

CITY OF PHOENIX

Domestic Violence Fatality Review Team

2023/24 REPORT





City of Phoenix

July 1, 2024

To the Arizona Domestic Violence Community:

As Co-Chairs of the Phoenix Domestic Violence Fatality Review Team (DVFRT), we are pleased to share our annual report with you. We wish to express our sincere appreciation for the support the Team received from Phoenix City Manager Jeff Barton, Director of the Human Services Department Jacqueline Edwards, and Interim Police Chief Michael Sullivan.

Domestic violence is a systemic public safety issue, representing danger not only for the victim but also for friends, family, co-workers; law enforcement; and the community at large. The DVFRT is dedicated to identifying system gaps or areas for improvement to reduce the number of domestic violence homicides in our community.

Sincerely,

Kevin M. Mattingly

Kevin Mattingly, Director
City of Phoenix
Family Advocacy Center

Amy Breitzman

Amy Breitzman, Commander
Phoenix Police Department
Family Investigations Bureau



Table of Contents

<u>MISSION & INTRODUCTION</u>	02
<u>MEMBERS</u>	03
<u>PROCESS</u>	04
<u>STATISTICS</u>	05
<u>CASE SUMMARY & TIMELINE</u>	08
<u>FINDINGS & RECOMMENDATIONS</u>	15
<u>DVFRT 2019/20 UPDATE</u>	18
<u>ATTACHMENT A</u>	20

Mission and Introduction

The mission and purpose of the Domestic Violence Fatality Review Team is to examine domestic violence fatality and near-fatality incidents to improve our understanding of the dynamics of such incidents. Furthermore, the team uses this expanded knowledge to develop recommendations for systems improvements that serve victims and survivors of domestic violence. Most importantly, the team hopes that our recommended systems improvements have a positive impact and influence in preventing future domestic violence incidents and most importantly prevent future domestic violence fatalities from occurring.

Members of this team represent a variety of disciplines, including the criminal justice system, advocacy community, healthcare, municipal government, and other community-based agencies. This wide-ranging membership provides a unique opportunity to work across disciplines to evaluate systems gaps and barriers and to develop comprehensive and practical recommendations for improvement.

The Co-Chairs express our appreciation to the 2023–2024 DVFRT membership for their continued commitment to this work and for their knowledge, passion, and time devoted throughout the process.

The Co-Chairs extend a thank you to the members of the Phoenix Police Department who researched incidents of domestic violence homicides and near-fatal incidents for the DVFRT to review and select from.

In addition, the Co-Chairs extend a debt of gratitude to the subset of members who participated in a Case Review Subcommittee. The members of this subcommittee include Michelle De Alba, Bianca Harper, Dana Martinez, Katelyn Osselaer, Shawn Steinberg, and Hilary Weinberg.

On behalf of the entire DVFRT, the Co-Chairs sincerely thank Kelli Donley Williams, Kevin Mattingly, Samantha Mendez, and Katelyn Osselaer for completing the final report.

Members

- Kevin Mattingly (Co-Chair)- City of Phoenix Human Services Department
- Amy Breitzman (Co-Chair)- Phoenix Police Department
- James Hester- Phoenix Police Department
- Bianca Harper- Arizona State University
- Kelli Donley Williams- Maricopa Association of Governments
- Stephanie Smith- Phoenix Fire Department
- Katelyn Osselaer- City of Phoenix Human Services Department
- Christopher Sund- Phoenix Police Department
- Dyanne Greer- Maricopa County Attorney's Office
- Hilary Weinberg- City of Phoenix Prosecutor's Office
- Laura Guild- Department of Economic Security
- Dana Martinez- A New Leaf
- Dolores (D.C.) Ernst- Phoenix Fire Department
- Samantha Mendez- Honor Health
- Shawn Steinberg- Maricopa County Attorney's Office
- Karen Gerdes- La Frontera Empact
- Michelle De Alba- City of Phoenix Human Services Department

Staff Liaisons

- Luke Christian - City of Phoenix Law Department
- Kristina Blea - City of Phoenix Human Services Department
- Nichole Ayoola - City of Phoenix Human Services Department



The DVFRT Process

Case Selection:

Members of the Phoenix Police Department reviewed several 2022 fatal and near-fatal domestic violence incidents and presented several to the Team for review. After a thorough discussion, the full team reached a consensus and selected the case for the 2023-2024 fatality review.

The DVFRT selected a near-fatality incident that involved a married heterosexual couple. After the case was selected by the full committee, a subset of members volunteered to participate in the Case Review Subcommittee.

In preparation for the review, law enforcement members obtained police reports, criminal histories, Arizona Department of Child Safety information, charging documents, medical reports, and court records from the case file. These items were provided to the subcommittee.

The Case Review Subcommittee was responsible for reviewing this information and creating a timeline that includes police involvement, details of the victim and perpetrator's relationship, the history of violence in this relationship leading up to the near-fatal incident, and the criminal justice involvement through the conviction of the perpetrator.

The Case Review Subcommittee interviewed the victim and the witness involved in the near fatality. These interviews were conducted separately and on different dates, totaling multiple hours for each interview.

A member of the Phoenix Police Department contacted the prison facility where the inmate/perpetrator is housed to obtain current information regarding his status. This information was provided to the full committee. Due to safety concerns expressed by the victim, the Case Review Subcommittee decided not to interview the perpetrator for this report.

Statistics

As defined by the Department of Justice, Office on Violence Against Women, domestic violence is a pattern of abusive behavior in any relationship that is used by one partner to gain or maintain power and control over another intimate partner. Domestic violence can be physical, sexual, emotional, economic, psychological, or technological actions or threats of actions or other patterns of coercive behavior that influence another person within an intimate partner relationship. This includes any behaviors that intimidate, manipulate, humiliate, isolate, frighten, terrorize, coerce, threaten, blame, hurt, injure, or wound someone.¹

Phoenix Domestic Violence Statistics (attachment A)

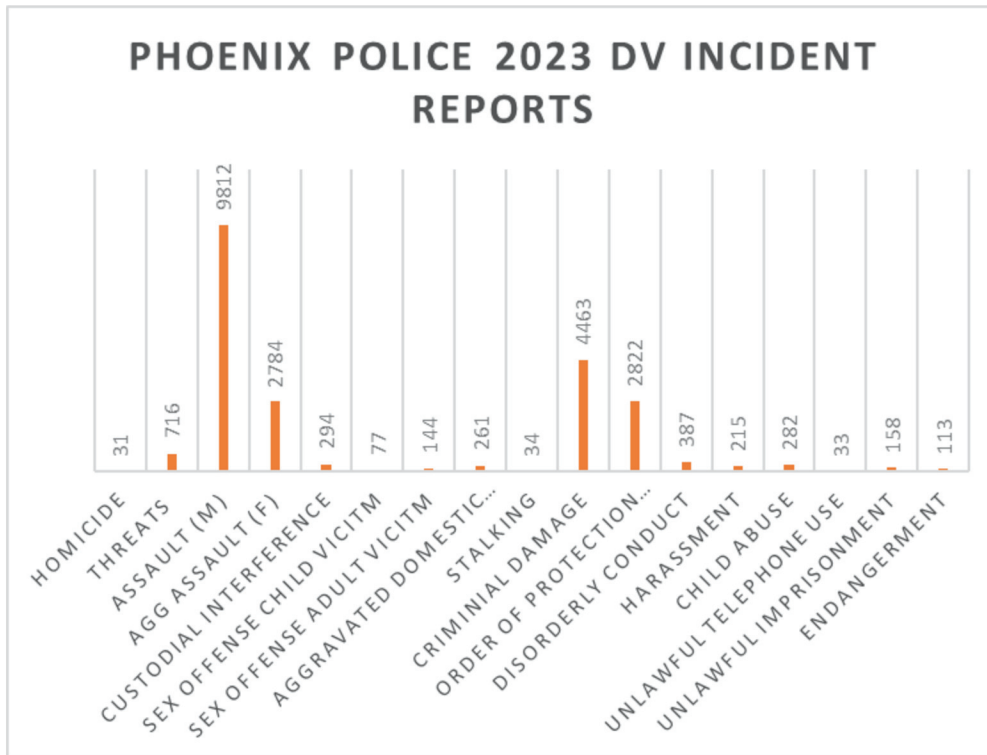
In the City of Phoenix, police responded to 33,756 calls for services notated as domestic violence in 2023. This resulted in 23,164 incident reports, 8,533 adults arrested, and 405 juveniles “contacted”. When incident reports are titled, officers use the most serious crime alleged as the report title. Those arrested may be charged with more than one crime. The three most common report titles used in 2023 for domestic violence incidents were Misdemeanor Assault, Criminal Damage², and Violation of an Order of Protection (a misdemeanor).

Of note in 2023 were 261 arrests for Aggravated Domestic Violence. A charge of Aggravated Domestic Violence requires that the person arrested was convicted of three or more acts of domestic violence over a period of 84 months (7 years). Also notable were 2,784 arrests for Aggravated Assault (a felony).³

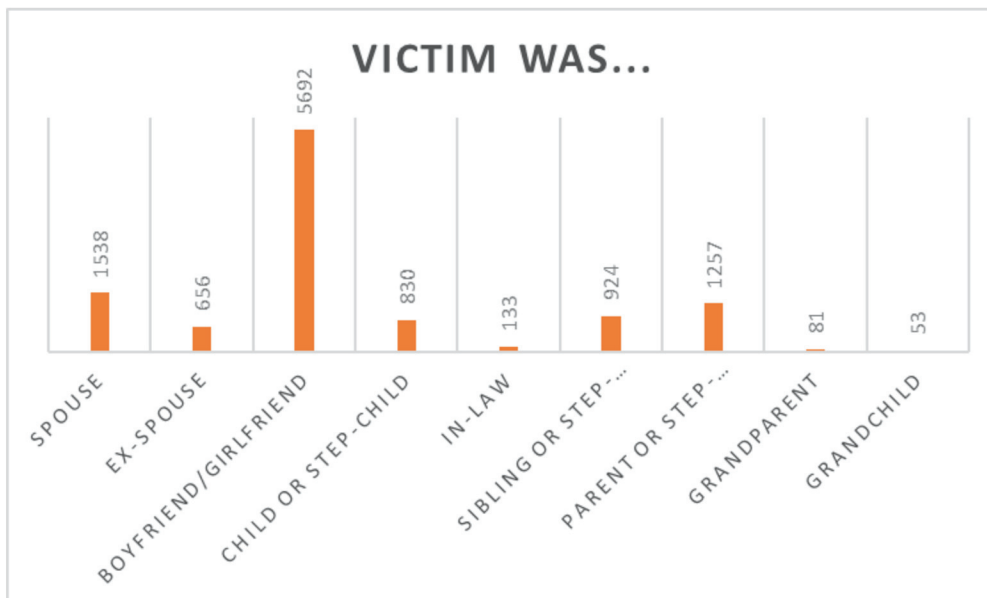
¹ <https://www.justice.gov/ovw/domestic-violence>

² Criminal Damage could be either a misdemeanor or felony. The available data does not discriminate between the two.

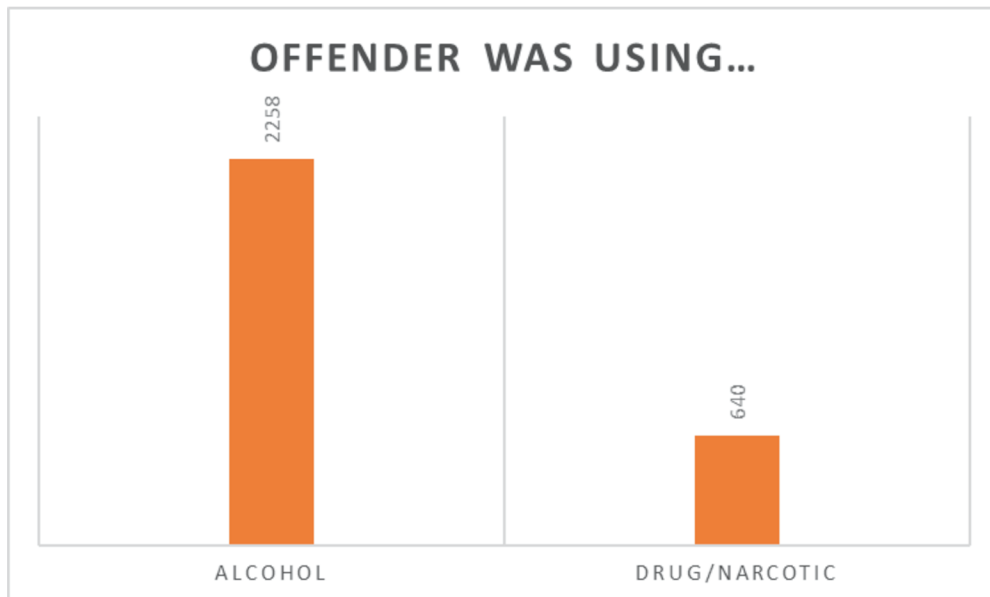
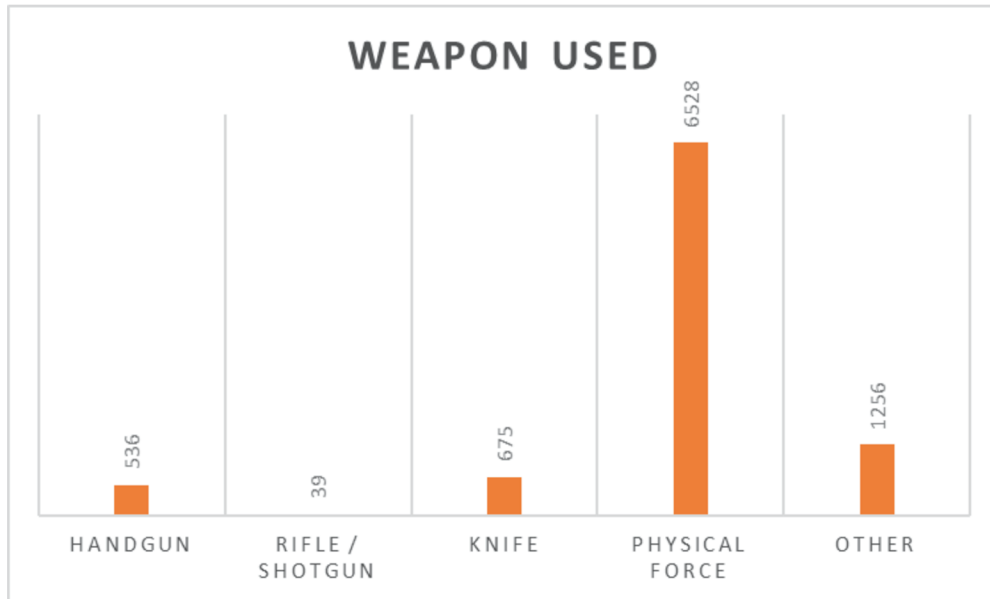
³ There are several circumstances which could elevate a misdemeanor assault to a felony, including the victim suffering serious physical injury or the suspect using a weapon during the assault. ARS 13-1204.



In the City of Phoenix, the most common relationship between abuser and victim in 2023 was among unmarried persons.



The most used “weapon” during a domestic violence incident in the City of Phoenix was “physical force.” Defined as the use of hands, fists, or feet, to assault the victim. Strangulation is included in this category.



By the Numbers

3 TO 10 MILLION

The American Academy of Child & Adolescent Psychiatry reports that between three and ten million children witness violence between their parents or caregivers each year.⁴

ONE IN FOUR

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) reports that one in four women and one in seven men will experience physical violence by their intimate partner at some point during their lifetimes.⁵

2% TO 10%

The CDC also reports that elder abuse is thought to occur in between 2% and 10% of the population of elders. About one in fifteen cases are reported to law enforcement.⁶

⁴ https://www.aacap.org/AACAP/Families_and_Youth/Facts_for_Families/FFF-Guide/Helping_Children_Exposed_to_Domestic_Violence-109.aspx

⁵ <https://www.cdc.gov/intimate-partner-violence/about/index.html>

⁶ <https://www.cdc.gov/intimate-partner-violence/about/index.html>

Case Summary

Timeline:

DATE	EVENT
1985	Victim born
1986	Perpetrator born
Jan. '08-Mar. '19	Perpetrator married to his first wife.
12/03/2008	Perpetrator arrest for DUI in Hawaii
01/25/2017	Perpetrator receives traffic citation in Texas
2005-2015	Victim married to first husband
August 2015	Victim divorces her first husband
Fall of 2018	Victim and Perpetrator meet
August 2019	Victim and Perpetrator marry
June 2020	Victim and Perpetrator move to Phoenix, Arizona
03/06/2021	Perpetrator- Citation for Hit & Run
06/13/2021	Perpetrator arrested for Indecent Exposure.
06/14/2021	<p>Perpetrator was found roaming the neighborhood wearing only his underwear, cited for Indecent Exposure.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Petitioned to Urgent Psychiatric Center (UPC) for involuntary psychiatric evaluation.
11/10/2021	<p>Suspect arrested for Indecent Exposure</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Transported to Arrowhead Hospital for psychiatric evaluation.

12/12/2021	<p>Victim assaulted by Perpetrator.</p> <p>The perpetrator was arrested for DV Assault</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Booked on warrant & for DV assault. • DV Case heard in Veteran’s Court. • Guilty plea to indecent exposure. • Discloses being sexually assaulted as a minor.
05/04/2022	<p>Near Fatality Occurs</p> <p>Suspect booked for Aggravated Assault–Impede Breathing (DV), Disorderly Conduct–Noise (DV), Attempted Homicide, Aggravated Assault–Knife or cutting instrument (DV)</p>
02/06/2023	<p>Perpetrator pled guilty to charges. Sentenced to prison.</p>
August 2026	<p>Perpetrator is due to be released and placed on supervised probation for 5 years.</p>

About the Victim

The victim was 36 years of age at the time of this incident. She was married to the suspect with four children all living with her and the suspect. Her eldest daughter, from her first relationship, was 18 years old and witnessed the assault on her mother. In all, the victim has three children from two prior relationships and one child in common with the suspect. The victim is a naturalized U.S. citizen, whose immigration status was previously used to exert control over her in a previous relationship. The victim works as a cosmetologist, part-time.

The victim was born in Mexico and her mother was unmarried. At three years of age, she was sent to live with her grandparents in Las Vegas, Nevada. She refers to her grandparents as Mom and Dad and to her aunts as her sisters. She describes her grandparents as “very traditional” in their family structure. The victim describes her grandmother as “crazy” and the household as “dysfunctional”. The victim was rebellious and suffered abuse as a result, which she came to believe was her fault and a natural result of her rebelliousness.

From about age 13 to age 17, the victim had her first serious boyfriend. He was the brother of her best friend which is how they met. She reports that he was very controlling and possessive which led to physical and verbal abuse. The victim became pregnant with her first child at 17 years old. She states that the child’s father would come and go a lot and was not a present father.

The victim reports that her boyfriend was physically and verbally abusive throughout their relationship. Her family insisted that she was to blame for his actions because she was “loud” and “talked back”.

The victim met her first husband while working at a dental office at the age of 19. She described him giving her rides to work and other places “when her sister (aunt) would not.” At some point, while dating, the couple lived with his family, who seemed nice. The victim described how he would “show her off” by encouraging her to dye her hair and wear “booty shorts” when they were together. After they married, he became physically violent. The victim reported severe violence and multiple strangulations during this marriage. Her husband often threatened to report her to immigration authorities because she lacked immigration documents and was not a U.S. citizen. They had two children together during their marriage. She described her pregnancies as “not planned” and not necessarily wanted. Being undocumented the victim expressed that she remained in the relationship because she believed she had nowhere else to go and staying with him was best for her children. The couple divorced in 2015. Following the divorce, the victim stated he would stalk and harass her. She would report the incidents to the Las Vega Police and said they “did nothing.”

The victim’s first domestic violence-related police contact occurred during her marriage to her first husband. Over a two-year period, she was listed as the victim of two domestic violence incidents in Nevada. A third entry describes her as a “contact.”

The victim met her second husband (the suspect), while working as a Lyft driver in Las Vegas. He was a customer she drove to a karaoke bar by himself. The victim said she thought it was unusual that he was alone going to a karaoke bar. She said he seemed nice. He didn’t hit on her, and he tipped well. When she asked if they could pretend to be together when they went in the bar (so she could use the bathroom) he agreed. She ended up staying at the bar and singing karaoke. At one point he bought her a shot which she drank. She said she didn’t normally drink alcohol but did it anyway.

The victim explained that he was kind to her at first. He showered her with gifts, invited her to do fun things and paid for her to do “nice things” on her own. He was nice to her children as well. She was not used to being treated kindly in relationships.

After about eight months dating, the victim, and her children moved into the suspect’s home. The victim reported that he provided for her and her kids, so she no longer needed to work at Lyft, and she could finish cosmetology school.

The victim describes the suspect as not emotional or affectionate. This was very different from her past relationships.

The victim reported that the suspect drank alcohol, but because his job forced him to travel frequently, she felt the situation was manageable. She said he had money and she and her kids were okay. They married in August 2019 and moved to Phoenix in June 2020.

Their move to Arizona occurred four months into the COVID-19 lock-down, and the victim found herself and her children in isolation with the suspect because he was no longer traveling. The victim reports that at times he would become “manic”, his eyes would glaze over and turn black. He would break things and “get crazy”. He didn’t hit or hurt her, but he would break his things against the wall and damage walls and doors. She expressed a need to make the marriage work because she had nowhere to go.

About the Suspect

Details of the suspect’s life before his move to Phoenix are not complete as he was not interviewed for this report. We know that he enlisted in the U.S. Navy and served from 2006 to 2011 when he received an honorable discharge.

Information garnered from the victim, witness, criminal history reports and prison authorities revealed that:

- The suspect was born in Texas.
- His father was shot and killed when he was four years old.
- After his father’s death, his mother moved the family to Mexico, where she had family.
- The suspect has previously stated that when he was young, he was abused “by the church”.
- He described his mother as “not all there” and “zombie” like.
- He told stories of killing and eating pigeons and picking mangos from trees to survive while living in Mexico.
- His mother passed away in 2018, just one month after he and the victim began dating.
- The suspect was previously married and has two sons with his ex-wife. His ex-wife is still in the Navy.

While in the Navy, the suspect received his bachelor’s degree and worked in naval intelligence. He held a top-secret security clearance. A DUI arrest in 2008

caused him to be disciplined by the Navy, but his discharge in 2011 was honorable. In civilian life, he worked as a neurophysiologist which entailed monitoring the brain activity of patients undergoing certain surgeries. The suspect loved his work and was highly regarded by his peers and supervisor.

He was arrested in Honolulu Hawaii in 2008 for DUI and had no other criminal record prior to moving to Phoenix, in June 2020. In 2021, police had contact with the suspect five times:

- March 2021: Cited in lieu of detention for Hit and Run
- June 2021: Booked into jail for Indecent Exposure, Criminal Damage and Trespassing. During this incident, the suspect referred to himself as “God”.
- June 2021: Suspect was contacted by police walking around his neighborhood wearing only sandals and underwear. His behavior led to a mental health petition.
- November 2021: Suspect and the victim were contacted by officers outside their home. Suspect, wearing only his underwear, told officers his children were hurt inside the home and that he hated them and wanted to harm them. The victim informed officers that he was bi-polar and diabetic. No one was inside the home. He was transported for a mental health evaluation.
- December 2021: Suspect was arrested for assaulting the victim during an argument at their home. The charge was assault, a misdemeanor (DV). The victim was not referred to the FAC for services.

The Incident

On May 3, 2022, the victim and suspect engaged in an argument over the suspect breaking a toy belonging to one of the children and shoving the witness when trying to pass her in the hallway of the home. The victim reports that the suspect had broken his sobriety of 2.5 years and was drinking. She asked him to leave the house and get a hotel and he complied. They continued their argument by telephone until the victim went to bed.

At about 1 AM on May 4th the victim reports being in bed when she heard a loud noise. Walking into the living room, she opened the door to the backyard and saw the suspect naked in the pool. The suspect was able to exit the pool and enter the home through the open door. He produced a knife and held it to the victim’s neck threatening to kill her. He alternately held the knife in either hand and threatened to kill the victim and himself, at one point he used his free hand and arm to strangle her. The victim was able to break away and ran out of the house into the backyard. The suspect followed her, dropping the knife to the pool deck and promising not to hurt her. The suspect then approached her in a manner she described as

“emotionless”. He then said that they were “going to go out together” and pushed her into the pool, jumping in after her. The victim recalls being held by her head underwater. She stated that she could not breathe and swallowed a large quantity of water. The victim believed she was going to die. After struggling, she gave up and went limp. The suspect then released her and began to move away from her. The victim then attempted to exit the pool but was caught by the suspect. While facing her, the suspect wrapped both arms around her torso and applied pressure. He then moved his hands to the back of her neck. This action and the pressure to her torso impeded her breathing. She recalled looking up into the night sky and seeing stars while thinking that would be the last sight she saw on Earth. The suspect then attempted to pull her underwater a second time, but she locked her legs and was able to stay above water.

The attack was interrupted by the witness, the victim’s then 18-year-old daughter. Upon seeing her daughter, the victim attempted to scream for her to call the police, but she was unable to verbalize loudly. The victim was able to break away and exit the pool and she and the witness ran into the house and locked the door. Once inside the house, the victim and witness went to the front door, but the suspect was there in time to push into the house. An argument then ensued with the suspect stating he was leaving but taking their child in common with him. When he attempted to walk toward the hallway leading to the child’s room, the witness physically blocked his path. He grabbed a pair of shorts that were on the couch because he was naked and went back outside. By this time, police had been called and the suspect was aware of this.

The suspect exited the front door and was waiting for police on the sidewalk when they arrived. He was detained with no resistance, and eventually arrested and booked into jail. While in the back of a patrol vehicle, the suspect was read his Miranda warnings. He refused to acknowledge that he understood his rights, instead playing word games with the officer. He admitted to the officer that he was mentally ill. The officer eventually gave up, as the suspect began to take the conversation in circles.

The victim and witness were interviewed by responding officers. EMS was summoned, and Glendale Fire responded per an automatic aid agreement between the two cities.

The entire Team watched the body-worn camera videos recorded by responding officers. In these videos the emotional toll on the victim and witness is evident. Physically, the victim appears to be in obvious pain. She complains of pain and lightheadedness, she occasionally burbs loudly and apologizes. She complains of neck pain. Throughout the videos, the victim is seated on a couch. She appears to be wrapped in a bathrobe. She answers officers’ questions without hesitation.

The witness is interviewed separately from the victim. At one point she becomes slightly emotional as she recounts seeing her mother and stepfather in the pool in a physical fight. She was present during the earlier argument and was surprised when she woke up to a loud noise to discover the fight in the pool. She repeatedly expressed concern for the other three children in the house, especially the youngest child, whom the suspect had attempted to take from the house.

At some point, an ambulance was called, and a request is made for a Crisis Response Team (CRT). The victim declined transport and the ambulance was canceled. Records reflect that the CRT response was canceled by Glendale Fire and "Phoenix Battalion". The reason for canceling CRT response has not been determined.

The victim was transported by police vehicle to the Family Advocacy Center. The witness was left home to care for the other children. The suspect was transported to jail and booked.

Post Incident

After arriving at the Family Advocacy Center, the victim was seen by a Forensic Nurse Examiner who determined that the victim should be transported to a hospital. The victim was transported by ambulance and underwent a medical examination.

The victim was referred to the Family Advocacy Center by the case detective and was assigned to an Advocate for services. The assigned Advocate contacted the victim on Monday, May 9, 2022, by telephone. The victim was provided with a variety of information about the criminal justice system, victims' compensation, and a host of other topics. The Advocate's notes reflect that the phone call was brief. The Advocate emailed a pamphlet to the victim describing FAC services along with numerous resources to assist the victim with her identified needs.

The next contact with the victim was July 21, 2022, more than two months later. Notes reflect that the victim initiated this contact and told the Advocate that she wasn't "in the right state of mind" when they last spoke and needed help. The victim and Advocate remained in contact until September 12, 2022. The victim's focus appears to have been on the financial security of her family.

The interviews with the victim and the witness revealed that the family continues to experience financial instability and has many ongoing needs related to the near fatality. After being interviewed for this report, cases were opened to provide services to both the victim and the witness.

Findings and Recommendations

After careful consideration and much discussion, the Team makes the following recommendations:

Establish Protocols for Crisis Response Team response to Domestic Violence Calls

This incident highlights the value of on-scene response provided by the Fire Department's Crisis Response Teams (CRT). A review of the incident revealed that CRT was requested and was on-route to the scene when their response was canceled. CRT could have been immensely useful to both the victim and witness as both report experiencing feelings of helplessness and being "lost" in the days and weeks following the victim's attempted murder. Records reflect that CRT was canceled by Glendale Fire and a Phoenix Fire Battalion Chief.

- The Team recommends that the Police and Fire Departments collaborate to develop a protocol for CRT response to incidents of domestic violence where the likely charges resulting from the incident include aggravated assault, attempted murder, or murder. Consideration should be given to the presence of minor children at the scene and the level of violence inflicted on the victim(s).
- The Team recommends that the Fire Department examine its policies related to CRT response to domestic violence scenes. Current policy requires that police be present on-scene for CRT to respond but makes an exception for Behavioral Health Teams (BHT). To achieve greater consistency across programs, the Fire Department may wish to examine these policies.

Create Protocols for Medical Follow-Up in the Weeks After Victimization

This case highlights the need for medical follow-up after a forensic medical examination, especially when the victim lacks a primary care physician.

- The Team recommends that providers of forensic examinations implement a follow-up process for all client victims who have received a forensic medical exam. While preparing this report, Team members learned that such a program is currently under consideration by the provider of forensic examinations at the FAC.

Advocate for Training for Emergency Medical Technicians (EMT) and Paramedics related to Strangulation

The Team noted that the victim was evaluated by EMTs in her home immediately following her assault. As a result of this evaluation, the victim was not transported to a medical facility by ambulance and instead was transported to the Family Advocacy Center (FAC) by police vehicle. Upon examination by the Forensic Nurse Examiner at the FAC, an ambulance was summoned, and the victim taken to an emergency room.

The Team recommends that the co-chairs reach out to the EMS Medical Director at the Phoenix Fire Department to discuss the training requirements of EMTs, and paramedics related to strangulation and impeded breathing.

The Team recommends that on scene EMTs and Paramedics consult with their Medical Director when a victim of strangulation (impeded breathing) “refuses” transportation to a medical facility.

Amend Data Collection Protocol

The DVFRT noted that the victim in this case reported previous instances of strangulation prior to this incident. The Team is also aware of research⁷ which indicates that strangulation is often reported as the means of the victim’s assault, and that strangulation victims have a significantly higher chance of being murdered by their assailant in the years after their first strangulation⁸. The Team notes that the Police Department’s annual Domestic Violence Statistical Report does not include strangulation as a category when accounting for use of force, but rather includes it as “Physical Force (hands, fists, feet, etc.)”

- The Team recommends that the Police Department consider including “Strangulation / Impeding Breathing” as a separate category in their annual report on domestic violence cases.
- The Team recommends that the Victim Services Division track reports of strangulation and impeded breathing in their case management system.

Victim Services Case Management

The Team noted that the seriousness of the assault on the victim and the impact on her adult daughter by witnessing the assault on her mother may not have been fully understood by the Victim Advocate.

⁷ <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC2573025/>

⁸ <https://wingsprogram.com/domestic-violence-and-strangulation4-facts-and-4-myths/>

Case notes do not reflect services being offered directly to the witness but do reflect a discussion with the victim about the witness's struggles with her mental health. The Victim Advocate did provide resources to the victim for delivery to her daughter (the witness). Notably, more than ten weeks passed between the Advocate's first and second contact with the victim. In an effort to "meet the client where they are" the Advocate may have concluded that the client victim was not yet prepared to address her needs and may not have fully understood the severity of her situation. The client's comments as reflected in case notes seem to confirm this. Nevertheless, ten weeks seems like an excessive delay in offering further services and assessing the victim's ongoing needs. After communication between the victim and the advocate was re-established, the victim was referred to a partner agency for long-term case management. The advocate failed to confirm that the long-term case management services were established before closing the case.

- The Team recommends that the Victim Services Division consider changes to case management protocols to establish follow-up guidelines for staff members assigned to domestic violence cases.
- The Team recommends that the Victim Services Division consider extending services to family members who witness domestic violence.
- The Team recommends that the Victim Services Division consider establishing a formal referral process with the Arizona Child and Adolescent Survivor Initiative (ACASI) for victims and surviving family members impacted by intimate partner violence fatalities and near fatalities.

2019/2020 Report Update

The DVFRT process also entails reporting progress on the previous year's report recommendations. No DVFRT reports were filed during the pandemic years 2020 through 2022.

The 2019/2020 report reviewed a near-fatal case involving a married heterosexual couple with children in common and a history of marital discord and domestic violence. The case was unique in that the perpetrator, who was sentenced to prison after an assault on the victim, met with Team members and related his view of events leading to the near-fatal incident. The victim declined interview requests from the Team.

The near-fatal event occurred in a moving vehicle when the perpetrator used a handgun to bludgeon the victim in a jealous rage. The victim then jumped from the moving vehicle at freeway speeds, resulting in further severe injuries.

The 2019/2020 report findings and recommendations are noted as follows:

The perpetrator's childhood environment included:

- witnessing domestic violence
- substance abuse or misuse
- child abuse/neglect
- parental separation due to being in jail
- mental health problems
- bullying at school

There were multiple contacts with police:

- perpetrator's childhood as a victim of his father's abuse.
- as an adult within the perpetrator's marital relationship.

Family and co-workers were aware of the abuse.

The perpetrator possessed a weapon.

The perpetrator attempted suicide, per his reporting.

There was no indication that the victim sought out domestic violence resources.

Following careful consideration of the case and the identification of key findings, the DVFRT makes the following recommendations:

1. Teaching Safe and Healthy Relationship Skills

Response / Update: The Human Services Department, through both the Victim Services Division and the Strategic Initiatives program bring “In Her Shoes”[®] training program to high school and middle school audiences. “In Her Shoes”[®] is an experiential learning experience where participants “move, act, think and make choices as a person experiencing an abusive relationship.”⁹

2. Engage Influential Adults and Peers

Response / Update: The Human Resources Department, in cooperation with My Brother’s Keeper and the Greater Phoenix Urban League in Arizona offer parenting training to fathers through M.A.N.C.A.V.E. (Men All Need to be Caring, Actively Engaged, Vested, and Encouraged).¹⁰ M.A.N.C.A.V.E., provides services that promote responsible fatherhood, healthy marriages, and economic mobility.

3. Promote Mandatory Reporting by First Responders

Response / Update: The Phoenix Police Department reports that all new police recruits receive 16 hours of training on topics related to domestic violence, including mandatory reporting, while in basic training at the Police Academy. Topics covered include Crimes Against Children, Domestic Violence, Sexual Assault, and Victimology. FAC staff participate in the delivery of police training on Victimology. Police also receive 10 hours of advanced training on “Behavior Health Crisis Response” and “Mental Illness.”

The Phoenix Fire Department reports that EMTs and Paramedics receive training in mandatory reporting during their initial EMT/Paramedic training.

4. Mandate Domestic Violence Protocols for Agencies that Contract Work with the City

Response / Update: No progress has been made on this recommendation.



⁹ <https://wscadv.org/training-kits/in-her-shoes/>

¹⁰ <https://www.phoenix.gov/humanservices/programs/for-families>

Attachment A



CITY OF PHOENIX POLICE DEPARTMENT
Domestic Violence Statistical Report
1/1/2023 - 12/31/2023



Total incident reports involving domestic violence: * 23,164 **Total juvenile contacts involving domestic violence: ***** 405
Total calls for service involving domestic violence: ** 33,756 **Total adult arrests involving domestic violence: ***** 8,533
 Adult Bookings: 6,485
 Other Adult Arrests: 2,048

Crime Types*	
Homicide (13-1101 et seq.) [†]	31
Threats and Intimidation (13-1202)	716
Assault (13-1203)	9,812
Aggravated Assault (13-1204)	2,784
Custodial Interference (13-1302)	294
Sex Offense, Child Victim (13-1404, 13-1405, 13-1410)	77
Sex Offense, Adult Victim (13-1404, 13-1406)	144
Kidnapping (13-1304)	75
Aggravated Domestic Violence (13-3601.02) ^{††}	261
Stalking (13-2923)	34
Criminal Damage (13-1802)	4,463
Order of Protection (13-2810, 13-3602)	2,822
Disorderly Conduct (13-2904)	387
Harassment (13-2921)	215
Aggravated Harassment (13-2921.01) ^{††}	29
Child Abuse (13-3623)	282
Vulnerable Adult Abuse (13-3623)	74
Unlawful Telephone Use (13-2916)	33
Unlawful Imprisonment (13-1303)	158
Endangerment (13-1201)	113

Relationship Between the Offender and Victim	
Victim was Spouse	1538
Victim was Ex-Spouse	656
Victim was Boyfriend/Girlfriend	5,692
Victim was Child or Step-Child	830
Victim was In-Law	133
Victim was Sibling or Step-Sibling	924
Victim was Parent or Step-Parent	1,257
Victim was Grandparent	81
Victim was Grandchild	53

Weapon Used*	Offender Was Using
Handguns	536
Rifles-Shotguns	39
Knives	675
Physical Force (hands, fists, feet, etc.)	6,528
Other Weapon	1,256
Alcohol	2,258
Drug/Narcotics	640

*This field counts all incident reports where the domestic violence flag was checked, which does not necessarily correspond directly with the calls for service total. Unfounded reports are excluded. Reports may have more than one offense code and may be counted in more than one crime type category; crime type totals include all incident reports with the domestic violence flag checked regardless of the offense code(s) listed. Weapons are linked to the offense code field; there may be more than one weapon listed for each incident.

**This value represents the total number of calls for service that had an initial or final radio code of domestic violence.

***These fields count all arrests/juvenile contacts with a corresponding incident report where the domestic violence flag was checked. Unfounded reports are excluded. Cancelled adult bookings are counted as "Other Adult Arrests".

[†]Homicide numbers are based on whether the incident was marked as "DV Chargeable" or with a motive of "Domestic" and may change after further investigation; counts may be different from other published reports or as categorized in the records management system. Data is selected based on the date of the homicide and is based on information provided by the homicide sergeant. Unfounded incidents (police-involved and citizen self-defense) are excluded.

^{††}Data based on arrests since reports cannot be categorized as "Aggravated". Each arrest may have multiple charges; these counts reflect the number of arrests, not charges.

Reported crimes, calls for service, adult arrests, and juvenile arrests are pulled from different systems and do not compare directly.

Reports/arrests still pending entry into the RMS system will not be included. Counts may change as additional reports are approved and/or reclassified. Any incidents with missing or incomplete information may not be properly depicted in this report. Implementation of a new Records Management System (RMS) occurred October 10, 2015; use caution when comparing totals across years. Converted data is limited to original reports only. This report is based on Arizona Revised Statutes which are not equivalent to Uniform Crime Reporting Statistics and therefore this data cannot be directly compared to data from other states or UCR reports. For crime report data, the date range is based on the report date if the date of occurrence is not available.

