



# Domestic Violence Fatality Review Team (DVFRT) Recommendations

---

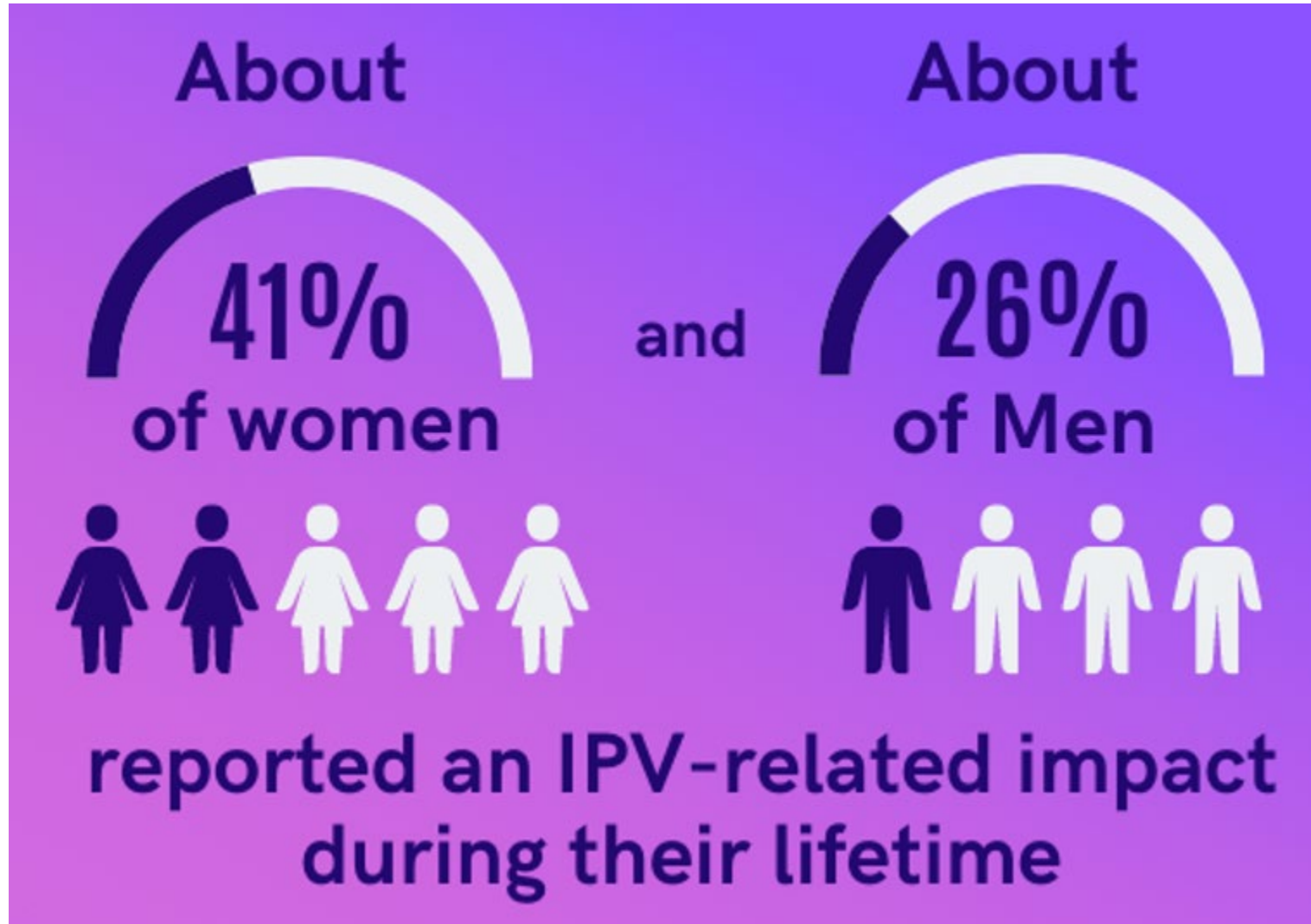
*Presented by*

Kelda Harrison, Paulina Mendez, &  
Rebecca Smith

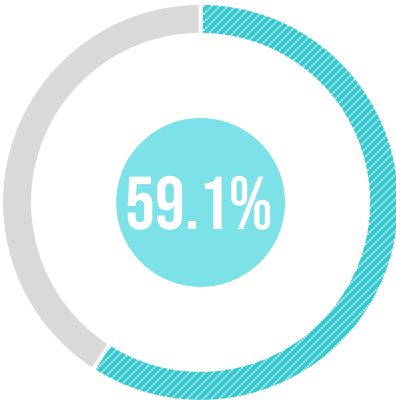
January 17, 2023



# National Prevalence of IPV

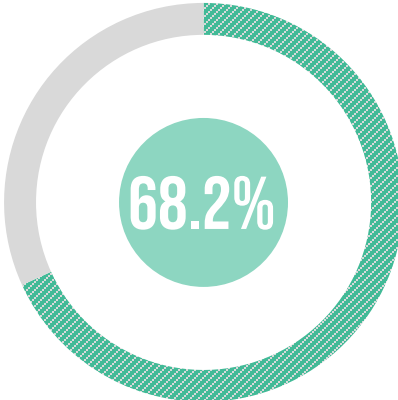


# Domestic Violence & Mass Shootings



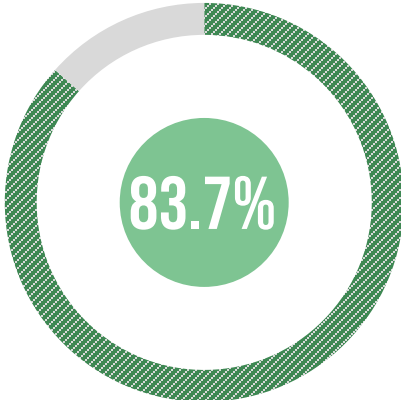
**Total**

% of mass shootings that were DV-related between



**Victim & History**

% of mass shootings where one partner or family member was killed, or the perpetrator had a history of DV



**Victim Fatality**

% of fatality rate associated with DV-related mass shootings

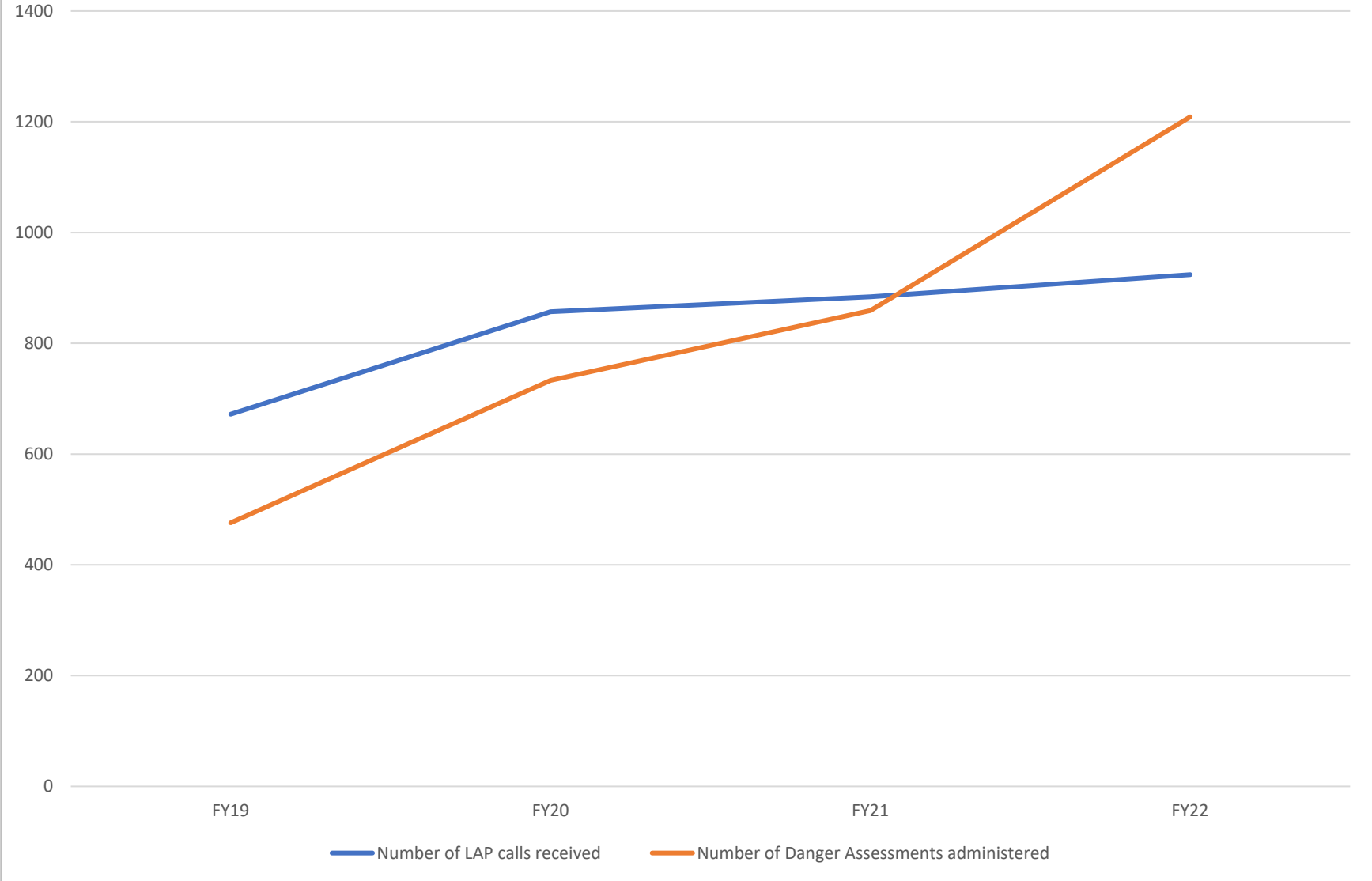


**Perpetrator Fatality**

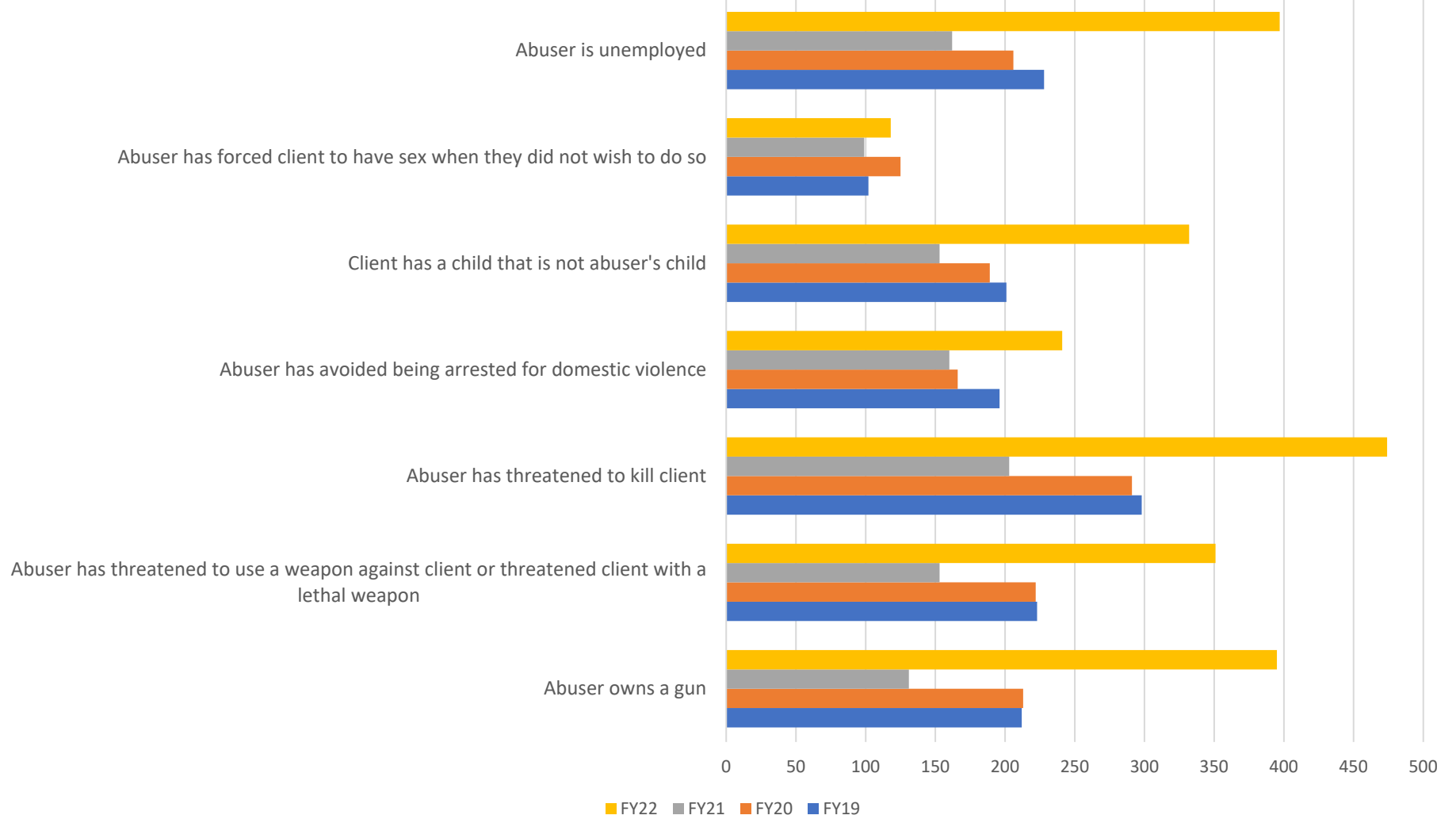
% of perpetrators that died during the shootings



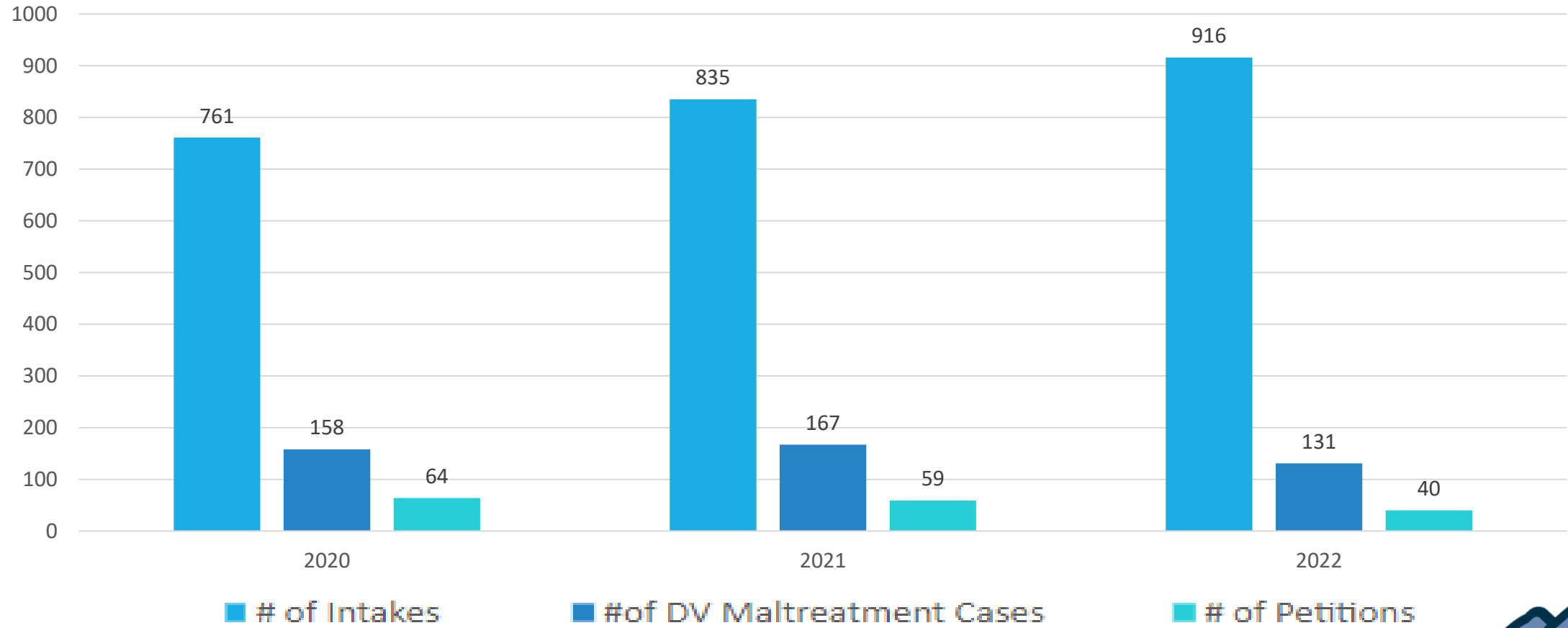
# Buncombe County LAP Calls & Danger Assessments



### Buncombe County LAP & Danger Assessment Responses

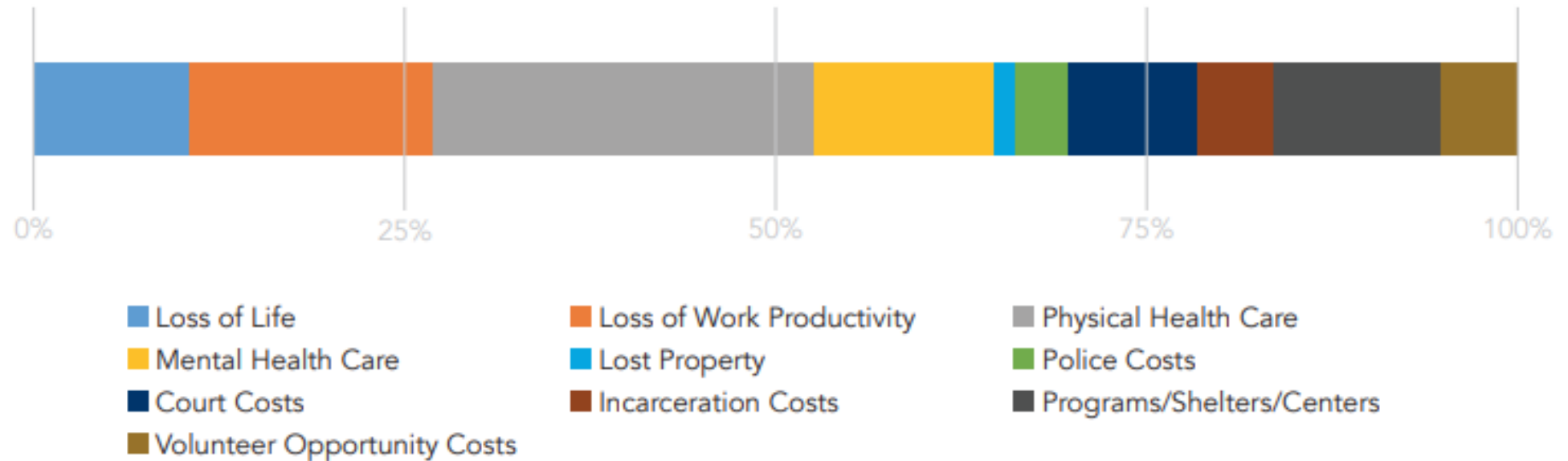


# Domestic Violence and Child Protective Services in Buncombe County

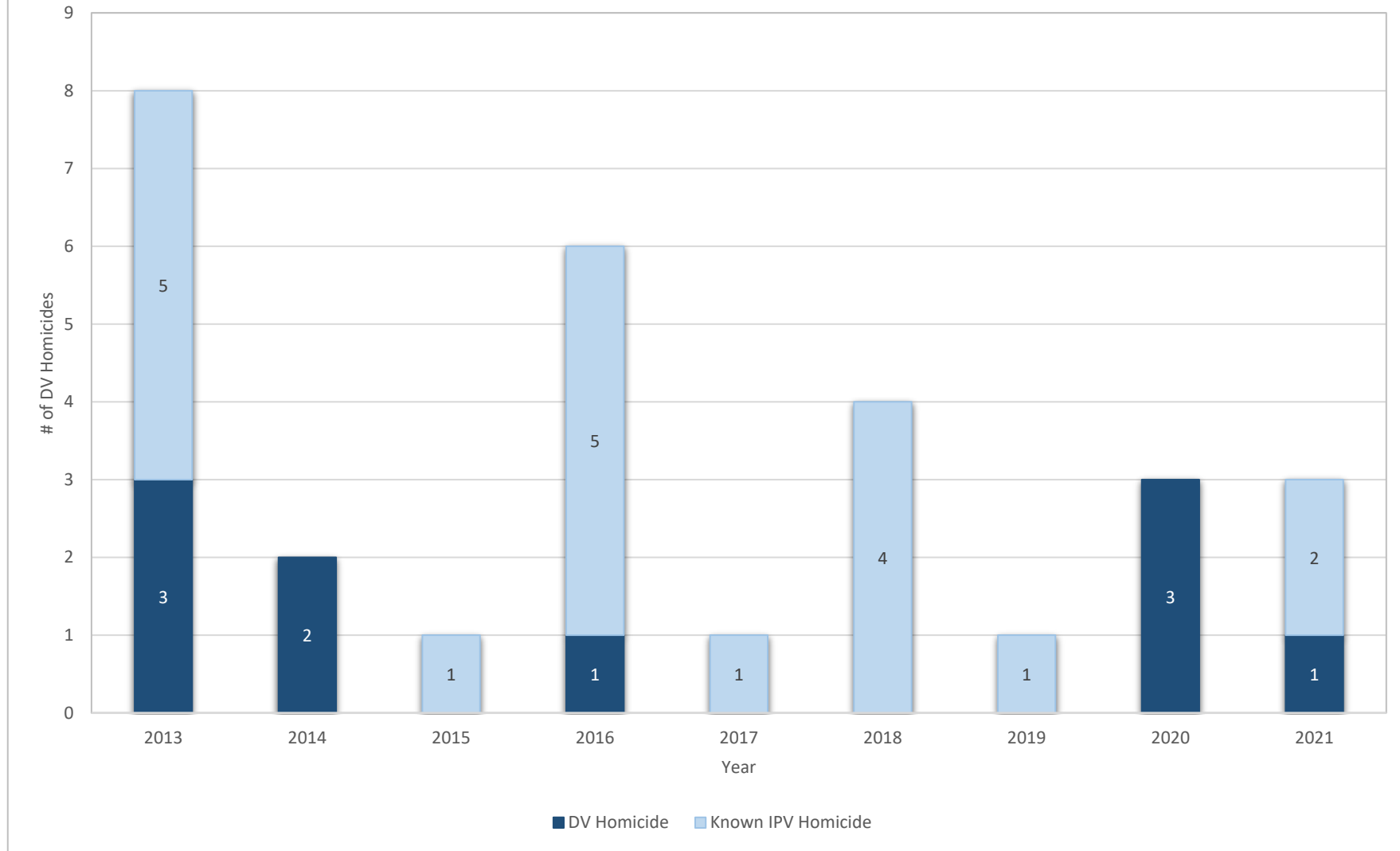


# 2018 Study of Annual Costs of DV in Buncombe County

- Estimated Annual Number of Domestic Violence Victimizations: **4,149**
- Total Annual Cost of Domestic Violence: **\$13,533,986**



### Domestic Violence Related Homicides in Buncombe County



\*Some incidents involve one homicide while others involve multiple homicides





# Buncombe County DVFRT

The mission of the Buncombe County Domestic Violence Fatality Review Team (DVFRT) is to prevent domestic violence (DV) deaths, increase safety for DV victims, and increase accountability for abusers through systems change.

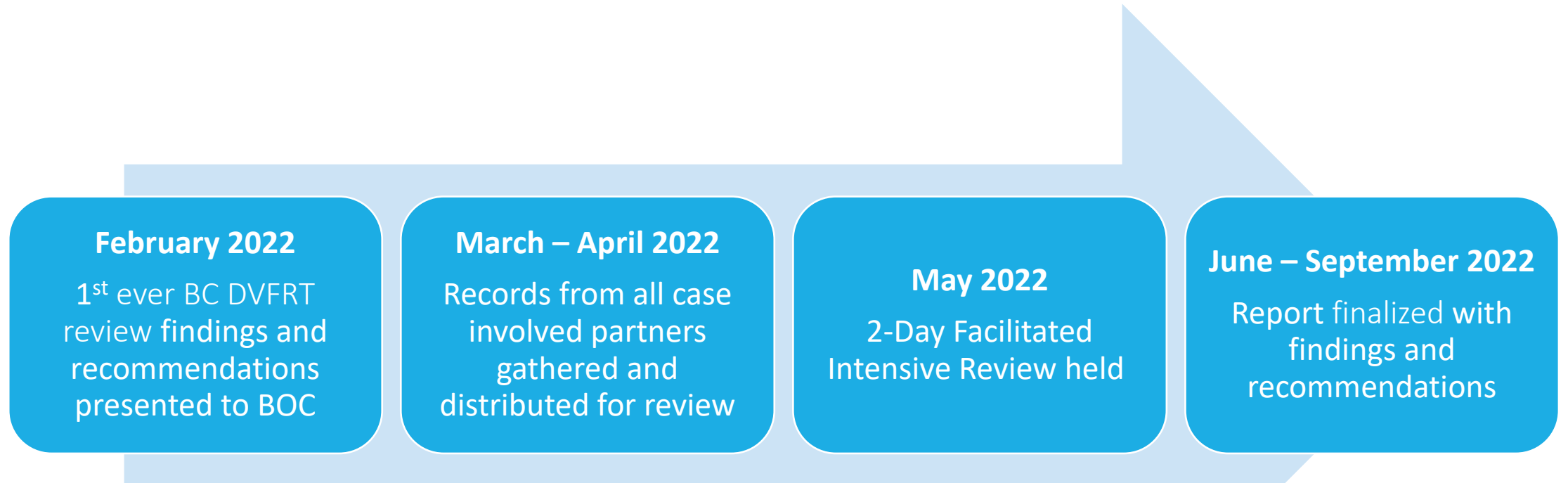
## Some DVFRT activities include:

- Studying incidents and causes of death due to DV through a multidisciplinary intensive 2-day review
- Presenting annually to the Coordinated Community Response to Domestic and Sexual Violence Leadership Team and Buncombe County Commissioners
- Identifying gaps and making system recommendations
- Issuing a report to the Buncombe County Commissioners, Governor's Crime Commission and NC Domestic Violence Commission every three years
- Abide by the laws, rules, and policies relating to confidentiality.

(DVFRTs are defined by the NC General Assembly in Session Laws 2009-52 and 2013-70)



# 2022 DVFRT Review Timeline



# 2022 DVFRT Review Findings

- ✓ Multifaceted life stress, multi-generational, historical, and community trauma
- ✓ Legally obtained firearm was the murder weapon used by the perpetrator during the attack
- ✓ Financial insecurity and lack of access to transportation were used to maintain coercive control
- ✓ The opportunity to intervene was limited by a short escalation window
- ✓ There were few intersections with conventional system supports
- ✓ The lack of record sharing between jurisdictions, i.e., states, makes it difficult to identify history of violence or other historical indicators of domestic violence
- ✓ The statute allows limited and specified participation on the review panel and currently does not intentionally prioritize diversity or individuals with lived experiences



# Recommendation #1

## Community Connection/Prevention

- Expand funding and support for prevention services in our schools (e.g., healthy relationship education)
- Continue to support organizations focused on Social Determinants of Health that provide tangible support to families
- Strengthen educational/career development opportunities to provide hope and pathways out of generational poverty
- Treat people who have lived experience or established community trust as the experts and give them the resources needed to impact change



# Recommendation #2

## Legislation/Advocacy

- Expand established strategic priorities like Educated and Capable Communities and Vibrant Economy
- Require purchase permits for all firearms
- Advocate for amendment of automatic expunctions to not include DV-related charges
- Advocate to revisit the adoption of House Bill 525, as well as any other legislation that limits access to firearms of violent DV offenders
- Create an accountability workgroup to follow up on how recommendations are implemented in legislation at local and state levels



# Recommendation #3

## Equity & Inclusion

- Be intentional to include DVFRT members with representation from diverse backgrounds and with different lived experience
- Increase the number of at-large members for NC DVFRTs



# Recommendation #4

## Cross System Opportunities

- Remove barriers to accessing and navigating court systems and resources, including peer support navigator, social work access on site, and funding for community organizations that provide services
- Review and improve screening protocols at provider agencies so that the discloser feels safe
- Create a Domestic Violence-Specific Multidisciplinary Team (MDT) to include Pisgah Legal Services, DA's Office, Helpmate, Law Enforcement, Pretrial, SPARC, VA, and Probation



# Sources

- Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), (2021, October 9). *Intimate partner violence*. <https://www.cdc.gov/violenceprevention/intimatepartnerviolence/index.html>
- Geller, L. B., Booty, M., & Crifasi, C. K. (2021). The role of domestic violence in fatal mass shootings in the united states, 2014–2019. *Injury Epidemiology*, 8(1), 38-38. <https://doi.org/10.1186/s40621-021-00330-0>
- Depken II, C. A. (n.d.). *Study: North Carolina in 2018 the economic impact of domestic violence*. Jamie Kimble Foundation for Courage. <https://www.jkffc.org/files/8bfe809e-c9fe-4504-b20f-593f24e17b0d--ce835658-2964-42d8-9c6c-cc02c80dc182/2019-09-09-kimble-domestic-violence-cost-report.pdf>

