



**Committee for the
Coordination of Police
Services to Elderly Persons**

2017 Annual Report

New York State Division of Criminal Justice Services
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**New York State
Committee for the Coordination of Police Services to Elderly Persons
2017 Annual Report**

This report is submitted by the Committee as required by Section 844-b (3-a) of the New York State Executive Law. It details information about the Committee's activities and includes statistics from Domestic Incident Reports (DIRs) involving elderly victims (65 or older) from the 57 counties in New York State outside of New York City.

The New York State Division of Criminal Justice Services provides staff support to the Committee.

Issued October 2018

Andrew M. Cuomo
Governor
State of New York

Michael C. Green
Executive Deputy Commissioner
New York State Division of Criminal Justice Services

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Overview

In 2017, the New York State Committee for the Coordination of Police Services to Elderly Persons focused on developing and supporting training to improve the law enforcement response to elder abuse and raising awareness, among committee members and their constituents, of the resources available to elderly individuals.

The Committee met twice, on July 11 and December 19, 2017, at the New York State Division of Criminal Justice Services (DCJS) in Albany. The Office of Public Safety (OPS) within DCJS provides staff support to the Committee.

New York State Executive Law 844-b outlines the duties of the Committee, which include the support and development of programs, training, prevention practices and technical support to law enforcement agencies and service providers to combat crimes against the elderly.

To fulfill these duties, the Committee continues the development of an elder abuse toolkit for stakeholders to investigate crimes against the elderly; and continues to provide technical assistance through specific agency programs.

Committee Activities

Law Enforcement Training

Elder Abuse Resources Toolkit

The Committee continued discussions on the development of the Elder Abuse Toolkit for law enforcement. Specifically, Committee members determined the focus of the toolkit and the most useful resources to include, as well as developed a timeline for completion. The Office of Public Safety developed a survey to disseminate to law enforcement asking what resources they would find useful in the Toolkit. The Committee reviewed the survey and made suggestions before its dissemination. Forty-seven responses were received from law enforcement, outlining preferences for the following: specific resources they would find most useful; preferred toolkit format; and which officers would benefit most from the resources (patrolman versus investigators).

The results of the survey reinforced the Committee's decision to focus on targeting financial exploitation as the main issue faced by older adults. The majority of agencies responding indicated they see more financial exploitation elder abuse cases compared to all other forms of elder abuse. Financial exploitation is difficult for law enforcement to detect and investigate, and the majority of agency responses indicated that they experience these difficulties.

Over the last year, the Committee has compiled many resources on elder abuse that could be useful in the Toolkit. The Committee began tracking the resources they have received to better categorize them and determine what additional topics could be added. The next steps in the Toolkit development will involve compiling a panel of subject matter experts who are interested in assisting with evaluating current resources and providing additional materials. The panel may consist of current Committee members or non-voting members from outside organizations. These panel members will be included in future Committee meetings and updates.

Program Support and Informational Updates

Victim Services' Legislation

Effective October 17, 2017, vulnerable elderly or disabled individuals incapable of caring for themselves who have lost up to \$30,000 in savings can seek reimbursement from the New York State Office of Victim Services (OVS). Previously, the Office of Victim Services could only reimburse victims to this extent for loss of support or earnings, not savings. State law includes an age requirement for vulnerable elderly: at least 60 years old. The Committee supports this change as it is beneficial to elderly victims of crimes or abuse, and the Office of Victim Services continues to be an integral part of Committee initiatives.

Current Financial Scams Against the Elderly

Because financial exploitation is one of the most common crimes against the elderly population, the Committee frequently reviews and discusses the recent trends in financial scams. Stranger danger scams, which instruct victims to purchase pre-paid gift cards and provide the serial number, continue to increase. IRS scams also continue to increase, as well as romance scams, due to the increased popularity of online dating.

The New York City Police Department (NYPD) has implemented strategies throughout New York City in response to these scams. The department formed partnerships with retailers who frequently sell gift cards, including CVS, Duane Reade, 7-11, Walgreens and Rite Aid. Retailers were supplied with instructional cards from the NYPD to alert consumers of potential scams during gift card transactions. Scams dropped 42 percent% in the first 33 weeks of the program implementation. Furthermore, the NYPD regularly disseminates the Crime Prevention Book for Seniors, a booklet of tips for keeping elderly persons safe, written clearly and in large font for easy reading. Phase II of this project will involve NYPD officers visiting 410 identified senior centers in the city to give presentations on scams and provide safety tips. Officers will also provide "Senior Safe" shopping bags with items designed to decrease crime against the elderly: booklets with safety tips, bracelets that contain alarms if seniors feel threatened; and pens with permanent ink that can be used to write checks.

Future Activities of the Committee

The Committee and staff from the DCJS Office of Public Safety staff will continue to identify programs, in consultation with experts and service providers, designed to assist law enforcement in the safeguarding of elderly persons.

In addition, the Committee will include subject matter experts and representatives from other disciplines in future meetings to further encourage communication and information-sharing in the fields of elder abuse and aging services.

Committee members will also continue to collaborate to determine the most efficient ways to utilize the information provided at meetings to improve the quality of life of senior citizens in New York State.

**Table 1. Domestic Incident Reports (DIR) involving Elderly Victims
(Age 65 and older), Upstate and Long Island, 2017¹**

	Upstate and Long Island	
	2017	
	#	%
Total Elderly Incidents	6,953	100.0%
Suspect's Relationship to Victim		
Spouse or Ex-Spouse	1,080	15.5%
Intimate Partner or Former Intimate Partner	589	8.5%
Parent	12	0.2%
Child	2,663	38.3%
Other Family	1,481	21.3%
Other/Unknown	1,128	16.2%
Victim Gender		
Male	2,288	32.9%
Female	3,840	55.2%
Missing	825	11.9%
Suspect Gender		
Male	3,787	54.5%
Female	2,344	33.7%
Missing	822	11.8%
Victim Age Group		
65 to 69	3,108	44.7%
70 to 74	1,696	24.4%
75 to 79	1,039	14.9%
80 and over	1,110	16.0%
Median Age	70	
Suspect Age Group		
5 to 15	271	3.9%
16 to 19	444	6.4%
20 to 29	1,114	16.0%
30 to 39	1,207	17.4%
40 to 49	1,190	17.1%
50 to 59	1,096	15.8%
60 to 69	783	11.3%
70 and over	690	9.9%
Missing	158	2.3%
Median Age	42	

¹ Source: Division of Criminal Justice Services DIR Repository. Preliminary data subject to change. Includes DIR's completed in 2017, entered into repository as of 6/30/18.

Table 2. Number of Domestic Incident Reports (DIR)

Involving Elderly Victims by County, Upstate and Long Island 2017²

County	DIRs	
	Number	Percent
Albany	258	3.7
Allegany	21	0.3
Broome	157	2.3
Cattaraugus	20	0.3
Cayuga	49	0.7
Chautauqua	44	0.6
Chemung	9	0.1
Chenango	25	0.4
Clinton	35	0.5
Columbia	43	0.6
Cortland	34	0.5
Delaware	35	0.5
Dutchess	175	2.5
Erie	327	4.7
Essex	20	0.3
Franklin	32	0.5
Fulton	31	0.4
Genesee	15	0.2
Greene	27	0.4
Hamilton	1	0.0
Herkimer	50	0.7
Jefferson	59	0.8
Lewis	9	0.1
Livingston	31	0.4
Madison	46	0.7
Monroe	437	6.3
Montgomery	11	0.2
Nassau	1,012	14.6
Niagara	60	0.9
Oneida	176	2.5
Onondaga	131	1.9
Ontario	39	0.6
Orange	217	3.1
Orleans	2	0.0
Oswego	66	0.9
Otsego	50	0.7

² Source: Division of Criminal Justice Services DIR Repository. Preliminary data subject to change. Includes DIRs completed in 2017 and entered into the repository as of 6/30/18.

Putnam	36	0.5
Rensselaer	118	1.7
Rockland	171	2.5
Saratoga	96	1.4
Schenectady	140	2.0
Schoharie	16	0.2
Schuyler	1	0.0
Seneca	25	0.4
St Lawrence	49	0.7
Steuben	30	0.4
Suffolk	1,621	23.3
Sullivan	35	0.5
Tioga	28	0.4
Tompkins	51	0.7
Ulster	105	1.5
Warren	21	0.3
Washington	38	0.5
Wayne	90	1.3
Westchester	494	7.1
Wyoming	14	0.2
Yates	20	0.3
Grand Total	6,953	100.0

Domestic Incident Reports (DIR) involving Elderly Victims (Age 65 and Older), Upstate and Long Island, 2017

Total DIRs

- In 2017, law enforcement agencies in 57 Upstate and Long Island counties completed a total of 6,953 DIRs involving elderly victims who were 65 or older.

Relationship between Victim and Suspect

- In 38.3 percent of the DIRs completed in 2017, a child was reported as victimizing a parent (2,663).
- Spousal or ex-spousal relationships accounted for 15.5 percent (1,080) of elderly victim incidents. Intimate partners or ex-intimate partner relationships accounted for 8.5 percent (589) of incidents.
- Other family members accounted for 21.3 percent of suspects (1,481). The reports do not provide a specific breakdown of other family relationships.

Victim and Suspect Demographics

- The majority (55.2%) of elderly victims were identified as female (3,840) and the majority (54.5%) of suspects, male (3,787). In 12 percent of the cases gender of the victim or suspect was not identified.
- The most common age range for elderly individuals who were reported as victims was 65 to 69 (44.7%). The median age of all victims was 70 years old.

Note: All percentages are based upon totals that include missing values.

Attachment A:

Enabling Legislation and Committee Composition

Chapter III of the Laws of 1993 established the New York State Committee for the Coordination of Police Services to Elderly Persons.

As required by Section 844-b (2) (a) of New York State Executive Law, the Committee is composed of 16 members appointed by the DCJS Commissioner.

Committee membership must include: one representative of DCJS and the following state agencies: the New York State Police; Office of Victim Services; Office for the Aging; and the Office of Children and Family Services; two representatives each from the District Attorneys' Association of New York State; state Association of Chiefs of Police; and the New York State Sheriffs' Association; one representative each from the Attorney General's Office; the New York City Police Department; the New York State Crime Prevention Coalition; and two representatives from the Legislature, one appointed by Senate President and the other by the Assembly Speaker. Additionally, a representative from the state Office of Temporary and Disability Assistance (OTDA) serves on the Committee, replacing the position designated for the commissioner of the state's former Department of Social Services (as prescribed in Section 844-b).

Duties and Responsibilities

- Consult with experts, service providers, and representative organizations engaged in the protection of the elderly.
- Recommend the development of "Triad" or related programs in New York State, if appropriate, to assist the elderly to avoid criminal victimization through coordinated efforts of State and local law enforcement agencies and organizations which provide services to the elderly.
- Recommend policies and programs, if appropriate, to assist law enforcement agencies to implement "Triad" and related programs, including training and prevention standards and technical assistance. Such recommendations may include:
 - (1) The establishment of a statewide and central clearinghouse of information and education materials.
 - (2) The development of innovative community police programs for the elderly.
 - (3) Providing assistance to the Municipal Police Training Council in the development and delivery of training to law enforcement professionals involved in "Triad Programs," including, but not limited to: crimes against the elderly and the protection of elderly persons; police sensitivity to the needs of elderly persons as victims and witnesses; and social and human services.
 - (4) Providing assistance to State and local law enforcement officials and not-for-profit corporations and other organizations with respect to effective policies and responses to crimes against elderly persons.

- (5) Promoting and facilitating cooperation among State agencies and local units of government.
- (6) Effective advocacy of services to protect elderly persons and elderly victims of crime.
- (7) Evaluating the relationship between crimes against elderly persons and other problems confronting elderly persons, and making recommendations for effective policy response.
- (8) The collection of statistical data and research.

Attachment B:

Committee Members *(as of December 2017)*

New York State Division of Criminal Justice Services

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