



## 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.

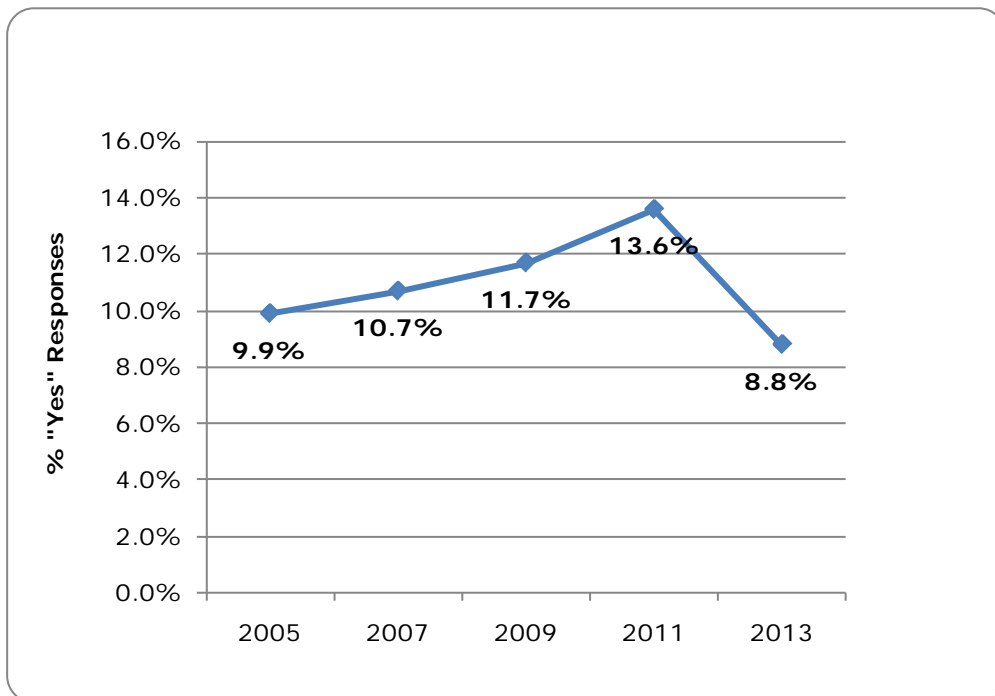
Table 1: YRBS: 5 Year Data Trend by Academic Year<sup>2</sup>

	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013
# 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%

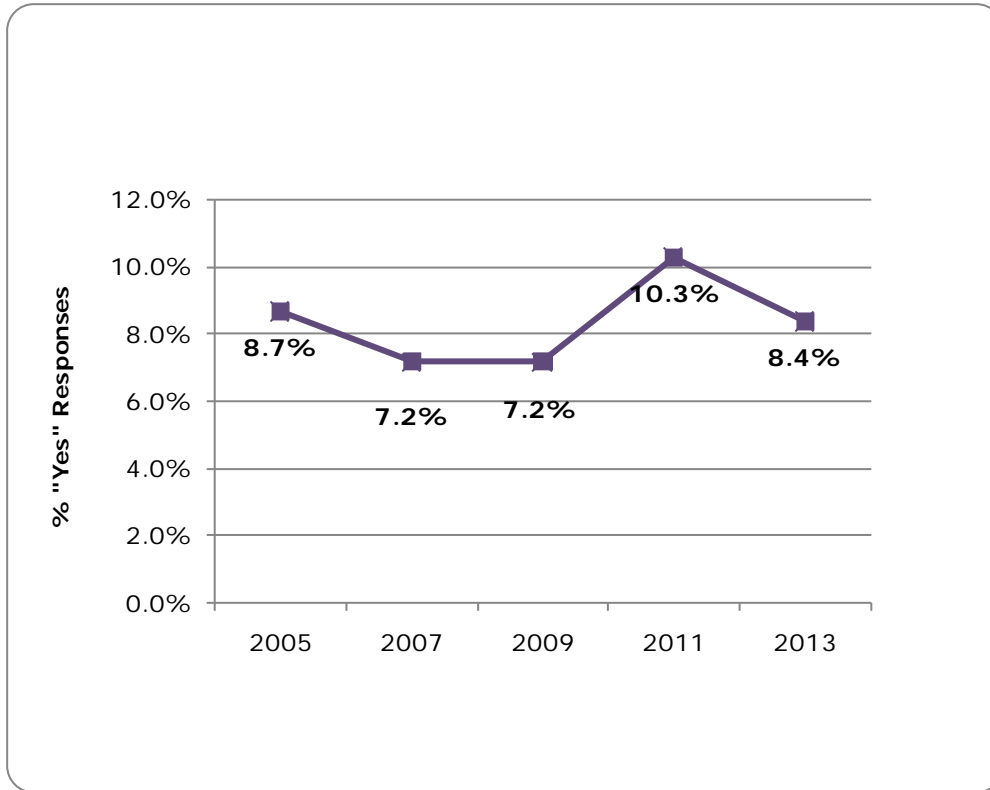
In 2013, 1,417 CMS school students responded to the YRBS survey. Approximately, 9 percent of students responded affirmatively to **Question #1**. The trend for the period is increasing and drops dramatically from 2011 to 2013. Approximately 8 percent of students answered “Yes” to forced sexual intercourse. 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.

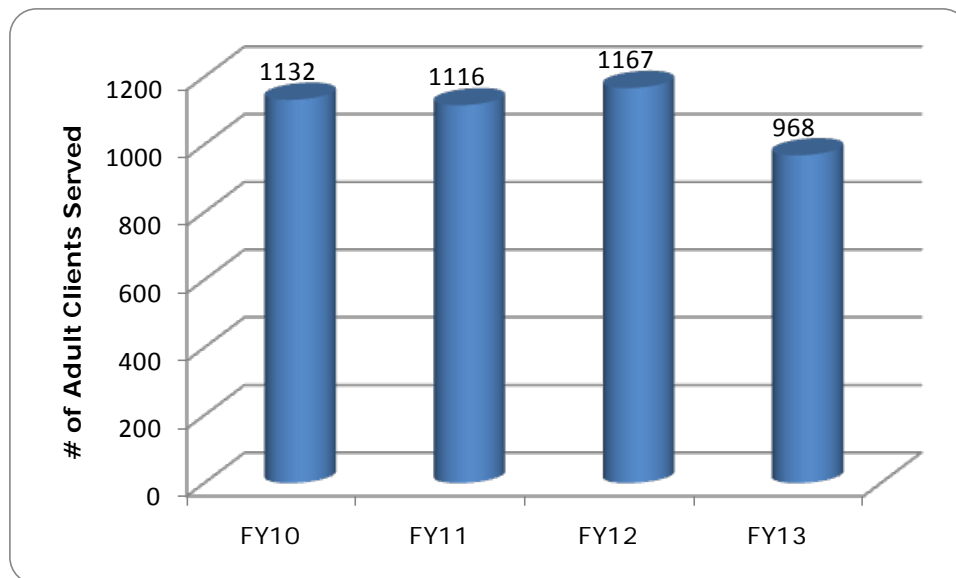
**Table 2** shows output and outcome performance data for the current and previous fiscal years. The WOC provides case management and counseling services to children and adult victims of domestic violence. Conversely, it is important to educate the perpetrators of domestic violence. The NOVA program 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.**”)

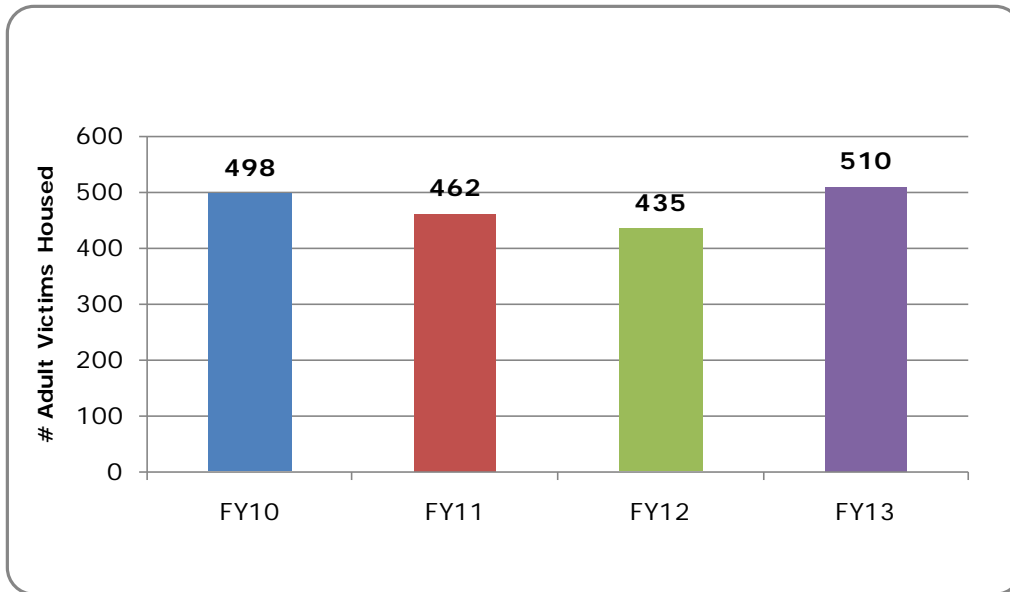
Safe Alliance manages the local shelter for women and children affected by domestic violence. **Table 3** provides output and outcome data on those served at the shelter for FY13 and includes previous year data for comparison purposes.

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%

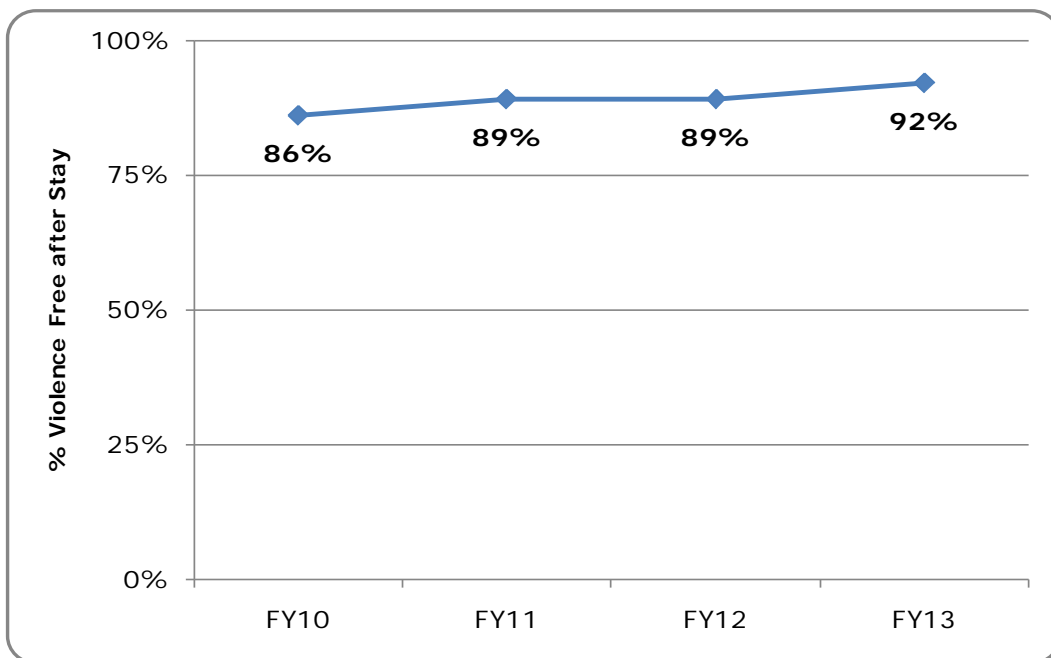
In FY13, 510 adults and 422 children were housed at the shelter, which is an increase in the number housed for both client groups from the previous year. It is important to note the new domestic violence shelter was opened in January 2013 or FY13. The facility went from a 29 to an 80 bed shelter. **Graph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