



**GOVERNOR'S OFFICE OF  
CRIME PREVENTION, YOUTH,  
AND VICTIM SERVICES**

**Domestic Violence Program FY 2020  
Annual Report**

*FL § 4-516(a); HB 739/Ch. 356, 2011*

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MSAR #8611  
December 31, 2020

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## Background

In 1977, the Department of Human Services established Maryland's Domestic Violence Program under §§ 4-513 through 4-515 of the Family Law Article, to provide services to victims of domestic violence.<sup>1</sup> In 1985, the Department of Human Services developed regulations for the program to ensure the availability of services to victims and their families and to administer grant funds for the program.<sup>2</sup>

In 1996, Senate Bill 456, *Crime Victims and Witnesses - Nonsubstantive Reorganization of Laws*, charged the Department of Human Services with establishing and administering a domestic violence program for victims of domestic violence.<sup>3</sup> Under its administration, and through a network of local domestic violence service programs, the Maryland Domestic Violence Program provides temporary shelter environments and supportive services to victims of domestic violence and their families throughout the State.

Effective July 1, 2011, Chapter 356 of 2011 (House Bill 739), *Sexual Assault Crisis Programs and Domestic Violence Programs - Transfer to the Governor's Office of Crime Control and Prevention*, transferred the responsibility and funding for sexual assault crisis programs and domestic violence programs from the Department of Human Services to the Governor's Office of Crime Prevention, Youth, and Victim Services (Office)<sup>4</sup> - previously known as the Governor's Office of Crime Control and Prevention.<sup>5</sup> Specifically, the Act charged the Office with establishing a program in each region of the State to provide victims of domestic violence and their children with temporary shelter or help in obtaining shelter, counseling, information, referral, and rehabilitation.

Pursuant to this Act, and as funds become available, the Office may extend the domestic violence program to other areas in the State in which the expansion of such programs may include establishing additional shelters or providing funds and technical assistance to a local organization or agency that shows that it is willing and able to run a domestic violence shelter. Pursuant to § 4-516 of the Family Law Article, and in addition to receiving funds from the annual State budget, the Office shall attempt to secure funding, including in-kind contributions,

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<sup>1</sup> Maryland Network Against Domestic Violence & Maryland Department of Human Resources. (2011). [Addressing Domestic Violence: Maryland's Plan 2010 - 2011](#). The Department of Human Resources changed its name to the Department of Human Services in July 2017.

<sup>2</sup> Ibid. The available services are outlined in the Code of Maryland (COMAR) Title 07, Subtitle 01, Chapter 15.

<sup>3</sup> Maryland General Assembly. (1996). [Senate Bill 456, Crime Victims and Witnesses - Nonsubstantive Reorganization of Laws](#).

<sup>4</sup> Maryland General Assembly. (2011). [Chapter 356 of 2011 \(House Bill 739\) Sexual Assault Crisis Programs and Domestic Violence Programs - Transfer to the Governor's Office of Crime Control and Prevention](#).

<sup>5</sup> Maryland General Assembly. (2020). [Chapter 11, Acts of 2020](#). In March 2020, the Governor's Office of Crime Control and Prevention was renamed the Governor's Office of Crime Prevention, Youth, and Victim Services.

for the establishment and operation of domestic violence programs from the federal government, local governments, and private sources. Furthermore, and in accordance with § 4-516(a) of the Family Law Article, the Office shall submit a report to the General Assembly each year as it relates to the domestic violence program.

## Introduction

As indicated in § 4-514 of the Family Law Article, the General Assembly found that an increasing number of domestic violence victims are forced to leave their homes to ensure their life, safety, and welfare. In addition, victims of domestic violence and their children are often economically dependent on the abuser and have no place to live outside the household. The General Assembly also found a lack of counseling, services, and quality emergency public or private housing to shelter these victims and their children. As a result, the General Assembly required the establishment of domestic violence programs in the State to help victims of domestic violence and their children. This charge originated with the Department of Human Services and was then transferred to the Office.

## Domestically Related Crime

In 2012, House Bill 1146/Senate Bill 647, *Domestically Related Crimes - Reporting*, helped to improve the recording and tracking of domestic violence crimes.<sup>6</sup> Because "Maryland does not have a distinct crime of domestic violence," the new law "helps law enforcement, advocates, prosecutors and judges better protect domestic violence victims and set more appropriate conditions for abusers."<sup>7</sup>

At that time, the Maryland Uniform Crime Report defined a domestic violence incident as any crime where "*An individual who has received deliberate physical injury or is in fear of imminent deliberate physical injury from a current or former spouse or a current or former cohabitant. This includes a homosexual relationship.*"<sup>8</sup> In addition, a domestic violence incident in the Maryland Uniform Crime Report program was considered to be any crime against:

- A married person living with their spouse.
- A married person estranged from their spouse.
- A male and female in an intimate relationship who are not married to each other and who are cohabitating or had cohabitated.

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<sup>6</sup> Maryland Department of Legislative Services. (2012). [House Bill 1146 \(2012\), Domestically Related Crimes - Reporting / Senate Bill 647 \(2012\), Domestically Related Crimes - Reporting](#).

<sup>7</sup> Maryland Department of State Police. (2020). [Crime in Maryland: 2018 Uniform Crime Report](#).

<sup>8</sup> Maryland Department of State Police. (2013). [Crime in Maryland: 2012 Uniform Crime Report](#).

- Individuals of the same sex in an intimate relationship who are cohabitating or had cohabitated.

As illustrated below, **Table 1. Number of Domestic Violence Crimes - Spouse Relationship** provides a breakdown of domestic violence crimes in Maryland by offender relationship.

<b>Spouse</b>	<b>2011</b>	<b>2012</b>	<b>*2013</b>	<b>2014</b>	<b>2015</b>	<b>2016</b>	<b>2017</b>	<b>2018</b>	<b>2019</b>
Husband	1,974	1,889	1,866	1,754	1,766	1,688	1,782	1,778	1,733
Wife	4,843	4,883	4,761	4,148	4,223	3,985	4,136	4,023	4,049
Male Cohabitant	2,727	2,537	2,460	2,257	2,310	2,019	2,147	2,555	2,423
Female Cohabitant	8,261	7,868	7,342	6,514	6,607	5,606	5,319	6,097	5,995
Homosexual	404	438	388	382	395	377	445	533	614
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>18,209</b>	<b>17,615</b>	<b>*16,817</b>	<b>15,055</b>	<b>15,301</b>	<b>13,675</b>	<b>13,829</b>	<b>14,986</b>	<b>14,814</b>

\*In 2013, the crime of domestic violence expanded to include more relationships to reflect changes in Maryland law.

In 2013, the Maryland Uniform Crime Report program expanded the definition of a domestically related crime to mirror House Bill 1146/Senate Bill 647 (2012) to state “*Any crime committed by a suspect (respondent) against a victim who is a person eligible for relief, as defined in § 4-501 of the Family Law Article or who had a sexual relationship with the suspect within 12 months before the commission of the crime. This also includes homosexual relationships.*”<sup>10</sup> In addition, a “person eligible for relief,” as defined in § 4-501 of the Family Law Article includes:

- The current or former spouse of the respondent.
- A cohabitant of the respondent.
- A person related to the respondent by blood, marriage, or adoption.
- A parent, stepparent, child, or stepchild of the respondent or the person eligible for relief who resides or resided with the respondent or person eligible for relief for at least 90 days within one year before the filing of the petition.
- A vulnerable adult.
- An individual who has a child in common with the respondent.

<sup>9</sup> Maryland Department of State Police. (2020). *2019 Maryland Uniform Crime Report*. This information represents the most current data available.

<sup>10</sup> Maryland Department of State Police. (2014). [Crime in Maryland: 2013 Uniform Crime Report](#).

As illustrated in **Table 2. Number of Domestic Violence Crimes - Non-Spouse Relationship**, the expanded definition of “persons eligible for relief” under Maryland’s domestic violence statutes resulted in a significant increase in the total number of domestic violence crimes throughout the State.

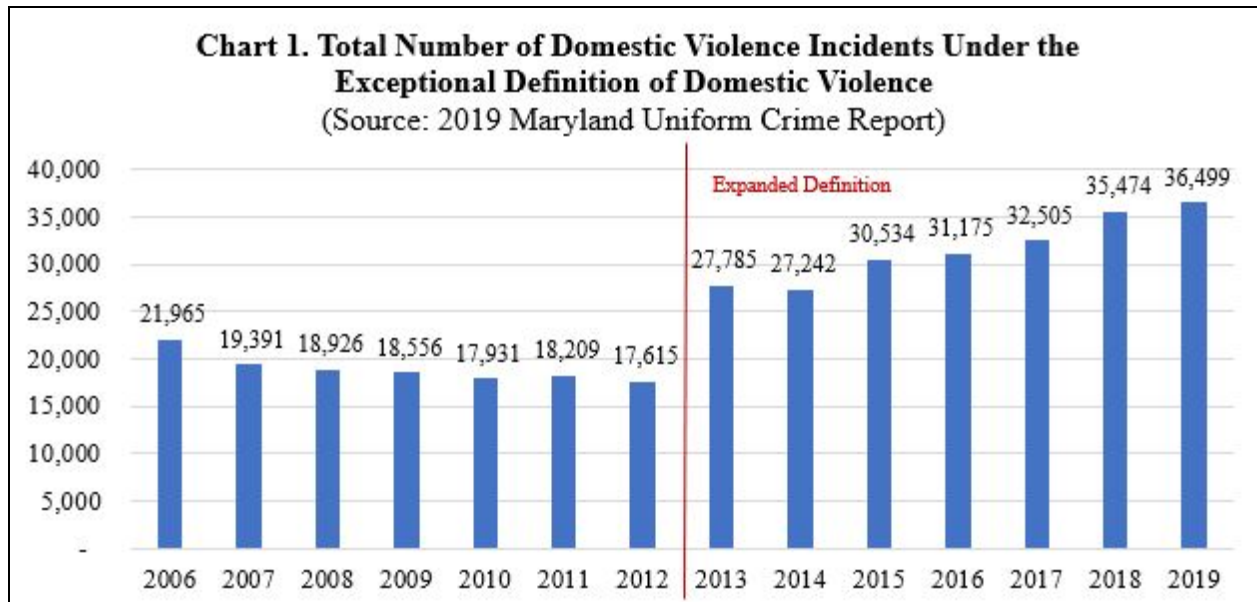
<b>Table 2. Number of Domestic Violence Crimes - Non-Spouse Relationship (2011 - 2019)<sup>11</sup></b>									
<b>Relationships reported as of 2013</b>	<b>2011</b>	<b>2012</b>	<b>2013</b>	<b>2014</b>	<b>2015</b>	<b>2016</b>	<b>2017</b>	<b>2018</b>	<b>2019</b>
Sibling (brother or sister)	N/A	N/A	1,636	1,691	1,791	1,918	1,970	2,254	2,018
Niece, Nephew, Aunt, Uncle, Cousin, In-law	N/A	N/A	562	660	866	1,070	970	1,068	1,043
Grandchild or Grandparent	N/A	N/A	232	280	328	349	397	447	471
Child (son or daughter) or Stepchild	N/A	N/A	2,149	2,274	2,601	2,521	2,922	3,018	3,042
Parent or Stepparent	N/A	N/A	2,533	2,729	3,143	3,096	3,298	3,600	3,425
Vulnerable Adult	N/A	N/A	47	73	56	63	57	67	154
Individual with a child in common	N/A	N/A	1,378	1,638	1,922	2,181	2,199	2,579	2,819
Heterosexual Male, Intimate Partner	N/A	N/A	630	649	978	1,472	1,569	1,648	1,957
Heterosexual Female, Intimate Partner	N/A	N/A	1,651	2,014	3,252	4,437	4,877	5,345	6,232
Homosexual Intimate Partner	N/A	N/A	150	179	296	393	417	462	524
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>18,209</b>	<b>17,615</b>	<b>*27,785</b>	<b>27,242</b>	<b>30,534</b>	<b>31,175</b>	<b>32,505</b>	<b>35,474</b>	<b>36,499</b>

\*In 2013, the crime of domestic violence expanded to include more relationships to reflect changes in Maryland law. This change explains the increase in the total number of domestically related crimes reported.

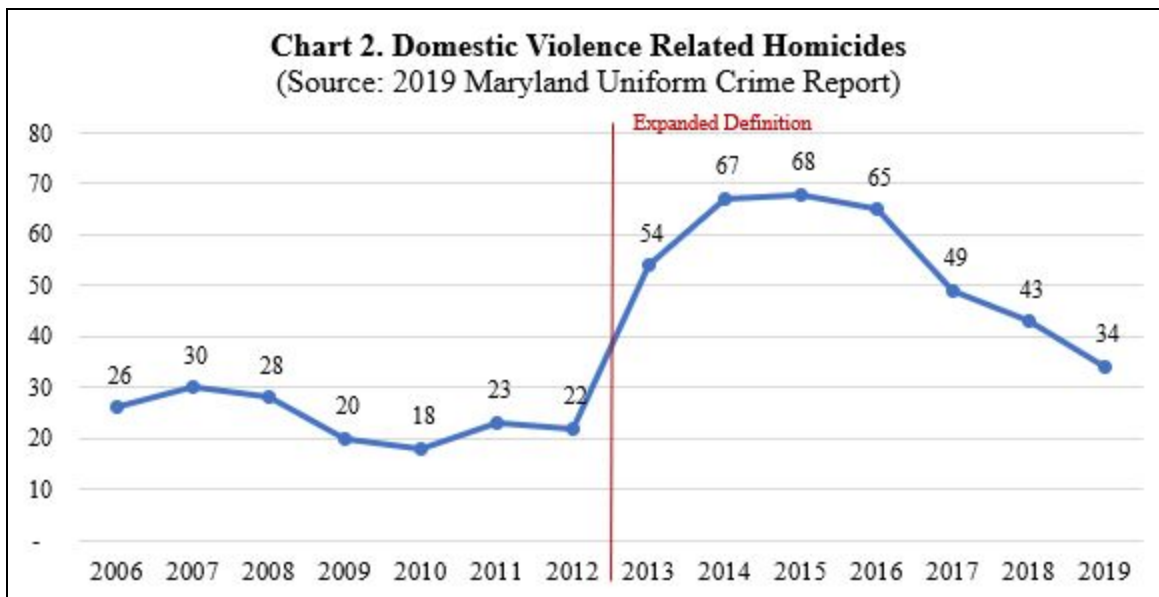
Under the expanded definition, the Maryland Uniform Crime Report identified an additional 21,685 domestically related crimes in 2019 (*as illustrated on the following page*).<sup>12</sup>

<sup>11</sup> Maryland Department of State Police. (2020). *2019 Maryland Uniform Crime Report*. This information represents the most current data available.

<sup>12</sup> Ibid.



In 2019, the Maryland Uniform Crime Report identified 20 female and 14 male homicide victims, all determined to be domestically related based on the expanded definition (*as illustrated below*).



## Maryland Domestic Violence Program

Pursuant to Chapter 356 of 2011, the Office administers the Maryland Domestic Violence Program (DOMV), a statewide program that is funded through the State’s annual budget and through federal Family Violence Prevention and Services (FVPS) funds from the U.S.





violence victims, which includes partnerships with law enforcement, courts, hospitals, local departments of social services, and other related support agencies.

In addition, all DOMV funded domestic violence programs must provide specialized services that reflect awareness of, and sensitivity to, the needs of underserved populations and implement their programs in accordance with State and federal regulations or guidelines. Unserved and underserved victim populations targeted for outreach and services include: individuals with mental health and substance abuse issues; older adults; individuals with disabilities; those with limited English proficiency; immigrants; people in same-sex relationships; teens; military families; male victims; and individuals and families living in rural areas of the State where access to services may be limited. Each program develops and implements a plan for outreach to, and engagement of, unserved or underserved populations.

While the Office requires all domestic violence programs to identify and provide services to unserved and underserved populations, the Office does not require the programs to adopt a standardized approach for outreach and intervention. Programs develop and implement their own outreach efforts as defined by their understanding of the specific needs of their respective jurisdictions.

## Grant Awards

In FY 2020, the annual State budget provided \$2,089,779 in general funds and the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services provided \$1,873,313 in federal FVPS funds for the DOMV program. Through this program, the Office awarded \$3,963,092 to subrecipients with comprehensive domestic violence programs (*as illustrated below and on the following pages*).

<b>Award Number</b>	<b>Award Amount</b>	<b>Implementing Organization</b>	<b>Jurisdiction</b>	<b>Project Summary</b>
DOMV-2020-0009	\$184,360	Family Crisis Resource Center, Inc.	Allegany	The program provided a 24-hour hotline; safe shelter; crisis intervention and supportive services; information and referrals to other community resources; individual and group counseling; legal and medical advocacy and accompaniment; advocacy with other systems; abuse intervention; and community and outreach training. Program funds provided personnel support, operating expenses, travel, and equipment.
DOMV-2020-0007	\$191,054	YWCA of Annapolis and Anne Arundel County	Anne Arundel	The program provided: emergency shelter; counseling; 24-hour hotline; safety planning; and prevention services to underserved populations. Program funds provided personnel support, contractual services, operating expenses, and other expenses.

DOMV-2020-0006	\$536,715	House of Ruth Maryland, Inc.	Baltimore City	The program provided comprehensive intimate partner violence (IPV) services to victims and their children experiencing intimate partner violence; abuse intervention to encourage abusive partners to stop their violent actions; and IPV education to fellow service providers and community members to broaden support for victims and awareness of IPV. Program funds provided personnel support, operating expenses, and travel.
DOMV-2020-0008	\$117,947	TurnAround, Inc. (Baltimore County)	Baltimore County	The program provided immediate and ongoing support to victims of domestic violence and their families including: advocacy; case management; emergency shelter; and trauma therapy. Program funds provided personnel support, operating expenses, and contractual services.
DOMV-2020-0010	\$215,896	Family Crisis Center of Baltimore County, Inc.	Baltimore County	The program provided comprehensive services to victims of domestic violence including: a 24-hour emergency safe shelter; victim advocacy services; and ongoing mental health support services. Program funds provided personnel support and operating expenses.
DOMV-2020-0002	\$103,543	Center for Abused Persons	Charles	The program provided crisis intervention; individual, family, and group counseling; 24-hour outreach and accompaniment; legal services; emergency shelter; other supportive services for victims of domestic violence; and abuse intervention program services for abusers. Program funds provided personnel support, contractual services, and operating expenses.
DOMV-2020-0005	\$134,290	Domestic Violence Sexual Assault Resource Center (Dove Center)	Garrett	The program provided services to include: shelter; counseling; hotline; information and referral; advocacy and accompaniment; outreach services; education and prevention activities; supportive services; specialized services for children; and abuse intervention services. Program funds provided salary support and operating expenses.
DOMV-2020-0003	\$181,306	Sexual Assault/Spouse Abuse Resource Center, Inc. (SARC)	Harford	The program provided a 24-hour helpline; crisis intervention; counseling, emergency shelter; abuse intervention; and community education. Program funds provided personnel support, contractual services, operating expenses, and other expenses.
DOMV-2020-0004	\$261,358	Family Crisis Center, Inc. of Prince George's County	Prince George's	The program provided safe housing and supportive services to women and their children fleeing domestic violence. Services included: emergency shelter; case management; counseling; and a 24-hour crisis hotline. Program funds provided personnel support and contractual services.

DOMV-2020-0001	\$132,437	CASA Citizens Assisting and Sheltering the Abused, Inc.	Washington	The program provided services to victims of domestic violence and their families, to include: a 24-hour hotline; emergency shelter; information and referral services; counseling; legal services; specialized services for children; accompaniment; and supportive services. Program funds provided personnel support.
DOMV-2020-0012	\$30,873	Southern Maryland Center for Family Advocacy	St. Mary's	The program provided services to adult and child victims, to include: a 24-hour hotline; crisis services; counseling; referrals; coordinated services; and access to ongoing therapy while also supporting engagement efforts designed to create and sustain community partnerships toward domestic violence prevention. Program funds provided personnel support, travel, operating expenses, and other expenses.
FVPS-2019-0007	\$433,640	Family & Children's Services of Central MD	Carroll	The program provided services to domestic violence victims and their children, to include: a 24-hour hotline; emergency shelter; crisis intervention; case management and continued counseling; information and referrals; legal services; specialized services for children; legal and medical accompaniment; abuser intervention; and supportive services. Program funds provided personnel support, travel, contractual services, operating expenses, and other expenses.
FVPS-2019-0006	\$145,405	Calvert County Health Department	Calvert	The program provided: 24-hour helpline services; individual and group counseling; victim advocacy services; outreach and education services to the community; and shelter at the Safe Harbor Domestic Violence Shelter. Program funds provided personnel support, operating expenses, and other expenses.
FVPS-2019-0011	\$145,354	Cecil County Department of Social Services	Cecil	The program provided services to domestic violence victims, to include: temporary safe shelter accommodations; individual, group, and crisis counseling; case management; 24-hour hotline services; legal services; court and hospital accompaniment; transitional housing; children's services; information and referral; education; advocacy; and outreach. Program funds provided personnel support, contractual services, travel, operating expenses, and other expenses.
FVPS-2019-0002	\$263,254	Heartly House, Inc.	Frederick	The program provided: a 24-hour hotline; crisis intervention and advocacy; emergency shelter; short-term individual and group counseling; safety planning; and referral to other Heartly House and/or community services; and community education and outreach. Program funds provided personnel support, travel, contractual services, operating expenses, and other expenses.

FVPS-2019-0005	\$187,025	HopeWorks of Howard County, Inc.	Howard	The program promoted holistic evidence-based healing strategies to reflect the individual needs of domestic violence victims by providing a variety of therapeutic counseling services, to include: individual and group counseling; emergency shelter; legal assistance; community education and outreach; 24-hour crisis hotline; and medical accompaniment. Program funds provided personnel support, contractual services, operating expenses, and other expenses.
FVPS-2019-0004	\$189,755	Montgomery County, Maryland	Montgomery	The program provided victims with outreach and information on legal protection and human services, as well as civil/criminal justice and law enforcement resources available to deal with the current incident of violence or ongoing abuse. Program funds provided personnel support.
FVPS-2019-0001	\$323,113.29	Mid-Shore Council on Family Violence	Talbot	The program provided: hotline services; crisis counseling; shelter; medical accompaniment; legal advocacy; court accompaniment; outreach; and training to domestic violence victims in Kent, Caroline, Dorchester, Talbot, and Queen Anne's counties. Program funds provided personnel support, operating expenses, contractual services, and travel.
FVPS-2019-0003	\$185,767	Life Crisis Center, Inc.	Wicomico	The program provided: 24-hour hotline services; emergency shelter; crisis counseling; abuse intervention program; information and referrals; legal services; specialized services for children; legal and medical accompaniment; supportive services; and community education in Wicomico, Worcester, and Somerset counties. Program funds provided personnel support, travel, and other expenses.
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$3,963,092</b>			

## Conclusion

The Office will continue to support the DOMV and FVPS programs to help comprehensive victim service providers meet the specific needs of domestic violence victims and their families, including those victims who are members of underserved populations, in Maryland's communities to make the State safer.