



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

*Domestic Violence Data Warehouse*

Mecklenburg County Community Support Services

<http://dvclt.charmeck.org>

## **Acknowledgements**

The following agencies and departments provided data for this report. Thank you for your contribution.

Charlotte-Mecklenburg Police Department

Charlotte-Mecklenburg School System

Cornelius Police Department

Davidson Police Department

Huntersville Police Department

Matthews Police Department

Mecklenburg County Community Support Services

Mecklenburg County Public Health Department

Mecklenburg County Sheriff's Office

Mecklenburg County Social Services

Mint Hill Police Department

Pineville Police Department

NC Administrative Office of the Courts

Safe Alliance

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***"We are building a community that does not tolerate domestic violence and stands united to prevent all forms of it." – DV CLT Leadership Team Vision***

Introduction and Background:

The Domestic Violence Community Leadership Team ("DV-CLT"), a partnership between government, health and human services providers, educational institutions, the private sector and the faith community, raises awareness about domestic violence, focuses on preventing domestic violence and manages progress on the community's domestic violence strategic action plan. In 2008, the DV-CLT recommended developing various metrics and key indicators on domestic violence activity in our community. In light of this, the [Domestic Violence Data Warehouse](#) was created and is located on Mecklenburg County's website.

How to Read This Document:

This report is organized into focus areas which are supported by the county manager. The **Public Safety and Criminal Justice Focus** section provides domestic violence data from law enforcement agencies and the North Carolina court system for FY13 and for prior years. The second section, **Health and Human Services Focus**, contains results from the *Youth Risk Behavior Survey* and current and previous year domestic violence data from local service providers. Definitions and data collection methodologies are located at the end of each Focus section under **Notes**.

FY13 Key Findings:

- The number of law enforcement incident reports related to domestic violence (9,321) filed decreased by 4 percent from the previous year.
- Simple Assault (53 percent) and Communicating Threats (15 percent) are the most frequent charge types related to domestic violence.
- In calendar year 2013, Sheriff's deputies served 2,547 protective orders to perpetrators of domestic violence.
- Sheriff's deputies, under court order, seized 122 weapons from the homes of domestic violence perpetrators in calendar year 2013.
- Filings for protective orders in district civil court (2,934) increased slightly from the previous fiscal year.
- 99.5 percent of adult victims report receiving domestic violence safety planning as a result of program services received from the County.
- 94.6 percent of adults received improved knowledge scores as a result of domestic violence services received from the County.
- 96 percent of adults report increased safety after leaving from a stay at the local domestic violence shelter.
- 92 percent of adults report living violence-free after exiting the local domestic violence shelter.
- 10.9 percent of perpetrators recidivated after one year of exiting the County's NOVA program.



## 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%

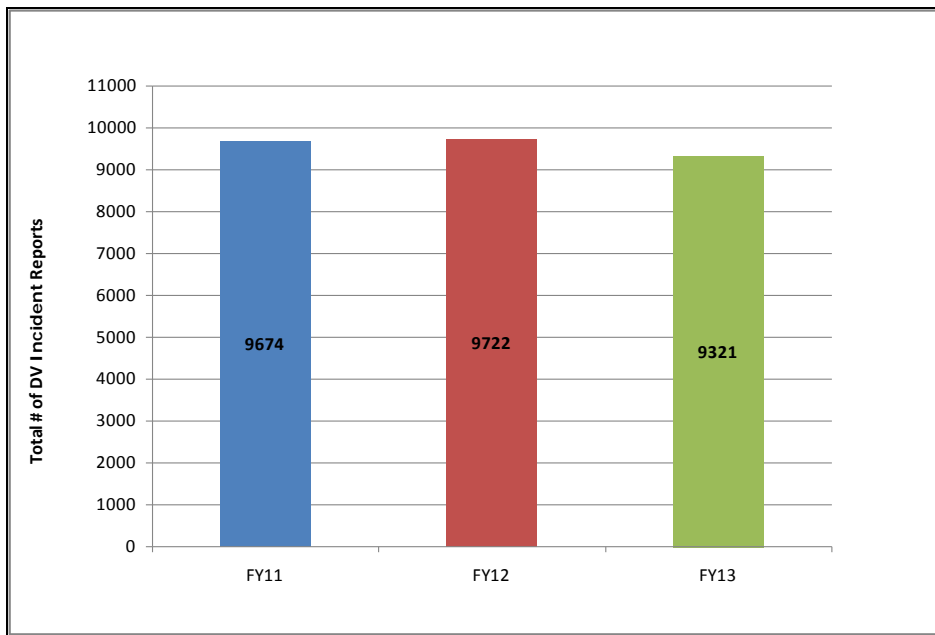
**Table 1** shows **9,321** filings of criminal incident reports with a domestic violence relationship, which is a 4 percent decrease from the previous year. Charlotte-Mecklenburg Police Department (CMPD) documented 8,395 criminal incident reports with a DV relationship for FY13, a 5 percent decrease 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.

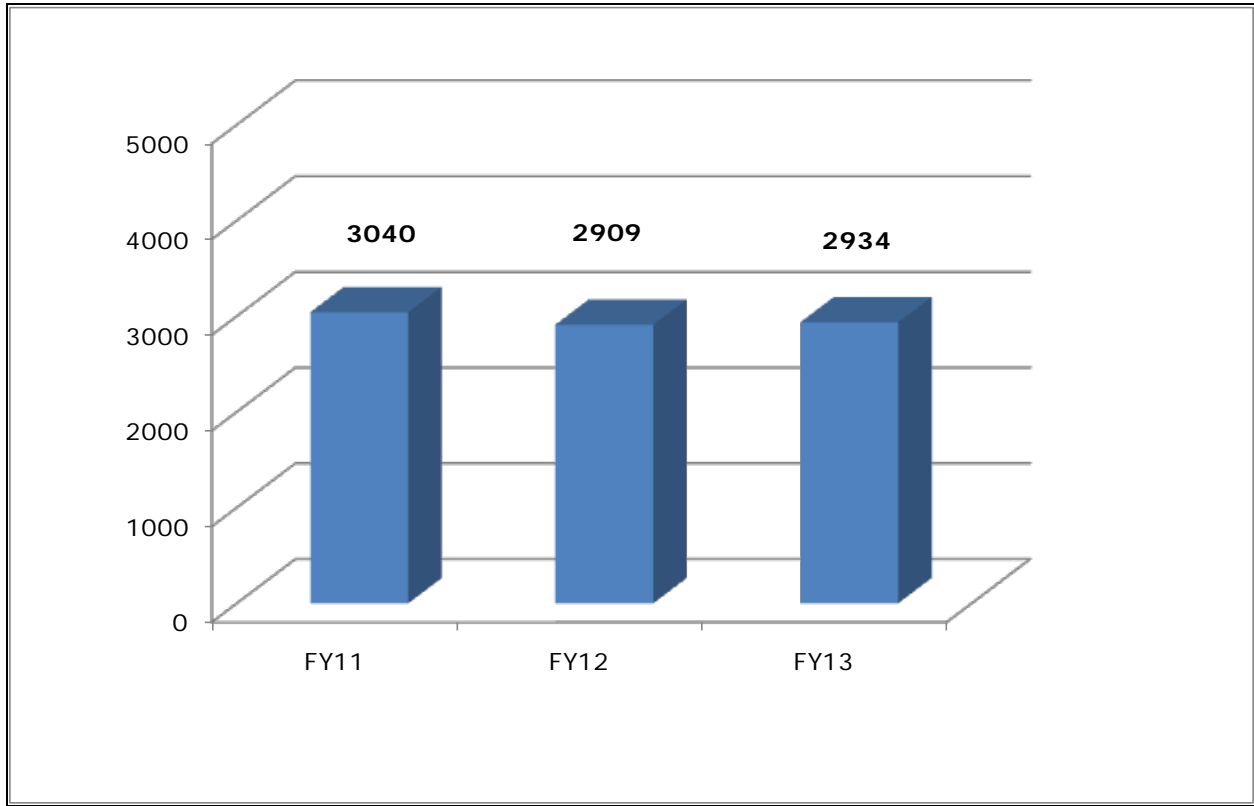
**Table 3** shows a three-year summary of the number of protective order filings in district court. In FY13, **2,934** protective orders were filed in district court, which is a slight increase from the previous fiscal year. **Graph 2** highlights the trend in **Table 3**. Overall, the three year comparison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



## Health and Human Services 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 Public Health Department, the Mecklenburg County Women's Commission, a division of Community Support Services, Safe Alliance and Mecklenburg County's Youth and Family Services, a division of Social Services. Data from the Youth Risk Behavior Survey (hereafter "YRBS") is presented and service provider results follow. The report period is for the academic school year and fiscal year respectively. Trend data is provided for comparison purposes.

**Definitions** and **Data Methodology** are in the **Notes** section, which is at the end of this report.

#### Youth Risk Behavior Survey<sup>1</sup>

Mecklenburg County's Public Health Department conducts the YRBS survey every other academic school year. The YRBS is limited to students in the Charlotte-Mecklenburg school system, and middle and high school aged youth are asked to participate.

There are two questions on the YRBS survey that relate to domestic violence. Data is captured on students that self-report or respond positively to experiencing physical and/or sexual abuse from their intimate partner.

#### [YRBS Questions Relating to Domestic Violence](#)

*Question #1: During the past 12 months, did your boyfriend or girlfriend ever hit, slap, and/or physically hurt you on purpose? [Yes; No]*

*Question #2: [During the past 12 months,] have you ever been forced to have sexual intercourse when you did not want to? [Yes; No]*

**Table 1** shows five years of data for the YRBS survey. The percentages represent “Yes” results or positive responses to the two survey questions, which relate to domestic violence.

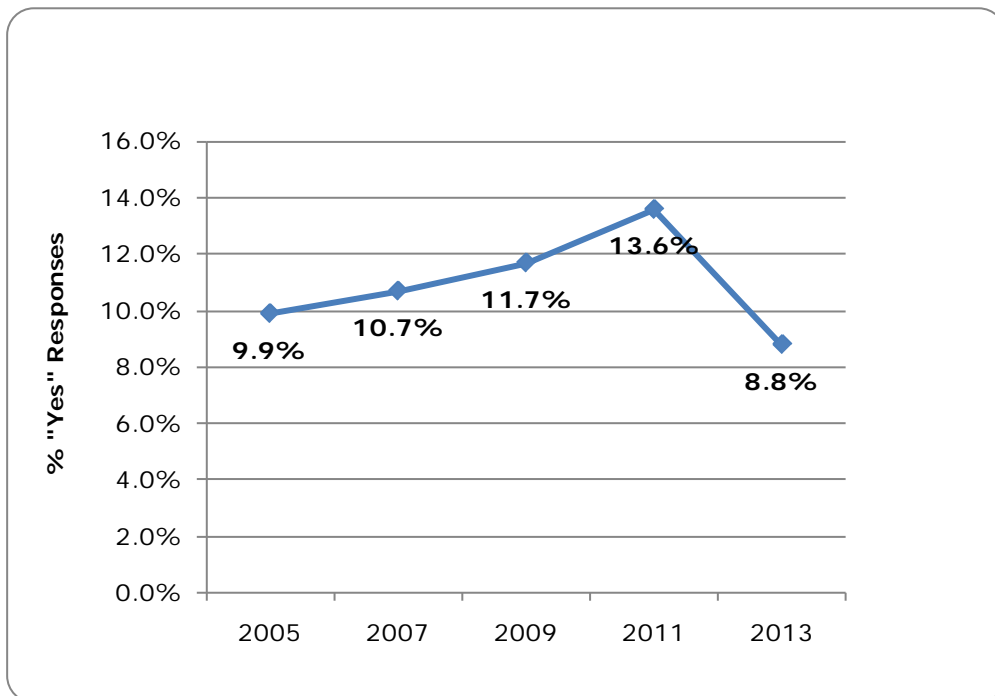
Table 1: YRBS: 5 Year Data Trend by Academic Year<sup>2</sup>

	<u>2005</u>	<u>2006</u>	<u>2007</u>	<u>2008</u>	<u>2009</u>	<u>2010</u>	<u>2011</u>	<u>2012</u>	<u>2013</u>
# of Students Participating	1,755	-	1,484	-	1,713	-	1,555	-	1,417
Que #1 "Yes" Responses	9.9%	-	10.7%	-	11.7%	-	13.6%	-	8.8%
Que #2 "Yes" Responses	8.7%	-	7.2%	-	7.2%	-	10.3%	-	8.4%

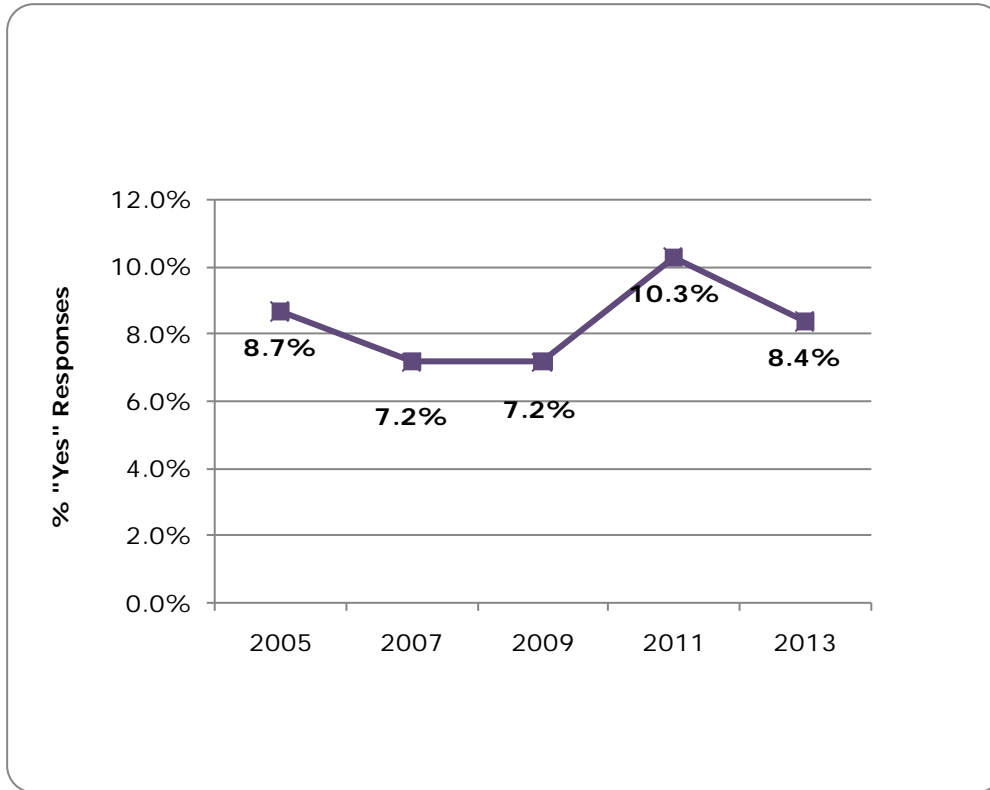
In 2013, 1,417 CMS school students responded to the YRBS survey. Approximately, 9 percent of students responded affirmatively to *Question #1*. The trend for the period is increasing and drops dramatically from 2011 to 2013. Approximately 8 percent of students answered “Yes” to forced sexual intercourse. Similarly, the trend for *Question #2* is increasing for the first four years of data reporting and decreases dramatically between 2011 and 2013. The sharp decrease in affirmative responses for both questions could be attributed to a change in question wording from 2011 to 2013.

**Graph 1** and **Graph 2** highlight the trend for *Question #1* and *Question #2* respectively.

Graph 1: YRBS: Percent “Yes” Response to “Hit,” “Slap,” and/or “Hurt.”



Graph 2: YRBS: Percent of "Yes" Responses to Forced Sexual Intercourse



### Human Service Providers

As a community, Mecklenburg County offers a variety of services through local government and non-profits to families affected by domestic violence. Domestic violence counseling services are offered through county government or Mecklenburg County's Women's Commission ("WOC"). Housing is offered to women and children affected by domestic violence through the local shelter which is operated by Safe Alliance, a local non-profit.

The Mecklenburg County's WOC is a division of the Community Support Services department. The WOC offers a variety of programs and services for adult victims, children, youth and perpetrators of domestic violence.

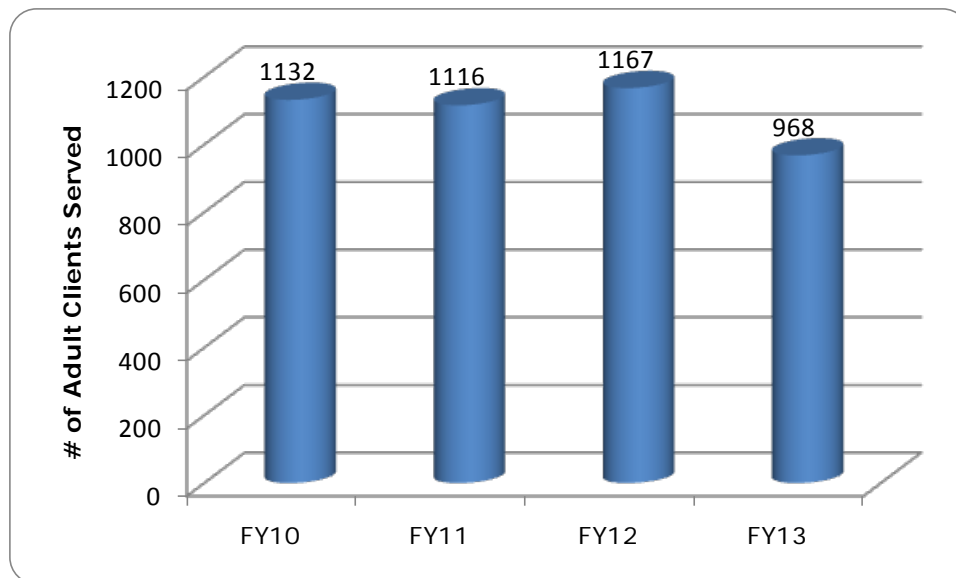
**Table 2** shows output and outcome performance data for the current and previous fiscal years. The WOC provides case management and counseling services to children and adult victims of domestic violence. Conversely, it is important to educate the perpetrators of domestic violence. The NOVA program provides accountability groups to individuals court-ordered into the program for services. (See "**NOVA**" in the **Notes** section for details.)

Table 2: WOC Performance Data by Client<sup>3</sup>

	FY10	FY11	FY12	FY13
<b>Clients Served</b>				
<i>Adult Victims</i>	1,132	1,116	1,167	968
<i>Children</i>	475	493	444	505
<i>Offenders</i>	699	782	928	713
<b>Knowledge Improvement Rate</b>				
<i>Adult Victims</i>	92.0%	90.0%	91.8%	94.6%
<i>Children</i>	96.0%	97.0%	94.6%	96.8%
<b>Victims Received Safety Planning<sup>4</sup></b>	99.0%	99.0%	98.6%	99.5%
<b>Offender Recidivism Rate<sup>5</sup></b>	7.2%	5.3%	13.2%	10.9%

In FY13, 968 adult victims and 505 children/youth received services from the WOC Adult and Child Victim services program(s). **Graph 3** highlights visually a decrease in the number of adult victims served from previous year.

Graph 3: Four-year Summary of WOC Adult Victims Served



The trend for children and youth is similar to the adult victim trend. **Table 2** shows the trend line is consistent and then increases slightly from FY12 to FY13. The child/youth trend is parallel to the adult trend line and “makes sense” because often times these are the children and youth of the adult victims being served by the WOC.

There are two outcome measures reported for victims served by the WOC: 1) Knowledge Improvement Rate and 2) Safety Planning. Both adults and child/youth victims report approximately 95 percent and 97 percent respectively for improved knowledge regarding domestic violence after receiving services from the WOC.

**Table 2** shows a stable trend with an increase from FY12 to FY13 for both client groups served. In FY13, 99 percent of victims served report receiving safety planning from WOC staff. The result reported in **Table 2** is the average of the actual results for the Safety Planning measures for adult and child/youth victims served. Safety planning is stable for the reporting period.

In addition to victims served, the WOC manages a program for perpetrators of domestic violence. The NOVA program served 713 court-ordered offenders in FY13. The number of offenders served dropped slightly from F12 to FY13 as shown in **Table 2**.

The offender recidivism rate tracks the success level of those that complete the NOVA program. **Table 2** shows 10.9 percent of offenders that successfully completed the program were re-arrested for a charge related to domestic violence one year after exiting NOVA, which is a decrease from the previous year. The offender recidivism rate is a “reverse” measure, which means decreases in results are “good” and increases from year to year are “bad.” The trend line shows mixed results for offender recidivism over the five-year period. FY10 is the first year for reporting purposes as the calculation for recidivism changed from the prior year. (See **Notes** for details on “**NOVA**” and “**Recidivism.**”)

Safe Alliance manages the local shelter for women and children affected by domestic violence. **Table 3** provides output and outcome data on those served at the shelter for FY13 and includes previous year data for comparison purposes.

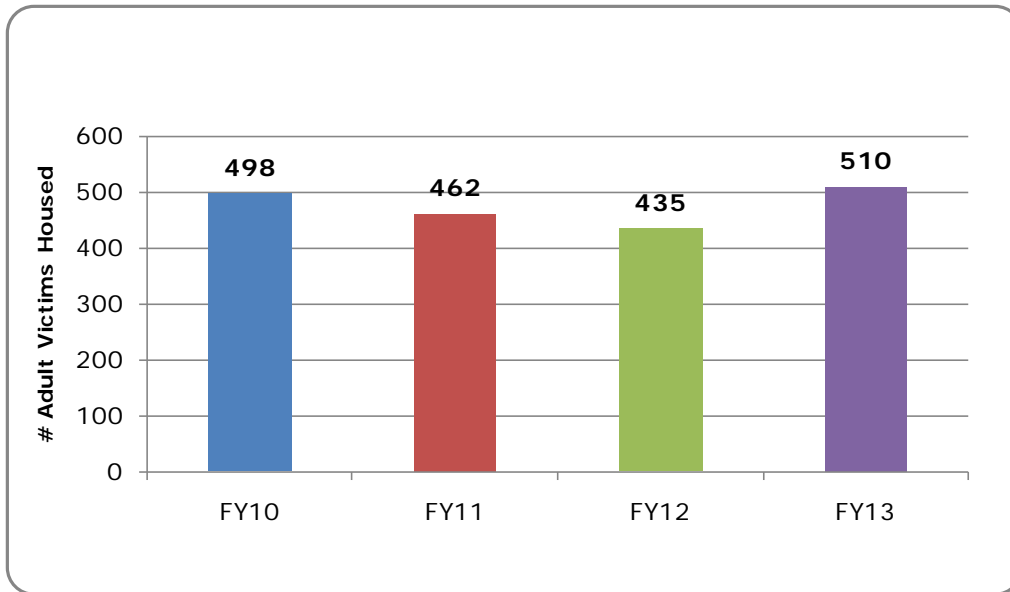
Table 3: Summary Data on Clients in the Domestic Violence Shelter

	<b>FY10</b>	<b>FY11</b>	<b>FY12</b>	<b>FY13</b>
<b>Clients Served at Shelter and Hotel Partnership</b>				
<i>Adult Victims<sup>6</sup></i>	498	462	435	510
<i>Children</i>	277	468	297	422
<b>Knowledge Improvement Rate<sup>7</sup></b>	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
<b>Living Violence-Free after Shelter Stay</b>	86.0%	89.0%	89.0%	92.0%
<b>Client Accompanied to Court by Victim Services</b>	4,263	4,678	5,014	4,950
<b>Reported Increased Safety<sup>8</sup></b>	99.0%	96.0%	97.0%	96.0%

In FY13, 510 adults and 422 children were housed at the shelter, which is an increase in the number housed for both client groups from the previous year. It is important to note the new domestic violence shelter was opened in January 2013 or FY13. The facility went from a 29 to an 80 bed shelter. **Graph 4** provides a visual of this trend in adult victims housed for the reporting period.

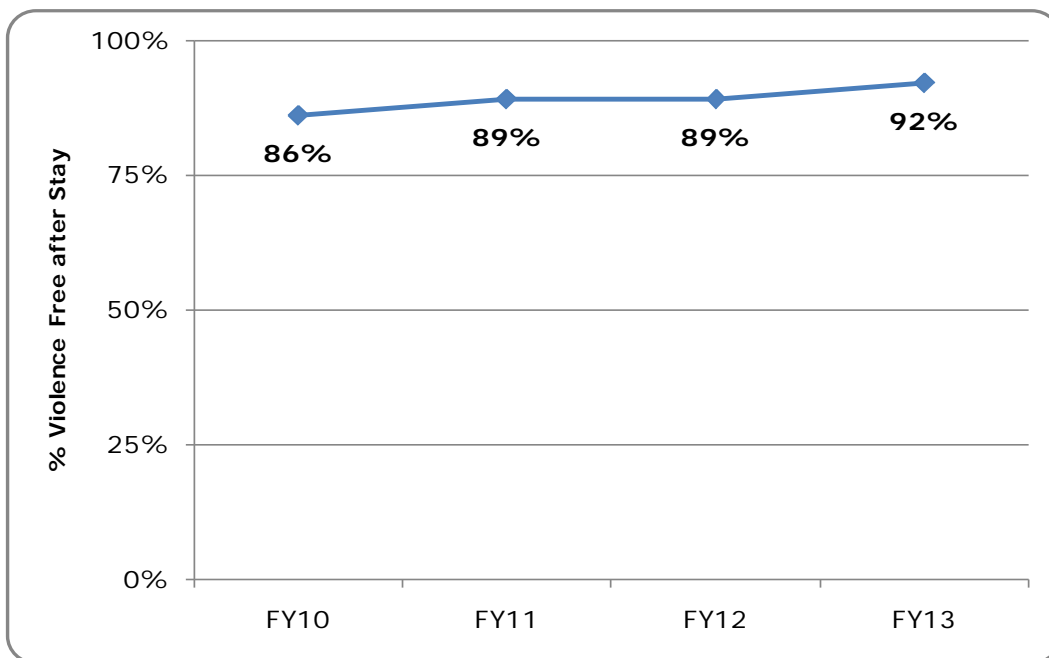


Graph 4: Number of Adult Victims Housed at Domestic Violence Shelter



Safe Alliance provides data on the outcomes of those living safely after their stay at the domestic violence shelter. One indicator of success is those that self-report increased safety after staying at the shelter. In FY13, 96 percent of adult victims housed self-reported “increased safety” after exiting the shelter. Likewise, 92 percent of adults self-reported living violence free after leaving the shelter in FY13. The measure “Living Violence Free” shows a positive and upward trend for the four-year period.<sup>9</sup> **Graph 5** shows 92 percent report living violence free in FY13, which is an increase over the previous year.

Graph 5: Four-year Summary of Shelter Clients Reporting Living Violence Free



Mecklenburg County's Youth and Family Services, a division of Social Services, collects data on the number of child protective service reports made for investigation where domestic violence was a factor.

**Table 4** shows a percentage of total reports accepted for investigation where domestic violence occurred. In FY13, 22 percent of reports contained a domestic violence factor for investigation. The trend is consistent for the reporting period.

Table 4: Four-year Summary of Child Protective Reports w/ a Domestic Violence Factor

	<b><u>FY10</u></b>	<b><u>FY11</u></b>	<b><u>FY12</u></b>	<b><u>FY13</u></b>
% of Reports Accepted	23%	23%	23%	22%

## Notes for Health and Human Services

**“Domestic Violence”** is when two people get into an intimate relationship and one person uses a pattern of coercion and control against the other person during the relationship and/or after the relationship has terminated. It often includes physical, sexual, emotional, or economic abuse. (Source: North Carolina Coalition Against Domestic Violence)

The Domestic Violence **Knowledge Improvement Rate** is derived from a standardized tool administered from the WOC Adult and Child Victim Services programs. Adults and children receive a pre-test on their knowledge of domestic violence prior to receiving services. The same tool is administered to both groups upon program completion. The percentage results represent those with improved scores from pre to post testing. The overall score represents the average of the results for the two client groups.

**“NOVA”** or New Options for Violent Actions is a state certified Batterer Intervention Program designed to provide accountability groups on how to change abusive behaviors toward intimate partners.

For the purposes of the NOVA program, **“Recidivism”** is defined as individuals who complete the NOVA program and are re-arrested for an offense related to domestic violence one year after NOVA program exit date.

<sup>1</sup> The YRBS is a national survey conducted by the Center for Disease Control. Middle and high school students are surveyed. North Carolina participates on both the state and local levels. In Mecklenburg County, the survey is distributed to Charlotte-Mecklenburg middle and high school students every other academic year. There are two questions which relate to domestic violence on the survey. The questions reflect the percentage of CMS students that self-report experiences with physical and sexual abuse. Data is available for 2005, 2007, 2009, 2011 and 2013. The YRBS sample population is derived from the CMS system and is limited to students in Mecklenburg County. The results are used as an estimate of what the average middle and high school aged child are self-reporting with respect to exposure to domestic violence.

### Table 1: YRBS: 5 Year Data Trend by Academic Year

<sup>2</sup> The YRBS is administered by the Mecklenburg County Public Health Department to middle and high school students in CMS.

### Table 2: WOC Performance Data by Client

<sup>3</sup> Data source is Bell Data system, an internal case management system. Data is for the Adult DV Victims, NOVA and children and youth WOC programs. FY10 is the first year for reporting purposes as changes in the Bell data system and in the methodology used for calculating the Offender Recidivism measure occurred in the prior year. “Apples to apples” comparisons can be made beginning in FY10 and moving forward.

<sup>4</sup> “Victims Received Safety Planning” is the percent average (99.5) of the actual for the DV Safety Plan Children and the actual for DV Safety Plan Adult service level measures.

<sup>5</sup> In FY10, the recidivism rate methodology changed to include a search of the entire state and lengthened the follow-up to 1 year minimum.

### Table 3: Summary Data on Clients in the Domestic Violence Shelter

<sup>6</sup> "Adult victims" includes residential and non-residential clients. In FY10 and FY11, only in-person contacts were included. FY10 is the first year for reporting purposes as changes in the Bell data system occurred in the prior year.

<sup>7</sup> The Knowledge Improvement measure is assessed for shelter residents only. Data is available for FY09 only.

<sup>8</sup> The Increased Safety Rate is assessed for Victim Assistance Clients only.

### Graph 5: Four-year Summary of Shelter Clients Reporting Living Violence Free

<sup>9</sup>It is important to note these individuals are self-reporting two weeks post shelter exit and the total number is small.