



## Public Safety and Criminal Justice Focus

### **FY13 Year End Report on Domestic Violence Activity in Mecklenburg County**

Data Overview: The following data on domestic violence is from Mecklenburg County's seven police jurisdictions which include Charlotte-Mecklenburg Police Department, Davidson Police Department, Huntersville Police Department, Mint Hill Police Department, Cornelius Police Department, Matthews Police Department and Pineville Police Department. Data from the Mecklenburg County Sheriff's Office and the North Carolina Administrative Office of the Courts follows. The report layout and data are presented in a way that mimics the steps of the criminal justice process. Data is provided for the fiscal and calendar years and includes trend information for the past three years. **Definitions** and **Data Methodology** are in the **Notes** section, which is at the end of this report.

#### Law Enforcement

**Table 1** displays the number of criminal incident reports generated with a domestic violence relationship by charge type and police jurisdiction for the fiscal year. In addition, the previous year counts and the percent change from FY12 are reported at the bottom of the table. (See **Definitions** for "domestic violence relationship".)

Table 1: Criminal Incidents Reports where a Domestic Violence Relationship is Noted<sup>1,2</sup>

Charge Type	Charlotte-Mecklenburg Police <sup>3</sup> FY13	Huntersville Police FY13	Mint Hill Police FY13	Cornelius Police FY13	Matthews Police FY13	Pineville Police FY13	Total Reports FY13
Homicide	4	-	-	-	-	-	4
Rape	74	4	-	-	6	-	84
Robbery	61	-	-	1	25	-	87
Aggravated Assault	821	13	4	5	113	1	957
Non-Aggravated Assault	-	125	69	33	-	75	302
<b>Simple Assault<sup>4</sup></b>	4,958	-	-	-	-	-	4,958
Sex Offenses <sup>5</sup>	171	1	-	-	-	2	174
Harassing Phone Calls	594	8	7	1	57	13	680
Stalking	33	4	2	-	-	2	41
<b>Communicating Threats</b>	1,212	11	39	2	103	19	1,386
Kidnapping	154	1	-	-	-	-	155
50-B Violations	313	5	10	7	-	3	338
Domestic Violence - 15A-534.1 (2090)	NA	NA	NA	NA	138	NA	138
Other Offenses	-	-	-	17	-	-	17
<b>FY13 Total DV-Related Incident Reports Filed<sup>6</sup></b>	<b>8,395</b>	<b>172</b>	<b>131</b>	<b>66</b>	<b>442</b>	<b>115</b>	<b>9,321</b>
FY12 Total DV-Related Incident Reports Filed	8,864	208	105	35	364	146	9,722
Variance from previous year	-5.3%	-17.3%	24.8%	88.6%	21.4%	-21.2%	-4.1%

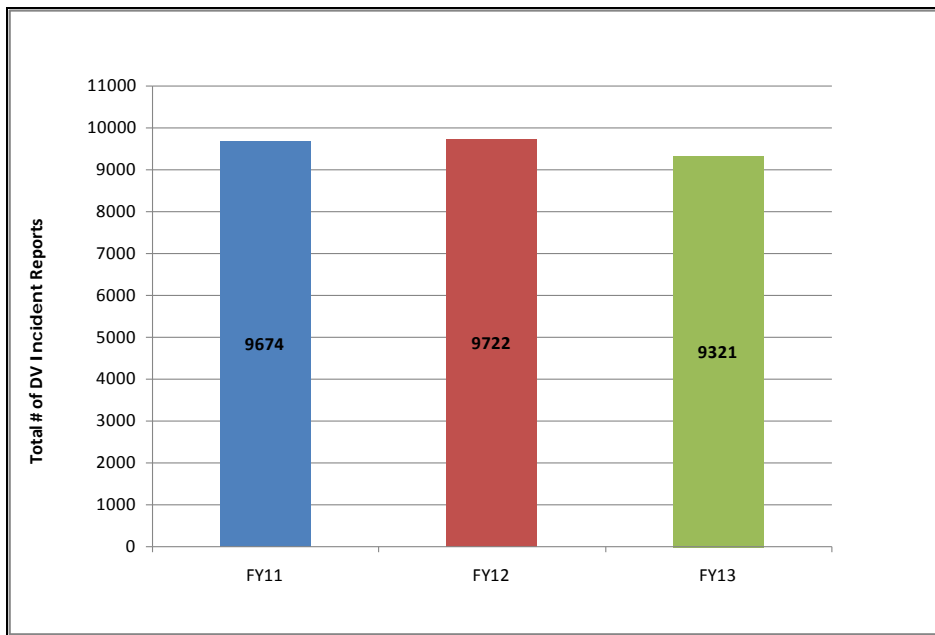
**Table 1** shows **9,321** filings of criminal incident reports with a domestic violence relationship, which is a 4 percent decrease from the previous year. Charlotte-Mecklenburg Police Department (CMPD) documented 8,395 criminal incident reports with a DV relationship for FY13, a 5 percent decrease from FY12. (Note: CMPD's figures include Davidson's Police Department criminal incident reports with a DV relationship count.) The Town of Huntersville saw a decrease in the number of criminal incident reports filed with a DV relationship. In FY13, 172 DV incident reports were filed, a 17 percent decrease from FY12.

Some police jurisdictions saw increases in the number of DV incident reports filed for FY13. Cornelius Police Department reports 66 DV incident reports filed, an 89 percent increase from the previous year. Likewise, Mint Hill ("up" 25 percent) and Matthews ("up" 21 percent) police jurisdictions show increases in the number of DV incident reports filed from the previous year.

**Table 1** also shows charge type data. **Simple Assault** (53 percent) followed by **Communicating Threats** (15 percent) are the most frequent charge types noted on the DV incident reports.

Trend data on the total number of criminal incident reports filed with a DV relationship is shown in **Graph 1** for a three year period.

Graph 1: Three Year Summary on Total Number of DV Incident Reports<sup>7</sup>



Each bar represents the aggregate total number of DV incident reports filed for the county's seven police jurisdictions. FY11 is the first year all police jurisdictions reported data for the purposes of the DV Data Warehouse. The slight "drop" from FY12 to FY13 represents visually the 4 percent decrease in the number of DV incident reports filed.

CMPD's incident report "counts" comprise the majority or 90 percent of the aggregate total (9,321) for FY13. It is important to note that the majority of the county's population resides in the CMPD police jurisdiction.

The Mecklenburg County Sheriff's Office (MCSO) is responsible for serving protective orders to perpetrators and for seizing and destroying any weapons that may be found in the home of individuals impacted by domestic violence. These law enforcement activities are ordered by a judge assigned to our community's district. (See **Definitions** for "Protective Order.")

**Table 2** is a summary of MCSO law enforcement activity related to domestic violence for the past three calendar years. In 2013, 2,547 protective orders were served to perpetrators of domestic violence by the county's sheriff deputies. This is a slight decrease from the previous calendar year. The three year trend shows a steady decrease in the number of protective orders served.

In addition, the table shows information on weapons located in the homes of families affected by domestic violence. In 2013, 122 weapons were seized by sheriff deputies per an order signed by a judge. This is an increase from 2012. The three year trend on weapon seizures varies. Notable is the sharp decrease in the number of weapons seized from 2011 to 2012.

Table 2: Three-year MCSO Data Summary for Domestic Violence<sup>8</sup>

	<u>2011</u>	<u>2012</u>	<u>2013</u>
DV Orders Received	3,423	3,681	3,102
DV Orders Served	3,103	2,871	2,547
Weapons Seized <sup>9</sup>	153	96	122
Weapons Destroyed <sup>10</sup>	68	51	100
Weapons Released <sup>11</sup>	149	42	48
Seized Weapons Currently Stored by MCSO <sup>12</sup>	N/A	N/A	203

**Courts**

The North Carolina Administrative Office of Courts collects data on case filings and dispositions in criminal and civil courts. Matters involving domestic violence are handled in both courts. Filings for a protective order are handled at the district court level in civil court. Violations of a protective order are addressed and if necessary adjudicated in criminal court. Criminal matters related to domestic violence can be addressed at both the district and superior court levels.

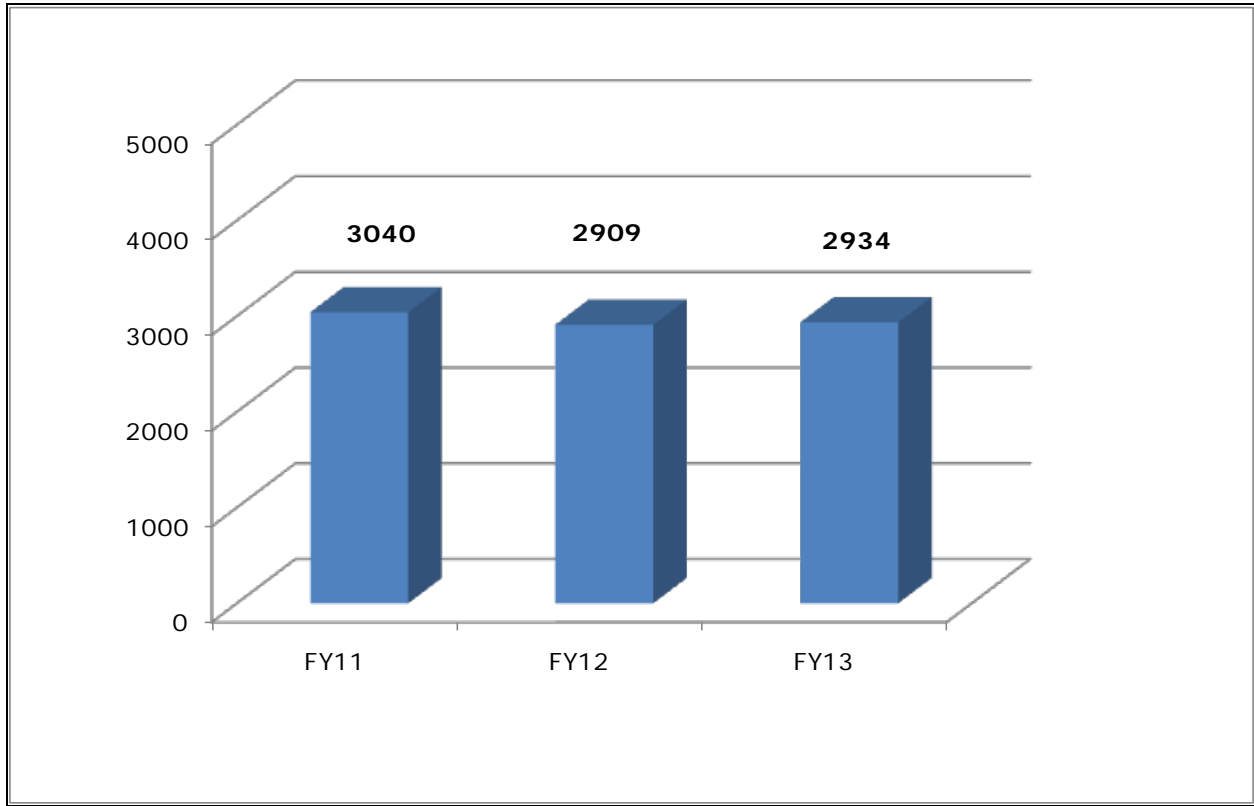
**Table 3** shows a three-year summary of the number of protective order filings in district court. In FY13, **2,934** protective orders were filed in district court, which is a slight increase from the previous fiscal year. **Graph 2** highlights the trend in **Table 3**. Overall, the three year comparison is fairly consistent from year to year.

Data on criminal matters related to domestic violence is not available.

Table 3: Three Year Summary of Protective Order Filings in District Civil Court<sup>13</sup>

	<b><u>FY11</u></b>	<b><u>FY12</u></b>	<b><u>FY13</u></b>
Protective Order Cases Filed	3,040	2,909	2,934

Graph 2: Three - year Trend on Protective Order Filings in District Court



## Notes for Public Safety and Criminal Justice

**"Domestic Violence"** (NC GS 50B-1) means the commission of one or more of the following acts upon an aggrieved party or upon a minor child residing with or in the custody of the aggrieved party by a person with whom the aggrieved party has or has had a personal relationship, but does not include acts of self-defense:

- (1) Attempting to cause bodily injury, or intentionally causing bodily injury; or
- (2) Placing the aggrieved party or a member of the aggrieved party's family or household in fear of imminent serious bodily injury or continued harassment, as defined in G.S. 14-277.3A, that rises to such a level as to inflict substantial emotional distress; or
- (3) Committing any act defined in G.S. 14-27.2 through G.S. 14-27.7.

A **"Personal Relationship"** [domestic violence relationship] (NC GS 50B-1) means a relationship wherein the parties involved:

- (1) Are current or former spouses;
- (2) Are persons of opposite sex who live together or have lived together;
- (3) Are related as parents and children, including others acting in loco parentis to a minor child, or as grandparents and grandchildren. For purposes of this subdivision, an aggrieved party may not obtain an order of protection against a child or grandchild under the age of 16;
- (4) Have a child in common;
- (5) Are current or former household members;
- (6) Are persons of the opposite sex who are in a dating relationship or have been in a dating relationship. For purposes of this subdivision, a dating relationship is one wherein the parties are romantically involved over time and on a continuous basis during the course of the relationship. A casual acquaintance or ordinary fraternization between persons in a business or social context is not a dating relationship.

A **"Protective Order"** [DV Order] (NC GS 50B-3) restrains the defendant from further acts of domestic violence and may include any of the following types of relief:

- (1) Direct a party to refrain from such acts.
- (2) Grant to a party possession of the residence or household of the parties and exclude the other party from the residence or household.
- (3) Require a party to provide a spouse and his or her children suitable alternate housing.
- (4) Award temporary custody of minor children and establish temporary visitation rights pursuant to G.S. 50B-2 if the order is granted ex parte, and pursuant to subsection (a1) of this section if the order is granted after notice or service of process.
- (5) Order the eviction of a party from the residence or household and assistance to the victim in returning to it.
- (6) Order either party to make payments for the support of a minor child as required by law.
- (7) Order either party to make payments for the support of a spouse as required by law.
- (8) Provide for possession of personal property of the parties, including the care, custody, and control of any animal owned, possessed, kept, or held as a pet by either party or minor child residing in the household.
- (9) Order a party to refrain from doing any or all of the following:
  - a. Threatening, abusing, or following the other party.
  - b. Harassing the other party, including by telephone, visiting the home or workplace, or other means.
  - b1. Cruelly treating or abusing an animal owned, possessed, kept, or held as a pet by either party or minor child residing in the household.

- c. Otherwise interfering with the other party.
- (10) Award attorney's fees to either party.
- (11) Prohibit a party from purchasing a firearm for a time fixed in the order.
- (12) Order any party the court finds is responsible for acts of domestic violence to attend and complete an abuser treatment program if the program is approved by the Domestic Violence Commission.
- (13) Include any additional prohibitions or requirements the court deems necessary to protect any party or any minor child.

Table 1: Criminal Incidents Reports where a Domestic Violence Relationship is Noted

<sup>1</sup> Data was extracted from incident reports by CMPD and the Davidson Police Department in CMPD's online records management system. Data in this system is subject to change if individual reports are subsequently updated, corrected or reclassified to other offenses during investigation. Cases that have been marked "unfounded" after investigation are not included in this data. Relationships in the reports summarized here are not manually verified and may include data entry errors. Data in this chart therefore may not match "domestic" crime data extracted or published using other criteria or definitions of domestic violence or compiled at a later date.

<sup>2</sup> These charges were selected by the Domestic Violence Community Leadership Team as trend indicators for domestic violence. Please bear in mind that if multiple victims/offenders were involved, the incident is categorized by the highest incident in a report hierarchy established by the FBI's national crime reporting programs [Uniform Crime Reporting (UCR) and National Incident-Based Reporting System (NIBRS)]. However, the domestic relationship may be related to one of the lesser offenses involved in the incident.

<sup>3</sup> Charlotte-Mecklenburg Police data includes DV-related incident reports filed in the Town of Davidson. CMPD counts intimate partner and non-intimate partner relationships in its total.

<sup>4</sup> The Simple Assault charge is new for FY13. The Assault on a Female charge was not collected for FY13.

<sup>5</sup> Total Sex Offenses includes the following charges: Forcible Fondling, Forcible Sodomy and Sexual Assault with an Object charges.

<sup>6</sup> Data is from each police jurisdiction's case management operational system.

Graph 1: Three Year Summary on Total Number of DV Incident Reports

<sup>7</sup> Police jurisdictions include CMPD, Davidson, Huntersville, Mint Hill, Cornelius, Matthews and Pineville. Davidson's counts are included in the CMPD total. Not all police jurisdictions provided data for the DV Data Warehouse in FY09 and FY10. FY11 is the first year when all county police jurisdictions participated in the data collection process for the purposes of the DV Data Warehouse.

Table 2: Three-year MCSO Data Summary for Domestic Violence

<sup>8</sup> Data is by calendar year and from the MCSO OMS data management system. Data for 2013 is as of 11.06.2013.

<sup>9-11</sup> Data related to weapons seized, destroyed, released and stored means the MCSO has been directed by the courts to complete these tasks as part of a judicial order related to DV.

<sup>12</sup> Data on the most current count is reported. These are the numbers that are reflected in the MCSO Paper Process System. The actual service numbers are somewhat fluid since there are carry over papers from prior year and at any time the report is run, there are outstanding processes pending service or other disposition. Also "Unserviceable" papers are issued where no address is provided for the defendant. The Defendant may very well be listed as Homeless or with an unknown address and there is no record of employment, prior arrests, etc. to follow up on.

Table 3: Three Year Summary of Protective Order Filings in District Civil Court<sup>13</sup>

<sup>13</sup>Data is from the NC Administrative Office of the Courts VCAP system or civil data management system.