



**Division of Criminal  
Justice Services**

**New York State Committee  
for the  
Coordination of Police Services  
to the Elderly**

**2014 Annual Report**

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**New York State  
Committee for the Coordination of Police Services to the Elderly  
2014 Annual Report**

This report is submitted as required by Section 844-b (3-a) of the New York State Executive Law. It includes statistics from Domestic Incident Reports (DIRs) involving elderly victims (65 or older) from all counties outside of New York City and information about Committee's activities in 2014.

*Issued June 2015*

**Andrew M. Cuomo**  
*Governor*  
State of New York

**Michael C. Green**  
*Executive Deputy Commissioner*  
New York State Division of Criminal Justice Services

## **Table of Contents**

<b>2014 Activities of the Committee .....</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>Future Activities of Committee.....</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>Statewide Domestic Incident Reports Submissions for Elderly Victims.....</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>Table 1:</b>	
<b>2014 Domestic Incident Report Data – (Upstate and Long Island) .....</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>Table 2:</b>	
<b>2014 Domestic Incident Report Data – (By County, Upstate and Long Island).....</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>Attachment A: Committee Duties and Responsibilities .....</b>	<b>8</b>
<b>Attachment B: Committee Members .....</b>	<b>10</b>

## **2014 ACTIVITIES**

The Committee met twice in 2014: on June 25 and Dec. 17 at the Division of Criminal Justice Services (DCJS) in Albany. The activities of the Committee consisted of developing and supporting trainings to enhance law enforcement's response and raise awareness of the resources available when investigating cases of alleged elder abuse.

### **Financial Exploitation of Vulnerable Adults**

Members of the Committee supported the 21<sup>st</sup> Adult Abuse Training Institute (AATI) conference, which was held on Sept. 16 through 18, 2014.

The conference focused on recognizing and responding to financial exploitation, with an emphasis on the formation of multidisciplinary teams. The conference brought together the various perspectives of social services workers, law enforcement, attorneys, bank staff and others to share different methods of collaboration that have been effective in investigating and combatting financial exploitation of vulnerable adults. Approximately 300 people attended the training.

In an effort to complement the success of the AATI conference and continue to provide law enforcement with the tools and resources necessary to investigate elder abuse, the Committee discussed the development of a financial exploitation training curriculum for first responders.

Based on feedback from a previous survey taken by stakeholders involved in the protection of vulnerable adults, the Committee identified patrol officers as the target audience for the training. In 2014, members of the Committee identified best practices, existing training curricula and training objectives to be utilized in the creation of an online financial exploitation training program.

### **Collaboration between Adult Protective Services and Law Enforcement**

The Committee supported the training titled "Adult Protective Services (APS) and Law Enforcement," which focuses on the interactivity of APS and law enforcement, and how both groups can work together to investigate alleged cases of elder and vulnerable adult abuse.

The training features interviews with law enforcement and APS, and is narrated by the Office of Children and Family Services. The training runs about 15 minutes and will be used as supplemental material to other trainings, particularly the Basic Course for Police Officers and Basic Criminal Investigations Course.

The following topics are covered in the training: an overview of APS; types of abuse/neglect; definitions/forms of common abuse; examples of APS cases; a review of New York State Social Services Law; how APS can aid law enforcement; and how law enforcement can aid APS.

In addition, the training reiterates to law enforcement that APS is a mandated reporting agency under Social Services Law, meaning APS is required to report to law enforcement any suspicions of criminal offenses committed against APS clients. The training also includes available resources with contact information, including a county-wide APS phone directory.

### **Future Activities of the Committee**

Future activities of the Committee for Coordination of Police Services to Elderly Persons will continue to focus on the creation of training that provides the tools and resources for law enforcement necessary for investigating financial exploitation of elderly persons. In addition, the Committee expects to release the online Adult Protective Services training that will be made available to all law enforcement agencies in early 2015.

## **2014 Statewide Domestic Incident Report (DIR) Submissions Involving Elderly Victims**

### **Mandate**

New York State Executive Law, Section 844-b (3-a) requires the Committee for the Coordination of Police Services to Elderly Persons to compile an annual report on domestic incidents reported to the police that involve elderly persons, including the ages of victims and alleged offenders, the circumstances of the incidents, whether arrests were made, and the sentences, if any, of the offenders.

### **Data**

Data compiled for this report are included on Domestic Incident Reports (DIRs). This New York State standardized form is completed by law enforcement officers for all alleged incidents of domestic violence.<sup>1</sup>

DCJS also administers a Domestic Incident Report (DIR) Repository. This secure, online database provides law enforcement outside of New York City with cross-jurisdictional information about reported incidents of domestic violence that can enhance officer and victim safety.

Tables 1 and 2 present an analysis of domestic incidents for 2014 that involved elderly victims, defined as individuals who were 65 years old and older. Table 1 includes incidents by relationship between the offender and victim, victim and offender demographics, offense level information, and orders of protection. Table 2 provides a summary of incidents by county.

### **Total DIRs**

- In 2014, law enforcement agencies in 57 Upstate and Long Island counties completed a total of 6,196 DIRs involving elderly victims.

### **Victim and Suspect Demographics**

- The majority (64.3%) of elderly victims were female (3,983) and 61.7 percent of suspects were male (3,908).
- Three-quarters (75.8%) of victims were white; 16 percent, black; 4.2 percent, Hispanic; and 2.6 percent were from other racial/ethnic groups.
- The race/ethnicity of suspects was similar to that for victims: 71.7 percent white, 17.2 percent black, 5 percent Hispanic and 2.6 percent from other racial/ethnic groups.
- More victims were in the 65 to 69 age range (41.4%) than were in any other age group, and the median age of all victims was 71.
- Among suspects, individuals between 40 and 49 were the most frequent age group (19.5%), and the median age of all suspects was 43.

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<sup>1</sup> The DIR form is usually prepared at the time of the incident and is not intended to record sentence information.

## **Orders of Protection**

- Orders of Protection (OP) were in effect in 9.4 percent (584) of DIRs involving elderly victims.
- A violation was reported in over half of those incidents where an OP was in effect (59.4% or 347).

*Note: All percentages are based upon totals that include missing values in DIR submissions. In addition, information on suspect/victim relationship, offenses committed, and the presence of the suspect at the scene was not available for 2014.*

**Table 1. Domestic Incident Reports (DIR) involving Elderly Victims  
(Age 65 and older), Upstate and Long Island, 2014**

	<b>Upstate and Long Island</b>	
	<b>2014</b>	
	<b>#</b>	<b>%</b>
<b>Total Elderly Incidents</b>	<b>6,196</b>	<b>100.0%</b>
<b>Victim Gender</b>		
Male	2,150	34.7%
Female	3,983	64.3%
Not Reported	63	1.0%
<b>Suspect Gender</b>		
Male	3,908	63.1%
Female	2,190	35.3%
Not Reported	98	1.6%
<b>Victim Race/Ethnicity</b>		
White	4,698	75.8%
Black	1,068	17.2%
Hispanic	307	5.0%
Other	164	2.6%
Not Reported	217	3.5%
<b>Suspect Race/Ethnicity</b>		
White	4,440	71.7%
Black	1,068	17.2%
Hispanic	307	5.0%
Other	164	2.6%
Not Reported	217	3.5%
<b>Victim Age Group</b>		
65 to 69	2,568	41.4%
70 to 74	1,569	25.3%
75 to 79	957	15.4%
80 and Older	1,102	17.8%
<b>Victim Median Age</b>	<b>71</b>	

**Table 1. Domestic Incident Reports (DIR) involving Elderly Victims  
(Age 65 and older), Upstate and Long Island, 2014**

<b>Suspect Age Group</b>		
5 to 15	307	5.0%
16 to 19	439	7.1%
20 to 29	998	16.1%
30 to 39	954	15.4%
40 to 49	1,208	19.5%
50 to 59	934	15.1%
60 to 69	585	9.4%
70 and Older	622	10.0%
Not Reported	149	2.4%
<b>Suspect Median Age</b>	<b>43</b>	
<b>Total Orders of Protection</b>	<b>584</b>	<b>9.4%</b>
Number of Orders of Protection Violated	347	59.4%

*Source: Division of Criminal Justice Services DIR Repository. Preliminary data subject to change. Includes DIRs completed in 2014 and entered into the repository as of 2/1/15.*

*Note: Information on suspect/victim relationship, offenses committed, and the presence of the suspect at the scene was not available for 2014.*

**Table 2. Number of Domestic Incident Reports (DIR)  
Involving Elderly Victims by County, Upstate and Long Island 2014**

County	Domestic Incident Reports	
	Number	Percentage
Albany	151	2.4
Allegany	6	0.1
Broome	142	2.3
Cattaraugus	25	0.4
Cayuga	36	0.6
Chautauqua	40	0.6
Chemung	5	0.1
Chenango	12	0.2
Clinton	31	0.5
Columbia	44	0.7
Cortland	23	0.4
Delaware	34	0.5
Dutchess	129	2.1
Erie	311	5.0
Essex	14	0.2
Franklin	25	0.4
Fulton	13	0.2
Genesee	30	0.5
Greene	16	0.3
Hamilton	2	0.0
Herkimer	20	0.3
Jefferson	52	0.8
Lewis	8	0.1
Livingston	16	0.3
Madison	30	0.5
Monroe	373	6.0
Montgomery	16	0.3
Nassau	1,047	16.9
Niagara	70	1.1
Oneida	146	2.4
Onondaga	156	2.5
Ontario	34	0.5
Orange	153	2.5
Orleans	2	0.0
Oswego	97	1.6
Otsego	18	0.3
Putnam	41	0.7

County	Domestic Incident Reports	
	Number	Percentage
Rensselaer	77	1.2
Rockland	167	2.7
Saratoga	110	1.8
Schenectady	136	2.2
Schoharie	14	0.2
Schuyler	1	0.0
Seneca	10	0.2
St Lawrence	17	0.3
Steuben	55	0.9
Suffolk	1,477	23.8
Sullivan	25	0.4
Tioga	11	0.2
Tompkins	18	0.3
Ulster	111	1.8
Warren	19	0.3
Washington	23	0.4
Wayne	39	0.6
Westchester	491	7.9
Wyoming	11	0.2
Yates	9	0.1
County Unknown	7	0.1
<b>Total</b>	<b>6,196</b>	<b>100%</b>

## **Attachment A: Enabling Legislation and Committee Composition**

Chapter III of the Laws of 1993 established the New York State Committee for the Coordination of Police Services to Elderly Persons.

As prescribed by Section 844-b (2) (a) of the Executive Law, the Committee is composed of 16 members appointed by the Commissioner of the Division of Criminal Justice Services (DCJS).

Committee membership includes: one representative of DCJS; one representative from the New York State Police; two representatives of the Sheriffs' Association; two representatives of the Association of Chiefs of Police; one representative of the Office of Victim Services (formerly the Crime Victims Board); one representative of the Office for the Aging; two representatives from the District Attorneys' Association; one representative from the Attorney General's Office; one representative from the Office of Children and Family Services; one representative of the New York City Police Department; one representative of the Crime Prevention Coalition; and two representatives from the Legislature, one to be appointed by the Temporary President of the Senate, and one by the Speaker of the Assembly. Additionally, as has been past practice, a representative from the Office of Temporary and Disability Assistance is included on the Committee as a representative of the former position of State Commissioner of Social Services (as prescribed in Section 844-b).

### **Duties and Responsibilities**

- Consult with experts, service providers, and representative organizations engaged in the protection of the elderly.
- If appropriate, recommend the development of "Triad Programs" in New York State to assist the elderly to avoid criminal victimization through coordinated efforts of State and local law enforcement agencies and organizations which provide services for the elderly.
- If appropriate, recommend policies and programs to assist law enforcement agencies to implement "Triad Programs," including training and prevention standards and technical assistance. Such recommendations may include:
  - (1) The establishment of a statewide and central clearinghouse of information and education materials.
  - (2) The development of innovative community police programs for the elderly.
  - (3) Providing assistance to the Municipal Police Training Council in the development and delivery of training to law enforcement professionals involved in "Triad Programs," including, but not limited to: crimes against the elderly and the protection of elderly persons; police sensitivity to the needs of elderly persons as victims and witnesses; and social and human services.
  - (4) Providing assistance to State and local law enforcement officials and not-for-profit corporations and other organizations with respect to effective policies and responses to crimes against elderly persons.

- (5) Promoting and facilitating cooperation among State agencies and local units of government.
- (6) Effective advocacy of services to protect elderly persons and elderly victims of crime.
- (7) Evaluating the relationship between crimes against elderly persons and other problems confronting elderly persons, and making recommendations for effective policy response.
- (8) The collection of statistical data and research.

### **Reporting Requirements**

Pursuant to Executive Law Section 844-b (3-a), the Committee “shall report to the Temporary President of the Senate, the Speaker of the Assembly, the Chair of the Assembly Committee on Aging and the Chair of the Senate Committee on Aging, on the incidence of reports of abuse of elderly persons consisting of reports to local law enforcement agencies pursuant to Section 140.10 of the Criminal Procedure Law.”

**Committee Members**  
*(as of December 2014)*

**New York State Division of Criminal Justice Services**

Michael Wood, Deputy Commissioner and Co-Chair  
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**New York State Police**

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**New York State Sheriffs' Association**

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**New York State Association of Chiefs of Police**

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Ilion Police Department  
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**New York State Office of Victim Services**

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Vacant (nomination not received)

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**New York State District Attorneys' Association**

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