



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

2020 Annual Report

New York State Division of Criminal Justice Services
80 South Swan Street, Albany, New York 12210

www.criminaljustice.ny.gov

New York State

Committee for the Coordination of Police Services to Elderly Persons 2020 Annual Report

This report is submitted by the Committee as required by Section 844-b (3-a) of the New York State Executive Law. It details information about the Committee's activities and includes statistics from Domestic Incident Reports (DIRs) involving elderly victims (65 or older) from the 57 counties in New York State outside of New York City.

The New York State Division of Criminal Justice Services Office of Public Safety provides support to the Committee.

Kathy Hochul

Governor

State of New York

Rossana Rosado

Acting Commissioner

New York State Division of Criminal Justice Services

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Overview

In 2020, the New York State Committee for the Coordination of Police Services to Elderly Persons focused on developing and supporting training to improve the law enforcement response to elder abuse and raising awareness of the resources available to elderly individuals. The Committee also explored issues unique to older persons who are homebound due to the Covid-19 pandemic.

New York State Executive Law 844-b outlines the duties of the Committee, which include the support and development of programs, training, prevention practices and technical support to law enforcement agencies and service providers to combat crimes against the elderly.

The Committee met virtually pursuant to Executive Order 202.1, which suspended the portion of New York State law requiring meetings to take place in person, on Dec. 11, 2020.

Committee Activities

Law Enforcement Training

The Office of Public Safety, with support from the Committee, collaborated with Lifespan of Greater Rochester to facilitate a training for police professionals titled “Identifying and Investigating Financial Exploitation.” Originally offered in two sessions in 2019, the training was converted to a full-day training based on student feedback. Three in-person trainings scheduled in 2020 were postponed due to the pandemic and Committee members decided to shift the course to an online webinar providing a brief overview of elder abuse, followed by an in-depth discussion of financial exploitation, including common scams and best practices and resources for law enforcement investigating financial exploitation. The webinar is in development and slated to be offered for the first time in early 2022.

Program Support and Informational Updates

Agency Initiative Roundtable Discussion

The Covid-19 pandemic presented unique challenges for the elderly population, particularly those who are homebound or live with their abusers. To address this concern, Committee members identified approaches being utilized in their agencies to address these challenges and assist elderly clients. The Committee identified prevention and education best practices to increase public awareness of elderly communities through informational documents, live webinars and social media campaigns on various scams that target the elderly.

Additionally, the Committee continued to endorse and collaborate with the Office of Public Safety to disseminate information to law enforcement regarding the availability of grant-funded enhanced multi-disciplinary teams (E-MDTs), managed by the New York State Office for the Aging. E-MDTs investigate and intervene in complex cases of elder abuse. The teams bring together professionals from various disciplines, including Adult Protective Services, aging services, health and human services and law enforcement, to provide an effective and efficient means of addressing complex cases of abuse of older adults (aged 60 and older). The enhancement provides access to forensic accountants, geriatric psychiatrists (or other qualified mental health professionals) and community legal services.

Law Enforcement Resources Toolkit Updates

The Committee continues to add new resources and tools to their Elder Abuse Law Enforcement Toolkit. The electronic toolkit is easily accessible to law enforcement and other stakeholders in the field of elder abuse prevention. The Committee expanded the toolkit in 2020 with updated contact information for the New York State Enhanced Multi-disciplinary teams, as well as information regarding the “Helpline for Concerned Persons Information Sheet,” which is open to any concerned caller who suspects elder abuse. In addition, the Helpline will offer support and assistance by providing resources or referrals to agencies, as needed. The toolkit was re-distributed to the law enforcement community to share the updated resources.

Future Activities of the Committee

The Committee and staff from the DCJS Office of Public Safety, in consultation with experts and service providers, will continue to identify programs designed to assist law enforcement with safeguarding elderly persons.

In addition, the Committee, in collaboration with Office of Public Safety and Lifespan of Greater Rochester, will support the facilitation of the financial exploitation training series, which aims to provide first responders and investigators with tools to better detect and address financial exploitation of elder victims. Because of potential training limitations due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the Committee is exploring online training options through live and pre-recorded webinars.

Domestic Incident Reports (DIR) Involving Elderly Victims (Age 65 and Older), Upstate and Long Island, 2020

TOTAL DIRs

- Law enforcement agencies in counties outside of New York City submitted 7,213 DIRs involving victims who were 65 years old or older to the state in 2020.

RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN VICTIM AND SUSPECT

- In 44.6 percent (3,220) of those DIRs, a child was reported as victimizing a parent.
- Spousal or ex-spousal relationships accounted for 17 percent (1,228) of elderly victim incidents.
- Intimate partners or ex-intimate partner relationships accounted for 10.4 percent (748) of incidents.
- Other family members accounted for 20 percent of suspects (1,445). The reports do not detail other family relationships (for example, sibling, grandchild, etc.).

VICTIM AND SUSPECT DEMOGRAPHICS

- Suspects were most commonly identified as male (63.7%) while victims were identified as female (62.3%). In 2.5 percent of the cases, the sex of the victim or suspect was not identified.
- More victims (43.6%) ranged in age from 65 to 69 than any other age group.
- The median age of all victims was 70 years old.

**TABLE 1. DOMESTIC INCIDENT REPORTS (DIR)
INVOLVING ELDERLY VICTIMS (AGE 65 AND OLDER),
UPSTATE AND LONG ISLAND, 2020**

	Upstate and Long Island 2020	
	Number	Percent
TOTAL ELDERLY INCIDENTS	7,213	100.0
Suspect's Relationship to Victim		
Spouse or Ex-Spouse	1,228	17.0
Intimate Partner or Former Intimate Partner	748	10.4
Parent	16	0.2
Child	3,220	44.6
Other Family	1,445	20.0
Other/Unknown	315	4.4
Not Reported	241	3.3
Victim Gender		
Male	2,658	36.9
Female	4,497	62.3
Not Reported	58	0.8
Suspect Gender		
Male	4,597	63.7
Female	2,494	34.6
Not Reported	122	1.7
Victim Age Group		
65 – 69	3,213	44.5
70 – 74	1,869	25.9
75 – 79	1,053	14.6
80 and over	1,078	14.9
Median Age: 70		
Suspect Age Group		
5 – 15	300	4.2
16 – 19	371	5.1
20 – 29	1,013	14.0
30 – 39	1,469	20.4
40 – 49	1,255	17.4
50 – 59	1,064	14.8
60 – 69	866	12.0
70 and over	737	10.2
Not Reported	138	1.9
Median Age: 42		

Source: Division of Criminal Justice Services DIR Repository. Preliminary data subject to change. Includes DIRs completed in 2020 and entered into the repository as of 8/30/21.

TABLE 2. NUMBER OF DOMESTIC INCIDENT REPORTS (DIR) INVOLVING ELDERLY VICTIMS BY COUNTY, UPSTATE AND LONG ISLAND, 2020

County	DIRs		County	DIRs	
	Number	Percent		Number	Percent
Albany	288	4.0	Oneida	160	2.2
Allegany	27	0.4	Onondaga	199	2.8
Broome	210	2.9	Ontario	67	0.9
Cattaraugus	47	0.7	Orange	200	2.8
Cayuga	47	0.7	Orleans	12	0.2
Chautauqua	70	1.0	Oswego	67	0.9
Chemung	13	0.2	Otsego	53	0.7
Chenango	35	0.5	Putnam	61	0.8
Clinton	29	0.4	Rensselaer	96	1.3
Columbia	55	0.8	Rockland	191	2.6
Cortland	40	0.6	Saratoga	65	0.9
Delaware	55	0.8	Schenectady	101	1.4
Dutchess	153	2.1	Schoharie	145	2.0
Erie	344	4.8	Schuyler	15	0.2
Essex	15	0.2	Seneca	0	0.0
Franklin	22	0.3	St Lawrence	26	0.4
Fulton	14	0.2	Steuben	30	0.4
Genesee	33	0.5	Suffolk	1,463	20.3
Greene	55	0.8	Sullivan	43	0.6
Hamilton	3	0.0	Tioga	16	0.2
Herkimer	40	0.6	Tompkins	44	0.6
Jefferson	76	1.1	Ulster	91	1.3
Lewis	8	0.1	Warren	20	0.3
Livingston	20	0.3	Washington	27	0.4
Madison	73	1.0	Wayne	93	1.3
Monroe	402	5.6	Westchester	549	7.6
Montgomery	21	0.3	Wyoming	8	0.1
Nassau	1,065	14.8	Yates	16	0.2
Niagara	95	1.3	Grand Total	7,213	100.0

Source: Division of Criminal Justice Services DIR Repository. Preliminary data subject to change. Includes DIRs completed in 2020 and entered into the repository as of 8/30/21.

TABLE 3. DOMESTIC INCIDENT REPORTS (DIR) INVOLVING ELDERLY VICTIMS (AGE 65 AND OLDER), UPSTATE AND LONG ISLAND, 2019 – 2020

	Upstate and Long Island 2020		
	2019	2020	% Change 2020 vs 2019
TOTAL ELDERLY INCIDENTS	7,612	7,213	-5.2
Suspect's Relationship to Victim			
Spouse or Ex-Spouse	1,402	1,228	-12.4
Intimate Partner or Former Intimate Partner	744	748	0.5
Parent	10	16	60.0
Child	3,269	3,220	-1.5
Other Family	330	1,445	-11.7
Other	1,967	315	-4.5
Not Reported	220	241	9.5
Victim Gender			
Male	2,697	2,658	-1.4
Female	4,870	4,497	-7.7
Not Reported	45	58	28.9
Suspect Gender			
Male	4,779	4,597	-3.8
Female	2,717	2,494	-8.2
Not Reported	116	122	5.2
Victim Age Group			
65 – 69	3,318	3,213	-3.2
70 – 74	1,967	1,869	-5.0
75 – 79	1,224	1,053	-14.0
80 and over	1,103	1,078	-2.3
Median Age:	71	70	-1.4
Suspect Age Group			
5 – 15	346	300	-13.3
16 – 19	389	371	-4.6
20 – 29	1,055	1,013	-4.0
30 – 39	1,461	1,469	0.5
40 – 49	1,266	1,255	-0.9
50 – 59	1,161	1,064	-8.4
60 – 69	976	866	-11.3
70 and over	803	737	-8.2
Not Reported	155	138	-11.0
Median Age:	43	42	-2.3

Source: Division of Criminal Justice Services DIR Repository. Preliminary data subject to change. Includes DIRs completed in 2019 & 2020 and entered into the repository as of 8/30/21.

**TABLE 4. NUMBER OF DOMESTIC INCIDENT REPORTS (DIR)
INVOLVING ELDERLY VICTIMS BY COUNTY,
UPSTATE AND LONG ISLAND, 2019 – 2020**

County	DIRs			County	DIRs		
	2019	2020	% Change		2019	2020	% Change
Albany	278	288	3.6	Oneida	216	160	-25.9
Allegany	24	27	12.5	Onondaga	155	199	28.4
Broome	246	210	-14.6	Ontario	74	67	-9.5
Cattaraugus	33	47	42.4	Orange	216	200	-7.4
Cayuga	41	47	14.6	Orleans	8	12	
Chautauqua	62	70	12.9	Oswego	76	67	-11.8
Chemung	15	13	-13.3	Otsego	43	53	23.3
Chenango	42	35	-16.7	Putnam	38	61	60.5
Clinton	23	29	26.1	Rensselaer	109	96	-11.9
Columbia	54	55	1.9	Rockland	149	191	28.2
Cortland	40	40	0.0	Saratoga	73	65	-11.0
Delaware	52	55	5.8	Schenectady	160	101	-36.9
Dutchess	174	153	-12.1	Schoharie	130	145	11.5
Erie	421	344	-18.3	Schuyler	14	15	7.1
Essex	26	15	-42.3	Seneca	1	0	
Franklin	25	22	-12.0	St Lawrence	21	26	23.8
Fulton	16	14	-12.5	Steuben	40	30	-25.0
Genesee	28	33	17.9	Suffolk	1,640	1,463	-10.8
Greene	50	55	10.0	Sullivan	36	43	19.4
Hamilton	1	3		Tioga	7	16	
Herkimer	54	40	-25.9	Tompkins	50	44	-12.0
Jefferson	65	76	16.9	Ulster	103	91	-11.7
Lewis	3	8		Warren	29	20	-31.0
Livingston	40	20	-50.0	Washington	22	27	22.7
Madison	59	73	23.7	Wayne	104	93	-10.6
Monroe	417	402	-3.6	Westchester	551	549	-0.4
Montgomery	20	21	5.0	Wyoming	14	8	
Nassau	1,126	1,065	-5.4	Yates	13	16	23.1
Niagara	85	95	11.8	Grand Total	7,612	7,213	-5.2

Source: Division of Criminal Justice Services DIR Repository. Preliminary data subject to change. Includes DIRs completed in 2019 and 2020 and entered into the repository as of 8/30/21.

Note: Percent change is not calculated when values are less than 10.

Attachment A: Enabling Legislation and Committee Composition

Chapter III of the Laws of 1993 established the New York State Committee for the Coordination of Police Services to Elderly Persons.

As required by Section 844-b (2) (a) of New York State Executive Law, the Committee is composed of 16 members appointed by the DCJS commissioner.

Committee membership must include one representative of DCJS and the following state agencies: the New York State Police; Office of Victim Services; Office for the Aging; and the Office of Children and Family Services; two representatives each from the District Attorneys' Association of New York State; state Association of Chiefs of Police; and the New York State Sheriffs' Association; one representative each from the Attorney General's Office; the New York City Police Department; the New York State Crime Prevention Coalition; and two representatives from the legislature, one appointed by the Senate president and the other by the assembly speaker. Additionally, a representative from the state Office of Temporary and Disability Assistance (OTDA) serves on the Committee, replacing the position designated for the commissioner of the state's former Department of Social Services (as prescribed in Section 844-b).

Duties and Responsibilities

- Consult with experts, service providers, and representative organizations engaged in the protection of the elderly.
- Recommend the development of "Triad" or related programs in New York State, if appropriate, to assist the elderly to avoid criminal victimization through coordinated efforts of State and local law enforcement agencies and organizations which provide services to the elderly.
- Recommend policies and programs, if appropriate, to assist law enforcement agencies to implement "Triad" and related programs, including training and prevention standards and technical assistance. Such recommendations may include:
 - 1) The establishment of a statewide and central clearinghouse of information and education materials.
 - 2) The development of innovative community police programs for the elderly.
 - 3) Providing assistance to the Municipal Police Training Council in the development and delivery of training to law enforcement professionals involved in "Triad Programs," including: 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
 - 5) not-for-profit corporations and other organizations with respect to effective policies and responses to crimes against elderly persons.

- 6) Promoting and facilitating cooperation among state agencies and local units of government.
- 7) Effective advocacy of services to protect elderly persons and elderly victims of crime.
- 8) Evaluating the relationship between crimes against elderly persons and other problems confronting elderly persons and making recommendations for effective policy response.
- 9) The collection of statistical data and research.

Attachment B: Committee Members (as of December 2020)

New York State Division of Criminal Justice Services

Johanna Sullivan
Director and Co-Chair
Office of Public Safety
80 South Swan St.
Albany, N.Y. 12210

New York State Police

Matthew Renneman
First Deputy Superintendent and Co-Chair
1220 Washington Ave., Building 22
Albany, N.Y. 12207

New York State Sheriffs' Association

Vacant

New York State Association of Chiefs of Police

F. Michael Catalano
Chief
City of Cortland Police Department
25 Court St.
Cortland, N.Y. 13045

Dominick Macherone
Assistant Chief (Ret.)
Glenville Police Department
18 Glenridge Rd.
Glenville, N.Y. 12302

New York State Office of Victim Services

Kathy Davidson
Crime Victims Specialist III
80 South Swan St.
Albany, N.Y. 12210

New York State Office of Attorney General

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

New York City Police Department

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

New York State Senate

Vacant

New York State Crime Prevention Coalition

Vacant

New York State Office for the Aging

Greg Olsen

Acting Director

Two Empire State Plaza

Albany, N.Y. 12223

New York State Office of Temporary and Disability Assistance

David Staszak

Director, Contract Management

40 North Pearl St.

Albany, N.Y. 12243

New York State Assembly

Julie DeLeon

Assistant District Attorney, Deputy Bureau Chief

Bronx District Attorney's Office

198 E. 161st St.

Bronx, N.Y. 10451

New York State Office of Children and Family Services

Shelly Aubertine-Fiebich

Director, Bureau of Adult Services

52 Washington St.

Rensselaer, N.Y. 12144-2796

New York State District Attorneys' Association

Kristen Kane

Assistant District Attorney

Chief, Elder Fraud Unit

Queens County District Attorney's Office

125-01 Queens Blvd.

Kew Gardens, N.Y. 11415

Candace K. Vogel

Assistant District Attorney

Special Investigations/Prosecution Bureau

Erie County District Attorney's Office

25 Delaware Ave.

Buffalo, N.Y. 14202