



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

2019 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
2019 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 Office of Public Safety provides support to the Committee.

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 2019, 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.

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.

The Committee met twice in 2019, on August 21 and December 9, 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.

To fulfill its duties, the Committee supported a training series for law enforcement professionals focused on identification and investigation of financial exploitation, and provided support to its partner agencies working with the elderly population.

Committee Activities

Law Enforcement Training

Identifying and Investigating Financial Exploitation Training Series

The Office of Public Safety, in collaboration with Lifespan of Greater Rochester and with support of the Committee, facilitated “Identifying and Investigating Financial Exploitation,” a day-long training for police professionals, prosecutors and adult protective services staff taught by Darryl Lindsay, vice president of Security at M&T Bank, and Plattsburgh Police Officer Carmen Rotella.

The training was offered three times in March 2019, with a total of 83 students attending in three counties: Clinton, Oneida and Steuben. The four-hour morning session provided a general overview of financial exploitation and its effects on the elderly population and the four-hour afternoon session provided tools for investigating financial exploitation and developing cases for prosecution. The majority of students in each session stayed for the full day. More than 90 percent of those who attended the training submitted course evaluations and overall feedback they provided was positive.

The Office of Public Safety and Lifespan plan to schedule additional trainings but will combine the discrete, half-day sessions into one comprehensive, full-day training. With the support of the Committee, the Office of Public Safety and Lifespan also are exploring ways to deliver the training online, rather than in person, due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

The training also will be updated to include information about enhanced multi-disciplinary teams (eMDTS) and the Financial Exploitation Investigative Suite of Tools (FEIST).

The state Office for Victim Services provided nearly \$7 million in federal funding to the state Office for the Aging to expand existing and establish new multi-disciplinary teams, which are supported by that agency in partnership with Lifespan and Weill Cornell Medicine's NYC Elder Abuse Center. The teams consist of professionals from aging services, adult protective, health care, financial services, criminal justice, victim assistance, mental health and other disciplines and coordinate investigation and develop interventions to assist adults who are 60 or older and at risk for harm or exploitation due to physical limitations, cognitive impairment or dementia, and social isolation.

Developed by the Office for the Aging and the state Office for Children and Family Services, FEIST is designed to assist with financial exploitation cases, allowing multiple stakeholders to collect data from elderly victims in order to build cases against perpetrators, and allows for complete documentation of the incidents.

Program Support and Informational Updates

Office for the Aging Initiatives: Enhanced Multi-Disciplinary Teams

The Office for the Aging provided the Committee with an update on the enhanced multi-disciplinary teams (eMDTs) initiative. As of September 2019, 40 counties in New York State had established their own eMDT with applications pending in three other counties.

The teams address all forms of elder abuse, not exclusively financial exploitation. New York State was the first to develop this model using primarily federal Victim of Crime Act funding and the federal Office for Victims of Crime has developed a Request for Application (RFA) to replicate New York State's model in other parts of the country. On behalf of the Committee, the Office of Public Safety distributed a memo in December 2019 outlining the eMDT initiative and how teams can assist police and prosecutors with their efforts to combat elder abuse.

Agency Initiative Roundtable Discussion

At each Committee meeting, the members continue to brainstorm ways to educate the law enforcement community on trends and problems affecting the elderly population. Discussions include working with elderly victims of crime, ways to better assist the elderly in rural populations, and recent legislation and laws that are relevant to older adults.

Future Activities of The Committee

The Committee plans to engage with the state Department of Financial Services (DFS) to collaborate on trainings on topics including prevention of financial crimes, liability issues and learning to report incidents of adult abuse and neglect to DFS.

Domestic Incident Reports (DIR) Involving Elderly Victims (Age 65 and Older), Upstate and Long Island, 2019

TOTAL DIRs

- In 2019, law enforcement agencies in 57 Upstate and Long Island counties completed 7,612 DIRs involving elderly victims who were 65 years old or older.

RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN VICTIM AND SUSPECT

- In 42.9 percent (3,269) of those DIRs, a child was reported as victimizing a parent.
- Spousal or ex-spousal relationships accounted for 18.4 percent (1,402) of elderly victim incidents. Intimate partners or ex-intimate partner relationships accounted for 9.8 percent (744) of incidents.
- Other family members accounted for 25.8 percent (1,967) of suspects. The reports do not provide a specific breakdown of other family relationships.

VICTIM AND SUSPECT DEMOGRAPHICS

- Almost two-thirds (64%) of victims were identified as female (4,870) and 62.8 percent of suspects identified were male (4,779). In approximately 2 percent of the cases, sex of the victim or suspect was not identified
- More victims (43.6%) ranged in age from 65 to 69 than any other age group.
- The median age of all victims was 71 years old.

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

Table 1. Domestic Incident Reports (DIR) Involving Elderly Victims (Age 65 and Older), Upstate and Long Island, 2019

	Upstate and Long Island 2019	
	Number	Percent
TOTAL ELDERLY INCIDENTS	7,612	100.0
Suspect's Relationship to Victim		
Spouse or Ex-Spouse	1,402	18.4
Intimate Partner or Former Intimate Partner	744	9.8
Parent	10	0.1
Child	3,269	42.9
Other Family	1,967	25.8
Not Reported	220	2.9
Victim Gender		
Male	2,697	35.4
Female	4,870	64.0
Not Reported	45	0.6
Suspect Gender		
Male	4,779	62.8
Female	2,717	35.7
Not Reported	116	1.5
Victim Age Group		
65 – 69	3,318	43.6
70 – 74	1,967	25.8
75 – 79	1,224	16.1
80 and over	1,103	14.5
Median Age: 71		
Suspect Age Group		
5 – 15	346	4.5
16 – 19	389	5.1
20 – 29	1,055	13.9
30 – 39	1,461	19.2
40 – 49	1,266	16.6
50 – 59	1,161	15.3
60 – 69	976	12.8
70 and over	803	10.5
Not Reported	155	2.0
Median Age: 43		

Source: Division of Criminal Justice Services DIR Repository. Preliminary data subject to change. Includes DIRs completed in 2019 and entered into the repository as of 4/30/20.

**Table 2. Number of Domestic Incident Reports (DIR)
Involving Elderly Victims by County,
Upstate and Long Island, 2019**

County	DIRs		County	DIRs	
	Number	Percent		Number	Percent
Albany	278	3.7	Oneida	216	2.8
Allegany	24	0.3	Onondaga	155	2.0
Broome	246	3.2	Ontario	74	1.0
Cattaraugus	33	0.4	Orange	216	2.8
Cayuga	41	0.5	Orleans	8	0.1
Chautauqua	62	0.8	Oswego	76	1.0
Chemung	15	0.2	Otsego	43	0.6
Chenango	42	0.6	Putnam	38	0.5
Clinton	23	0.3	Rensselaer	109	1.4
Columbia	54	0.7	Rockland	149	2.0
Cortland	40	0.5	Saratoga	73	1.0
Delaware	52	0.7	Schenectady	160	2.1
Dutchess	174	2.3	Schoharie	130	1.7
Erie	421	5.5	Schuyler	14	0.2
Essex	26	0.3	Seneca	1	0.0
Franklin	25	0.3	St Lawrence	21	0.3
Fulton	16	0.2	Steuben	40	0.5
Genesee	28	0.4	Suffolk	1,640	21.5
Greene	50	0.7	Sullivan	36	0.5
Hamilton	1	0.0	Tioga	7	0.1
Herkimer	54	0.7	Tompkins	50	0.7
Jefferson	65	0.9	Ulster	103	1.4
Lewis	3	0.0	Warren	29	0.4
Livingston	40	0.5	Washington	22	0.3
Madison	59	0.8	Wayne	104	1.4
Monroe	417	5.5	Westchester	551	7.2
Montgomery	20	0.3	Wyoming	14	0.2
Nassau	1,126	14.8	Yates	13	0.2
Niagara	85	1.1	Grand Total	7,612	100.0

Source: Division of Criminal Justice Services DIR Repository. Preliminary data subject to change. Includes DIRs completed in 2019 and entered into the repository as of 4/30/20.

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 state's 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 2019)*

New York State Division of Criminal Justice Services

Johanna Sullivan, Director and Co-Chair
Office of Public Safety
80 South Swan Street
Albany, New York 12210

New York State Police

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

New York State Sheriffs' Association

Vacant

New York State Association of Chiefs of Police

F. Michael Catalano, Chief
City of Cortland Police Department
25 Court Street
Cortland, New York 13045

Second seat vacant

New York State Office of Victim Services

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

New York State Office of Attorney General

Gary S. Brown, Assistant Attorney General-In-Charge
New York State Attorney General
Westchester Regional Office
44 South Broadway
White Plains, New York 10601

New York City Police Department

Jessica Corey, Inspector
Commanding Officer, Crime Prevention Division
New York City Police Department
1 Police Plaza
New York, New York 10038

New York State Senate

Vacant

New York State Crime Prevention Coalition

Vacant

New York State Office for the Aging

Greg Olsen, Acting Executive Deputy Director
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New York State Office of Temporary and Disability Assistance

David Staszak
Director, Contract Management
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New York State Assembly

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New York State Office of Children and Family Services

Alan Lawitz, Director, Bureau of Adult Services
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New York State District Attorneys' Association

Kristen Kane, Assistant District Attorney
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