

Domestic Violence Annual Report - 2020

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 12,421 calls for service classified under a domestic signal in 2020, and 2,472 of these incidents resulted in an arrest.¹ Dual arrests occurred in 13 (0.10%) of all domestic incidents in 2020. One dual arrest in 2020 involved a same sex domestic dispute.

Overall, these incidents resulted in 2,514 individual arrests. Of these arrests, 1,843 (73%) were male and 671 (27%) were female.

¹ 8,623 (69%) of the calls for service are classified as “Domestic Disturbance,” which may not involve a crime.

Arrested Offender Demographics

In 2020, 62% of all people arrested as a result of a domestic dispute were black or African American males.

	Black	White	Hispanic	Asian	American Indian	Unknown
Male	62%	8%	2.8%	0.3%	0.1%	0.2%
Female	22%	4%	0.8%	0.1%	0.0%	0.0%

All Victim Demographics (whether arrest occurred or no arrest occurred)

In 2020, 31% of all victims of domestic disputes were black or African American males.

	Black	White	Hispanic	Asian	American Indian	Unknown
Male	31%	5%	1.1%	0.2%	0.0%	0.1%
Female	54%	7%	1.5%	0.3%	0.1%	0.2%

Charge Outcomes

In 2020, the District Attorney (DA) resolved domestic violence charges against 272 people, of whom 121 were convicted of at least one such charge.

Of the 357 domestic violence charges resolved by the DA, defendants were convicted of 184. Defendants plead to 183 (51%) charges, 5 (1%) were handled through a trial, the DA decided to no longer prosecute (nolle prosequi) 164 (46%), 4 (1%) were dismissed as moot, none (0%) were quashed as prescribed by the court, and 1 (0.3%) was referred to another court.

Plea Outcomes

The 183 domestic violence charges resulting in plea agreements included 125 pleas of guilty as charged (68%), no pleas of nolo contendere (no contest) (0%), and 58 pleas of guilty to a lesser offense (32%).

Trial Outcomes

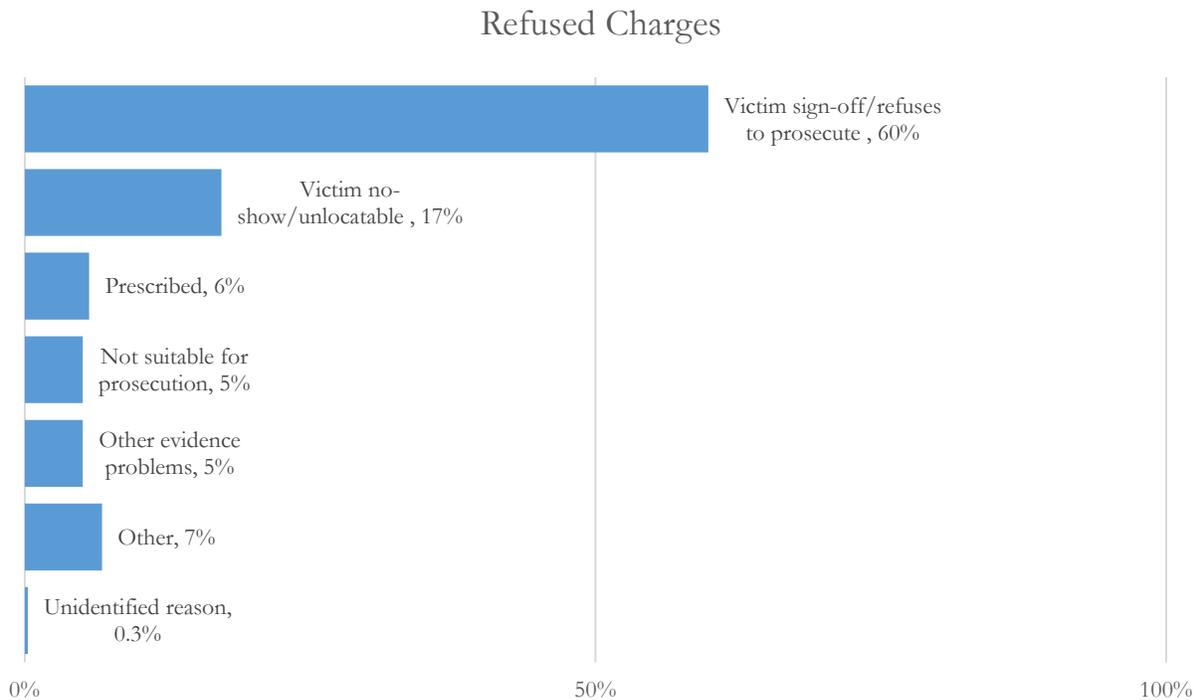
Of the 5 charges decided by trial:

- 4 were found not guilty by a judge (80%)
- 1 was found guilty as charged by a judge (20%)

Refused charges

The District Attorney refused 354 domestic violence related charges in 2020, none of which were law enforcement-based refusals.² The reasons for the refusals are as follows:

- 212 (60%) Victim sign-off/refuses to prosecute
- 61 (17%) Victim no-show/unlocatable
- 20 (6%) Prescribed
- 18 (5%) Not suitable for prosecution
- 18 (5%) Other evidence problems
- 14 (4%) Good defense
- 7 (2%) Witness unbelievable or implausible
- 2 (1%) Case moot (defendant died)
- 1 (0.3%) Referral to criminal court
- 1 (0.3%) Unidentified reason



² The district attorney uses the following refusal reasons for law enforcement-based refusals: “No probable cause for arrest,” “Unlawful search no warrant,” “Unlawful search with warrant,” “Incomplete police investigation,” and “Law enforcement issues.”

Training

Courses

Recruits receive 40 hours domestic violence training before they enter the field, which consists of Problem Based Learning Exercises after in class courses for Case Law, Interview Techniques, Policy, Domestic Violence Dynamics; Predominant Aggressor, Blue Print for Safety, and Protective Orders and Restraints. Officers and supervisors receive updated and or refresher courses during annual In-Service domestic violence training. Due to COVID-19 restrictions the 2020 Annual Master Training Plan was amended to replace in-person training with e-learning modules. In 2020, all officers were mandated to take the Louisiana Police Officer Standards of Training (POST) Council e-learning module “Responding to Calls of Domestic Violence - 2020.”

Monthly Training Quizzes

Every month the Policy and Planning Section of NOPD’s Professional Standards and Accountability Bureau creates a 20 question, online, mandatory quiz designed to require the test taker to read and understand policy in order to reinforce policy. In December of 2020 the online quiz required NOPD employees to read critical parts of Ch 42.4 – Domestic Violence.