



**Division of Criminal
Justice Services**

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

2013 Annual Report

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**New York State
Committee for the Coordination of Police Services to the Elderly
2013 Annual Report**

This report is submitted as required by Section 844-b (3-a) of the New York State Executive Law. It includes statistics from Domestic Incident Reports (DIR) involving elderly victims (65 or older) from all counties outside of New York City and information about the Committee's activities in 2013.

Issued June 2015

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

2013 Activities of the Committee 1

Future Activities of the Committee 3

Statewide Domestic Incident Reports Submissions for Elderly Victims..... 4

**Table 1:
2013 Domestic Incident Report Data (Upstate and Long Island) 6**

**Table 2:
2013 Domestic Incident Report Data (By County, Upstate and Long Island)..... 8**

Attachment A: Committee Duties and Responsibilities 11

Attachment B: Committee Members 13

2013 ACTIVITIES

The Committee met twice in 2013: on March 21 and Nov. 26 at the Division of Criminal Justice Services (DCJS) in Albany. The activities of the Committee consisted of addressing law enforcement's response to those in the elderly community affected by Alzheimer's disease and the development of training that will assist law enforcement in the investigation and prosecution of crimes against the elderly.

Alzheimer's Disease and Dementia Response

Nationally Based Online Training Program

The Committee collaborated with Meg Boyce, president of programs and services for the Hudson Valley Chapter of the New York State Alzheimer's Association, to develop an online training course for law enforcement. The training course is based on a national program designed to give first responders in law enforcement strategies to use when responding to calls that involve people in their community with Alzheimer's and dementia.

The free online training, titled "Approaching Alzheimer's for First Responders," was completed and released by the Committee in November 2013 and made available to all law enforcement agencies. Since its release, nearly 430 law enforcement officers have completed the training and provided positive feedback about the benefits of offering the training online. The Committee's goal's – to offer this training to law enforcement in the most cost-effective manner – was accomplished based upon feedback received from agencies. Agency executive staff reported the online training benefited their officers by allowing them to complete training at a time that is conducive to the officer's schedule, reduced the amount of travel and overtime costs and prevented them from losing personnel to a full day of training.

Missing Vulnerable Adult Alert Program

The Committee also collaborated with Cindy Neff, program manager of the New York State Missing Persons Clearinghouse, which is located at the Division of Criminal Justice Services, to enhance their understanding of law enforcement's response to elderly persons with cognitive impairments.

Ms. Neff briefed the Committee on the role and responsibilities of the Clearinghouse and the support it provides to law enforcement, as well as social service agencies that assist with the care of elderly persons.

She also described the state's Missing Vulnerable Adult Alert program, which is administered by the Clearinghouse, and how it can aid law enforcement in locating those who are missing. Alerts are activated when an elderly person with Alzheimer's disease, dementia or other cognitive impairments wander from familiar surroundings and becomes missing.

Training Programs

Training Survey

In an effort to identify areas of focus for training law enforcement, the Committee developed a survey that was released on Oct. 24, 2013.

The survey contained questions designed to tap into the knowledge of individuals with subject-matter expertise in identifying and investigating elder abuse. The survey was designed to assist the Committee with efforts to identify the most prevalent ways in which the elderly are victimized and to address the challenges law enforcement faces in responding to crimes against the elderly. Committee members and constituents responded to the survey by providing training programs and/or resources that are currently available to law enforcement. By identifying these items, it is the goal of the Committee to develop training program(s), unique to New York State, that equip law enforcement officers with the tools and resources necessary to better serve the elderly. Survey results were presented and discussed at the November meeting.

Financial Crimes Exploitation

Upon review of the survey responses by the Committee, it was determined that the most challenging investigation faced by law enforcement in responding to crimes against the elderly is financial exploitation. The Committee unanimously agreed the future direction of its activities should be directed toward providing resources and tools necessary for law enforcement to effectively respond to the financial exploitation of elderly persons.

Protective Services for Adults (PSA)

The Committee also agreed to explore ways to enhance law enforcement awareness of the role of protective services for adults (PSA), and encourage law enforcement and PSA to work together to protect vulnerable adults from abuse, neglect and financial exploitation. The state Office of Children and Family Services began collaborating with DCJS to produce an online training video to be presented at roll call or during in-service law enforcement training.

Abuse in Later Life

Committee members also supported a unique in-person training for law enforcement. Developed by the Federal Law Enforcement Training Center Office on Violence Against Woman and National Clearinghouse on Abuse in Later Life, the training was brought to the Committee's attention by Art Mason from LifeSpan, a Rochester-based organization.

Titled "Elder Abuse Training for Law Enforcement," the training was held in the Capital Region during March 2014 and was taught by a team of national trainers consisting of a law enforcement officer, prosecutor, domestic violence provider and aging services/adult protective services. The training was designed to provide law enforcement officers with information and strategies to more effectively recognize and investigate elder abuse cases. Physical abuse, sexual abuse, emotional abuse, neglect and financial exploitation were all examined during the training to enhance victim safety and hold perpetrators accountable.

Future Activities of the Committee

Future activities of the Committee for Coordination of Police Services to Elderly Persons will focus on the creation of training for law enforcement on investigating financial exploitation of elderly persons.

Financial exploitation is a fast-growing form of abuse of the elderly and involves many forms of exploitation, making it challenging and time consuming for law enforcement to investigate. By focusing on financial exploitation, the Committee seeks to provide additional tools, methods and resources for law enforcement to utilize.

The Committee also will focus its efforts on finalizing the Protective Services for Adults (PSA) online training for law enforcement. The online training will encourage law enforcement and PSA to work together to insure the safety and well-being of elders and adults with disabilities who are in danger of being mistreated or neglected, are unable to take care of themselves or protect themselves from harm and have no one to assist them.

2013 Statewide Domestic Incident Report (DIR) Submissions Involving Elderly Victims

Mandate

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

Data

Data compiled for this report are included on Domestic Incident Reports (DIRs). This New York State standardized form is completed by law enforcement officers for all alleged incidents of domestic violence.¹

DCJS also administers a Domestic Incident Report (DIR) Repository. This secure, online database provides law enforcement outside of New York City with cross-jurisdictional information about reported incidents of domestic violence that can enhance officer and victim safety.

Tables 1 and 2 present an analysis of domestic incidents for 2013 that involved elderly victims, defined as individuals who were 65 years old and older. Table 1 includes incidents by relationship between the offender and victim, victim and offender demographics, offense level information, and orders of protection. Table 2 provides a summary of incidents by county.

Total DIRs

- In 2013, law enforcement agencies in 57 Upstate and Long Island counties completed a total of 5,516 DIRs involving elderly victims.

Relationship between Victim and Suspect

- In 41.8 percent of the DIRs completed in 2013, a child was reported as victimizing a parent (2,308).
- Spousal or ex-spousal relationships accounted for 17.5 percent (965) of elderly victim incidents. Intimate partners or ex-intimate partner relationships accounted for 7.4 percent (406) of incidents.
- Other family members accounted for 22.9 percent of suspects (1,261). The reports do not provide a specific breakdown of other family relationships.

Victim and Suspect Demographics

- The majority (63%) of elderly victims were female (3,477) and 61.7 percent of suspects were male (3,404).

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

- Three-quarters (75.7%) of victims were white; 16.5 percent, black; 4.5 percent, Hispanic; and 1.7 percent were from other racial/ethnic groups.
- The race/ethnicity of suspects was similar to that of victims: 71.8 percent white, 17.5 percent black, 5.3 percent Hispanic and 1.9 percent from other racial/ethnic groups.
- The median age of all victims was 70 years and more victims (43.1%) were in the 65 to 69 age range than were in any other age group.
- Among suspects, individuals between 40 and 49 were the most frequent age group (19.9%), and the median age of all suspects was 43.

Offense Characteristics

- One in three DIRs (37.8%) involved a reported offense.
- Felonies accounted for 4.4 percent of those offenses; misdemeanors, 13.5 percent; and violations/other, 16 percent.

Suspect On-Scene and Arrest

- The suspect was on scene in 3,621 incidents (65.6%).
- In 490 incidents, the suspect was on scene and the incident involved a felony or misdemeanor offense.
- An arrest was made in 368 incidents in which the suspect was on scene and involved a felony or misdemeanor (75.1% of incidents with an offense involved).

Orders of Protection

- Orders of Protection (OP) were in effect in 9 percent (497) of incidents involving elderly victims.
- A violation was reported in more than half of those incidents where an OP was in effect (58.1% or 289).

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

**Table 1. Domestic Incident Reports (DIR) involving Elderly Victims
(Age 65 and older), Upstate and Long Island, 2013**

	Upstate and Long Island	
	2013	
	#	%
Total Elderly Incidents	5,516	100.0%
Suspect's Relationship to Victim		
Spouse or Ex-Spouse	965	17.5%
Intimate Partner or Former Intimate Partner	406	7.4%
Parent	11	0.2%
Child	2,308	41.8%
Other Family	1,261	22.9%
Other ¹	333	6.0%
Not Reported	232	4.2%
Victim Gender		
Male	1,977	35.8%
Female	3,477	63.0%
Not Reported	62	1.1%
Suspect Gender		
Male	3,404	61.7%
Female	2,025	36.7%
Not Reported	87	1.6%
Victim Race/Ethnicity		
White	4,175	75.7%
Black	908	16.5%
Hispanic	248	4.5%
Other	94	1.7%
Not Reported	91	1.6%
Suspect Race/Ethnicity		
White	3,963	71.8%
Black	964	17.5%
Hispanic	291	5.3 %
Other	106	1.9%
Missing	192	3.5%

Victim Age Group		
65 to 69	2,379	43.1%
70 to 74	1,401	25.4%
75 to 79	826	15.0%
80 and Older	910	16.5%
Victim Median Age	70	
Suspect Age Group		
5 to 15	260	4.7%
16 to 19	433	7.8%
20 to 29	865	15.7%
30 to 39	826	15.0%
40 to 49	1,100	19.9%
50 to 59	837	15.2%
60 to 69	494	9.0%
70 and Older	575	10.4%
Not Reported	126	2.3%
Suspect Median Age	43	
Offense Type ²	2,087	37.8%
Felony	242	4.4%
Misdemeanor	743	13.5%
Violation	884	16.0%
Other Offenses	218	4.0%
Non-Offense	3,429	62.2%
Total Orders of Protection	497	9.0%
Number of Orders of Protection Violated	289	58.1%
Suspect On Scene (All Incidents)	3,621	65.6%
Suspect On Scene involving Felony or Misdemeanor	490	8.9%
of Suspect On Scene, Arrest Made	368	75.1%

Source: Division of Criminal Justice Services DIR Repository. Preliminary data subject to change. Includes DIRs completed in 2013 and entered into the repository as of 2/1/14.

¹ Other relationships include non-family members and unknown

² Responding officer reported that an offense was committed

**Table 2. Number of Domestic Incident Reports (DIR)
Involving Elderly Victims by County, Upstate and Long Island 2013**

County	DIRs			Offense ¹		
	Number	Percent Total	Rate*	Number	Percent	Rate*
Albany	143	2.6	4.7	41	28.7	1.3
Allegany	16	0.3	3.3	9	56.3	1.9
Broome	121	2.2	6.1	45	37.2	2.3
Cattaraugus	26	0.5	3.4	20	76.9	2.6
Cayuga	54	1.0	6.8	24	44.4	3.0
Chautauqua	45	0.8	3.4	24	53.3	1.8
Chemung	14	0.3	1.6	10	71.4	1.1
Chenango	17	0.3	3.4	8	47.1	1.6
Clinton	26	0.5	3.2	18	69.2	2.2
Columbia	40	0.7	6.4	16	40.0	2.6
Cortland	23	0.4	4.6	17	73.9	3.4
Delaware	30	0.5	6.5	17	56.7	3.7
Dutchess	132	2.4	4.4	54	40.9	1.8
Erie	333	6.0	3.6	193	58.0	2.1
Essex	14	0.3	3.7	11	78.6	2.9
Franklin	13	0.2	2.5	6	46.2	1.2
Fulton	12	0.2	2.2	7	58.3	1.3
Genesee	32	0.6	5.3	21	65.6	3.5
Greene	11	0.2	2.3	3	27.3	0.6
Hamilton	1	0.0	2.1	1	0.0	2.1
Herkimer	16	0.3	2.5	10	62.5	1.5
Jefferson	29	0.5	2.4	10	34.5	0.8
Lewis	7	0.1	2.6	5	71.4	1.8
Livingston	18	0.3	2.8	6	33.3	0.9

County	DIRs			Offense ¹		
	Number	Percent Total	Rate*	Number	Percent	Rate*
Madison	29	0.5	4.0	14	48.3	1.9
Monroe	324	5.9	4.3	170	52.5	2.3
Montgomery	3	0.1	0.6	2	66.7	0.4
Nassau	929	16.8	6.9	254	27.3	1.9
Niagara	54	1.0	2.5	40	74.1	1.9
Oneida	147	2.7	6.3	50	34.0	2.1
Onondaga	105	1.9	2.2	60	57.1	1.3
Ontario	42	0.8	3.9	19	45.2	1.7
Orange	150	2.7	4.0	67	44.7	1.8
Orleans	3	0.1	0.7	3	100.0	0.7
Oswego	87	1.6	7.1	37	42.5	3.0
Otsego	14	0.3	2.3	5	35.7	0.8
Putnam	42	0.8	4.2	14	33.3	1.4
Rensselaer	55	1.0	3.4	29	52.7	1.8
Rockland	141	2.6	4.4	36	25.5	1.1
Saratoga	85	1.5	3.8	45	52.9	2.0
Schenectady	131	2.4	8.4	40	30.5	2.6
Schoharie	11	0.2	3.4	5	45.5	1.6
Schuyler	1	0.0	0.5	1	100.0	0.5
Seneca	13	0.2	3.7	4	30.8	1.1
St Lawrence	29	0.5	2.6	16	55.2	1.4
Steuben	31	0.6	3.1	19	61.3	1.9
Suffolk	1256	22.8	8.4	330	26.3	2.2
Sullivan	19	0.3	2.5	8	42.1	1.0
Tioga	11	0.2	2.2	6	54.5	1.2
Tompkins	37	0.7	3.6	8	21.6	0.8

County	DIRs			Offense ¹		
	Number	Percent Total	Rate*	Number	Percent	Rate*
Ulster	76	1.4	4.2	37	48.7	2.0
Warren	17	0.3	2.6	13	76.5	2.0
Washington	18	0.3	2.9	12	66.7	1.9
Wayne	57	1.0	6.1	18	31.6	1.9
Westchester	410	7.4	4.2	142	34.6	1.5
Wyoming	8	0.1	1.9	2	25.0	0.5
Yates	7	0.1	2.8	4	57.1	1.6
County Unknown	1	0.0	n/a	1	100.0	n/a
Grand Total	5,516	100	4.9	2,087	37.8	1.9

Source: Division of Criminal Justice Services DIR Repository. Preliminary data subject to change. Includes DIRs completed in 2013 and entered into the repository as of 2/1/14.

¹ Responding officer reported that an offense was committed.

* Based on 2013 FBI Populations (Per 10,000 population)

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 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: one 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).

Duties and Responsibilities

- 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.”

Attachment B: Committee Members

(Committee members appointed to serve from 2012-2014)

New York State Division of Criminal Justice Services

Tony Perez, Deputy Commissioner and Co-Chair
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New York State Police

Deborah J. Campbell, Colonel and Co-Chair
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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

Michael Biasotti, Chief
New Windsor Police Department
555 Union Avenue
New Windsor, New York 12553

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

New York State Office of Victim Services

Noreen Fyvie, Crime Victims Specialist III
80 South Swan Street
Albany, New York 12210

New York State Office of Attorney General

Vacant (nomination not received)

New York City Police Department

James Klein, Deputy Inspector
1 Police Plaza
New York, New York 10038

Representative of the President of the New York State Senate

Judy Willig, Executive Director
Heights and Hills
57 Willoughby Street
Brooklyn, New York 11201

New York State Crime Prevention Coalition

Vacant (nomination not received)

New York State Office for the Aging

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Two Empire State Plaza
Albany, New York 12223

New York State Office of Temporary and Disability Assistance

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Albany, New York 12243

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
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New York State District Attorneys' Association

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