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

- Temporary Protective Orders
- Index Crimes
- Fatalities
- Weapons Used
- Police Action Taken
- Demographics
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

• 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)
☐ 1 Highway
☐ 2 Service Station
☐ 3 Convenience Store
☐ 4 Bank
☐ 5 Commercial
☐ 6 Residence
☐ 7 School
☐ 8 All Other

WEAPON TYPE (check one)
☐ 1 Gun
☐ 2 Knife / Cutting Tool
☐ 3 Hands / Fists / Feet
☐ 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:
1. Were children involved? Yes _____ No _____
2. Was act committed with children present? Yes _____ No _____
3. Number of previous complaints as advised by the victim? Number: ______ Unknown: ______
4. Existence of prior court orders? Yes _____ No _____ Unknown: ______
5. 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
   ☐ 2 – Permanent Physical Disability
   ☐ 3 – Temporary Disability
   ☐ 4 – Broken Bones
   ☐ 5 – Gun / Knife Wounds
   ☐ 6 – Superficial Injuries
   ☐ 7 – Property Damage / Theft
   ☐ 8 – Threats
   ☐ 9 – Abusive Language
   ☐ 10 – Sexual Abuse
   ☐ 11 – Other

7. Police Action Taken:
   ☐ 1 – Arrest
   ☐ 2 – Citation (release)
   ☐ 3 – Separation
   ☐ 4 – Mediation
   ☐ 5 – Other
   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
   ☐ 2 – Testimonial Evidence
   ☐ 3 – Other

9. Did Investigation Indicate that Substance Abuse was Involved? 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
    ☐ 2 – Former Spouse
    ☐ 3 – Parent
    ☐ 4 – Child
    ☐ 5 – Stepparent
    ☐ 6 – Stepchild
    ☐ 7 – Foster Parent
    ☐ 8 – Foster Child
    ☐ 9 – None of the above but lives in the same household

CLEARANCE REPORT INFORMATION
Date of Clearance: Year: ______ Month: ______ Day: ______
How was Incident Cleared? Cleared by Arrest: ______ Unfounded: ______
Comment: ______ Exceptionally Cleared: ______
## REPORTING STILL NEEDS WORK

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

Counties ranked in priority of need for attention

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>COUNTY</th>
<th>CIRCUIT</th>
<th>2013</th>
<th>2014</th>
<th>2015</th>
<th>2016</th>
<th>2017</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>McIntosh</td>
<td>Atlantic</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Montgomery</td>
<td>Oconee</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Johnson</td>
<td>Dublin</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Stewart</td>
<td>Southwestern</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lincoln</td>
<td>Toombs</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jenkins</td>
<td>Ogeechee</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Clay</td>
<td>Pataula</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
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<tr>
<td>Glascock</td>
<td>Toombs</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
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<tr>
<td>Webster</td>
<td>Southwestern</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Quitman</td>
<td>Pataula</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Baker</td>
<td>South Georgia</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
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%
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
WEAPONS USED

Counties with highest percent incidents involving a firearm:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>COUNTY</th>
<th>CIRCUIT</th>
<th>RANK by Gun % Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Jenkins</td>
<td>Ogeechee</td>
<td>6.7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Macon</td>
<td>Southwestern</td>
<td>6.3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jasper</td>
<td>Ocmulgee</td>
<td>6.3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Warren</td>
<td>Toombs</td>
<td>5.8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Echols</td>
<td>Southern</td>
<td>5.6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lincoln</td>
<td>Toombs</td>
<td>5.6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Telfair</td>
<td>Oconee</td>
<td>5.2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Evans</td>
<td>Atlantic</td>
<td>5.0%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

2013-2017 Averages Weapons Used in FV Incidents Statewide

- Hand/Fist: 57%
- Other: 34%
- Gun: 2%
- Knife: 7%
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
**PAT ARRESTS VS OTHER ACTIONS TAKEN**

### TOP 10% Use ARREST as Police Action Taken

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>County</th>
<th>Ranking by Arrest % Total</th>
<th>Citation, Separation, Mediation, Other, None as % of total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Treutlen</td>
<td>100%</td>
<td>0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Clay</td>
<td>89%</td>
<td>11%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Echols</td>
<td>77%</td>
<td>23%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Monroe</td>
<td>74%</td>
<td>26%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chattooga</td>
<td>69%</td>
<td>31%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chattahoochee</td>
<td>67%</td>
<td>33%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dade</td>
<td>63%</td>
<td>37%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Seminole</td>
<td>62%</td>
<td>38%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Banks</td>
<td>62%</td>
<td>38%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jones</td>
<td>60%</td>
<td>40%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bartow</td>
<td>58%</td>
<td>42%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Towns</td>
<td>57%</td>
<td>43%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Webster</td>
<td>55%</td>
<td>45%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fayette</td>
<td>54%</td>
<td>46%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Miller</td>
<td>54%</td>
<td>46%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### BOTTOM 10% Use ARREST as Police Action Taken

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>County</th>
<th>Ranking by Arrest % Total</th>
<th>Citation, Separation, Mediation, Other, None as % of total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Jenkins</td>
<td>7%</td>
<td>93%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Toombs</td>
<td>7%</td>
<td>93%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Liberty</td>
<td>12%</td>
<td>88%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Richmond</td>
<td>14%</td>
<td>86%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Decatur</td>
<td>16%</td>
<td>84%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Ben Hill</td>
<td>17%</td>
<td>83%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Hart</td>
<td>17%</td>
<td>83%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Crawford</td>
<td>17%</td>
<td>83%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>White</td>
<td>17%</td>
<td>83%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Burke</td>
<td>18%</td>
<td>82%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tift</td>
<td>18%</td>
<td>82%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Clinch</td>
<td>20%</td>
<td>80%</td>
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<td>Candler</td>
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<tr>
<td>Meriwether</td>
<td>21%</td>
<td>79%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Emanuel</td>
<td>21%</td>
<td>79%</td>
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</table>
GEORGIA FV DEATH TRACKING (2014 – 2018)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>DEATHS 2014</th>
<th>DEATHS 2015</th>
<th>DEATHS 2016</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>TOTALS</td>
<td>122</td>
<td>144</td>
<td>123</td>
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<tr>
<td>DEATHS 2017</td>
<td>164</td>
<td>143</td>
<td>696</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DEATHS 2018</td>
<td>143</td>
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<tr>
<td>DEATHS 2014–2018</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

- Data primarily sourced from media reports, prosecution & domestic violence program contacts
WEAPONS USED

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

- 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)
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 the message
For more information visit www.SaferGeorgia.com

Officer photos credited to odmp.org
QUESTIONS?
CONTACT ME

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gorgiafatalityreview.com