



COUNTY OF SAN MATEO
DOMESTIC VIOLENCE COUNCIL

July 11, 2024

3:00 p.m. - 4:30 p.m.

IN-PERSON MEETING: 455 County Center, Redwood City in Room 101

Option for Members of the Public: <https://smcgov.zoom.us/j/92387478308>

For Audio Conference: dial +1 669 900 6833 then enter Meeting ID: 923 8747 8308 followed by #

Please Note: Detailed step-by-step instructions are included below.

AGENDA

Chair: Supervisor Noelia Corzo
Co-Chair: Elisa Kuhl, Victim Services, District Attorney's Office
Staff: Tanya Beat, Staff Liaison
 Jacki Rigoni, Chief of Staff, Supervisor Corzo's Office
 Caiti Busch, Deputy County Attorney, County Attorney's Office

Call to Order		Supervisor Corzo
1. Round Table Introductions (DVC Members & Partners)		Supervisor Corzo
2. Opportunity for Public Comment		Supervisor Corzo
3. Action to Set Agenda and Approve Consent Agenda Items <i>(This item is to set the final consent and regular agenda, and for the approval of the items listed on the consent agenda. All items on the consent agenda are approved by one action.)</i>		Supervisor Corzo
CONSENT AGENDA		
4. Approval of April 2024 Minutes		
REGULAR AGENDA		
5. NEW BUSINESS a) Sherry's Story	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Presentation</i> • <i>Presentation & Discussion</i> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Guest - 5 min • Nicole Reyes - 20 min • Family Justice Center Alliance Members - 30 min
6. Legal Process Committee Presentation from DVC partners		
7. Family Justice Center		
8. OLD BUSINESS a) Survivor Advisory Group b) DV Task Force Updates o Batterer Intervention o Data - Data Annual Report o Education & Awareness o Co-Responder Advocacy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Action</i> • <i>Written reports</i> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Jacki Rigoni - 10 min • Q&A -10 min
9. Announcements a. <i>VOCA Funding Cuts update (see written report)</i> b. <i>October 10 - DV Council Meeting</i>		
Adjournment		Supervisor Corzo

*****HYBRID MEETING - IN-PERSON AND BY VIDEOCONFERENCE*****

This meeting of the Domestic Violence Council (DVC) will be held at 455 County Center, Rm 101, Redwood City, 94063. Members of the public only will be able to participate in the meeting remotely via the Zoom platform or in person. For information regarding how to participate in the meeting, either in person or remotely, please refer to the instructions at the end of the agenda. In addition, a video broadcast of the meeting can be viewed at: <https://smcgov.zoom.us/j/92387478308>. Closed Captioning will be provided for all DVC meetings. While watching the video broadcast, please scroll over the video and click "CC" to turn closed captions on.

Public Participation:

The DVC meeting may be accessed through Zoom online at <https://smcgov.zoom.us/j/92387478308>. The meeting ID is: 923 8747 8308. The meeting may also be accessed via telephone +1 669 900 6833. Enter the Meeting ID: 923 8747 8308, then press #.

Members of the public can also attend this meeting physically at 455 County Center, Rm 101, Redwood City, 94063

*Written public comments may be emailed to tbeat@smcgov.org, and such written comments should indicate the specific agenda item on which you are commenting.

*Spoken public comments will be accepted during the meeting in person or remotely through Zoom at the option of the speaker. Public comments via Zoom will be taken first, followed by speakers in person.

***Please see instructions for written and spoken public comments at the end of this agenda.**

ADA Requests

Individuals who require special assistance or a disability related modification or accommodation to participate in this meeting, or who have a disability and wish to request an alternative format for the meeting, should contact Tanya Beat as early as possible but no later than 5:00 p.m. on the day before the meeting at (650) 363-4467 and/or tbeat@smcgov.org. Notification in advance of the meeting will enable the County to make reasonable arrangements to ensure accessibility to this meeting, the materials related to it, and your ability to comment.

***Instructions for Public Comment During Hybrid Meetings**

During hybrid meetings, members of the public may address the DVC as follows:

***Written Comments:** Written public comments may be emailed in advance of the meeting. Please read the instructions carefully:

1. Your written comment should be emailed to tbeat@smcgov.org.
2. Your email should include the specific agenda item on which you are commenting or note that your comment concerns an item that is not on the agenda or is on the consent agenda.
3. Members of the public are limited to one comment per agenda item.
4. The length of the emailed comment should be commensurate with the two minutes customarily allowed for verbal comments, which is approximately 250-300 words.
5. If your emailed comment is received by 5:00 p.m. on the day before the meeting, it will be provided to the DVC and made publicly available on the agenda website under the specific item to which your comment pertains. If emailed comments are received after 5:00p.m. on the day before the meeting, the staff will make every effort to either (i) provide such emailed comments to the DVC and make such emails publicly available on the agenda website prior to the meeting, or (ii) read such emails during the meeting. Whether such emailed comments are forwarded and posted, or are read during the meeting, they will still be included in the administrative record.

***Spoken Comments:** In person Participation:

1. If you wish to speak to the DVC, please fill out a speaker's slip located on the materials table. If you have anything that you wish distributed to the DVC and included in the official record, please hand it to staff who will distribute the information to the members and staff.

Via Teleconference (Zoom):

1. The meeting may be accessed through Zoom online (see instructions above).
2. You may download the Zoom client or connect to the meeting using an internet browser. If using your browser, make sure you are using a current, up-to-date browser: Chrome 30+, Firefox 27+, Microsoft Edge 12+, Safari 7+. Certain functionality may be disabled in older browsers including Internet Explorer.
3. You will be asked to enter an email address and name. We request that you identify yourself by name as this will be visible online and will be used to notify you that it is your turn to speak.
4. When either Chair or staff calls for the item on which you wish to speak, click on "raise hand." Speakers will be notified shortly before they are called to speak.

***Additional Information:**

For any questions or concerns regarding Zoom, including troubleshooting, privacy, or security settings, please contact Zoom directly. Public records that relate to any item on the open session agenda for a regular meeting are available for public inspection. Those

records that are distributed less than 72 hours prior to the meeting are available for public inspection at the same time they are distributed to all members, or a majority of the members of the DVC.



COUNTY OF SAN MATEO
DOMESTIC VIOLENCE COUNCIL

April 11, 2024
3:00 p.m. – 4:30 p.m.
MEETING MINUTES

Chair: Supervisor Noelia Corzo
 Vice-Chair: Elisa Kuhl
 Staff: Tanya Beat, staff liaison; Jacki Rigoni, Senior Legislative Aide, Caiti Busch, Deputy County Attorney

Present: Supervisor Noelia Corzo, Elisa Kuhl, Michael Callagy, Adam Ely, Kathy Anderson, Stephanie Bilinski, Noelle Bruton, Trish Erwin, Karen Ferguson, Robert Foucrault, Sean Frost, Cynthia Hunter, Keri Kirby, Lisa Maguire, Hon. Lisa Novak, Becky Powers, Nicole Reyes, Erin Orum, Chief Maria Sarasua, Bob Spencer, Selina Toy-Lee, Tanya Beat, Jacki Rigoni, Caiti Busch, Mylene Janoras, Erica Pullido
Absent: Ruben Abrica, Sheriff Corpus, Rose Mukhar, Kris Shouse, Lori Smiley-Klingler

Call to Order	<i>Action</i>	Supervisor Corzo
1. Roll Call & Round Table Introductions (DVC Members & Partners)		Supervisor Corzo
2. Opportunity for Public Comment		Members of the Public: James Ewing Whitman (in person) Rhonda Reyna (in person) Martin Fox (in person)
3. Action to Set Agenda & Approve Consent Agenda	<i>Action</i>	Elisa Kuhl motions to approve; Lisa Maguire seconds the motion. Abstentions: Lisa Novak. Approved.
CONSENT Agenda		
4. Approval of January 2024 Minutes		
REGULAR AGENDA		
5. Survivor Story	<i>Update</i>	Karen Ferguson introduction of Erica Pullido Has worked for CORA for many years. Survivor, 3 children. She shared her story of survival from a vicious attack by her husband. She also shared the services from CORA and other local organizations (911, law enforcement, victim services, legal services) in her journey through her experience. Public Comment: Rhonda Reyna
6. Data Annual Report	<i>Update</i>	Data Report PPT presentation by Karen Ferguson, Elisa Kuhl - Please refer to the 2023 Annual Data Report included in meeting materials.

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Robust demographic information; however there are gaps in data around language needs/usage and special classifications and still need data from legal services and law enforcement. - Persons Doing Harm: Information from Batter Intervention Program was extremely helpful. - Prevention and Education (TDAH, YEA! Speak Up – all CORA but surely there are others around SMC). - Recommendations are based on the current data but with more data, comes revised recommendations. - AB2279 (Missing and Murdered Indigenous Persons Justice Program) by Assemblymember Cervantes; brought up by Lisa Maguire. - This is a draft report. Data from roundtable participants. We ask for your feedback for revisions that will be provided at July DVC meeting. Send to Elisa Kuhl or Tanya Beat. <p>Public Comment: unidentified person Public Comment: Rhonda Reyna Public Comment: James Ewing Whitman Public Comment: Martin Fox Public Comment: Ren DeMello (on Zoom)</p>
<p>7. High Risk Case Review Team</p>	<p><i>Action to recommend to the Board of Supervisors to establish a multi-disciplinary team.</i></p>	<p>Overview by Lena Silberman</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Background: Visit to the Central Family Justice Center in Concord in Contra Costa County. There we learned about a Multidisciplinary team that works on complex cases of domestic violence or any partner abuse. - Complex Cases – defined as cases that are very high risk and/or “plus criteria.” That means the person may not be able to access services as easily as others. - Goal of the Program is to have a monthly meeting with all partners to go over cases and ideally have resolved within the next month or so. - Example: Contra Costa County high risk team looks at five (5) metrics or five areas of need. They look at the civil legal needs, mental health needs, law enforcement concerns and safety concerns, etc. - Based on section of penal code that allows for the creation of multidisciplinary teams. Must have written consent from the survivor. - Questions include: how many cases in a year? What does it mean to “resolve” a case? Nomination of cases can happen outside of this group? - Suggestion to look at the Geiger Institute (harm reduction model] from Member at large Cyndi Hunter. - Remaining questions are outstanding: organization of the group; results of the group. <p>Public Comment: Rhonda Reyna Public Comment: James Ewing Whitman Motion by Elisa Kuhl. Seconded by Karen Ferguson. Approved.</p>

8. Survivor Advisory Group	<i>Recommendation</i>	<p>Discussion on the recommendations for creating a Survivor Advisory Group in San Mateo County. Members who volunteer to develop recommendations: Kathy Anderson, Cynthia Hunter. Tool: Voices Toolkit available.</p> <p>Motion by Adam Ely to create a small group to research and recommend how to form a Survivor Advisory Council. Second by Karen Ferguson. Approved.</p> <p>Public Comment: Rhonda Reyna Public Comment: Ren DeMello</p>
9. Victims of Crime Act cuts/impact	<i>Update</i>	<p>Karen Ferguson with comment from Elisa Kuhl</p> <p>Victims of Crime Act fund is diminishing federally and now there is a significant shortfall for sexual assault and DV services. CORA Services impacted: mental health, rental assistance, hotline, safehouse, community education, data systems support. Please see VOCA Funding Crisis handout in meeting materials for details.</p> <p>Public Comment: Rhonda Reyna</p>
10. DV Task Force Updates <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Batterer Intervention • Family Justice Center • Legal Services • Data • Education & Awareness • Co-Responder Advocacy 	<i>Summary Report Out</i>	<p>No questions. No discussion.</p>
11. Committee Reports <p><i>a.Domestic Violence Awareness Committee</i></p> <p><i>b.Legal Process Committee</i></p>	<i>Summary Report Out</i>	<p>Nicole Reyes: Healthy Relationships Art Contest has concluded. Elisa Kuhl: nothing significant to report from the LPC</p>
12. Announcements <p><i>a. July 11 – DVC Meeting</i></p> <p><i>b. Storytelling volunteer for July meeting</i></p>		<p>b.If you know of a person with the storytelling piece, please email Tanya Best or Jacki Rigoni.</p>
Adjournment		<p>Supervisor Corzo</p>

Public records that relate to any item on the open session agenda for a regular Domestic Violence Council meeting are available for public inspection. Those records that are distributed less than 72 hours prior to the meeting are available for public inspection at the same time they are distributed to all members, or a majority of the members of the Commission. Those public records are available for public inspection at the Human Resources office located at 455 County Center, 5th floor, Redwood City, CA 94063 by appointment. The documents are also available to be sent electronically by emailing tbeat@smcgov.org or calling 650-363-4467.

IN COMPLIANCE WITH THE CALIFORNIA GOVERNMENT CODE AND THE AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES ACT, auxiliary aids and services for this meeting will be provided upon request when given three days' notice. Please call 650-363-4467 (voice) or email tbeat@smcgov.org.



Survivor Advisory Proposal 7/11/2024

OBJECTIVE

It is our core value and honor to prioritize, respect, and gain knowledge from the sage wisdom and advice of our Survivor Advisors and the community we serve in San Mateo County.

The objective of the Survivor Advisory is to establish a safe and supportive environment where survivors of intimate partner abuse can apply their lived experience and knowledge to:

- Confidently voice their needs;
- Be in community with fellow survivors;
- Feel empowered and respected;
- Access opportunities for leadership, growth, and healing;
- Collaborate with nonprofits and government agencies in San Mateo County to make the community safer in ways that are meaningful, relevant, and impactful;

Short-term objective: To establish an ad hoc Survivor Advisory committee of the San Mateo County Domestic Violence Council (DVC) with the objective of creating a Survivor Advisory to advise on the establishment of a Family Justice Center and make policy recommendations.

SCOPE

- The DVC will appoint less than a quorum of its members, with a minimum of two, who self-identify as survivors and/or members of a survivor-focused organization, to facilitate the member selection process and creation of the Survivor Advisory.
- The DVC Survivor Advisory committee members will serve as representatives of the DVC on the Survivor Advisory and report recommendations back to the DVC
- The DVC will consider an amendment to its bylaws and a proposed resolution to the Board of Supervisors to add a Survivor categorical member to the DVC who will serve as one of the DVC-appointed representatives on the Survivor Advisory.
- As a temporary advisory committee, the DVC Survivor Advisory committee is exempt from the Brown Act's requirements, which will preserve confidentiality and prioritize safety of survivor members.
- The Survivor Advisory may self-organize and self-determine objectives outside the scope of the DVC, but for the purposes of the DVC, the limited scope of the

committee is to establish the Survivor Advisory for advising the establishment of a Family Justice Center and to make policy recommendations from the Survivor Advisory.

- The Survivor Advisory may make recommendations to the DVC and/or Family Justice Center. Likewise, the DVC and/or the Family Justice Center may make requests of the Survivor Advisory.
- On completion of the DVC Survivor Advisory committee's limited scope, the Survivor Advisory committee will make a recommendation to the DVC for appropriate next steps to ensure the Survivor Advisory continues to have an opportunity to provide input to the DVC.

Membership:

- Members of the DVC Survivor Advisory committee will be self-identified survivors and/or members of a survivor-focused organization. The Survivor Advisory will be self-identified survivors.
- The Survivor Advisory will operate within San Mateo County, with representation from all five county districts, engaging with communities across the region to ensure broad and diverse representation and accessibility.
- The selection process will:
 - Encourage members of the deaf community and monolingual Spanish, Mandarin, Cantonese, Tagalog, and speakers of other languages to participate with interpretation or form specific language groups as needed.
 - Ensure outreach and inclusion of diverse intimate partner survivor populations:
 - Formerly incarcerated survivors
 - Sexual assault survivors
 - Immigrant survivors
 - Adult survivors of child abuse
 - Adults who grew up with domestic violence in the home
 - Incest survivors
 - Survivors with/without children
 - Male survivors
 - Survivors of all gender identities
 - LGBTQIA+ survivors
 - Survivors with disabilities
 - Elderly survivors

- Native peoples and tribal and indigenous survivors
- Trafficked and exploited survivors
- Workplace survivors
- Other culturally-specific populations

NEXT STEPS

1. Identify key partners: [Communities Overcoming Relationship Abuse](#) (CORA), [Justice At Last](#), [DA Victim Services](#), [Rape Trauma Services](#), [ALLICE](#), etc.,
 - a. Work to have diverse representation in the planning process: e.g., [Unitedly](#), [BACHAC](#), [Puente](#)
2. Create a budget and explore possible funding and stipend models: Use the [Lived Experience Advisory Group](#) (LEAG), the [Farmworker Advisory Commission](#), and the Shared Prosperity group to help build a proposed budget. Depending on cost, a process will be determined.
3. Develop criteria, create an application, and determine selection process
4. Determine size of group (at least ten)
5. Begin recruitment: Engage in robust outreach to diverse populations as outlined above.
6. Schedule onboarding and recurring meetings
7. Support members through organization process
8. Make Survivor Advisory reports at DVC meetings



**Domestic Violence Council
Ad Hoc Task Force
Batterer Intervention Program Subcommittee
July 2024 Update**

GAP: Need for education, support, and accountability for abusive partners; need data on success rates of existing DV rehabilitation programs.

ACTION: Form a working group to assess, improve, expand, and monitor existing batterer intervention programs and foster more inter-agency collaboration.

Batterer Intervention Program Data

Of the 301 probationers who were ordered to complete a BIP in 2023, 74% completed the program. This is a total, across all providers.

Review of Curriculum and Program Documentation

Probation facilitated a review of each BIP provider's curriculum to ensure evidence-based practices were being implemented to help improve client outcomes. All program providers use different curriculums, but all are evidence-based.

Providers have agreed to share internal documents, policies and procedures in an effort to streamline documentation across programs. Probation is working to standardize their annual re-certification process.

Program Fees

BIPs have established a new program fee structure, effective July 1, 2024.

Domestic Violence Council
Ad Hoc Task Force

- Family Justice Center
- Domestic Violence Emergency Response Team (formally Co-Response)

Family Justice Center

- We are conducting the two day study tour with our consultant, the Family Justice Center Alliance, on July 11th and 12th. We are also hosting a community forum that has ~130 people registered. This attendees include County, nonprofits, elected officials, city officials, law enforcement, community groups and others.

Domestic Violence Emergency Response Team / Co-Response:

- The program is now being called the Domestic Violence Emergency Response Team (DVERT). The Board of Supervisors approved on 6/25 an authorization to enter into contract with CORA with a not to exceed amount of \$800,000 for the program. A 3rd party evaluator has been selected (RDA) and will be meeting with the working group later this month.



2023 ANNUAL DATA REPORT

San Mateo County Domestic Violence Council

Executive Summary

In 2023 **5,475** (potentially duplicated) victims of domestic violence sought supportive services in San Mateo County via CORA, DA’s Victim Services, Legal Aid Society of San Mateo, Superior Court of San Mateo, the Keller Center for Family Violence Intervention, and San Mateo County Child and Family Services based on data collected by members of the Domestic Violence Council (DVC). While not directly connected, the latest data from the State of California’s Department of Justice’s Open Justice portal indicates that in 2022, San Mateo County law enforcement departments received **1,786** domestic violence related calls for service.

To get a better picture of the scope and scale of domestic violence, and the resulting needs of people who are harmed and people who do harm, it is recommended that data should be collected from additional partners, with a focus on areas including deafness/ blindness, other disabilities, homelessness, immigrant/ refugee status, veteran status, and sexual orientation, LGBTQ+ status, language needs/ access, and critical stressors such as exposure to domestic violence in childhood, access to weapons, treated/ untreated mental illness.

Recommendations



Bring in an independent data expert. The primary recommendation of the agencies involved in this report is to retain an independent data expert to identify critical county-wide data that speaks to the work being done and the impact of that work on reducing domestic violence and abuse. Data sharing, integrating diverse and protected data collection platforms, and identifying the key metrics will be critical factors in this design. The result would be a County-wide dashboard providing easy access to this information.



Identify and implement a standardized danger assessment tool. The DVC should lead an effort in encouraging DVC partners to begin using a standardized danger assessment tool. Use of such a tool in a standardized way would provide more insight into the prevalence of danger in the home and may highlight

situations where additional intervention could prevent escalation.



Improve data tracking. DVC partners should be encouraged to track the following data points:

- Language access data. Attention is needed to identify gaps in serving individuals who identify as Asian and to determine if providing services in languages such as Mandarin/ Cantonese, Tagalog, Hindi, Vietnamese would increase survivor access to services and supports.
- LGBTQ+ status. Evidence shows that individuals who identify as LGBTQ+ are much more likely to experience victimization, including incidences of domestic violence. The data included in this report reflects significantly low rates of service provision for LGBTQ+ individuals, which may indicate either reporting errors or services that are not easy or safe to access.
- Legal Representation. Data should be collected to determine if the presence of legal representation significantly impacts the rate of granted restraining orders.
- Outcome data. DVC partners should be encouraged to track longer term outcome data for both those who were harmed and those who did harm
- Data on the person who did harm. Such information should include exposure to domestic violence in childhood, drug or alcohol abuse, untreated mental illness, socioeconomic and/or economic stressors, prior criminal record. This information may lead to meaningful change in our efforts to stop domestic violence in our community.
- DV awareness/ education/ prevention efforts. This information may help provide insight into current efforts and identify new avenues for awareness/ education/ prevention work.

Scope of this report

The County of San Mateo provides a range of services around the issue of Domestic Violence through a coalition of agencies, both governmental and non-governmental. Because of our size, most, if not all, of these service agencies have a unique focus, which also means the data from each agency has a unique perspective. Consequently, aggregate data would not actually represent an aggregate of services, but instead is generally data from one or maybe two agencies at most. Consequently, this report will approach the data from the lens of utilizing each data set distinctly to help us add to a fuller understanding of the landscape. Where aggregate data does add a wider base, this will be provided as well.

Terminology

For the purposes of this report the term **Domestic Violence (DV)** will be utilized. However, the term Intimate Partner Abuse better represents the issues at hand in that not all relationships represented here are “domestic” and not all abuse involves physical violence. For example, much of the data from CORA (Community Overcoming Relationship Abuse) and data from some of the legal partners involves services provided to individuals who are not necessarily in domestic partnership and where the abuse is not only defined as violence or physical violence.

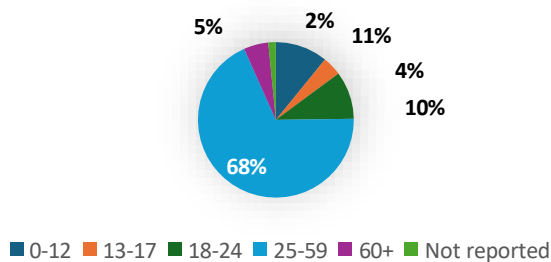
Additionally, the report will refer to individuals who experience abuse as persons who are harmed, as victims and as survivors. For those who perpetrate abuse, the terminology of persons who do harm will be applied. These terminology choices are in recognition of the way individuals themselves may identify (person who is harmed/ victim / survivor) and the fact that persons who do harm, can also be persons who experience harm at other times. This latter terminology acknowledges that the harm is a behavior by the person and can be context dependent.

Persons who are harmed

Demographic Data

As expected, of those who experience harm, 75% identify as female, 23% identify as male and 2% were recorded by agencies as other or not reported.

Age of victim/ survivor



Also as expected, of those being served as victim/ survivors, 69% are 25- 59 years old. Another 10% were 18-24 years old. Only 15% of those served were below age 18 and of these, 11% were below age 12.

Intervention services for those who are harmed by DV are focused on adults in the household. The primary provider of children’s services specific to DV impact is CORA and for this agency the percentage of children served under 18 goes up to 20%.

When examining the racial and ethnic background of individuals served by victim service agencies reporting data for this report, services are significantly skewed to serve those who are Latin-X. County demographics reflect a population of approximately 24% of Latin-X individuals, while approximately 41% of those who accessed/ received services identify as Latin-X. Those who identify as White/ Caucasian are the second highest category at 37% which is significantly below the county demographic of 51% White/ Caucasian. **Concerningly, those identifying as Asian, about 33% of County population, received only 9% of the services.** The black, Indigenous and Native Hawaii/ Pacific Island communities received services generally in line with county demographic percentages.

CORA, Bay Area Legal Aid Society (BALA), and the Superior Court of San Mateo (Family Violence Division) provided information regarding language access. Mirroring ethnic/ racial data, the primary group provided language access is those speaking Spanish. For CORA and the Court

data combined, 81% of services were provided in English and an additional 17% of services were provided in Spanish. BALA reported that 52% of those served by the agency in SMC spoke a primary language other than English. Services in other languages including Tagalog were provided less than 2% of the time. Services in Mandarin and Arabic were noted however the percentages were negligible.

Collecting data on the use of languages such as Mandarin/ Cantonese, Tagalog, Hindi, and Vietnamese could help us understand and identify gaps in serving individuals who identify as Asian. The data in this report suggests that this is an underserved community.

Providers are not currently reporting information regarding other special classifications such as deafness/ blindness, other disabilities, homelessness, immigrant/ refugee status, veteran status, and sexual orientation/ LGBTQ+ identification. This lack of data prevents us from understanding the intersectionality of DV with these other life experiences.

Evidence has shown that individuals who identify as LGBTQ+ are much more likely to experience victimization, including incidences of domestic violence. The data reported reflects significantly low rates of service provision for LGBTQ+ individuals, which may indicate either reporting errors or services that are not easy or safe to access.

Within San Mateo County, 7% of the population is believed to meet criteria as “persons in poverty” (generally 200% below federal poverty income guideline), however for the three victim services agencies reporting income data, 100% of clients fell at low- or extremely low income. This is a bias due to both who access these agencies (Bay Area Legal Aid, Legal Aid Society of San Mateo, and CORA), and the capacity and consequent triaging that these agencies undergo to meet the need of those with little or no income first. As a result, based on this data, we do not have a way to understand the greater need of victim services across the socio-economic spectrum in our community.

Geographically, for the most part the percent of victims identified and served mirrored the percent of city to county population. Three areas stood out which have a higher rate of victim

services sought, East Palo Alto (4% of SMC population and 9% of clients served), San Mateo (15% of SMC population and 21% of clients served) and Redwood City (12% of SMC population and 20% of clients served) than would be expected by population. This does not mean there are higher rates of DV in these areas- only that the percentage of those accessing services is higher in these areas. A potential reason for this could be that these cities are home to the office locations of the DA's Victim Services and CORA. For areas were providing lower levels of victim services than would be predicted by percent of population, those these differences generally were smaller: Burlingame, Daly City, Foster City, and San Carlos (with a percent discrepancy from 2-5% lower than would be expected by percent of population). For a few cities, these percentages are too small to offer meaningful insight into usage patterns (for example, in Brisbane, Colma, and El Granada).

The Child and Family Services (CFS) Department reported there were 182 households, all having minor children involved, where DV was an issue in their referral. Of these, the majority were Latin-x households (68%). Of those, 40% of the reports required an immediate response and the other 60% required a response to the report within 10 days. Only one report did not meet the criteria for in-person response.

Threats of Harm

More cross-agency information is needed regarding types of weapons used in DV cases with threats. This data is additionally challenging as individuals may not accurately report the presence of firearms in the home to either law enforcement or service providers. Additionally, since not all abuse is physical, this section is only addressing experiences of physical threat. Based on data from CORA and the DA's Victim Services as providers of a diverse section of victim services, strangulation is reported by 4-9% of those adults served. At the Keller Center where victims are seen specifically for physical assault, 81% of reported strangulation. CORA's data reports that of adult victims seeking services, 6% reported a firearm in the home. Based on data from the Superior Court of San Mateo, for victims of DV cases filing for restraining

orders, 4% involved awards of temporary restraining orders with firearms findings.

Universal use of a standardized danger assessment tool would provide more insight into the prevalence of danger in the home and may highlight situations where additional intervention could prevent escalation. The data collected and reported is an underestimate of the indicators of danger in the home. We know strangulation can indicate escalating violence, and that there is a 500% increase in danger to a victim when a firearm is in the home. Additionally, looking at the homicides that have occurred in San Mateo County, it appears vital that data be collected on threats with a knife since stabbing was the method in three of the five DV related deaths in 2023. Collecting information on suicidal ideation and suicidal threats would also provide a better understanding of victim risk in the county as this is a factor in some fatalities.

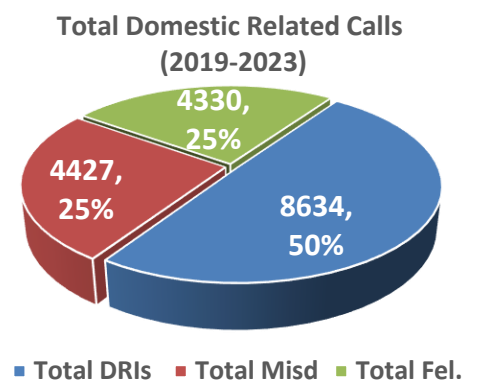
Overview of Domestic Violence Response by Policing Agencies

Policing agencies in San Mateo County are deeply committed to addressing domestic violence through robust policies ensuring consistent handling of related calls for service. Every call that a county policing agency responds to is meticulously documented in a Computer Aided Dispatch System (CAD), and crimes are comprehensively recorded through detailed crime reports. These records provide invaluable data that inform policy decisions, particularly those surrounding domestic violence.

Classification of Domestic-Related Calls for Service

Domestic-related calls for service in San Mateo County are categorized into three main types:

- Domestic Related Incidents (DRIs)
- Domestic Violence (Misdemeanor)
- Felony Domestic Violence (Felony)



Domestic Related Incidents (DRIs)

Domestic Related Incidents (DRIs) are situations involving individuals in a qualifying domestic relationship engaged in a verbal dispute that does not constitute criminal behavior. For instance, spouses arguing about household finances without any threats or physical assault would be classified as a DRI. In these cases, no crime has been committed, and there is no identified victim. However, state law allows police to investigate and report

these non-criminal incidents, as research indicates this practice is crucial in breaking the cycle of violence. The majority of domestic-related calls handled by county policing agencies fall under this category.

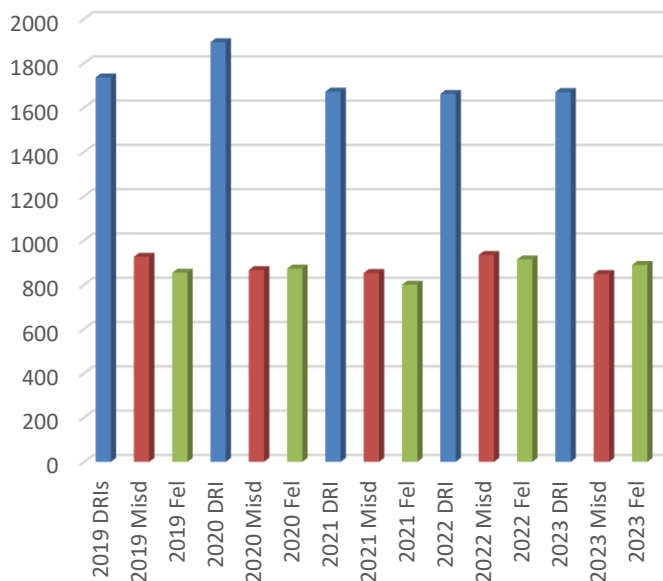
Criminal Domestic Violence

Calls revealing criminal conduct are categorized as either misdemeanor or felony domestic violence based on the severity of the behavior. For example, if an argument between spouses results in one person striking the other, and the strike causes visible injury, it is classified as a felony under state law. If there is no injury, it is generally classified as a misdemeanor. In either scenario, county agencies are mandated to arrest the suspect if there is probable cause to believe an act of domestic violence has occurred. Approximately 50% of domestic-related calls in San Mateo County involve criminal domestic violence, with misdemeanors and felonies each constituting about half of these cases.

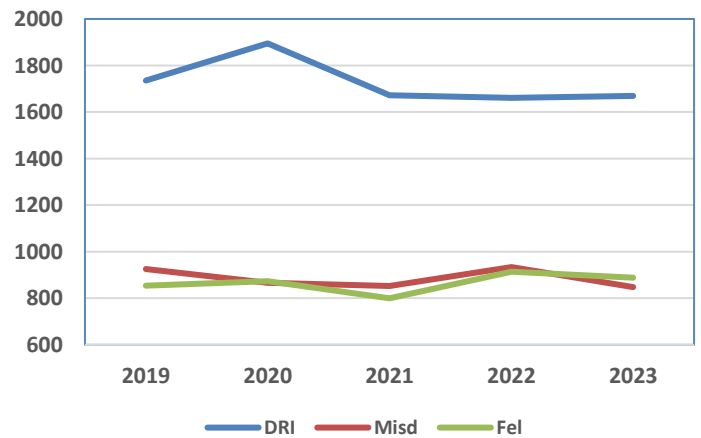
Data Insights

The following section includes charts illustrating domestic-related calls for service in San Mateo County over a five-year period from 2019 to 2023. These visual representations provide an overview of the trends and patterns in domestic violence incidents within the county, aiding in the development of informed policies and interventions.

Calls by Type by Year (2019-2023)



5-Year Trends



Commitment to Collaboration

The San Mateo County Police Chiefs and Sheriff Association (SMCPCSA) is dedicated to working closely with the Domestic Violence Council (DVC) to identify additional data that policing agencies can contribute to future reports. This collaboration involves the challenging task of balancing privacy and legal constraints with the critical importance of high-quality data in assessing program effectiveness and informing policy decisions. Through this partnership, we aim to enhance our understanding and response to domestic violence, ensuring the safety and well-being of our community.

Data regarding Law Enforcement referrals to CORA (ERP – Emergency Response Program)

CORA received 2,863 unduplicated referrals for families during calendar year 2023 from law enforcement officers. Of these reported to CORA, 50% have a clearly defined “Suspect” (person doing harm) identified. Additionally, of those who CORA can contact after an ERP referral, 40% have at least one minor living in the home. Of all ERP referrals, approximately 10% have repeated referrals to CORA.

Legal Services

Data from Legal Aid Society of San Mateo County (LASSMC), Bay Area legal Aid (BALA), CORA, and the Superior Court of San Mateo provide an understanding of who is seeking legal avenues of assistance. Together these agencies provided support for 1,147 individuals seeking restraining orders in SMC. With data on 919 of these, 330 (or 36%) were granted. However, for the two legal services victim service providers (LASSMC and CORA), the percentage granted restraining orders was much higher at 72-90%. For CORA, 17% of client cases were dismissed or the client chose not to move forward with the charges. This data may indicate an important discrepancy in granting restraining orders when the victim has legal representation vs when they do not

Further data should be collected those seeking restraining orders to determine if presence of legal representation significantly impacts the rate of granted restraining orders.

Victim Advocacy Services

The primary providers of general social services in SMC for individuals impacted by DV are the DA's Victim Services Division (VSD) and CORA. Of the services provided by the VSD, two-thirds of services involve the legal criminal justice system support such as notification of court hearings, investigations, referrals for restraining orders, and court accompaniment. Additionally, VSD provides emotional support, case management to connect to resources in the community, and referrals to emergency and transitional housing. CORA focuses on providing specific in-house services including mental health services (for adults and children), emergency shelter and transitional housing (12-to-36-month rental assistance programs). Both agencies support about 2,000 domestic violence survivors each year, and it is not clear how many of these may be receiving some services from both agencies. Clients also receive housing support from the San Mateo County Human Services Agency Coordinated Entry System (CES) as well as from other housing and shelter services without a specific DV focus, such as Abode, Samaritan House, and Hip Housing. The same is true of mental health services, with other key therapy providers such as SMC Behavioral Health Services and StarVista. Many clients who do have insurance or are above poverty income levels may seek mental health services from private clinicians. Consequently, understanding the landscape of services accessed by persons who are harmed is challenging.

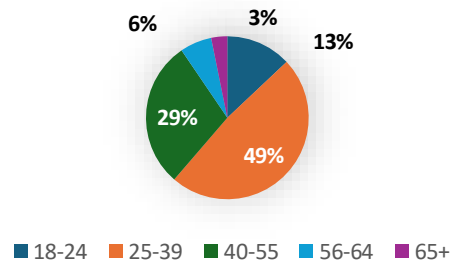
There isn't significant longer term outcome data for persons who have experienced harm. It could be helpful to have data on the longer-term outcomes for those who are involved in DV but did not access victim services and/ or where law enforcement was not involved.

Persons who do harm

Demographic data

Aligning with classic data, nearly 2/3 of the people arrested for domestic violence related incidents are identified as male. Similarly, 77% of the people arrested were aged between 25-55, with the majority of those arrested falling between ages 25-39. Notably, 13% were between the ages of 18-24, and 9% were over age 55.

Age of person arrested




In reviewing the racial and ethnic background of people who were arrested or cited for domestic violence related crimes, we see a disproportionate number of arrests of people who are Black/African American and Latin-X. Conversely, arrest rates for people who are Asians, Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islanders, and White are disproportionately low compared to county demographics.

Studies suggest that domestic violence disproportionately impacts Black and Brown communities, with many leaders identifying systematic issues that contribute to domestic violence including poverty, childhood trauma, and substance abuse.

Batters Intervention Programs

Of the 301 probationers who were ordered to complete a Batterer Intervention Program in 2023, nearly 26% did not complete the program or were terminated from the program. Additional information about the reasons a person would be terminated from a program could be meaningful not just to understand why someone didn't or couldn't complete the program, but it may also inform our understanding of some of the stressors and risk factors which may lead to violence.



There isn't significant longer-term outcome data for persons who do harm. It could be helpful to have data on exposure to DV in childhood, drug/alcohol abuse, treated and untreated mental illness, and socioeconomic stressors.

To make meaningful change in our efforts to stop domestic violence in our communities it would be helpful to have more information about the people who are doing harm, including:

- Exposure to Domestic violence in childhood
- Drug or Alcohol abuse
- Untreated mental illness
- Socioeconomic and economic stressors
- Prior criminal record

Toll of Domestic Violence Related Deaths

The San Mateo County Domestic Violence Review Team (DVDRT) was established in 1998 with the goal to bring together investigators, service providers, and community partners as a multi-disciplinary team to identify and review homicides and suicides resulting from domestic violence, examine the events leading up to the death, identify gaps in service delivery, and improve preventive interventions. The team reviews all domestic violence related deaths that occur in San Mateo County during the context of a relationship characterized by domestic violence or during the course of a domestic violence incident, pursuant to Penal Code Section 11163.3. Due to the sensitive nature of the subject matter covered by the DVDRT, Section 11163.3 provides that all meetings are confidential and protects the information shared at the meetings from disclosure or discovery by third parties. Thus, all DVDRT members and participants in DVDRT meetings must sign a confidentiality agreement. The Chair of the DVDRT is responsible for preparing a report that contains summaries of the reviews, thematic trends, recommendations to the community leaders, and messages to the victims of domestic violence and community members. The goal of the DVDRT is to improve systemic responses and to prevent future deaths by developing policy and protocol recommendations to local government and community-based organizations through this report. The most recent DVDRT Report was issued in 2019 and reflected the deaths that occurred from 2010 through 2017. The next DVDRT Report will cover the deaths that occurred from 2018 through 2022 following resolution of any criminal litigation for the cases covered in the current period.

In 2023 there were five domestic violence homicides and two domestic violence related suicide deaths. Of the seven total domestic violence related deaths in 2023, three were by stabbing, two were by firearm, one strangulation and one hanging. Additional details regarding these deaths will be included in the next San Mateo County Domestic Violence Death Review Team report.

Prevention and Community Education Efforts

As a DV Council there have been efforts to do health fair tabling featuring DV community information, but it is not clear who holds this data as it is a collaborative effort.

CORA has three programs focused on prevention and community education efforts:

- TDAH (To Do At Home): Offered through the County and City libraries primarily, including on the Coast, these activities designed for families with young (under 5) children encourage healthy relationships and healthy family activities. Families who follow the program for the full 10 weeks are offered free family photo sessions at a quarterly family event. Over 300 families have engaged in the TDAH program this year.
- YEA! (Youth Educator and Advocacy): This CORA program goes out to middle and high schools offering information sessions such as consent, setting boundaries, healthy teen relationship and understanding intimate partner abuse. Currently this group is scheduled to offer 84 presentations at over 15 schools, reaching about 2,500 students.
- Speak Up: Speak Up brings information on DV support to businesses within communities. The goal is to ensure that wherever one might notice someone struggling with possible abuse, resources can be provided for them to find help. For each Speak Up city, CORA staff visit at least 300 businesses providing bathroom stickers and QR code cards that businesses can provide to their own employees and their customers. Additionally, CORA provides a 15 min presentation about recognizing intimate partner abuse. At least 60 businesses in each community receive this training. CORA has completed this work in San Carlos, and 10 additional cities (Daly City, SSF, San Mateo, Foster City, Pacifica, East Palo Alto, Burlingame, Belmont, Hillsborough and Millbrae) are bringing this to their communities this year.

Data should be collected to identify all DV awareness/ education/ prevention efforts in the community, which may help provide insight into current efforts and identify new avenues for awareness/ education/ prevention work.

This report was made possible by a shared contribution from countywide non-profits, law enforcement, and government departments including the following:

CORA COMMUNITY OVERCOMING
RELATIONSHIP ABUSE



**COUNTY OF
SAN MATEO**



SAN MATEO COUNTY HEALTH
**SAN MATEO
MEDICAL CENTER**

Sitike
COUNSELING CENTER



SUPERIOR COURT OF CALIFORNIA
COUNTY OF SAN MATEO



BAY AREA LEGAL AID
WORKING TOGETHER FOR JUSTICE

**THE LEGAL AID SOCIETY OF
SAN MATEO COUNTY**

Victims of Crimes Act (VOCA) Update

Karen Ferguson, CORA

July 11, 2024, Domestic Violence Council Meeting

This year the federal Victims of Crimes Act (VOCA) funding that comes from the federal budget by utilizing penalties from white collar crime, was depleted. This depletion has been occurring over the past 5 years and this year it was decided under VOCA to pass the loss on to the states. For CA this meant a 44.7% reduction in the funding that is provided by the State California Office of Emergency Services (CAL OES) to a range of non-profits and government entities who provide services for survivors of domestic violence, sexual assault, child abuse, elder abuse and human trafficking.

Through extensive advocacy led by the California Partnership to End DV and partners and supported through many local non-profit efforts, the state has now approved in the budget a one time line item for \$103 million dollar to supplant this loss. This is under the newly signed State Budget in the Continuing Priorities section as Victims Assistance Grants/ Backfill of federal VOCA funds. <https://www.gov.ca.gov/2024/06/29/governor-newsom-signs-2024-state-budget-supporting-fiscal-stability-and-core-programs>

The good news is that this will cover much of the loss from federal funding. The downside is that this is a one-time appropriation and the issue will likely be similar next year. Currently, there are some grants that have already been removed from the CAL OES funding schedule as of 2024 calendar year - including for legal services, sexual assault and school-based education programming. These losses will not be replaced with this fix. Additionally, this funding will stretch less and less each year, as the funding is and has been flatlined, hence the year over year increases of program expenses are not compensated.

More to come after we enjoy much of the reprieve this provides.

SAN MATEO COUNTY 2024

BARBARA HAMMERMAN AWARD



An award honoring exceptional public
service addressing intimate partner
violence in San Mateo County

Nominations Due
Monday, August 12

Nomination Forms available
at: <https://smcgov.org/dvc>



COUNTY OF SAN MATEO
DOMESTIC VIOLENCE COUNCIL