

Domestic Violence Related Calls for Service

Data Set Overview and History

The Department of Justice (DOJ) Criminal Justice Statistics Center (CJSC) collects information on Domestic Violence Related Calls for Service (DVRCS). The DVRCS data are collected from various Law Enforcement Entities (LEA) throughout the State on a monthly basis. The data set provides summary statistical data on the total number of domestic violence related calls for service received by the LEAs, the number of cases involving weapons, and the type of weapon used during the reported incident.

Statutory Authority

The DOJ has the statutory authority to collect DVRCS data pursuant to Penal Code section 13730(a).

Data Characteristics and Known Limitations

1. Domestic violence is defined according to Penal Code section 13700(b) as abuse committed against an adult or a fully emancipated minor who is a spouse, former spouse, cohabitant, former cohabitant, or person with whom the suspect has had a child or is having or has had a dating or engagement relationship.
2. Abuse is defined according to Penal Code section 13700(a) as intentionally or recklessly causing or attempting to cause bodily injury, or placing another person in reasonable apprehension of imminent serious bodily injury to himself or herself, or another.
3. The definition of “domestic violence” is subject to varying interpretations by law enforcement agencies. As a result, different types of domestic violence relationships may be included in the database.
4. Included in the data are any cases that resulted in a report being written by the responding LEA. Therefore, data include both cases where an arrest was made and those where circumstances did not warrant an arrest.
5. Domestic violence-related calls for assistance that involved the use, or threat of use, of a firearm, knife or cutting instrument or other dangerous weapon are reported according to the type of weapon used regardless of the outcome or injury.
6. In 2002, law enforcement agencies were given clarification about reporting personal weapons. This clarification corresponds to a notable decrease in the number of personal weapons reported. The use of a personal weapon such as hands, fists, or feet was reported as a weapon only if the assault was considered an aggravated assault under Uniform Crime

Reporting (UCR) guidelines. An aggravated assault is an unlawful attack by one person upon another for the purpose of inflicting severe or aggravated bodily injury, such as broken bones, internal injuries, or cuts requiring stitches.

7. Reporting anomalies have required minor adjustments to the 2014 and 2016 data. Data may not match those previously published.
8. In 2017, California Penal Code section 13730 was amended. Beginning in 2018, law enforcement agencies were instructed to include whether there were indications that the incident involved strangulation or suffocation. This includes whether a witness or victim reported such an incident, or symptoms thereof, or whether an officer observed any other indications of strangulation or suffocation.

Data Elements and Values Defined

Cell Location	Data Element	Description/Definition	Value
A	YEAR	The year the data was reported for.	Four digit numeric (YYYY)
B	COUNTY	County of reporting agency.	Alpha
C	AGENCY_NAME	Reporting agency name.	Alpha
D	MONTH	The Month the data was reported for.	Two digit numeric (MM)
E	TOTAL_CALLS	The total number of domestic violence related calls for service received by the LEA during the reporting period.	Numerical count
F	NO_WEAPONS	The total number of domestic violence related calls for service received by the LEA during the reporting period that did not involve the use of a weapon.	Numerical count
G	WEAPONS_INVOLVED	The total number of domestic violence related calls for service received by the LEA during the reporting period that	Numerical count

		involved the use of a weapon.	
H	SUB_FIREARM	The total number of domestic violence related calls for service received by the LEA during the reporting period that involved the use of a weapon, specifically a firearm.	Numerical count
I	SUB_KNIFE	The total number of domestic violence related calls for service received by the LEA during the reporting period that involved the use of a weapon, specifically a knife or other cutting instrument.	Numerical count
J	SUB_OTHER	The total number of domestic violence related calls for service received by the LEA during the reporting period that involved the use of a weapon, specifically any other weapon not specifically defined or identified elsewhere in this data set.	Numerical count
K	SUB_PERSONAL	The total number of domestic violence related calls for service received by the LEA during the reporting period that involved the use of a personal weapon, specifically hand, feet, fists, etc.	Numerical count

L	WEAPON_NOT_RPT	The total number of domestic violence related calls for service received by the LEA during the reporting period that involved the use of a weapon, but the weapon was not reported.	Numerical count
M	TOTAL_STRANG_SUFFO	The total number of domestic violence related calls for service received by the LEA during the reporting period that involved strangulation or suffocation.	Numerical count
N	SUB_STRANGULATION	The total number of domestic violence related calls for service received by the LEA during the reporting period that involved an element of strangulation.	Numerical count
O	SUB_SUFFOCATION	The total number of domestic violence related calls for service received by the LEA during the reporting period that involved an element of suffocation.	Numerical count