2016 Annual Report

New York State Division of Criminal Justice Services
80 South Swan Street, Albany, New York 12210

www.criminaljustice.ny.gov
New York State
Committee for the Coordination of Police Services to Elderly Persons
2016 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 September 2017

Andrew M. Cuomo
Governor
State of New York

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

Overview and Activities of the Committee 4

Future Activities of the Committee 5

Attachment A: Enabling Legislation, Committee Composition and Duties and Responsibilities 9

Attachment B: Committee Members 11
Overview

In 2016, 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 May 8 and December 15, 2016, at the offices of the New York State Division of Criminal Justice Services (DCJS) in Albany. The agency’s Office of Public Safety (OPS) 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 updated basic training for new police officers with respect to crimes against the elderly; is working toward the development of a resource tool kit for stakeholders to investigate elder abuse; and continues to provide technical assistance through specific agency programs.

Committee Activities

Law Enforcement Training

Law Enforcement Toolkit

At its December 2016 meeting, the Committee agreed to develop an online tool kit, which would allow law enforcement professionals to access and utilize resources from all disciplines involved in the fight against, and prevention of, elder abuse.

The Committee and the Office of Public Safety staff will survey law enforcement to better understand which resources would benefit officers in the field and work together in 2017 to compile those resources for the tool kit. The toolkit will be disseminated to law enforcement shortly in early 2018.

Basic Course for Police Officers: Crimes Against the Elderly

New York State requires municipal police officer recruits to complete the Basic Course for Police Officers, developed and approved by the state’s Municipal Police Training Council (MPTC). The Council, which has eight members appointed by the Governor, is responsible for ensuring the course remains current and relevant to the needs of village, town, city and county police agencies and their future officers. DCJS provides staff support to the Council.

At the direction of the Council, a comprehensive review of the Basic Course for Police Officers is being conducted by DCJS staff. As part of that review, DCJS staff evaluated the existing four-hour block of instruction that focused on crimes against the elderly and crime prevention, drawing on expertise of Committee members.

The review resulted in recommendations that were accepted by the Council at its meeting in December 2016, including: dividing the four-hour block into two, two-hour sections, one focused on crimes against the elderly and the other, on crime prevention;
citing common crimes and identifying various schemes affecting the elderly; and
detailing strategies for law enforcement agencies and warning signs of scams.

Program Support

Committee members have discussed the following programs and activities during their
meetings. These initiatives are supported by the Committee and the discussions are
designed to facilitate information-sharing among Committee members and others in
attendance focused on elder justice.

New York State Judicial Committee on Elder Justice

The Judicial Committee on Elder Justice works with stakeholders across the state to
promote consistent outcomes in domestic violence cases, as well as addressing elder
justice issues. Additional subcommittees have been formed, including community
outreach, education, interagency coordination, legislative initiatives, policy and
procedure, and research data collection and technology.

A key focus of the Committee is training all court personnel on the aging process and
how it impacts court procedures. Personnel are taught how to identify elder abuse and
its risk factors, as well as cultural factors that can influence behavior in elder litigants.
Judicial Committee members expressed interest in collaborating with Committee
members and their stakeholders on future initiatives.

Enhanced Multi-Disciplinary Teams (eMDTs)

The New York State Office for the Aging, in collaboration with the state Office of Children
and Family Services, currently supports two Enhanced Multidisciplinary Teams: one in
Manhattan and the other in the Finger Lakes region. The teams bring together
professionals from a variety of disciplines – adult protective services, finance, criminal
justice, victim assistance, health care, religion and mental health – with the goal of
improving cooperation and streamlining assistance for better outcomes for the elderly
individuals.

This initiative targets frail adults who are at least 60 years old with a physical or cognitive
impairment, or who experience social isolation. The Committee supported the mission of
these teams by developing through training and implementation of forensic accounting
and geriatric psychiatry programs. Implementing such programs will increase the
knowledge base of the enhanced multidisciplinary teams and further assist the targeted
elderly population.

The creation of the teams is the result of the State of New York receiving a federal grant
called Elder Abuse Prevention Interventions grant initiatives in 2012. The grant is funded
by the Administration on Aging and the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.
The teams have served more than 220 older adults since their inception. Each team has
a coordinator to manage cases and provide further information to the rest of the team
members. District attorneys’ offices play an active role in each team and police
departments and sheriffs’ offices were asked to participate in the teams as well.
Coordinators also notify law enforcement and other relevant individuals upon receiving a
new case to determine if law enforcement was already aware of, or involved with, the
case.
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, service providers and representative organizations engaged in safeguarding the elderly – designed to assist law enforcement in the protection of elderly persons against crimes.

In addition, the Committee will continue to include representatives from other disciplines in future meetings to further encourage communication and information-sharing.

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.
2016 Domestic Incident Reports involving Elderly Victims
(Age 65 and Older, Upstate and Long Island counties)

- Law enforcement agencies in 57 counties Upstate and on Long Island completed 6,983 DIRs involving victims who were 65 years old or older.

- **Victim Demographics:**
  
  o The majority were female: 61.9 percent (4,320)
  
  o Nearly three-quarters (73.4%) were white; 16.9 percent were black; 4.7 percent Hispanic and 2.7 percent were from other racial/ethnic groups.
  
  o The median age was 71 years old and more victims ranged in age from 65 to 69 (43.7%) than any other age group.

- **Suspect Demographics:**
  
  o The majority were male: 62.1 percent (4,334).
  
  o Their race/ethnicity was similar to that of victims: 69.9 percent white; 18.3 percent black, 5.4 percent Hispanic and 2.8 percent from other racial/ethnic groups.
  
  o The median age was 42 years old and more suspects ranged in age from 40 to 49 years old (19%) than any other age group.

- **Orders of Protection**
  
  o Orders of Protection were in effect in 9.8 percent (685) of DIRs and a violation was reported in 36.1 percent (247) of those DIRs.

**Note:** Some reports may be missing certain demographic or order of protection information. Percentages cited here are based on totals that include missing or unknown values. See Table 1 for more information.
Table 1. Domestic Incident Reports (DIR) involving Elderly Victims  
(Age 65 and older), Upstate and Long Island, 2016

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Upstate and Long Island</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>2016</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>#</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Elderly Incidents</strong></td>
<td>6,983</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Victim Gender</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Male</td>
<td>2,593</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Female</td>
<td>4,320</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Missing</td>
<td>70</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Suspect Gender</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Male</td>
<td>4,334</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Female</td>
<td>2,550</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Missing</td>
<td>99</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Victim Race/Ethnicity</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>White</td>
<td>5,129</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Black</td>
<td>1,177</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hispanic</td>
<td>329</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other</td>
<td>189</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Missing</td>
<td>159</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Suspect Race/Ethnicity</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>White</td>
<td>4,884</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Black</td>
<td>1,279</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hispanic</td>
<td>375</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other</td>
<td>194</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Missing</td>
<td>251</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Victim Age Group</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>65 to 69</td>
<td>3,055</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>70 to 74</td>
<td>1,710</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>75 to 79</td>
<td>1,063</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>80 and over</td>
<td>1,155</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Median Age</td>
<td>71</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Suspect Age Group</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5 to 15</td>
<td>287</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>16 to 19</td>
<td>486</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>20 to 29</td>
<td>1,187</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Age Group</td>
<td>Count</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>-------------------</td>
<td>-------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>30 to 39</td>
<td>1,136</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>40 to 49</td>
<td>1,326</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>50 to 59</td>
<td>1,081</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>60 to 69</td>
<td>695</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>70 and over</td>
<td>651</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Missing</td>
<td>134</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Median Age</strong></td>
<td>42</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Order of Protection (OP)**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>OP Violated</th>
<th>Count</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>of OPs, Order Violated</td>
<td>685</td>
<td>9.8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>247</td>
<td>36.1%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Source:** Division of Criminal Justice Services DIR Repository.

*Preliminary data subject to change*

*Includes DIRs completed in 2016 and included in the Repository as of 5/1/17*

**Note:** Information provided in previous reports detailing suspect/victim relationship, offenses committed, and the presence of the suspect at the scene when police arrived is no longer available.
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 for 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 2016)

New York State Division of Criminal Justice Services

Michael Wood, Deputy Commissioner and Co-Chair
Office of Public Safety
80 South Swan Street
Albany, New York 12210

New York State Police

Patricia Groeber, First Deputy Superintendent and Co-Chair
1220 Washington Avenue
Building 22
Albany, New York 12207

New York State Sheriffs’ Association

Thomas Mills, Sheriff
Delaware County Sheriff’s Office
Phoebe Lane, Suite 1
Delhi, New York 13753

Phillip Povero, Sheriff
Ontario County Sheriff’s Office
74 Ontario Street
Canandaigua, New York 14424

New York State Association of Chiefs of Police

Randy Diamond, Chief
Hudson Falls Police Department
218 Main Street
Hudson Falls, New York 12839

Timothy Parisi, Chief
Ilion Police Department
55 First Street
Ilion, New York 13357

New York State Office of Victim Services

Kathy Davidson
Crime Victims Specialist II
80 South Swan Street
Albany, New York 12210

New York State Office of Attorney General

Gary S. Brown, Assistant Attorney General-In-Charge
Westchester Regional Office
44 South Broadway
White Plains, NY 10601
New York City Police Department
Vacant (nomination not received)

New York State Senate
Vacant (nomination not received)

New York State Crime Prevention Coalition
Kern Swoboda, Sergeant
3353 McKinley Parkway
Blasdell, NY 14219

New York State Office for the Aging
Greg Olsen, Acting Executive Deputy Director
Two Empire State Plaza
Albany, New York 12223

New York State Office of Temporary and Disability Assistance
Paula Cook, SSP Policy Manager
40 North Pearl Street, 16th floor
Albany, New York 12243

New York State Assembly
Vacant (nomination not received)

New York State Office of Children and Family Services
Alan Lawitz, Director, Bureau of Adult Services
52 Washington Street
Rensselaer, New York 12144-2796

New York State District Attorneys’ Association
Kristen Kane, Assistant District Attorney
Chief, Elder Fraud Unit
Queens County District Attorney’s Office
125-01 Queens Boulevard
Kew Gardens, New York 11415

Candace K. Vogel, Assistant District Attorney
Special Investigations/Prosecution Bureau
Erie County District Attorney’s Office
25 Delaware Avenue
Buffalo, New York 14202