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Arrests and Arraignments Involving Strangulation Offenses
Nov. 11, 2010 – Feb. 22, 2011
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This report provides police agencies, district attorney's offices, and domestic violence advocates, as well as the general public, with the results of a preliminary analysis of arrests and arraignments involving the crime of strangulation in the 15 weeks following the enactment of this new law.

The crime of strangulation, which was added to the New York State Penal Law on Nov. 11, 2010, allows suspects to be charged with the following three offenses:

- **Criminal Obstruction of Breathing or Blood Circulation** (PL § 121.11; A Misdemeanor) – criminal obstruction of breathing or blood circulation by applying pressure to the throat or neck or blocking a person's nose or mouth.

- **Strangulation 2nd** (PL§ 121.12; D Felony) – criminal obstruction of breathing or blood circulation, as described in PL § 121.11, and causing stupor, loss of consciousness, or any other physical injury or impairment.

- **Strangulation 1st** (PL§ 121.13; C Felony) – criminal obstruction of breathing or blood circulation, as described in PL § 121.11, and causing serious physical injury.

Data analyzed for this report include arrest events extracted from the DCJS Computerized Criminal History (CCH) system on Feb. 22, 2011. The CCH captures information related to the arrest of persons for fingerprintable offenses and the subsequent processing of their cases. Information on crime victims is not available from this source and, therefore, not included in this preliminary report.

Arrest events in this analysis involve charges for strangulation offenses in Penal Law Article 121 that were reported either at arrest or arraignment, and include charges that were underlying more serious offenses. If a suspect had multiple strangulation charges, only the most serious charge was counted.

A total of 2,003 arrest events reported in New York State between Nov. 11, 2010 and Feb. 22, 2011 involved a suspect charged with a strangulation offense either at arrest or arraignment. Of these arrest events, 1,200 (60%) occurred in New York City and 803 (40%) occurred in the rest of the state.

Key Facts

- There were 2,003 arrest events between Nov. 11, 2010 and Feb. 22, 2011 in which a suspect was charged with strangulation either at the time of arrest or arraignment.

- All but four counties (Cattaraugus, Hamilton, Lewis, and Tioga) reported at least one arrest event.

- Sixty percent of these arrest events occurred in New York City.

- Most arrest events, 82.9%, were for the lowest level strangulation offense: the Class A misdemeanor of criminal obstruction of breathing or blood circulation.

- Less than 1% of arrest events were for the highest level strangulation offense: the Class C felony of first-degree strangulation involving serious physical injury.

- Males comprised 94% of the suspects.

- Forty percent of the suspects were in the 20 to 29-year-old age group.

- Forty-four percent of the suspects were black, 29% white, and 22% Hispanic.
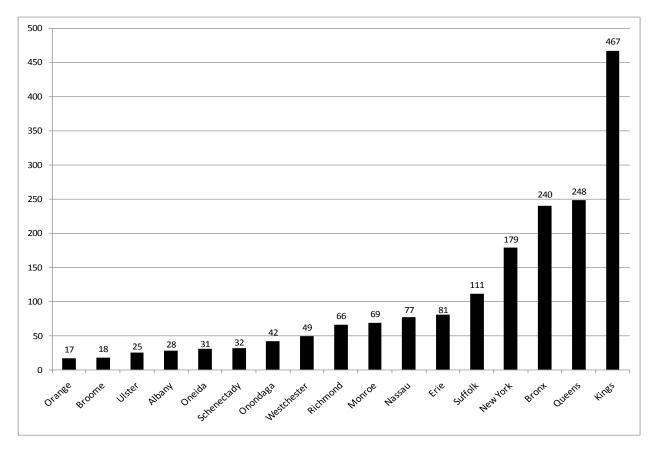
Arrest Events by County

- Seventeen counties reported 15 or more arrest events in which a strangulation offense was charged between Nov. 11, 2010 and Feb. 22, 2011 (shown in Figure 1 below).

- Kings County reported 467 arrest events, the most in the state, followed by Queens County with 248, Bronx County with 240, New York County with 179, and Suffolk County with 111.

- The 17 counties shown below accounted for 88.9% of all arrest events reported during this period.

- All but four counties (Cattaraugus, Hamilton, Lewis, and Tioga) reported at least one arrest event.

Figure 1. Arrests and Arraignments in Counties with 15 or More Strangulation Offenses
Nov. 11, 2010 - Feb. 22, 2011

Suspect Demographics

- **Age.** A total of 807 suspects (40.3%) charged with strangulation were in the 20 to 29-year-old age group, with 514 (25.7%) in the 30-39 group, and 381 (19.0%) in the 40-49 age group. There were 157 suspects (7.8%) charged in the 50+ age group and 144 (7.2%) in the 16-19 group.

- **Gender.** Males comprised 94.3% of suspects.

- **Race/Ethnicity.** Suspects in 44.1% (883) of arrest events were black, 28.6% (572) were white, 22.5% (451) Hispanic, and 3.1% (63) were other races or ethnicities. In 1.7% (34) of events, race and ethnicity were unknown.

Arrest Events by Police Department

Table 1 below shows the 15 agencies that reported 10 or more arrest events involving strangulation offenses, which accounted for 85.2% (1,706) of all arrest and arraignments involving strangulation offenses in the state.

Of the 2,003 arrest events reported:

- New York City Police Department reported 1,198 (59.8%)

- Suffolk County Police Department reported 106 (5.3%)

- New York State Police reported 78 (3.9%)

- Nassau County Police Department reported 68 (3.4%)

- Buffalo Police Department reported 53 (2.6%)

In addition to the 15 agencies shown in the table below, another 129 agencies reported at least one but fewer than 10 arrest events.

Table 1. Arrests and Arraignments Involving Strangulation Offenses by Arresting Agency
Nov. 11, 2010 - Feb. 22, 2011

Agency	Number of Arrest Events	Percent of Total
New York City PD	1,198	59.8%
Suffolk County PD	106	5.3%
New York State Police	78	3.9%
Nassau County PD	68	3.4%
Buffalo City PD	53	2.6%
Rochester City PD	34	1.7%
Yonkers City PD	33	1.6%
Syracuse City PD	32	1.6%
Schenectady City PD	28	1.4%
Albany City PD	18	0.9%
Greece Town PD	16	0.8%
Rome City PD	12	0.6%
Cheektowaga Town PD	10	0.5%
Jamestown City PD	10	0.5%
Monroe County Sheriff Dept	10	0.5%
All Others	297	14.8%
Total	**2,003**	**100.0%**

Arrest Events by Offense

Of the 2,003 arrest events:

- 1,660 (82.9%) were for Criminal Obstruction of Breathing or Blood Circulation (PL § 121.11; A Misdemeanor)

- 327 (16.3%) were for Strangulation 2nd (PL§ 121.12; D Felony)

- 16 (0.8%) were for Strangulation 1st (PL§ 121.13; C Felony)

Table 2. Arrests and Arraignments Involving Strangulation Offenses by County*
Nov. 11, 2010 - Feb. 22, 2011

County	Penal Law Section			Total	County	Penal Law Section			Total
	121.11	121.12	121.13			121.11	121.12	121.13	
Albany	25	3	0	28	Oneida	29	2	0	31
Allegany	1	0	0	1	Onondaga	32	10	0	42
Bronx	191	45	4	240	Ontario	4	0	0	4
Broome	12	6	0	18	Orange	15	2	0	17
Cayuga	6	0	0	6	Orleans	1	0	0	1
Chautauqua	10	2	0	12	Oswego	14	1	0	15
Chemung	4	0	0	4	Otsego	1	0	0	1
Chenango	1	1	0	2	Putnam	2	1	0	3
Clinton	5	4	0	9	Queens	216	30	2	248
Columbia	2	0	0	2	Rensselaer	12	0	0	12
Cortland	3	0	0	3	Richmond	50	16	0	66
Delaware	1	0	0	1	Rockland	1	0	0	1
Dutchess	13	0	0	13	St. Lawrence	12	1	0	13
Erie	72	8	1	81	Saratoga	11	1	0	12
Essex	1	0	0	1	Schenectady	27	5	0	32
Franklin	3	0	0	3	Schoharie	4	0	0	4
Fulton	3	1	0	4	Schuyler	2	0	0	2
Genesee	4	0	0	4	Seneca	2	0	0	2
Greene	1	0	0	1	Steuben	5	0	0	5
Herkimer	4	1	0	5	Suffolk	105	6	0	111
Jefferson	10	0	0	10	Sullivan	1	0	0	1
Kings	368	92	7	467	Tompkins	6	1	0	7
Livingston	3	0	0	3	Ulster	22	3	0	25
Madison	3	1	0	4	Warren	9	5	0	14
Monroe	59	10	0	69	Washington	6	0	0	6
Montgomery	2	0	0	2	Wayne	14	0	0	14
Nassau	57	20	0	77	Westchester	42	7	0	49
New York	136	41	2	179	Wyoming	1	0	0	1
Niagara	13	1	0	14	Yates	1	0	0	1
					Total	**1,660**	**327**	**16**	**2,003**

*Excludes four counties (Cattaraugus, Hamilton, Lewis, Tioga) that did not report any strangulation arrest events during this period.

Acknowledgments