
NEW YORK STATE
COMMITTEE FOR THE COORDINATION OF POLICE
SERVICES TO ELDERLY PERSONS

2010 ANNUAL REPORT



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Governor
State of New York

Sean M. Byrne

Acting Commissioner
New York State
Division of Criminal Justice Services

Preface

The following report on the calendar year 2010 activities of the New York State Committee for the Coordination of Police Services to Elderly Persons is submitted pursuant to Section 844-b (3-a) of the New York State Executive Law. The report includes statistical information relating to Domestic Incident Reports (DIR) involving elderly victims for New York City from January through September 2010 as well as information regarding the activities of the Committee in 2010.

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NEW YORK STATE COMMITTEE FOR THE COORDINATION OF POLICE SERVICES TO ELDERLY PERSONS

Chapter III of the Laws of 1993 established the New York State Committee for the Coordination of Police Services to Elderly Persons. As prescribed by Section 844-b (2) (a) of the Executive Law, the Committee is composed of 16 members appointed by the Commissioner of the Division of Criminal Justice Services (DCJS). Committee membership includes: a representative of DCJS; one representative from the New York State Police; two representatives of the Sheriffs' Association; two representatives of the Association of Chiefs of Police; one representative of the Office of Victim Services (formerly the Crime Victims Board); one representative of the Office for the Aging; two representatives from the District Attorneys' Association; one representative from the Attorney General's Office; one representative from the Office of Children and Family Services; one representative of the New York City Police Department; one representative of the Crime Prevention Coalition; and two representatives from the Legislature, one to be appointed by the Temporary President of the Senate, and one by the Speaker of the Assembly. Additionally, as has been past practice, a representative from the Office of Temporary and Disability Assistance is included on the Committee as a representative of the former position of State Commissioner of Social Services (as prescribed in Section 844-b). A list of current Committee members is included in this report.

Duties and Responsibilities

Pursuant to Executive Law Section 844-b(3), the Committee shall advise DCJS, the State Police, county sheriffs and other local law enforcement agencies, and senior advocates chosen in consultation with the State Office for the Aging, in the study and evaluation of "Triad Programs" as an effective response to the problems of crime against elderly persons. "Triads" are community policing programs aimed at improving the quality of life and safety of elderly persons.

The Committee may also perform the following additional duties:

- Consult with experts, service providers, and representative organizations engaged in the protection of the elderly.
- If appropriate, recommend the development of "Triad Programs" in New York State 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.
- If appropriate, recommend policies and programs to assist law enforcement agencies to implement "Triad 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.

Reporting Requirements

Pursuant to Executive Law Section 844-b (3-a), the Committee “shall report to the Temporary President of the Senate, the Speaker of the Assembly, the Chair of the Assembly Committee on Aging and the Chair of the Senate Committee on Aging, on the incidence of reports of abuse of elderly persons consisting of reports to local law enforcement agencies pursuant to Section 140.10 of the Criminal Procedure Law.” Note: Due to an ongoing initiative to create a searchable database of Domestic Incident Reports (DIR), statewide DIR data for 2010 is not available at the time. Please refer to Page 10 of this report for more information on the DCJS DIR Repository Project.

**New York State Committee for the
Coordination of Police Services to Elderly Persons**

Committee Members as of December 2010 *

New York State Division of Criminal Justice Services

**Tony Perez, Deputy Commissioner, (Co-Chairperson)
Office of Public Safety, DCJS
4 Tower Place
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New York State Police

**Deborah J. Campbell, Colonel, (Co-Chairperson)
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New York State Sheriffs' Association

**Christopher Moss, Sheriff
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**Thomas Mills, Sheriff
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Delhi, New York 13753**

New York State Association of Chiefs of Police

**Joseph Bethel, Chief
Glens Falls Police Department
42 Ridge Street
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**Timothy Parisi, Chief
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Ilion, New York 13357**

New York State Office of Victim Services

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New York State Office of Victim Services
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New York State Office of Attorney General

Ms. Lois Aronstein
New York State Director of AARP
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New York City Police Department

Kathy Ryan, Deputy Chief
Chief of Department Domestic Violence Unit, NYPD
One Police Plaza, Room 1312
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Representative of the President of the New York State Senate

Jane Kelly
Brooklyn, NY

New York State Crime Prevention Coalition

Richard Garcia, Sergeant At Arms
New York State Crime Prevention Coalition

New York State Office for the Aging

Laura Beck, Assistant Counsel & Legal Services Developer
New York State Office for the Aging
ESP Agency Bldg. #2
Albany, NY 12223-1250

New York State Office of Temporary and Disability Assistance

Logan Joseph
Special Assistant to the Commissioner
New York State Office of Temporary and Disability Assistance
40 North Pearl Street, 16th floor
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Representative of the Speaker of the New York State Assembly

Vacant (nomination not received)

New York State Office of Children and Family Services

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

New York State District Attorneys' Association

**Honorable Beth Cozzolino
Columbia County District Attorney
Columbia County Courthouse Annex
Hudson, NY 12534**

Vacant (nomination not received)

2010 ACTIVITIES OF THE COMMITTEE FOR COORDINATION OF POLICE SERVICES TO ELDERLY PERSONS

The Committee met on March 30, 2010 and September 8, 2010 at the Division of Criminal Justice Services (DCJS) in Albany, NY.

The March Committee meeting highlighted an effective county community service with missions of providing protective services and support to elderly persons. The presentation was delivered by Mary Milham and Faith Fish, Co-Coordinators of the Albany County Seniors and Law Enforcement Together (SALT), an initiative created by David Soares, Albany County District Attorney. Ms. Milham and Ms. Fish outlined their outreach initiatives, successes and challenges, and answered questions from the Committee.

During the September 2009 meeting the Committee asked for ideas for one day training for law enforcement investigators on Elder Crime that can be delivered in 5 or 6 locations across the state. Staff from the Office of Public Safety presented a concept briefing during the March 30th, 2010 meeting followed by a full briefing during the September 8, 2010 meeting. The training will be a multi-disciplinary approach and include participation from law enforcement, District Attorney Offices, Adult Protective Services and local community organizations. The primary training objective is to enhance knowledge and promote understanding of the roles each agency plays in assisting law enforcement during the investigation of elder crimes. The primary audience is law enforcement investigators and the course will also be open to Crime Prevention Officers, Adult Protective Services Staff, Social Services, prosecutors, victim advocates, and professionals working with the elderly. Case samples would be used to highlight the process (discovery through prosecution). The day would conclude with a panel discussion.

Based on the July 2009 Sub-Committee recommendations to improve committee membership, the Committee tasked the Sub-committee to write a proposal to amend Executive Law Section 844-b and the Committee bylaws. In 1993, when the Committee was established, "Triad Programs" developed by the American Association of Retired Persons, the National Sheriffs' Association and the International Association of Chiefs of Police were an innovative new concept designed to prevent the victimization of the elderly in the community by forming a "Triad" whereby local police and sheriffs' offices agree to work cooperatively with senior citizens to share ideas and resources to provide programs and training for vulnerable elderly persons. The "Triad" programs were not sustained and there was no longer a need for legislation to mandate a committee to evaluate a program that does not exist.

Lastly, at the March meeting, Geoff Rogers of Brookdale Institute addressed the committee for the purposes of gaining a letter of support for the Brookdale Institutes forthcoming application for a U.S. Department of Justice (DOJ) grant. Mr. Rogers explained the U.S. DOJ grant is for funding for research and evaluation on the abuse, neglect, exploitation of elderly individuals and individuals in residential care facilities. The DOJ is seeking data by sponsoring research to provide objective, independent,

evidence-based knowledge and tools to meet the challenges of identifying, reporting, investigating, and prosecuting cases of abuse, neglect, and exploitation of community dwelling elders, and all individuals living in residential care facilities, particularly at the State and local levels. Mr. Rogers explained that the data will be extremely helpful to the Committee and supplement the DIR data reported under executive law by the Committee. The amount of the Grant would up to \$500,000. The Committee members extended individual agency letters of support to Brookdale for the grant.

During the September 8, 2010 meeting the Committee approved the proposed amendment to Executive Law Section 844-b that was put forth as bill DCJS #05-11 to the Legislature on January 6, 2011. The bill proposes amending the membership of the Committee for the Coordination of Police Services to Elderly Persons, reduces the statutorily required meetings to once per year, replaces references to “Triad Programs” with references to “programs designed to protect elderly persons”, repeals the required submission of an annual report, and expands the membership of the Committee for the Coordination of Police Services to Elderly Persons to include a representative of the Office of Children and Family Services.

Committee members from Office of Children and Family Services (OCFS) provided a summary of the results from the 16th Annual Adult Abuse Training Institute (AATI) conference held in September 2009. The two-day conference on issues affecting the elderly was attended by over 400 persons with the largest contingent from backgrounds in Adult Protective Services and the Office for the Aging. All four Committee sponsored workshops received excellent ratings from attendees and the Committee decided to sponsor workshops again in 2010. The Committee supported two additional workshops during the 17th Annual AATI held at the Albany Marriott on September 15-16, 2010. The results will be discussed during the next Committee meeting in 2011.

Staff from the DCJS Office of Justice Research and Performance presented 2009 Statewide Domestic Incident Report (DIR) Submissions for Elderly Victims.

The Committee received a briefing on a new DCJS initiative that includes the creation of a searchable database for law enforcement use only of all Domestic Incident Reports (DIRs) submitted to DCJS. Once the database is developed, staff will begin entering data from DIRs for the current calendar year and work backward. New DIRs will also be entered as quickly as possible upon receipt. An image of the DIR will be linked to its respective entry in the database. Authorized users will be able to view an image of the original DIR, follow links to other associated information, and cross search associated names, addresses, previous DIR activity and more. One example of a benefit to law enforcement is that a dispatcher can see an address history and inform responding officers with safety information. The project will be rolled out in 2011.

DCJS staff represented the Committee at a three day statewide Elder Abuse Summit at the Albany Crown Plaza in October 2010. The event is convened and sponsored by Lifespan of Greater Rochester for the purpose of bringing together governmental and non governmental agencies to develop a statewide Elder Abuse Action

Agenda. The Summit results are expected to be available for discussion during the March 2011 Committee meeting.

During 2010, the Committee received invaluable guidance and assistance of professionals such as Art Mason at Life Span of Rochester and Geoff Rogers from the Brookdale Center for Healthy Aging and Longevity. Their wealth of knowledge and support has been instrumental in many initiatives of the Committee over the past year and the Committee looks forward to continued cooperation and mutual support.

Member Status

During 2010, Laura Beck, Assistant Counsel for the Office of the Aging replaced Tim Kovarik and Logan Joseph replaced Lorraine Noval as representative from the Office of Temporary and Disability Assistance. The position of representative from the State Assembly has remained vacant. No nomination was received from the Assembly in 2006 when the Committee was re-activated or in response to a second request from DCJS in 2007 and a third request in 2009.

2010 STATEWIDE DOMESTIC INCIDENT REPORT (DIR) SUBMISSIONS FOR ELDERLY VICTIMS

Mandate

In accordance with New York State Executive Law, Section 844-b (3-a), the Committee for the Coordination of Police Services to Elderly Persons is mandated to provide an annual report on domestic incidents reported to the police that involve elderly persons, ages of victims and alleged offenders, circumstances of the incident whether arrests were made and the sentence, if any, of the offenders.

Data

This report is based on the Domestic Incident Report (DIR), a New York State standardized form that is completed by law enforcement officers for all alleged incidents of domestic violence.¹ The Division of Criminal Justice Services (DCJS) maintains a database comprised of *only* DIRs completed on victims 65 years of age or older.² As noted above, in 2010 DCJS began creating a centralized Domestic Incident Report Repository of all DIRs that will be operational in 2011. Due to the transition from paper-based reports to a searchable database, state-wide DIR data for 2010 is not available for inclusion in this year's report. New York City data from January through September 2010 is available and reported below.

¹ The DIR form is usually prepared at the time of the incident and is not intended to record sentence information.

² According to Section 140.10 of the Criminal Procedure Law, a copy of the Domestic Incident Report involving a victim who is 65 years of age or older, is required to be sent to the Committee for the Coordination of Police Services to Elderly Person.

On a monthly basis, the New York City Police Department electronically submits *all* of their DIRs to DCJS.³ Using the victim's age as a guide, an elderly NYC DIR dataset is derived for the current analysis.

Total NYC DIRs (Table 1)

- In the first nine months of 2009, law enforcement agencies in New York City documented a total of 2,817 DIRs involving elderly victims 65 years of age or older. In the first nine months of 2010, a total of 2,891 DIRs involving elderly victims were recorded in New York City. Between the first nine months of 2009 and the first nine months of 2010 the number of DIRs involving elderly victims increased by approximately 2.6%.

Relationship between Elderly Victim and Suspect

- In 2009, intimate partner relationships comprised 19.5% of DIRs involving elderly victims in NYC. In 2010, intimate partner relationships comprised 17.5% of elderly DIRs, a decrease of 9.8%. Intimate partner relationships include spouse, ex-spouse, girlfriend, boyfriend, and same sex.
- Family relationships accounted for the majority of elderly DIRs for both 2009 (90.1%) and 2010 (89.5%). Family relationships include spouse or ex-spouse, parent, grandparent, and other relatives (e.g., sibling, child, grandchild, stepchild, aunt, nephew).
- Elderly victims involved in domestic incidents were more likely to be victimized by their children. The suspect was the child of the elderly victim in 42.7% of incidents in NYC in 2009 and in 43.3% of incidents in 2010.
- The grandchildren of elderly victims were also likely to be suspects. A grandchild of the elderly victim was the suspect in 19% of incidents in NYC in 2009 and in 17.2% of incidents in 2010.
- Suspects characterized as family other than children and grandchildren of the victim comprised the smallest group other than non-family suspects. Other family members of the elderly victims in NYC were involved in 14.0% of the elderly incidents in 2009 and 17.1% in 2010.

Victim Demographics

- The majority of elderly victims in NYC were female in both 2009 (71.3%) and 2010 (71.4%).

³ New York City Police Department submits DIRs for the following counties: Bronx, Kings, New York, Queens and Richmond.

- In 2009, 41.3% of elderly victims in NYC were Black, non-Hispanic, 23.6% were Hispanic, and 26.5% were white, non-Hispanic. In 2010, 40.7% of elderly victims in NYC were Black, non-Hispanic, 24.4% were Hispanic, and 27.1% were white, non-Hispanic.
- The largest victim age group in both 2009 and 2010 was 65 to 69 (38.8% and 40.8%, respectively). The average age for victims was 72.8 in 2009 and 72.7 in 2010.

Suspect Demographics

- Males made up the majority of suspects in incidents involving elderly victims in NYC in both 2009 (63.3%) and 2010 (63.7%).
- Roughly three fourths of the suspects in incidents in which the victims were elderly in NYC were minorities in both 2009 (75.2%) and 2010 (74.3%).
- The average age of suspects was 38.9 in 2009 and 38.3 in 2010. The 40 to 49 age range was the most common suspect age range in each year; 19.1% in 2009 and 18.6% in 2010.

Offense Characteristics

- In 2009, of the 2,817 incidents involving elderly victims reported to police in NYC, 6.2% were felonies, 16.2% were misdemeanors, and 14.7% were violations or other offenses.
- In 2010, of the 2,891 incidents involving elderly victims reported to police in NYC, 7.2% were felonies, 17.7% were misdemeanors, and 13.5% were violations.
- Most DIRs involving elderly victims in NYC did not result in an offense being recorded. In 2009, 62.9% of incidents either involved no offense or had none reported. In 2010, 61.6% of DIRs had no reported offense.

Order of Protection

- In 2009, 6% (168) of incidents involving elderly victims in NYC occurred when a valid order of protection was in effect. In 88.7% (149) of these incidents the order of protection was violated.
- In 2010, 6.6% (192) of incidents in NYC involving elderly victims occurred when a valid order of protection was in effect and in 87% (167) of these incidents the order of protection was violated.

Suspect On-Scene

- In 2009, in 51.9% of the incidents involving elderly victims in NYC the suspect was on-scene when law enforcement responded. In 2010, the suspect was on-scene in 50.1% of the incidents involving elderly victims.

Arrest (Suspect On-Scene)

- In 2009, 85.5% (214) of incidents in NYC involving an elderly victim resulted in an arrest when the suspect was on-scene and the incident involved a felony or misdemeanor. In 2010, 88.5% (255) of elderly incidents resulted in an arrest when the suspect was on-scene and a felony or misdemeanor was involved.

Table 1 NYC DIR Data	2009 (Jan - Sept)		2010 (Jan - Sept)		2009 - 2010 Percent Change
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	
Total Incidents Involving Elderly Victims	2817	100.0%	2891	100.0%	2.6%
Relationship (Victim to Suspect)	2817	100.0%	2891	100.0%	2.6%
Intimate Partner	548	19.5%	507	17.5%	-7.5%
Spouse ¹	375	13.3%	325	11.2%	-13.3%
Ex-spouse ²	32	1.1%	18	0.6%	-43.8%
Boyfriend/girlfriend	126	4.5%	149	5.2%	18.3%
Same Sex	15	0.5%	15	0.5%	0.0%
Parent	1204	42.7%	1252	43.3%	4.0%
Grandparent	534	19.0%	498	17.2%	-6.7%
Other Family	393	14.0%	494	17.1%	25.7%
Missing/Other ³	138	4.9%	140	4.8%	1.4%
Female Victim	2009	71.3%	2064	71.4%	2.7%
Male Victim	808	28.7%	827	28.6%	2.4%
Female Suspect	1000	35.5%	1035	35.8%	3.5%
Male Suspect	1782	63.3%	1841	63.7%	3.3%
Victim Race	2817	100.0%	2891	100.0%	2.6%
White	746	26.5%	783	27.1%	5.0%
Black	1164	41.3%	1178	40.7%	1.2%
Hispanic	666	23.6%	704	24.4%	5.7%
Other	229	8.1%	217	7.5%	-5.2%
Missing	12	0.4%	9	0.3%	-25.0%
Suspect Race	2817	100.0%	2891	100.0%	2.6%
White	699	24.8%	742	25.7%	6.2%
Black	1152	40.9%	1162	40.2%	0.9%
Hispanic	609	21.6%	658	22.8%	8.0%
Other	325	11.5%	294	10.2%	-9.5%
Missing	32	1.1%	35	1.2%	9.4%
Victim Age Group	2817	100.0%	2891	100.0%	2.6%
65 to 69	1094	38.8%	1179	40.8%	7.8%
70 to 75	804	28.5%	767	26.5%	-4.6%
75 to 79	485	17.2%	473	16.4%	-2.5%
80 and Over	434	15.4%	472	16.3%	8.8%
Average Age (in years)	72.8		72.7		
Suspect Age Group	2817	100.0%	2891	100.0%	2.6%
5 to 15	228	8.1%	199	6.9%	-12.7%
16 to 19	342	12.1%	367	12.7%	7.3%
20 to 29	391	13.9%	429	14.8%	9.7%
30 to 39	307	10.9%	370	12.8%	20.5%
40 to 49	538	19.1%	538	18.6%	0.0%
50 to 59	299	10.6%	280	9.7%	-6.4%
60 to 69	185	6.6%	170	5.9%	-8.1%
70 and over	213	7.6%	196	6.8%	-8.0%
Missing	314	11.1%	342	11.8%	8.9%
Average Age (in years)	38.9		38.3		
Offenses	2817	100.0%	2891	100.0%	5708
Felony	174	6.2%	208	7.2%	382
Misdemeanor	456	16.2%	511	17.7%	967
Violation/Other	415	14.7%	390	13.5%	805
No Offense ⁴	1772	62.9%	1782	61.6%	3554
Order of Protection	168	6.0%	192	6.6%	14.3%
Orders Violated	149	5.3%	167	5.8%	12.1%
Offender On Scene (All Incidents)	1462	51.9%	1447	50.1%	-1.0%
Offender On-Scene(Misd or Fel)	250	8.9%	288	10.0%	15.2%
Arrest Made	214	7.6%	255	8.8%	19.2%

1. Includes fiancés and common law spouses.

2. Includes divorce and child in common.

3. Includes strangers, caregivers, friends, and acquaintances.

4. Includes incidents without a reported offense level.