

2017 Domestic Violence Annual Report

NOPD agrees to track dispositions of domestic violence investigations, including arrests and acceptance or refusal by the DA. NOPD further agrees to make a reasonable effort to enter into Memoranda of Understanding with appropriate agencies to track information related to the outcomes of domestic violence cases, including whether the case was ultimately dismissed, resulted in a plea agreement, or tried, and the final verdict or outcome of the trial. NOPD agrees to track dual arrests and domestic violence arrests by gender. NOPD agrees to publicly report this data on at least an annual basis [Consent Decree ¶222].

Key definitions

Dual arrest – An incident resulting in two or more people arrested for a domestic charge with at least one of the arrestees documented as a victim of a domestic charge.

Domestic violence signals – This report includes the following classifications which could entail domestic violence:

- Domestic aggravated battery
- Simple battery, domestic
- Aggravated assault, domestic
- Simple assault, domestic
- Attempted homicide, domestic
- Domestic criminal damage
- Simple burglary, domestic
- Domestic threats
- Disturbance, domestic

Findings

Incidents and Arrests

NOPD responded to 12,739 calls for service classified under a domestic signal in 2017, and 3,226 of these incidents resulted in an arrest.¹ Dual arrests occurred in 41 (0.32%) of all domestic incidents in 2017.

Overall, these incidents resulted in 3,254 individual arrests. Of these arrests, 2,384 were male (73%) and 870 were female (27%).

¹ 8,448 (66%) of the calls for service are classified as “Domestic Disturbance,” which may not involve a crime.

Charge Outcomes

In 2017, the District Attorney (DA) charged 1,184 people with domestic violence related charges. 1,177 people were convicted.

Of the 2,202 charges initiated by the DA, 2,198 resulted in a conviction. 2,176 charges (99%) resulted in a plea agreement, and 22 charges (1%) were handled through a trial.

Plea Outcomes

The 2,176 charges resulting in plea agreements included 1,091 pleas of guilty as charged (50%), and 1,081 pleas of guilty to a lesser offense (50%).

Trial Outcomes

Of the 22 charges decided by trial:

- 8 were found guilty as charged by a judge (36%);
- 6 were found not guilty by a judge (27%);
- 2 were found guilty of a lesser offense by a judge (9%);
- 5 were found not guilty by a jury (23%); and
- 1 was found guilty as charged by a jury (5%).

Refused charges

The District Attorney refused 1,193 domestic violence related charges in 2017. The reasons for the refusals are as follows:

- 607 Victim sign off
- 371 Not suitable for prosecution
- 65 Prescribed
- 60 Other evidence problems
- 26 Good defense
- 19 Victim no show
- 18 Testimony circumstantial
- 8 Witness implausible
- 7 Prosecuting other charges
- 5 Duplication

- 4 No corroboration of offense
- 1 Witness refusal
- 1 Physical evidence insufficient
- 1 Blank

REFUSED CHARGES

