

Domestic Violence Annual Report - 2018

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 15,349 calls for service classified under a domestic signal in 2018, and 2,938 of these incidents resulted in an arrest.¹ Dual arrests occurred in 47 (0.31%) of all domestic incidents in 2018.²

¹ 10,405 (68%) of the calls for service are classified as “Domestic Disturbance,” which may not involve a crime.

² This statistic may overstate the actual number of dual arrests. NOPD calculates dual arrests by identifying domestic incidents where there are two or more arrests and at least one arrestee is listed both as a victim and offender. It is possible that such situations involve one arrest for a domestic issue and another arrest for an unrelated, non-domestic violation; this situation would be counted as a dual arrest through this analysis method but would not meet the definition of a dual arrest. In turn, this analysis method may overstate the number of actual dual arrests. While preliminary analysis indicates NOPD’s data analysis of dual arrests is accurate nearly all of the time, NOPD is working to include a dual arrest check box in the Electronic Police Report application to enhance data collection.

Overall, these incidents resulted in 2,943 individual arrests. Of these arrests, 2,082 were male (71%) and 861 were female (29%).

Offender Demographics

	Black	White	Hispanic	Asian	American Indian	Unknown
Male	59%	9%	2%	0.4%	0.0%	0.2%
Female	24%	5%	1%	0.2%	0.0%	0.0%

Victim Demographics

	Black	White	Hispanic	Asian	American Indian	Unknown
Male	23%	4%	1%	0%	0%	0%
Female	61%	8%	1%	0%	0%	0%

Charge Outcomes

In 2018, the District Attorney (DA) charged 1,098 people with domestic violence related charges. 1,087 people were convicted.

Of the 2,395 charges initiated by the DA, 2,378 resulted in a conviction. 2,364 charges (99%) resulted in a plea agreement, and 31 charges (1%) were handled through a trial.

Plea Outcomes

The 2,364 charges resulting in plea agreements included 1,319 pleas of guilty as charged (56%), 32 pleas of nolo contendere (1%), and 1,013 pleas of guilty to a lesser offense (43%).

Trial Outcomes

Of the 31 charges decided by trial:

- 8 were found guilty as charged by a judge (26%);
- 5 were found guilty of a lesser offense by a judge (16%);
- 15 were found not guilty by a judge (48%);
- 2 were found not guilty by a jury (6%);
- 1 was found guilty of a lesser offense by a jury (3%); and
- 0 were found guilty as charged by a jury (0%).

Refused charges

The District Attorney refused 1,468 domestic violence related charges in 2018. The reasons for the refusals are as follows:

- 739 Victim sign-off/Refuses to prosecute
- 542 Not suitable for prosecution
- 45 Victim no-show/unlocatable
- 42 Prescribed
- 24 Other evidence problems
- 19 Testimony circumstantial
- 13 Good defense
- 10 Witness unbelievable or implausible
- 9 No corroboration of offense
- 7 Case moot (defendant died)
- 6 Prosecuting other charges
- 5 Duplication
- 2 Witness unavailable
- 2 No criminal act
- 2 Physical evidence insufficient
- 1 Physical evidence unavailable

