

2022 NEW ORLEANS DOMESTIC VIOLENCE INCIDENTS: INDIVIDUALS WITH REPEAT DOMESTIC VIOLENCE OFFENSES



Introduction

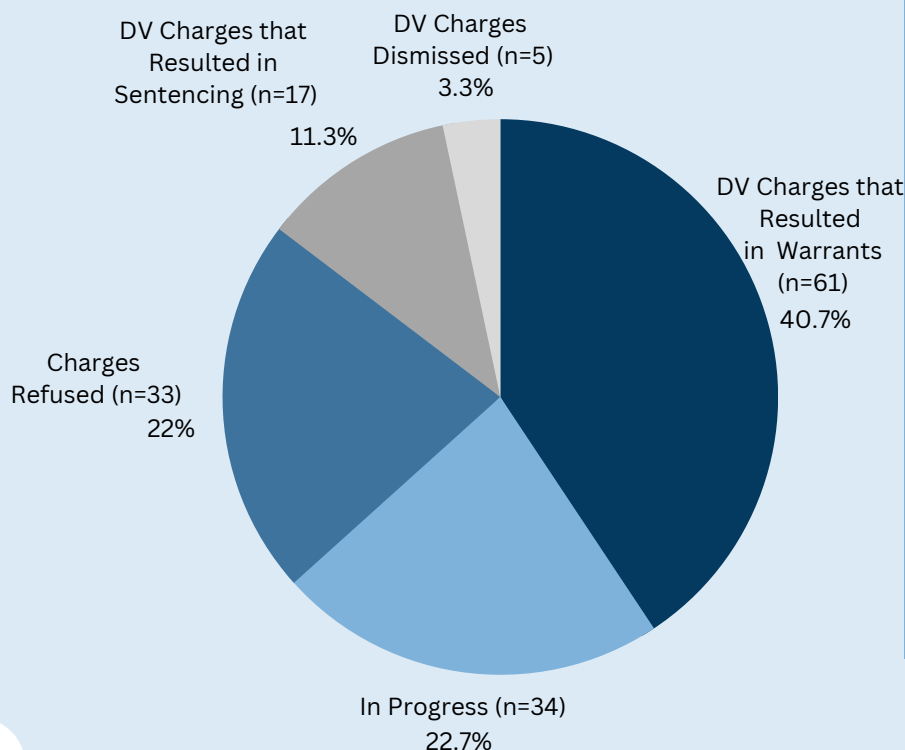
The New Orleans Health Department (NOHD) disseminates an annual summary of all domestic violence (DV) incidents that occur in New Orleans. Since 2018, NOHD has found that 10% of individuals who are charged with a DV crime will recommit another DV offense within the same year. In 2023, NOHD further reviewed a sample of individuals charged with repeated DV offenses to determine if those individuals had a criminal history of DV prior to 2022 and to analyze those case outcomes.

Methods

NOHD reviewed a sample of 50 cases (of 293 total) in which an individual was charged with more than one DV offense in 2022. Cases selected for this analysis included cases in which an individual's first charge included "Domestic Abuse Battery" or "Battery of a Dating Partner" and whose first charges occurred between January – March 2022. Data was collected from the NOPD Data Analytics Unit, NOPD Electronic Police Reports, and Orleans Parish Sheriff's Office's "Docket Master."

Analysis

DV Charge Statuses Among Individuals Charged with Multiple DV Offenses (n= 135)



50 individuals were charged with 135 DV charges.

26% (n=15) of individuals had charges from multiple DV incidents combined in one court hearing, leading to some charges being accepted and some being refused.

41% (n=12) individuals still have warrants out for their arrest. They cannot be found in Docket Master because they have evaded arrest for current and past warrants. These individuals were excluded from the remainder of the analysis.

INDIVIDUALS WITH REPEAT DOMESTIC VIOLENCE OFFENSES

DV Charge Sentences: 2022

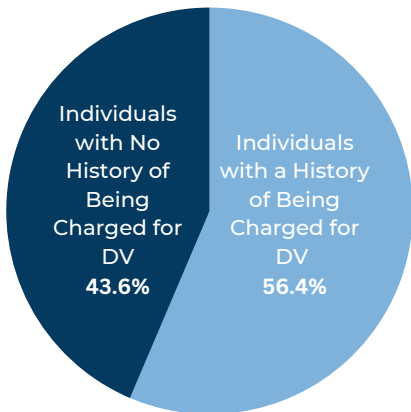
Of the 50 individuals with multiple DV offenses in 2022, only three individuals were sentenced for all incidents that occurred within the year.

- Individual 1 pled guilty to 7 counts, including to four counts of DAB.
- Individual 2 pled guilty to 12 counts, including one count of DAB and 2 counts of violation of protection orders.
- Individual 3 pled guilty to 11 counts, including 2 counts of DAB and 2 counts of DAB - Second Offense.

Although all three of these individuals had DV charges prior to 2022, only one individual had two charges of DAB amended to DAB - Second Offense.

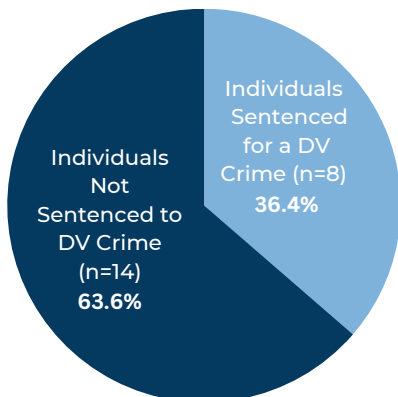
All individuals were sentenced to six months at OPP, credit for time served, and prohibited from purchasing or possessing a firearm.

- Individual 1 was also sentenced to 8 days of community service, a two year SAO, and to take DV classes.
- Individual 2 was additionally sentenced to five and 10 years at DOC at hard labor, credit for time served, without benefit of parole, and was sentenced to a lifetime SAO.
- Individual 3 was sentenced to one year DOC at hard labor, credit for time served and was recommended any and all self-help programs available at DOC.



Criminal History of DV Prior to 2022 (n=38)

Over half of the individuals arrested for repeat DV offenses in 2022 (n=38) had also previously been charged with DV offenses prior to 2022.



Case Outcomes of Individuals with Criminal History of DV Prior to 2022 (n=22)

The 22 individuals with a prior criminal history of DV accumulated a total of 85 prior DV charges. Only 36.4% of these individuals were eventually sentenced for a DV crime (16 charges of 85). All of these individuals were sentenced for at least one charge of *Domestic Abuse Battery or Battery of a Dating Partner*.

Of the 14 individuals not previously sentenced for a DV Crime, nine had their DV charges refused, one had their DV charges dismissed, and four had their DV charges combined with their 2022 DV charges.

INDIVIDUALS WITH REPEAT DOMESTIC VIOLENCE OFFENSES



DV Charge Sentences: Prior to 2022

Of the 50 individuals who were charged with DV in 2022, only eight individuals were sentenced for a DV crime prior to 2022. Court records indicated the following sentences:

- 3 individuals were ordered to six months of inactive probation with credit for time served and 3 individuals were sentenced to six months OPP with six months suspended. 2 individuals were ordered to one year of inactive probation.
- 6 individuals were prohibited from purchasing or possessing firearms during probation. 3 individuals were ordered a domestic abuse intervention program. 3 individuals had their stay away order remain in effect.

Discussion and Recommendations

Two lethality risk factors associated with those who have a history of committing repeat DV offenses include an increase in the frequency and severity of violence and repeated law enforcement intervention.¹ For example, studies have found that 22-92% of those involved in a DV homicide are known in the justice system prior to a homicide and that around 30% of those who commit DV homicides have previously committed DV crimes.² In an effort to enhance safety for survivors, prevent incidents of homicide, and provide effective interventions for those causing harm, NOHD has highlighted the following areas for further discussion: DV warrants and DV enhancements.

DV Warrants and Enhances

Over 40% of individuals with repeat DV charges in 2022 still had existing open and active warrants at the time of analysis in 2023. The New Orleans DV Multi-disciplinary Team has continually identified cases in which survivors no longer trusted law enforcement due to their ex-partners'/partners' ability to evade arrest for DV offenses. It was also noted during case review that survivors believed their partners felt emboldened by the lack of arrest, which led them to feeling unsafe in their community.³ NOHD recommends that law enforcement flag individuals that have over 10 open and active DV warrants so that the warrant squad is initiated to follow-up and arrest those individuals.

DV Enhancements

Of the 50 individuals reviewed in this sample, only 8 were sentenced for Domestic Abuse Battery or Battery of Dating Partner prior to 2022, meaning a majority of individuals would not have been eligible for a DV enhancement in 2022. However, of the 8 individuals who were previously sentenced, only 1 received enhanced DV charges in 2022 as a result of their previous sentencing. Several laws have been enacted in Louisiana to enhance punishments for those who continue to reoffend and commit DV crimes. NOHD recommends that DV enhancements be utilized in cases where an individual has previously been sentenced for Domestic Abuse Battery or Battery of a Dating Partner.

¹ Campbell, J. "[Danger Assessment](#)." 2001.

² Zeoli, A. et al. "[Criminal Histories of Intimate Partner Homicide Offenders](#)." SAGE Publications: Vol. 27(2) 229–247. 2023.

³ New Orleans Domestic Violence Multidisciplinary Team. "[Year in Review](#)." 2020-2022.