

# Domestic Violence Annual Report - 2021

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 11,658 calls for service classified under a domestic signal in 2021, and 2,221 of these incidents resulted in an arrest.<sup>1</sup> Dual arrests occurred in 23 (0.20%) of all domestic incidents in 2021. Seven dual arrests in 2021 involved a same sex domestic dispute.

Overall, these incidents resulted in 2,325 individual arrests. Of these arrests, 1,688 (73%) were male and 637 (27%) were female.

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<sup>1</sup> 7,662 (66%) of the calls for service are classified as “Domestic Disturbance,” which may not involve a crime.

### Arrested Offender Demographics

In 2021, 61% 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	61%	10%	0.5%	0.3%	0.1%	0.9%
Female	23%	4%	0.0%	0.2%	0.3%	0.3%

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

In 2021, 30% of all victims of domestic disputes were black or African American males.

	Black	White	Hispanic	Asian	American Indian	Unknown
Male	30%	5%	0.1%	0.2%	0.0%	0.7%
Female	53%	8%	0.2%	0.3%	0.0%	1.7%

### Charge Outcomes

In 2021, the District Attorney (DA) resolved domestic violence charges against 66 people, of whom 33 were convicted of at least one such charge. As of March 10, 2022, 141 of the domestic violence charges screened in 2021 by the DA were not yet resolved.

Of the 82 domestic violence charges resolved by the DA, defendants were convicted of 40 (49%). Defendants plead to 37 (45%) charges, 4 (5%) were handled through a trial, the DA decided to no longer prosecute (nolle prosequi) 39 (48%), 2 (2%) were quashed as prescribed by the court, none (0%) were dismissed as moot, and none (0%) were referred to another court.

### *Plea Outcomes*

The 37 domestic violence charges resulting in plea agreements included 16 (43%) pleas of guilty as charged, no pleas of nolo contendere (no contest) (0%), and 21 (57%) pleas of guilty to a lesser offense.

### *Trial Outcomes*

Of the 4 charges decided by trial:

- 1 was found not guilty by a judge (25%)
- 1 was found guilty as charged by a judge (25%)

- 1 was found guilty as charged by jury (25%)
- 1 was found guilty of a lesser offense by a judge (25%)

### *Refused charges*

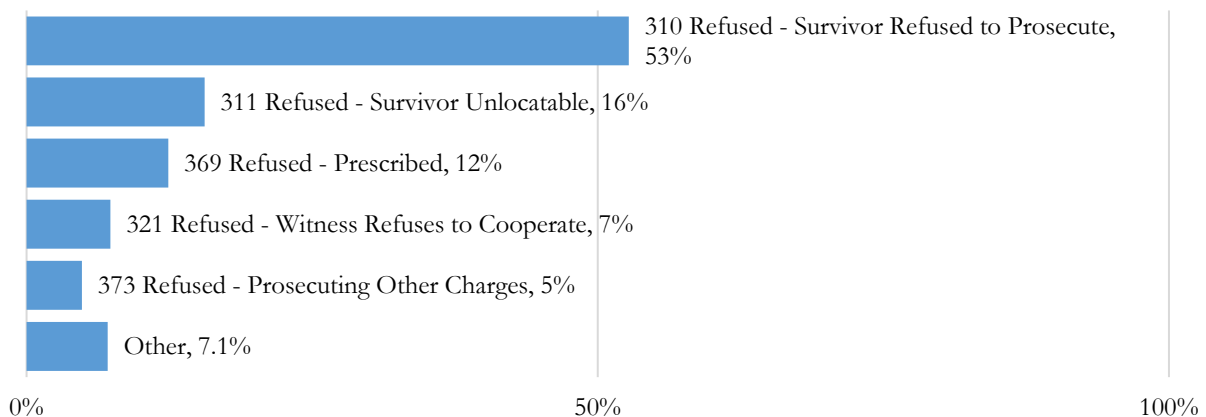
The District Attorney refused 1,732 domestic violence related charges in 2021, none of which were law enforcement-based refusals.<sup>2</sup> The reasons for the refusals are as follows:

310 Refused - Survivor Refused to Prosecute	913	52.7%
311 Refused - Survivor Unlocatable	270	15.6%
369 Refused - Prescribed	215	12.4%
321 Refused - Witness Refuses to Cooperate	127	7.3%
373 Refused - Prosecuting Other Charges	84	4.8%
334 Refused - Not Suitable for Prosecution	44	2.5%
309 Refused - Other Evidence Problems	13	0.8%
Refused at screening	12	0.7%
338 Refused - Good Defense	10	0.6%
322 Refused - Witness Unbelievable	9	0.5%
340 Refused - Case Moot	6	0.3%
305 Refused - No Corroboration of Offense	5	0.3%
306 Refused - Testimony Insufficient to Prove Crime	4	0.2%
383 Refused - Duplication	3	0.2%
314 Refused - Witness/Survivor No Show	3	0.2%
315 Refused - Witness Unavailable	3	0.2%
307 Refused - Insufficient Nexus	2	0.1%
337 Refused - Defendant Died	2	0.1%
368 Refused - Referral to FINS	2	0.1%
304 Refused - Physical Evidence Insufficient	1	0.1%
356 Refused - Missing Element of Crime	1	0.1%
502 Refused - Civil Matter	1	0.1%
384 Refused - Duplicative Charge	1	0.1%
355 Refused - No Criminal Act	1	0.1%

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<sup>2</sup> 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.”

## Refused Charges



## 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, Blueprint for Safety, and Protective Orders and Restraints. Officers and supervisors received three hours of annual In-Service domestic violence training in 2021, including: 1 hour of "Protective Order Registry," 1 hour of "Louisiana Victim Information & Notification Everyday," and 1 hour of "Domestic Violence Intervention."

### *Roll Call*

Supervisors have a meeting at the beginning of every shift with the officers in their platoon. This meeting is called "Roll Call." The Academy requires supervisors to cover certain topics during roll call each week. For the weeks of March 7-13 and July 4-10 the Academy required supervisors to discuss Chapter 42.4 – Domestic Violence with the officers in their platoon.

### *Email Blasts*

The Domestic Violence Unit sends educational email blasts to the entire Department. On 2/13/21 the DV Unit sent an email informing the Department about a recent update to the DV policy, the department's arrest matrix, and Louisiana's law on "Prescription." On 2/23/21 the unit sent an email to the Department about the information that is necessary for all DV arrests. On 6/25/2021 the DV unit sent an email informing the Department about how to ensure arrest documents and warrant applications meet the requirements for protection orders. On 9/9/21 the unit sent an email about how to navigate technical issues with restraining orders resulting from Hurricane Ida. On 11/23/21 the unit sent an email about how dual arrests are discouraged and the circumstances under which they are permitted.