



Advocate Initiated Response Program 2024 Report

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CITY OF NEW ORLEANS



Domestic Violence & Sexual Assault Program Overview

Under the Office of Violence Prevention, NOHD's DV/SA Program works to coordinate the City's response to domestic and sexual violence. We offer training, technical assistance, and resource coordination for community partners and the criminal legal system, and advocate for survivor safety. Programs include:

- **Advocacy Initiated Response Program (AIR)**
- New Orleans Domestic Abuse Fatality Review Team
- Mayor's Domestic Violence Working Group and Sexual Violence Response Advisory Committee
- Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault Multi-Disciplinary Teams
- Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault Action Coalition for providers
- Domestic Violence Prevention Program for Children Ages 0-5



Office of Violence Prevention

Advocacy Initiated Response (AIR) is a crucial component of community violence intervention within the ecosystem of Office of Violence Prevention (OVP):

- engaging with families and communities
- providing linkages to community-based resources
- preventing escalation
- breaking cycles of violence



Domestic Violence in New Orleans

DV is the #1 reason New Orleanians call 911 for law enforcement.

On Average, NOPD receives 32 DV-related incidents a day.

Since 2020, at least 83 people have lost their lives to domestic violence in Orleans Parish.

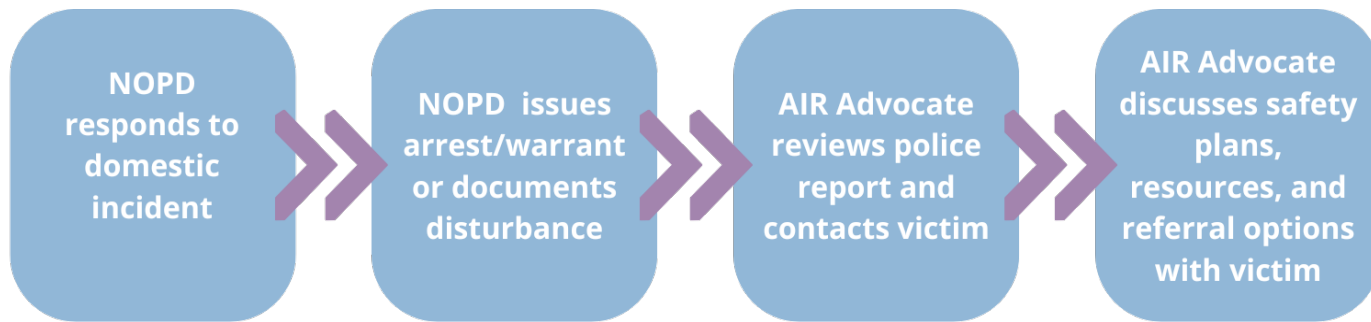
In 2024, 4,253 domestic crimes and 7,380 domestic disturbances were referred to AIR by NOPD.



AIR: Responding to a Need

The AIR program is an **intervention for domestic violence** to increase victim safety, provide linkages to resources, and disrupt violence in the community.

Program Objectives: Increase safety for victims, support families in addressing underlying causes of DV incidents, reduce rates of repeat calls to NOPD by providing alternative resources





Investment in AIR

AIR Outreach
Staff

10 AIR
Advocates

1 Criminal
Court Advocate

NOFJC Staff

2 Therapists

9 Case
Managers

SLLS Staff

1 Attorney

1 Social Worker

1 Intake
Specialist

\$30,000 AIR
Client Funds

Housing

Emergency
Assistance

Transportation

3,539 individuals
engaged by AIR

2,459 people
received referrals
for services



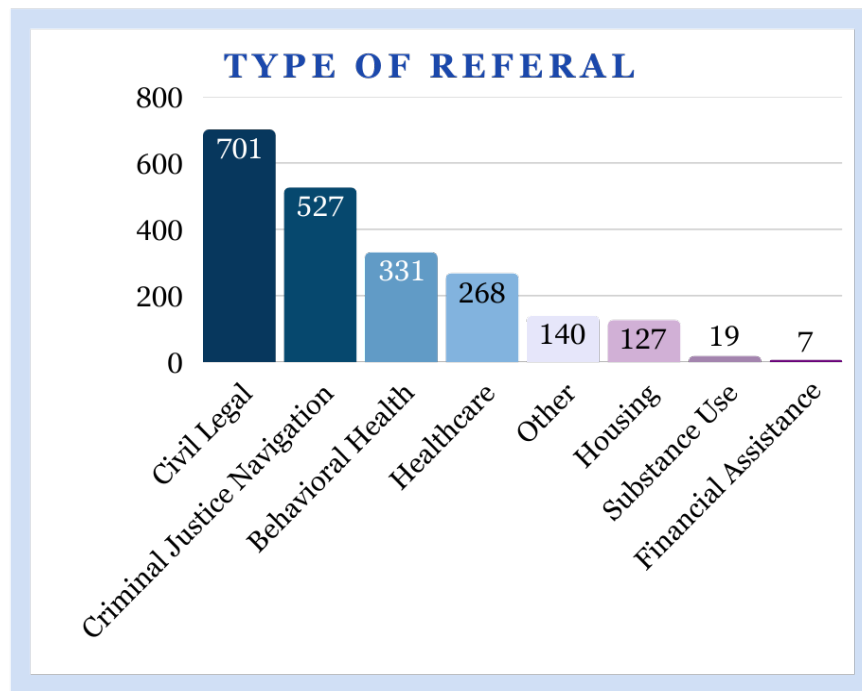
AIR Outcomes: Contacts and Referrals

Contacts:

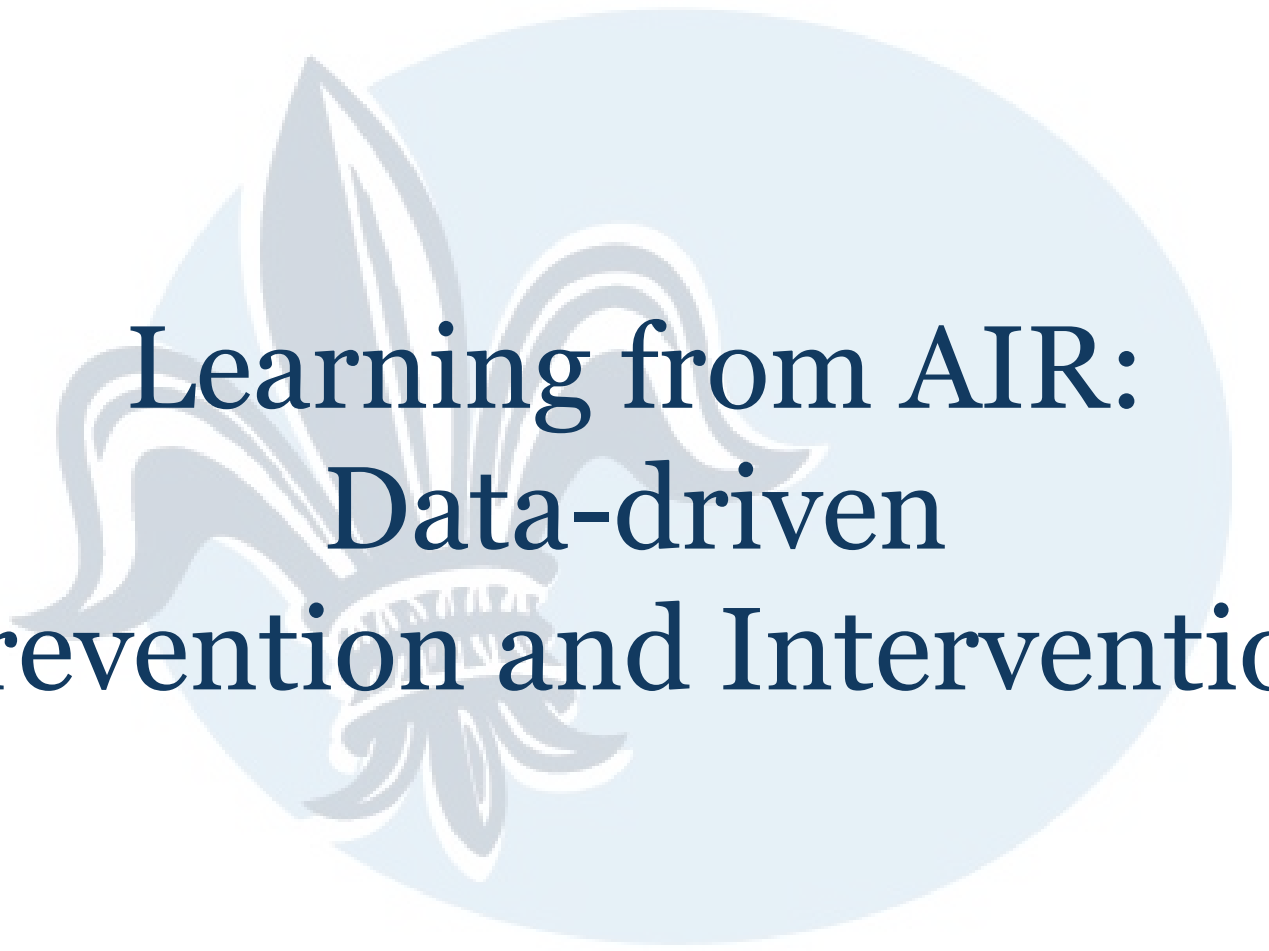
- 7,754 (67%) of incidents had sufficient information and could be contacted
- 62% of AIR contacts were made within 72 hours of the incident
- **3,539 (45%) of victims contacted spoke with an AIR advocate**
- Only 2% of those successfully contacted declined AIR Advocacy

Referrals:

- **68% of people who spoke with an AIR advocate accepted at least one referral for services**
- AIR provided 6,690 referrals to 2,459 people



4,570 referrals were to the New Orleans Family Justice Center, which is designed to function as an umbrella referral providing many types of support through one access point.

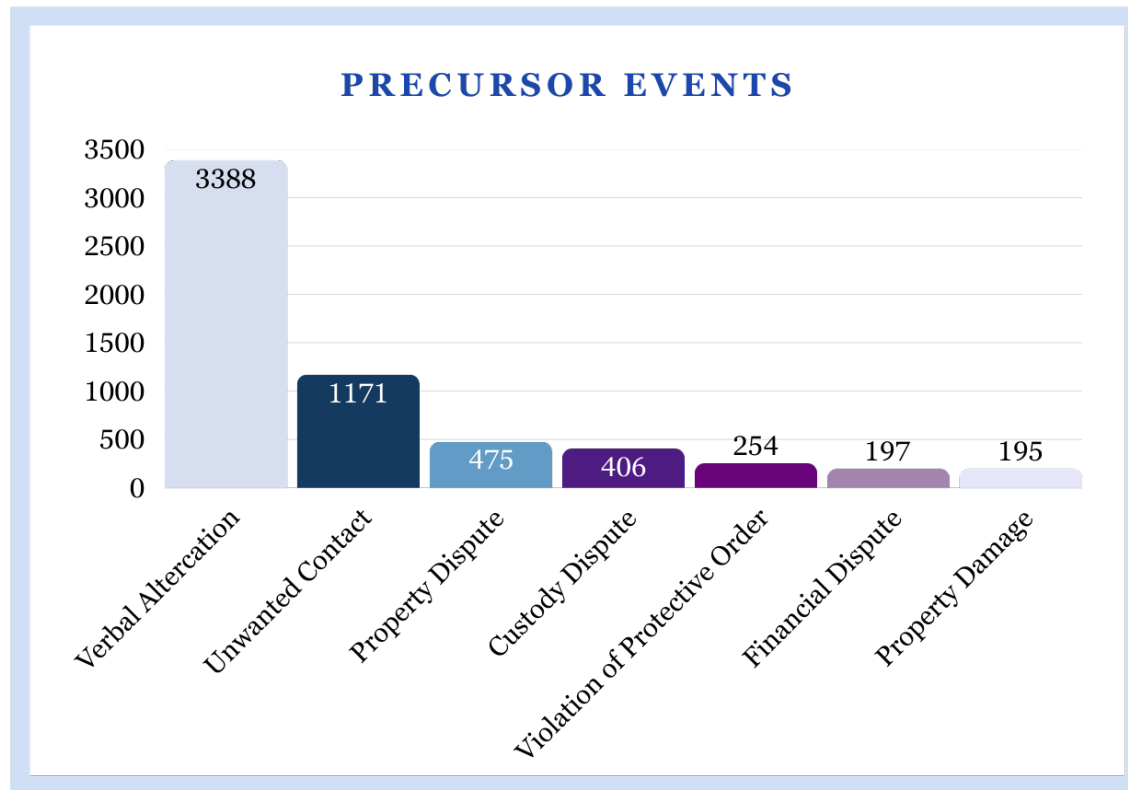


Learning from AIR: Data-driven Prevention and Intervention



AIR Findings: Precursors

AIR Advocates seek to understand the events leading up to DV-related incidents to inform safety planning discussions with victims and prevention initiatives for the community.





AIR Prevention Strategies

In 41% of incidents, a **verbal altercation** prompted the victim's call to NOPD

- AIR intervenes early and seeks to prevent conflict from escalating into violence by contacting victims of domestic disturbances and offering support, safety planning, and resources referrals.

Unwanted contact accounted for 17% of all DV-related calls in 2024

- AIR created and hired a Criminal District Court Advocate position designed to help victims navigate first appearance hearings and access protective orders

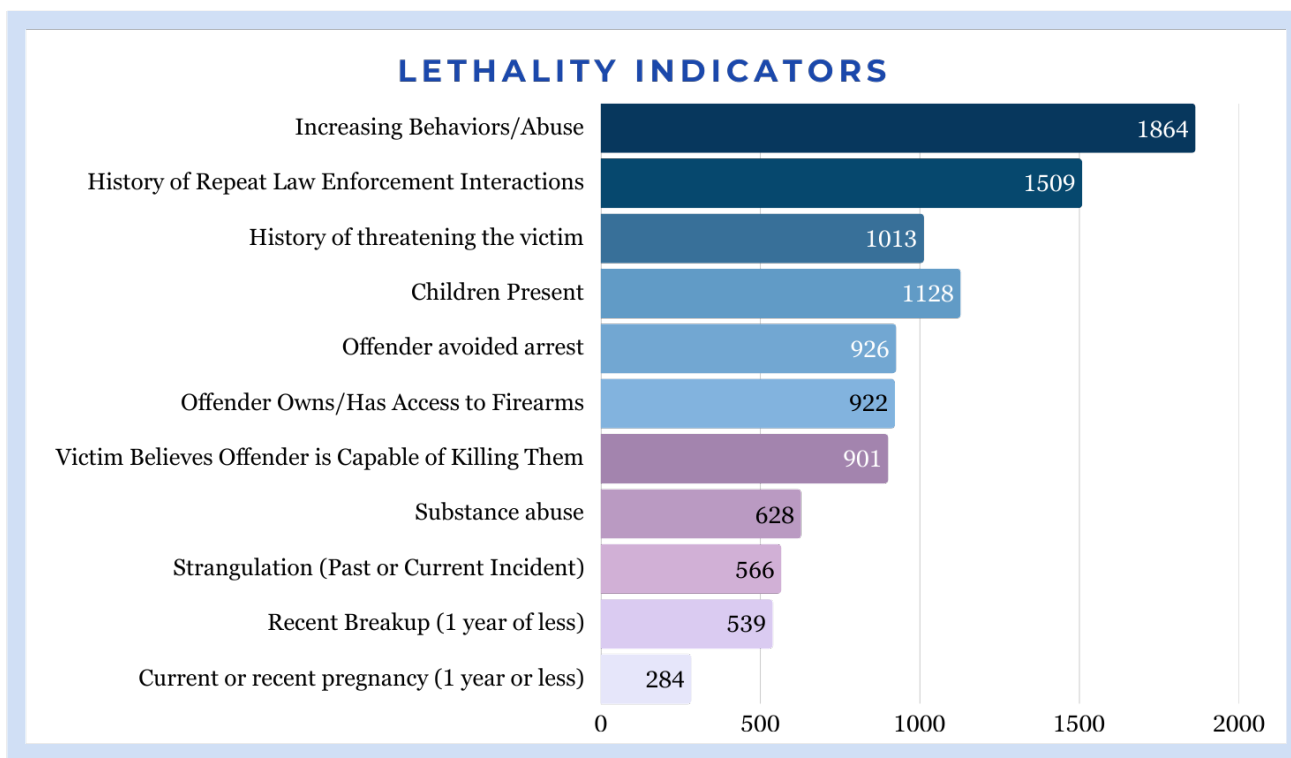
10% of all DV incidents stemmed from **civil legal issues** like custody, property, or financial disputes

- AIR secured additional funding to expand Southeast Louisiana Legal Services programs, which support clients to secure protective orders, divorces, child custody, and safe housing



AIR Findings: Lethality Factors

In 5,207 incidents, advocates identified one or more factors associated with increased risks of lethality, and in **72%** of these incidents, advocates identified a previous history of domestic violence or histories of domestic disturbances.





AIR Intervention Strategies

- **Risk Factors for Addressing Escalation**

- History of domestic disturbances
- History of repeated law enforcement intervention
- Avoided arrest
- Escalating behavior

AIR High Risk
Intervention Protocol

- In 17% of incidents, the offender owned or had **access to a firearm**
- Risk of death is 5x greater in DV situations when a gun is present

OVP leads the City's
initiatives related
to community violence
prevention and
gun safety

- **Strangulation** was identified as a risk factor in 10% of incidents
- Strangled women are 7.5x more likely to be murdered
- 28% of NODAFR suspects in 2021 had a history of strangling 1 or more partner

DV Working Group
Coordinated
Strangulation Incident
Protocol

Client Success Story

Contact Information

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<https://nola.gov/health/domestic-violence-and-sexual-assault-program/>