

# Domestic Violence Annual Report - 2019

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 13,477 calls for service classified under a domestic signal in 2019, and 2,865 of these incidents resulted in an arrest.<sup>1</sup> Dual arrests occurred in 26 (0.19%) of all domestic incidents in 2019.<sup>2</sup>

---

<sup>1</sup> 8,926 (66%) of the calls for service are classified as “Domestic Disturbance,” which may not involve a crime.

<sup>2</sup> 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 2,937 individual arrests. Of these arrests, 2,124 were male (72%) and 813 were female (28%).

### Offender Demographics

	Black	White	Hispanic	Asian	American Indian	Unknown
Male	59%	10%	3%	0%	0%	0%
Female	23%	3%	1%	0%	0%	0%

### Victim Demographics

	Black	White	Hispanic	Asian	American Indian	Unknown
Male	30%	5%	1%	0%	0%	0%
Female	53%	8%	2%	0%	0%	1%

### Charge Outcomes

In 2019, the District Attorney (DA) resolved domestic violence charges against 970 people, of whom 505 were convicted of at least one such charge.

Of the 1,365 charges resolved by the DA, defendants were convicted of 714. Defendants plead to 706 (52%) charges, 23 (2%) were handled through a trial, the DA decided to no longer prosecute (nolle prosequi) 582 (43%), 51 (4%) were dismissed as moot, 2 (0.1%) were quashed as prescribed by the court, and 1 (0.1%) was referred to another court.

#### *Plea Outcomes*

The 706 charges resulting in plea agreements included 410 pleas of guilty as charged (58%), 11 pleas of nolo contendere (2%), and 285 pleas of guilty to a lesser offense (40%).

#### *Trial Outcomes*

Of the 23 charges decided by trial:

- 14 were found not guilty by a judge (61%),
- 7 were found guilty as charged by a judge (30%),
- 1 was found guilty of a lesser offense by a judge (4%),

- 1 was found not guilty by a jury (4%),
- 0 were found guilty as charged by a jury (0%), and
- 0 were found guilty of a lesser offense by a jury (0%).

### *Refused charges*

The District Attorney refused 2,108 domestic violence related charges in 2019. The reasons for the refusals are as follows:

- 794 (38%) Victim sign-off/Refuses to prosecute
- 573 (27%) Not suitable for prosecution
- 315 (15%) Prosecuting other charges
- 108 (5%) Victim no-show/unlocatable
- 63 (3%) Prescribed
- 27 (1%) Other evidence problems
- 18 (1%) Referral to Municipal Court
- 14 (1%) Witness unbelievable or implausible
- 10 (0.5%) Good defense
- 5 (0.2%) Referral to Criminal Court
- 4 (0.2%) Duplication
- 2 (0.1%) D A Diversion
- 2 (0.1%) Defendant has other charges
- 2 (0.1%) Testimony insufficient to prove crime
- 171 (8%) Unidentified reason

