

2022 New Orleans Domestic Violence Incidents: Strangulation



Introduction

Nonfatal strangulation is one of the most lethal forms of domestic and sexual violence experienced by those who are victimized in their intimate relationships. **Women who experience nonfatal strangulation by their partner are 750% more likely to be murdered by that same person.** Those who experience strangulation may also experience significant long-term consequences including traumatic brain injury, psychological injury, and delayed death.¹

In 2022, 349 individuals were charged with domestic abuse battery involving strangulation (L.S. 14.35.3(L)) or relative to battery of a dating partner (strangulation) (14.34.9(B)5). In 2023, NOHD's Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault Program (DV & SA Program) further reviewed these cases to determine arrest, prosecution, and sentencing outcomes.

Methods and Limitations

Cases were identified from the NOPD Data Analytics Unit's 2022 Domestic Violence Incident Data, and were compared with the Orleans Parish Sheriff's Office "Docket Master" to determine the status and outcome of each case.

All data was coded using information gleaned during the May-June 2023 analysis time period, meaning some cases may have updates to their status that were not captured. Cases with unknown personal information that could not be located in OPSO Docket Master may have also since been updated. Finally, due to the manual data entry required there may have been clerical errors during various parts of the analysis.

Analysis



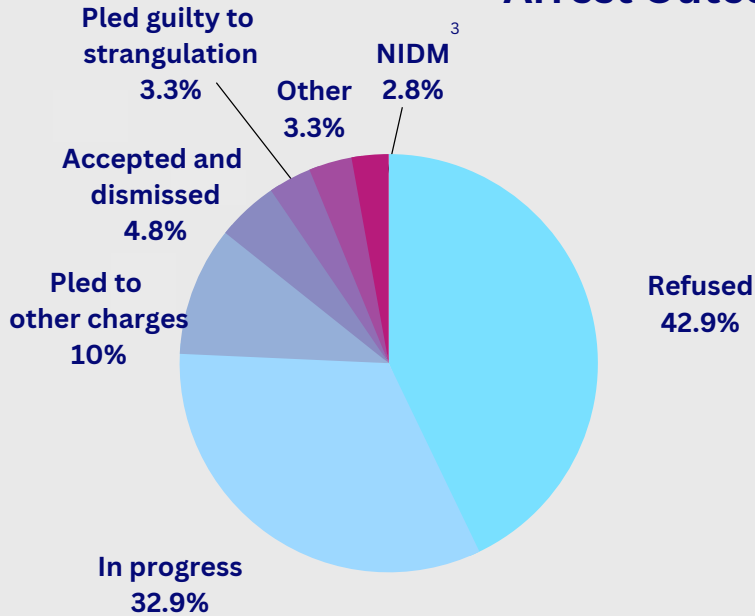
¹ Training Institute on Strangulation Prevention. 2019. "Media Guide: Understanding the Realities of Strangulation."

² Five "Wanted" cases have unknown information, and the status of the individual could not be found.

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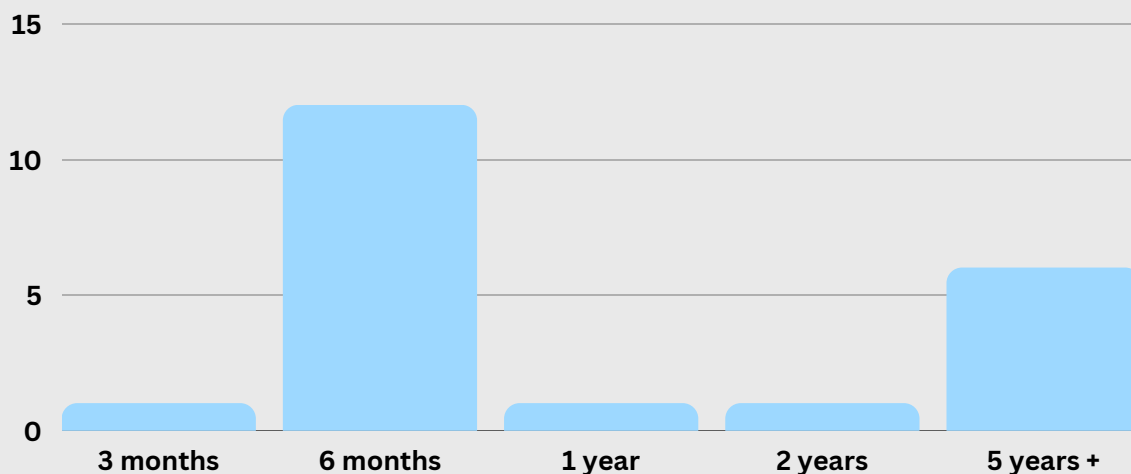
Arrest Outcomes



- Nearly 1/2 of individuals charged with strangulation ultimately had their charges refused or dismissed.
- Less than 15% of individuals pled guilty to any charge.
- Almost 1/3 of cases are still progressing through the legal system, highlighting how long it often takes cases to arrive at a final outcome.

Pled Guilty to Other Charges: Longest Sentencing Outcome

There were 21 individuals who pled guilty to other charges (76.2% of these individuals pled guilty to other DV charges). The following highlights the longest sentence given to each individual. It should be noted 86% of these individuals sentences were suspended and almost half of individuals were also sentenced to shorter sentences to run concurrently.



³ Six individuals were not able to be located in Docket Master or "NIDM."

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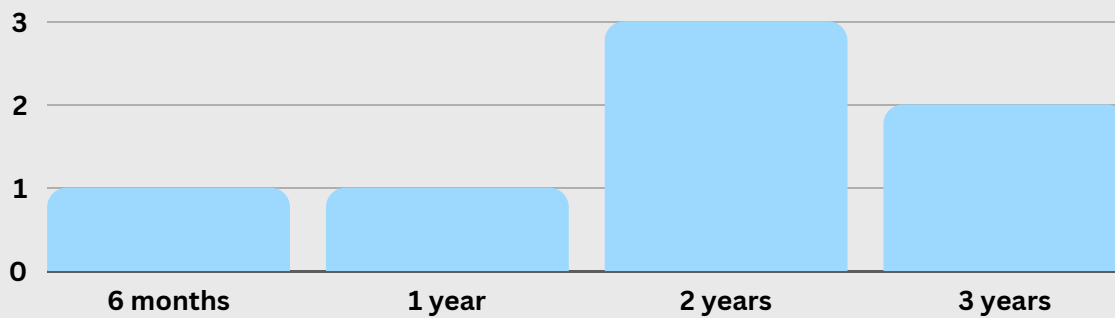


In addition to the sentences listed above:

- 16 individuals were prohibited from possessing or purchasing a firearm.
- 9 individuals were given a Stay Away Order.
- 6 individuals were ordered to complete DV courses.
- 7 individuals were ordered to other interventions including completion of: any rehabilitative or educational courses offered at DOC, mental health courses, random drug testing, community service, self-help programs, anger management courses, and enrolling in supervision by DVMC.

Pled Guilty to Strangulation: Longest Sentencing Outcome

There were 7 individuals who pled guilty to at least one count of strangulation. The following highlights the longest sentence given to each individual. It should be noted 86% of these individuals sentences were suspended and over half were also sentenced to shorter sentences to run concurrently.



In addition to the sentences listed above:

- 1 individual was prohibited from possessing or purchasing a firearm.
- 5 individuals were given a Stay Away Order.
- 2 individuals were ordered to complete DV and Anger Management courses.
- 1 individual was required to complete treatment at Odyssey House.

Conclusion

While 349 people were charged with domestic abuse battery involving strangulation or relative to battery of a dating partner (strangulation), very few individuals were ultimately convicted of committing strangulation (3.3%). NOHD's DV/SA Program will work with partners to identify areas for improvement in the criminal justice system's response to strangulation, such as the potential for adding a DV flag to agency database systems and enhancing specialized DV units. The DV/SA Program will also research evidence-based interventions, such as Domestic Violence High Risk Teams (DVHRT) or specialized DV Intervention Court to enhance responses to high risk cases.