Forces
    - Support for Survivors of Murder-Suicide (SSMS) Project
    - Fatality Review Project

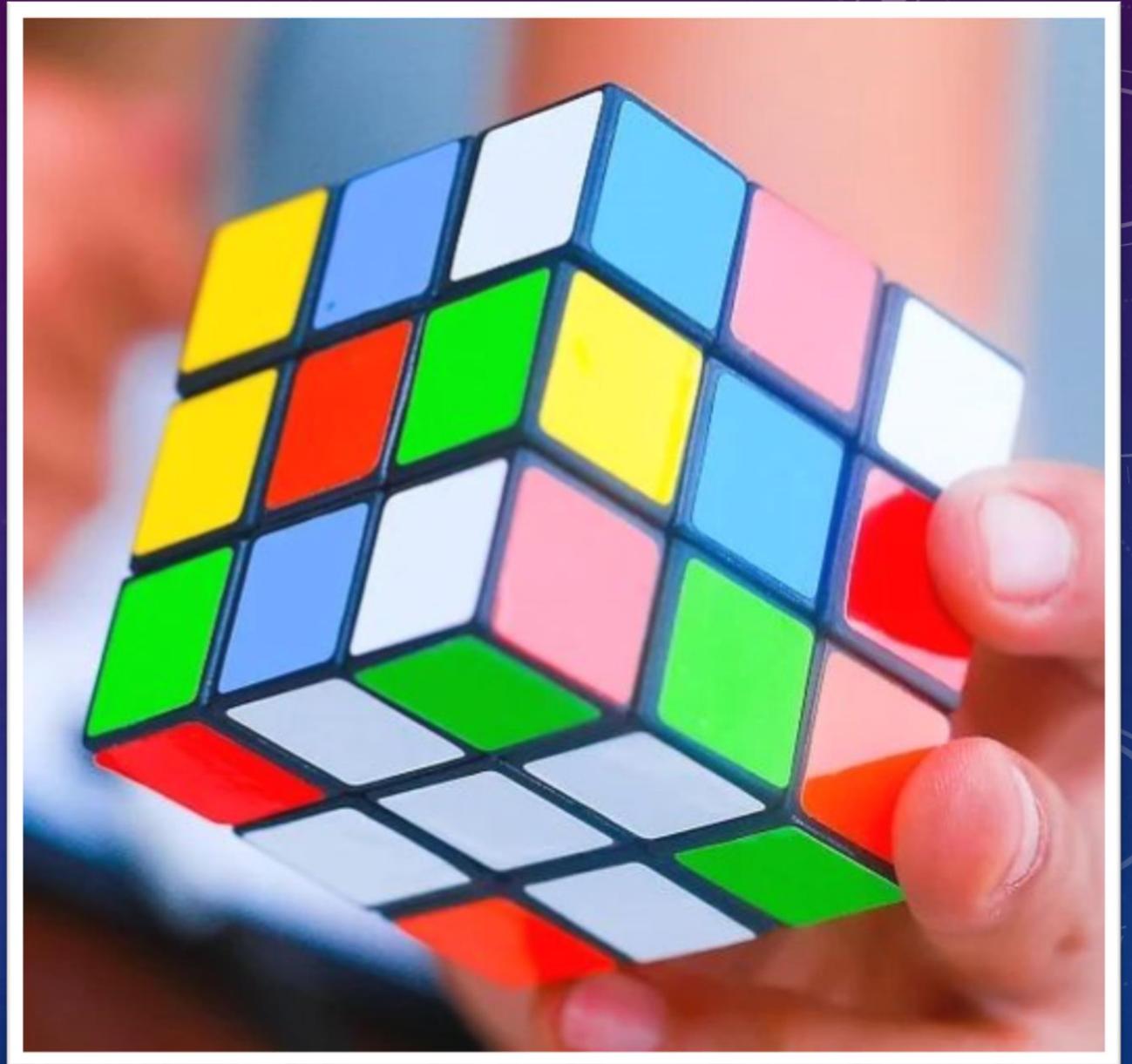
# GEORGIA DOMESTIC VIOLENCE FATALITY REVIEW PROJECT



- GCFV/GCADV partnership, 2004-2018
- Sought to reduce DV-related fatalities using information from past incidents to:
  - Shape public policy
  - Change protocols
  - Strengthen community responses to intimate partner violence
- Case reviews conducted statewide
  - 116 cases reviewed
  - 24 judicial circuits participated
  - 887 individuals sat on fatality review teams

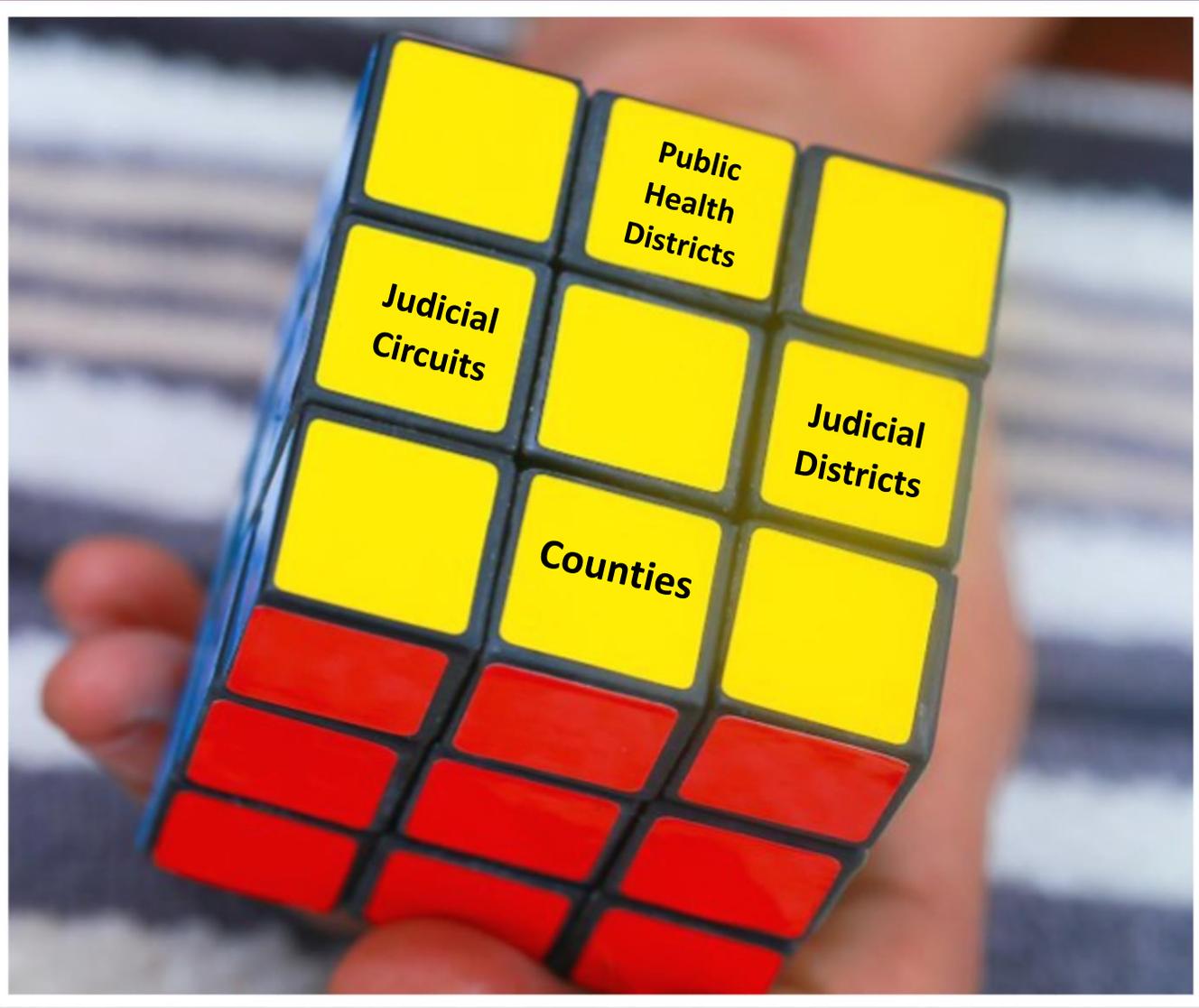
# **DATA: THE BASIS FOR BEST PRACTICE**

- No data systems are perfect, all are changing
- GCFV will be the clearinghouse for crucial Family Violence data

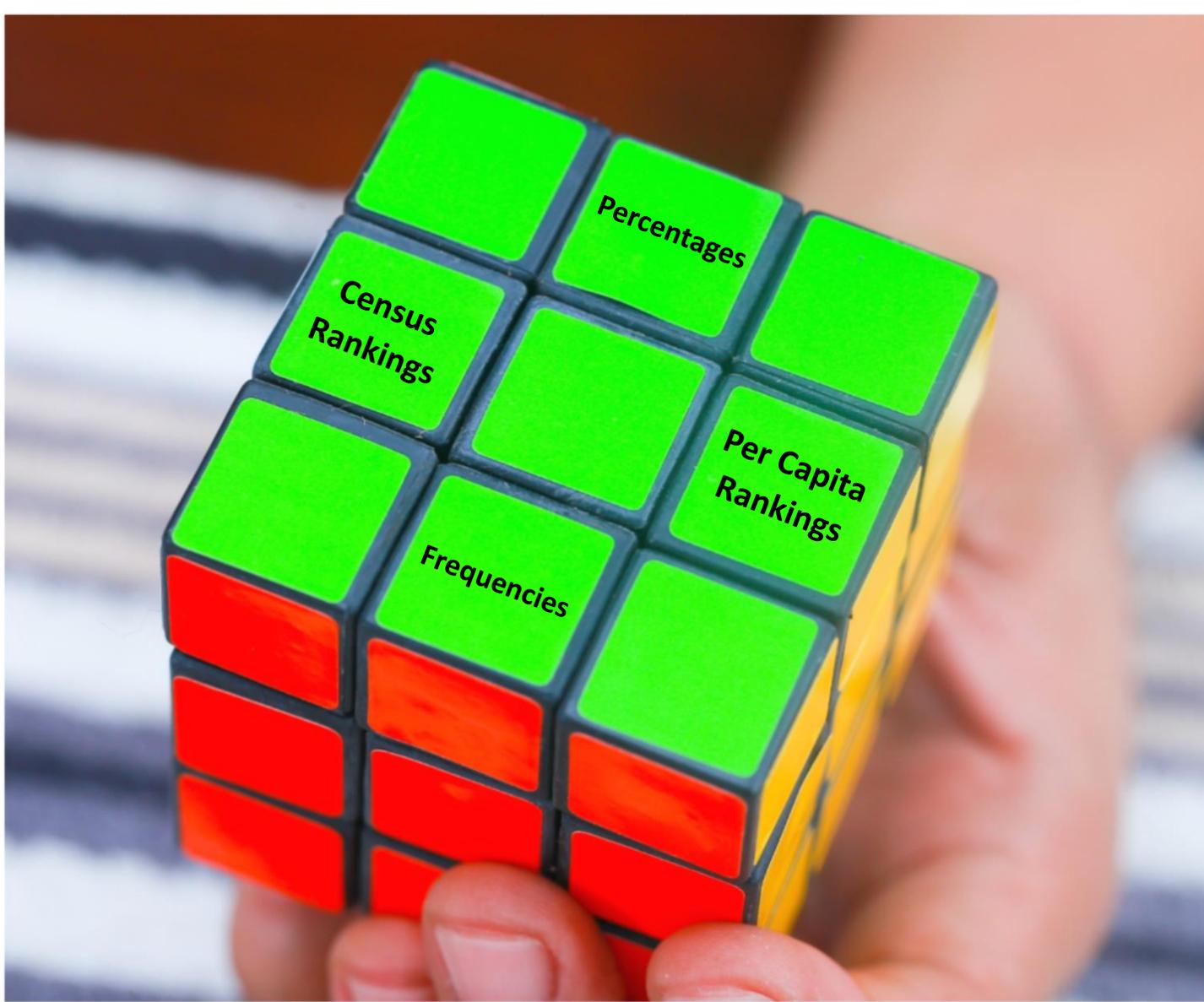




# THREE DIMENSIONS: DATA SOURCES



# THREE DIMENSIONS: GEOGRAPHIC DISTRIBUTION



# THREE DIMENSIONS: DATA PATTERNS

# THE FUTURE OF FV DATA TRACKING AT GCFV

- Drilling down on data specific to varied service areas
- Adding depth to data sharing partnerships
- Improving clarity and integrity of FV data in Georgia
- Ability to assess for new, current trends



# **BIG PICTURE: 5-YEAR TRENDS (2013 –2017)**

- **Total INDEX Crimes down from 361,310 to 328,236 (-9%)**
- **All FV Incidents down from 68,313 to 61,624 (-10%)**
  - **Knives **down** from 5095 to 2405 (-53%) of all FV Reports**
  - **However, guns **up** from 968 to 1261 (23%) of all FV Reports**
- **Substance Abuse Involved: 68% of offenders**
- **Children Involved and Present over 5 years:**
  - **Over 60,000 Involved**
  - **Over 95,000 Present**

# FAMILY VIOLENCE REPORTING FORM

UCR REPORT FORM  
CASE NUMBER: \_\_\_\_\_

INCIDENT TYPE: \_\_\_\_\_  
INCIDENT DATE: \_\_\_\_\_  
INCIDENT TIME: \_\_\_\_\_

**PREMISE TYPE (check one)**

<input type="checkbox"/> 1 Highway	<input type="checkbox"/> 2 Service Station	<input type="checkbox"/> 3 Convenience Store	<input type="checkbox"/> 4 Bank
<input type="checkbox"/> 5 Commercial	<input type="checkbox"/> 6 Residence	<input type="checkbox"/> 7 School	<input type="checkbox"/> 8 All Other

**WEAPON TYPE (check one)**

<input type="checkbox"/> 1 Gun	<input type="checkbox"/> 2 Knife / Cutting Tool
<input type="checkbox"/> 3 Hands / Fists / Feet	<input type="checkbox"/> 4 Other

**VICTIM: #1** Race: \_\_\_ Sex: \_\_\_ DOB: \_\_\_\_\_ **#2** Race: \_\_\_ Sex: \_\_\_ DOB: \_\_\_\_\_  
**#3** Race: \_\_\_ Sex: \_\_\_ DOB: \_\_\_\_\_ **#4** Race: \_\_\_ Sex: \_\_\_ DOB: \_\_\_\_\_

**PRIMARY AGGRESSOR:** Race: \_\_\_\_\_ Sex: \_\_\_\_\_ DOB: \_\_\_\_\_

**Please answer the following questions about the incident:**

- Were children involved? Yes  No
- Was act committed with children present? Yes  No
- Number of previous complaints as advised by the victim? Number \_\_\_\_\_ Unknown
- Existence of prior court orders? Yes  No  Unknown
- Was victim advised of available remedies and services? Yes  No

**FOR THE FOLLOWING ITEMS CHECK ALL THAT APPLY**

- 6. Type and extent of alleged abuse by the Primary Aggressor:**
- |  |  |   |
|--|--|---|
| 1 – Fatal Injury <input type="checkbox"/>            | 2 – Permanent Physical Disability <input type="checkbox"/> | 3 – Temporary Disability <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 4 – Broken Bones <input type="checkbox"/>            | 5 – Gun / Knife Wounds <input type="checkbox"/>            | 6 – Superficial Injuries <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 7 – Property Damage / Theft <input type="checkbox"/> | 8 – Threats <input type="checkbox"/>                       | 9 – Abusive Language <input type="checkbox"/>     |
| 10 – Sexual Abuse <input type="checkbox"/>           | 11 – Other <input type="checkbox"/>                        |   |

- 7. Police Action Taken:**
- |  |   |   |
|--|---|---|
| 1 – Arrest <input type="checkbox"/>    | 2 – Citation (release) <input type="checkbox"/> | 3 – Separation <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 4 – Mediation <input type="checkbox"/> | 5 – Other <input type="checkbox"/>              | 6 – None <input type="checkbox"/>       |
- If no arrest made, indicate why not: Primary Physical Aggressor not on-scene   
Insufficient Probable Cause   
Other \_\_\_\_\_

- 8. How was Primary Physical Aggressor Identified?**
- |  |   |                                    |
|--|---|------------------------------------|
| 1 – Physical Evidence <input type="checkbox"/> | 2 – Testimonial Evidence <input type="checkbox"/> | 3 – Other <input type="checkbox"/> |
|--|---|------------------------------------|

- 9. Did Investigation Indicate that Substance Abuse was Involves?** Yes  No   
If YES, indicate substance abused by Primary Aggressor (A) and / or Victim (V)  
A: 1 – Drugs  2 – Alcohol  V: 1 – Drugs  2 – Alcohol

- 10. Relationship of Primary Physical Aggressor to Victim(s):**
- |   |  |  |                                    |
|---|--|--|------------------------------------|
| 1 – Present Spouse <input type="checkbox"/> | 2 – Former Spouse <input type="checkbox"/>                                     | 3 – Parent <input type="checkbox"/>        | 4 – Child <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 5 – Stepparent <input type="checkbox"/>     | 6 – Stepchild <input type="checkbox"/>   | 7 – Foster Parent <input type="checkbox"/> |                                    |
| 8 – Foster Child <input type="checkbox"/>   | 9 – None of the above but lives in the same household <input type="checkbox"/> |  |                                    |

**CLEARANCE REPORT INFORMATION**

Date of Clearance: Year \_\_\_\_\_ Month \_\_\_\_\_ Day \_\_\_\_\_  
How was Incident Cleared? Cleared by Arrest  Exceptionally Cleared   
Unfounded  Comment \_\_\_\_\_

# REPORTING STILL NEEDS WORK

## FAMILY VIOLENCE REPORTS: COUNTIES REPORTING ZERO FV OR NOT REPORTING (2013-2017)

Counties ranked in priority of need for attention  = Reported this year!

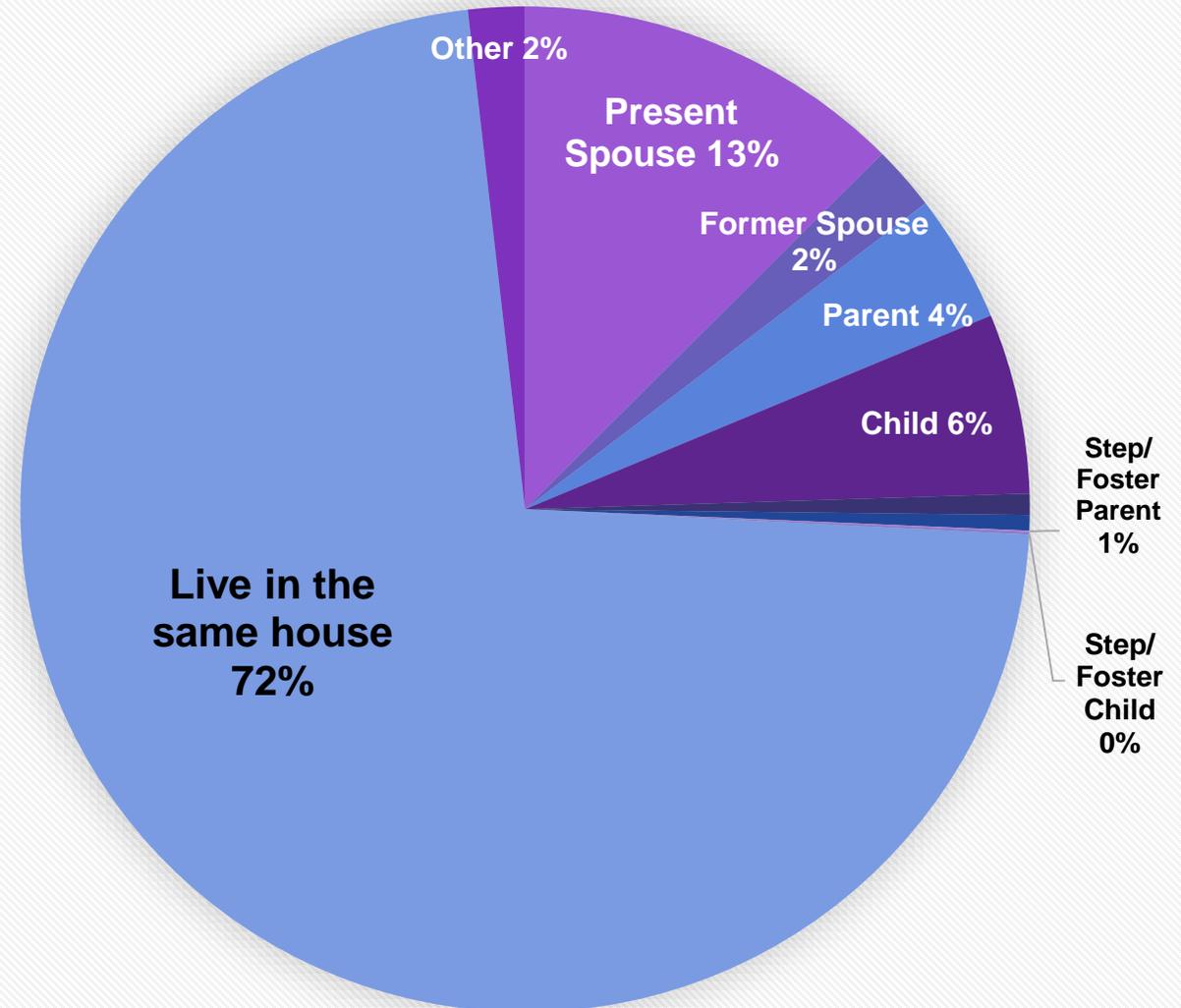
COUNTY	CIRCUIT	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
McIntosh	Atlantic	0	0	0	0	0
Montgomery	Oconee	0	0	0	0	0
Johnson	Dublin	0	0	0	0	0
Stewart	Southwestern	0	0	0	0	0
Lincoln	Toombs				0	0
Jenkins	Ogeechee		0	0		
Clay	Pataula	0	0	0		
Glascocock	Toombs	0		0	0	
Webster	Southwestern		0	0		0
Quitman	Pataula	0	0	0		0
Baker	South Georgia	0		0	0	0

# RELATIONSHIPS: 5-YEAR TOTALS

## Relationship of Primary Offender to Victim

- Large percentage not related, living together
- Chart shows victims
- Also, in 70% of cases the offender is male; female offenders are 30%

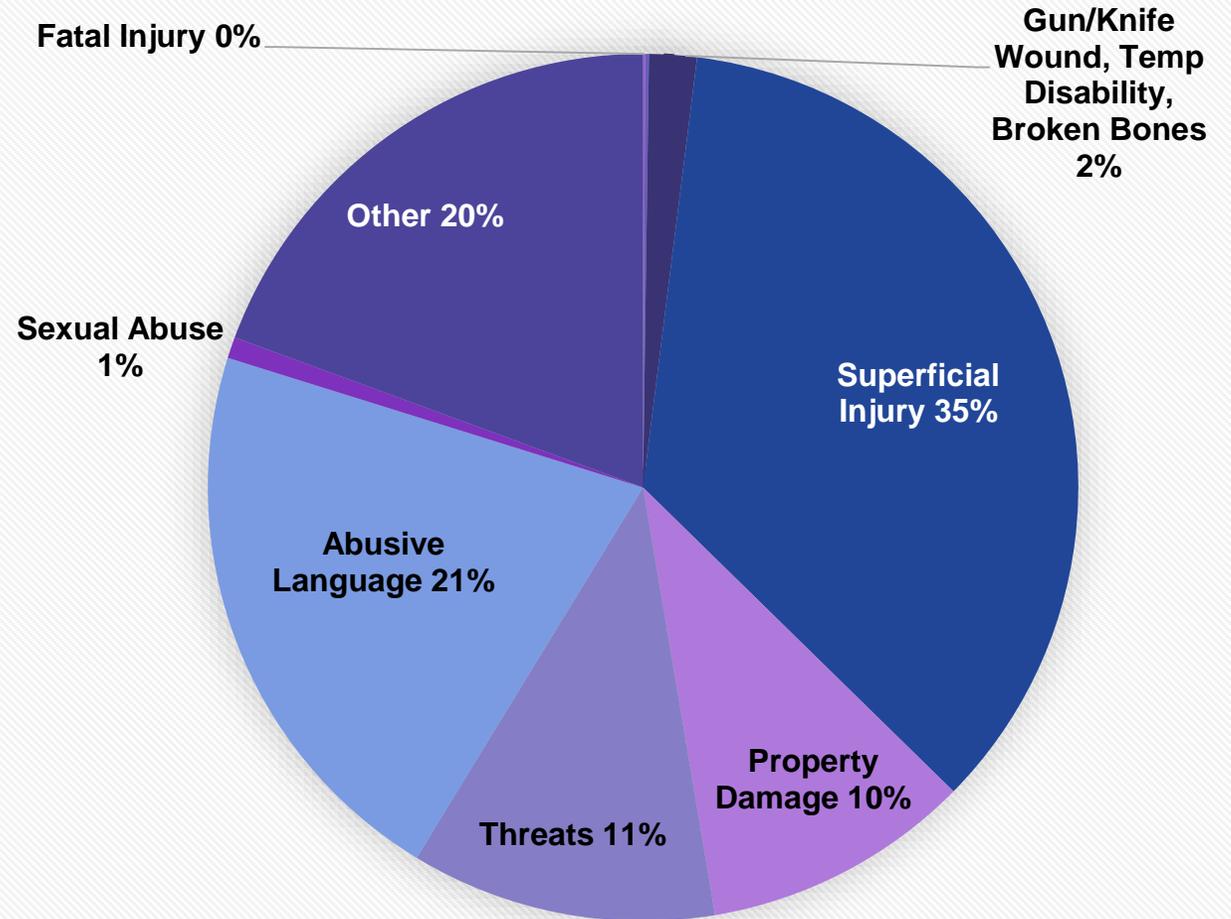
## 2013-2017 Family Violence by County: Relationship of Primary Offender to Victim



# TYPES OF ABUSE: 5-YEAR TOTALS

- More than one per incident
- “Superficial Injuries” 35%
- “Other” is huge, but we don’t know what injuries these are
- “Abusive Language” and “Threats” 32%, but may mask severity
- Opportunities to engage LE on best practice in FV cases

Family Violence 2013-2017  
ALL ABUSE TYPES  
(more than one per incident)

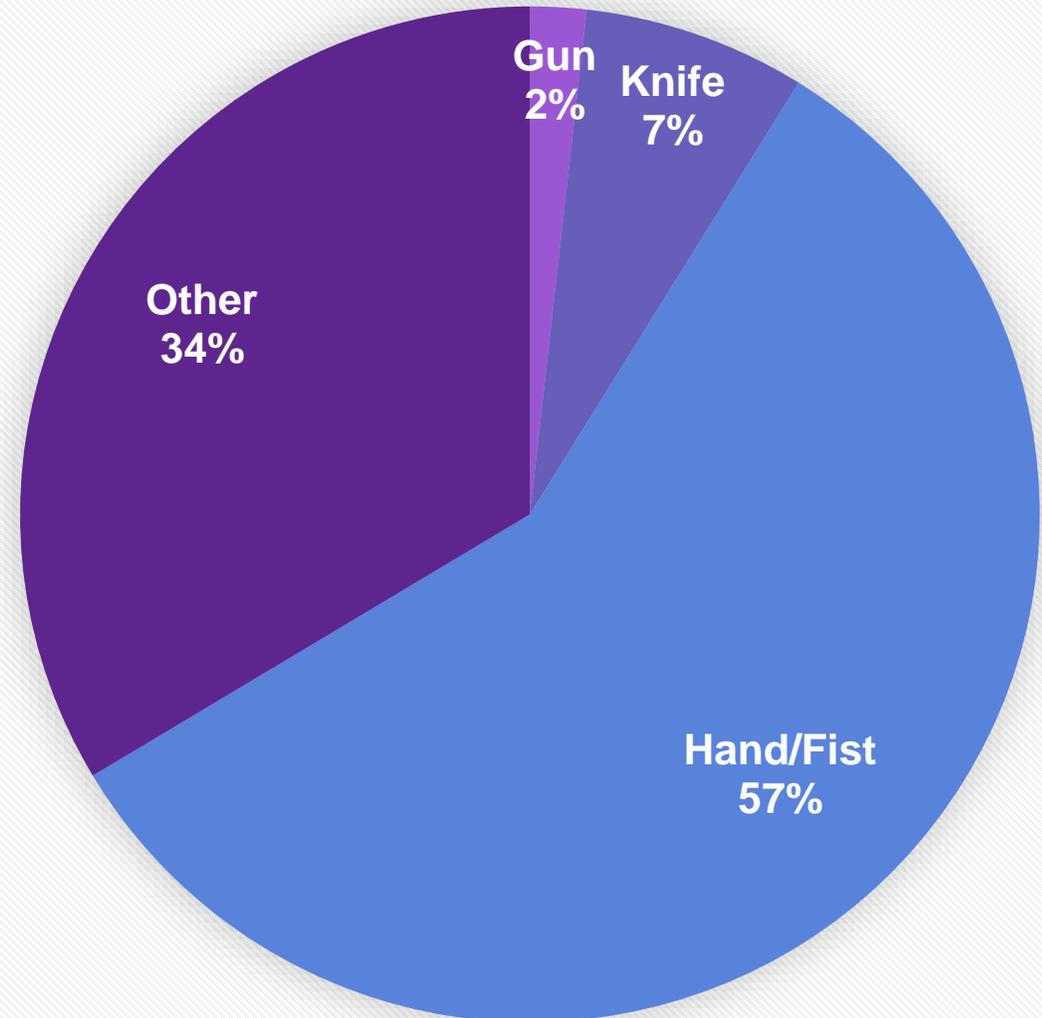


# WEAPONS USED

Counties with highest percent incidents involving a firearm:

COUNTY	CIRCUIT	RANK by Gun % Total
Jenkins	Ogeechee	6.7%
Macon	Southwestern	6.3%
Jasper	Ocmulgee	6.3%
Warren	Toombs	5.8%
Echols	Southern	5.6%
Lincoln	Toombs	5.6%
Telfair	Oconee	5.2%
Evans	Atlantic	5.0%

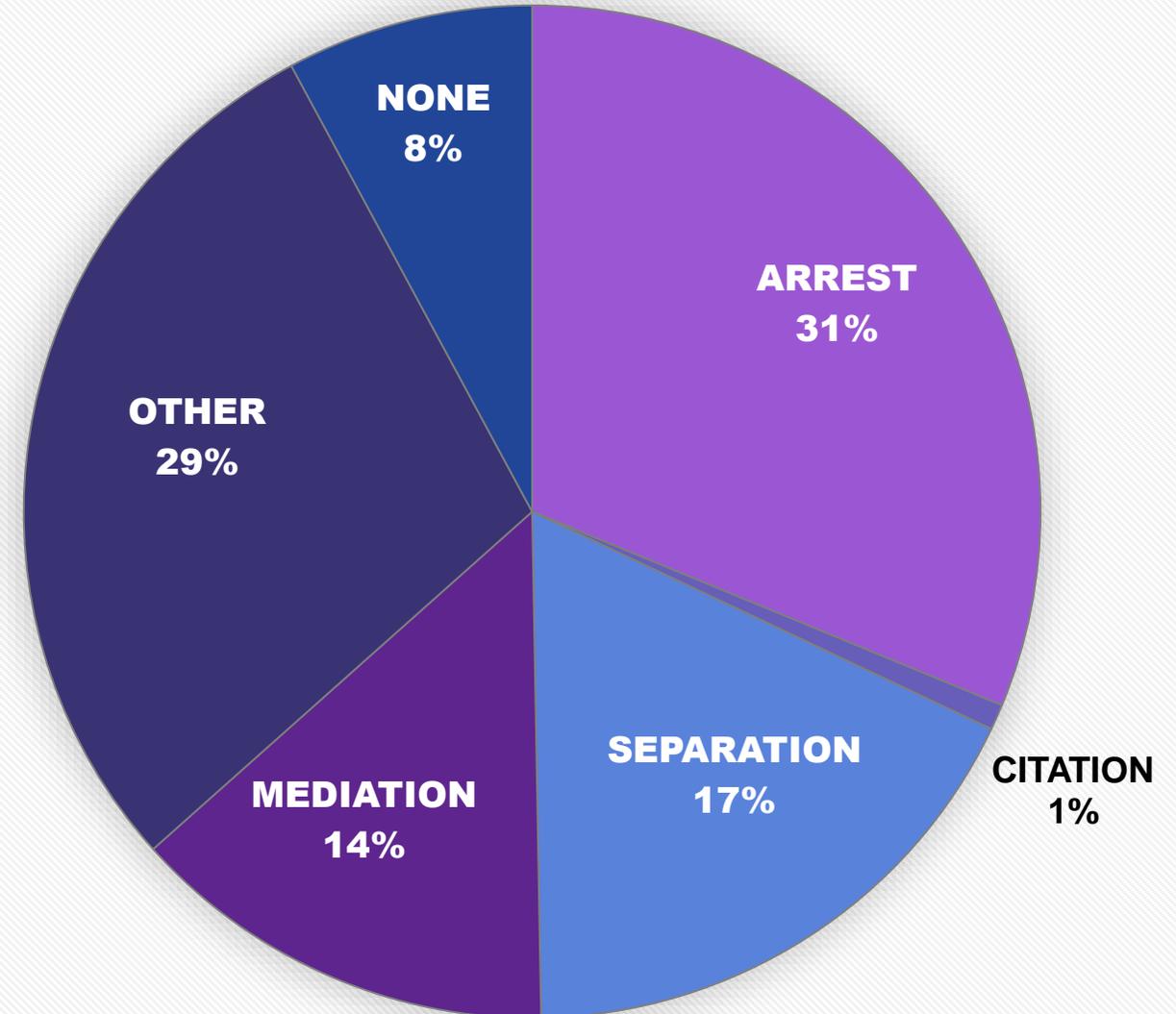
2013-2017 Averages Weapons  
Used in FV Incidents Statewide



# POLICE ACTIONS TAKEN (PAT)

- “Arrest” about 1/3 of incidents
- “Arrest” about 2:1 for both “Mediation” and “Separation”
- “Other” is huge, but we don’t know what actions these are
- “No Action” is 8% of incidents
- Opportunities to engage LE on best practice in FV cases

Family Violence Incidents 2013-2017  
Police Action Taken



# PAT ARRESTS VS OTHER ACTIONS TAKEN

## TOP 10% Use ARREST as Police Action Taken

## BOTTOM 10% Use ARREST as Police Action Taken

FV Incidents 2013-2017 County Averages RANKING by ARREST %		
County	Ranking by Arrest % Total	Citation, Separation, Mediation, Other, None as % of total
Treutlen	100%	0%
Clay	89%	11%
Echols	77%	23%
Monroe	74%	26%
Chattooga	69%	31%
Chattahoochee	67%	33%
Dade	63%	37%
Seminole	62%	38%
Banks	62%	38%
Jones	60%	40%
Bartow	58%	42%
Towns	57%	43%
Webster	55%	45%
Fayette	54%	46%
Miller	54%	46%

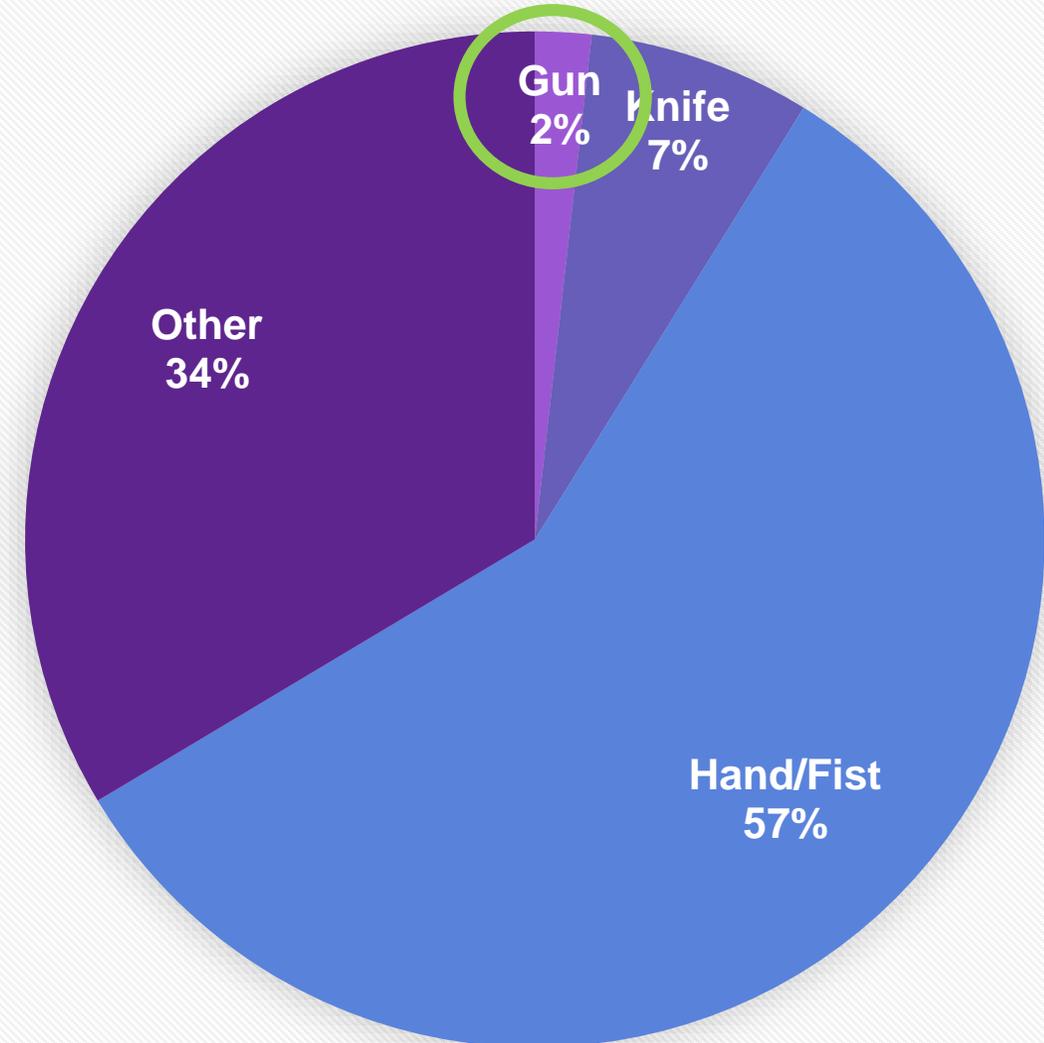
FV Incidents 2013-2017 County Averages RANKING by ARREST %		
County	Ranking by Arrest % Total	Citation, Separation, Mediation, Other, None as % of total
Jenkins	7%	93%
Toombs	7%	93%
Liberty	12%	88%
Richmond	14%	86%
Decatur	16%	84%
Ben Hill	17%	83%
Hart	17%	83%
Crawford	17%	83%
White	17%	83%
Burke	18%	82%
Tift	18%	82%
Clinch	20%	80%
Candler	20%	80%
Meriwether	21%	79%
Emanuel	21%	79%



# WEAPONS USED

- Remember:  
Firearms were used  
in only **2%** FV  
Incidents (Statewide  
2013-2017)

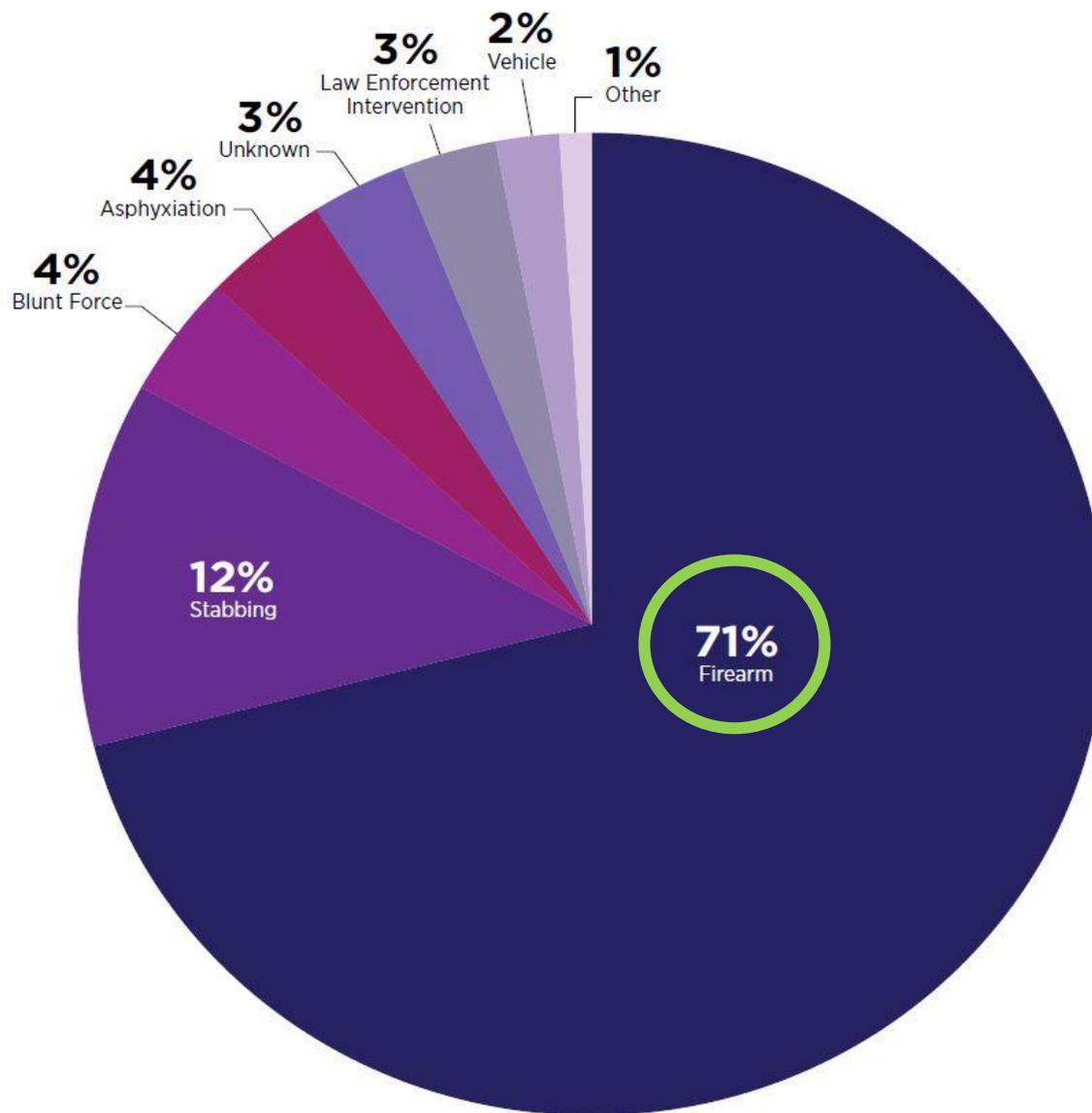
2013-2017 Averages Weapons  
Used in FV Incidents Statewide



# GEORGIA FV DEATH TRACKING: CAUSE OF DEATH (2014 – 2018)

- Highlights disparity in role of firearms in fatal vs. non-fatal cases
  - **71%** Cause of Death is Firearm (Statewide Death Tracking 2014-2018)
  - **2%** Weapon Used in Incident is Firearm (FV Incidents Statewide 2013-2017)

Weapons Type in Known Georgia DV Deaths  
2014-2018 as tracked by GCFV/GCADV



# LETHALITY INDICATORS

- History of physical and/or non-physical domestic violence
- Increasing severity or frequency of abusive incidents
- Looming accountability related to criminal charges or civil matters
- Stalking
- Use of strangulation
- **Presence of a firearm**
- Previous suicide threats or attempts
- Co-occurring depression
- Co-occurring drug or alcohol abuse
- Prior threats to kill, or threats which involve weapons
- Threats to take, harm or kill the victim's children
- Abuse during pregnancy
- Harm to pets
- Diagnosis of a serious or terminal illness
- Anticipated loss of financial security or job loss
- Possessiveness over victim or severe/morbid jealousy
- Change in relationship status

# 10 KEY GOALS TO IMPROVE DOMESTIC VIOLENCE RESPONSE IN GEORGIA

- **GOAL 1:** Increase opportunities for accountability for batterers
- **GOAL 2:** Utilize all legal means to restrict abuser access to firearms
- **GOAL 3:** Build the capacity of bystanders to support survivors and hold abusers accountable
- **GOAL 4:** Develop state and local strategies to increase awareness of healthy relationships to prevent dating violence
- **GOAL 5:** Ensure victims of domestic violence receive risk assessment and safety planning at all points of contact with helping professionals
- **GOAL 6:** Increase efforts to incorporate awareness of co-occurring issues and participate in cross-training among allied professionals
- **GOAL 7:** Incorporate assessments for stalking behaviors and ensure measures are taken to address the problem
- **GOAL 8:** Provide supportive services to children exposed to domestic violence or who lost a parent to domestic violence homicide
- **GOAL 9:** Improve access to culturally relevant services for victims from marginalized communities
- **GOAL 10:** Address barriers that exist for victims to ensure ongoing safety and financial security

## **GOAL 2: Utilize all legal means to restrict abuser access to firearms**

- Consistent strides have been made by stakeholders to address the issue of domestic violence in Georgia. But as a state, we have failed to comprehensively address the fundamental issue that would reduce the number of deaths in our communities: abuser access to firearms.



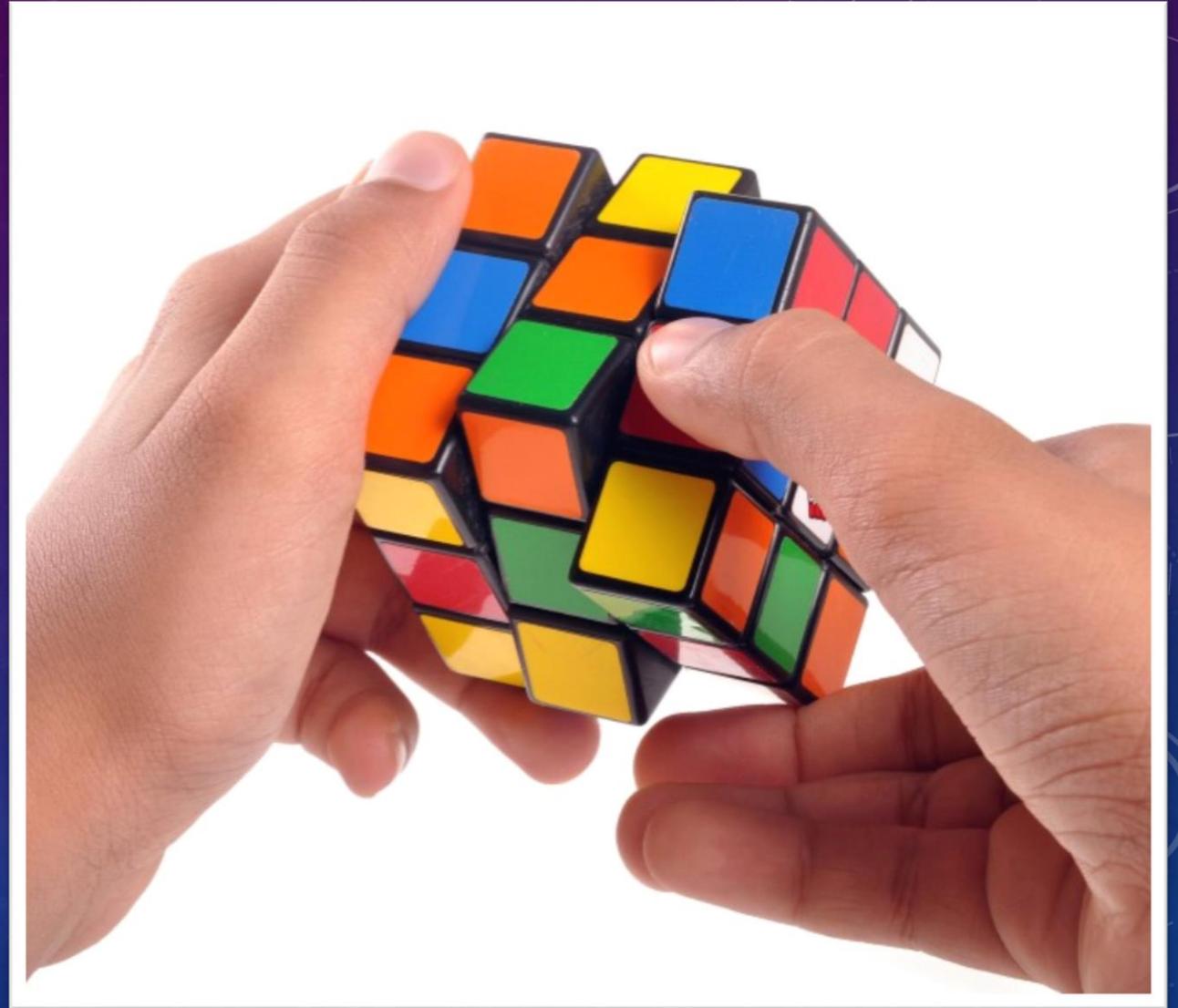
## **GOAL 2: Utilize all legal means to restrict abuser access to firearms**

- Steps Georgia can take to address this goal:
  - Ensure firearms access is restricted for abusers subject to Temporary Protective Orders.
  - Develop countywide protocols to establish how each agency will cooperate to restrict access to firearms by domestic violence offenders and protective order respondents.
  - **Enact proactive legislation to limit abuser access to firearms.**



# USING DATA TO ADDRESS FIREARMS ACCESS FOR ABUSERS IN GEORGIA

- We have discussed data about:
  - Index crimes in general
  - FV incidents
  - Use of firearms in all FV incidents
  - Use of firearms in fatal incidents
  - Context: FV research/ recommendations/ lethality indicators
- Now, we marry the data and the story to shape shape the message



For more information visit [www.SaferGeorgia.com](http://www.SaferGeorgia.com)

Officer photos credited to [odmp.org](http://odmp.org)

FINAL EDITION | 2018 ANNUAL REPORT



GEORGIA DOMESTIC VIOLENCE  
**FATALITY REVIEW PROJECT**

GEORGIA COMMISSION ON FAMILY VIOLENCE | GEORGIA COALITION AGAINST DOMESTIC VIOLENCE



# QUESTIONS?

# CONTACT ME

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