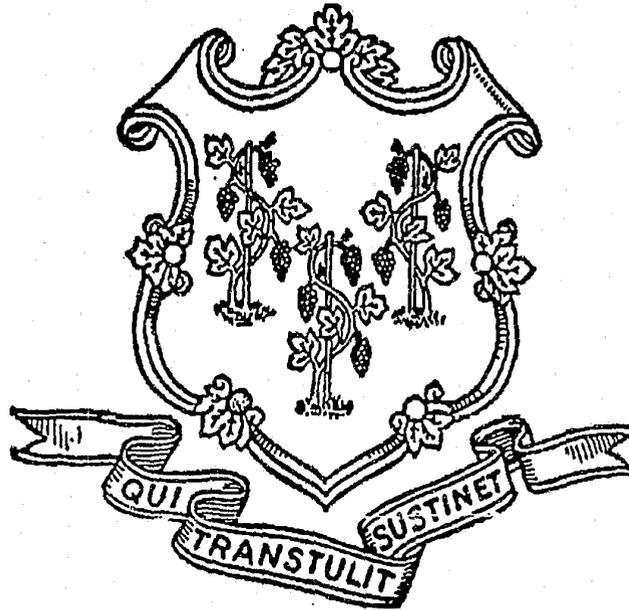


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State of Connecticut Department of Public Safety



Five Year Report Family Division of the Superior Court Family Violence Intervention Units

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NCJRS

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Introduction

The Family Violence Prevention and Response Act of 1986 created Family Violence Intervention Units within the Family Division of the Superior Court. These units accept referrals of family violence cases from judges or prosecutors. The Intervention Units are responsible for preparation of reports for presentation by the next court date, provision or arrangement of services to victims and offenders and administration of service contracts.

The 1986 Act requires that monthly statistical summaries of Intervention Unit activity be submitted to the Department of Public Safety which compiles an annual report. The following is the five year report. Note that since reporting began October 1, 1986 and ended September 30, 1991, years begin October 1 and end September 30.

The reader should note that not all family violence cases are referred to the Family Violence Intervention Units. More serious cases are handled by Part "A" of the Superior Court.

Executive Summary

Family Violence Intervention Unit Activity

From October 1, 1986 through September 30, 1991 there were 139,343 cases referred to the Family Violence Intervention Units. In the last year (1990/91), the number of cases referred was 29.5% greater than the first (1986/87).

Half (48.1%) of the cases involved unmarried couples. Spouses and former spouses accounted for 31.4% of the cases. Relatives were responsible for 20.5% of the caseload.

Most cases involved misdemeanor charges (94.0%). In more than three-quarters of the cases the most serious charge was assault in the third degree (34.1%), breach of peace (24.0%) or disorderly conduct (20.6%).

Two-thirds (66.1%) of the cases involved non-sexual physical violence.

In two-thirds (67.6%) of the cases state's attorneys decided not to prosecute the arrested person (nolle prosequi).

Definitions

Accelerated Rehabilitation: The court may use its discretion to invoke accelerated rehabilitation on motion by the defendant or prosecutor if they have good cause to believe the defendant will not offend again and has no previous record of conviction of a crime.

When granted, the defendant is released to the custody of the office of adult probation, under whatever conditions the judge requires, for a period of up to two years. If the defendant violates any of the conditions of the probation, s/he is brought to trial.

Upon successful completion of probation, the defendant or the court may apply for dismissal of the charges against him/her, which is granted if the judge deems the probation successful. Upon dismissal, all record of the charges are erased.

Cases Disposed Of: Cases closed by a judge rendering a decision or by prosecutor's decision not to proceed (Nolle Prosequi).

Disposition Given: The most serious consequence given to the defendant.

Felony: Any offense for which a person may be sentenced to a term of imprisonment in excess of one year is a felony.

Misdemeanor: Any offense for which a person may be sentenced to a term of imprisonment of not more than one year is a misdemeanor.

Nolle Prosequi: A case is "nolled" when a prosecutor decides not to pursue prosecution. Although counted as a final disposition, the case may be reopened at any time during the following thirteen months for prosecution.

Other Charges: Other charges include burglary; robbery and arson.

Relative: Includes brothers; sisters; aunts; uncles; cousins; etc.

Unmarried Couple: Persons who presently reside together or who have ever resided together and persons who share a child in common.

Family Violence Caseload 10/1/86 through 9/30/91

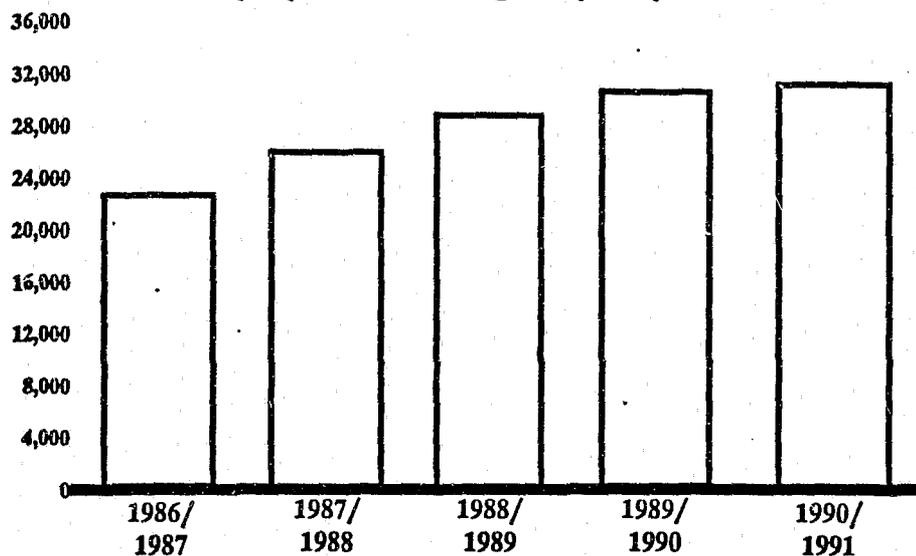
	1986/ 1987	1987/ 1988	1988/ 1989	1989/ 1990	1990/ 1991
Cases Referred	23,769	26,014	28,195	30,581	30,784
Cases Disposed Of*	12,897	16,814	16,941	19,056	19,585

* Note that the Family Division advises that disposed cases are difficult to track, therefore the actual number of cases open may be somewhat lower.

Relationship of Parties

	1986/ 1987	1987/ 1988	1988/ 1989	1989/ 1990	1990/ 1991
Unmarried Couple	5,710	12,014	13,471	15,070	15,548
Spouse	4,130	7,983	8,246	8,541	8,435
Former Spouse	323	677	690	665	592
Parent or Child	1,350	2,560	2,748	2,933	2,932
Relative	1,384	2,780	3,040	3,372	3,277
Total	12,897	26,014	28,195	30,581	30,784

Cases Referred to Family Violence Intervention Units 10/1/86 through 9/30/91



Type of Charge Filed

	1986/ 1987	1987/ 1988	1988/ 1989	1989/ 1990	1990/ 1991
FELONIES					
Assault 1st	39	53	91	95	97
Assault 2nd	296	749	857	900	938
Sexual Assault 1st	6	7	11	23	20
Sexual Assault 2nd	3	9	9	8	7
Sexual Assault 3rd	22	31	25	17	18
Criminal Mischief 1st	53	87	96	80	63
Kidnapping 1st	1	0	2	0	2
Kidnapping 2nd	2	2	3	4	3
Unlawful Restraint 1st	6	18	24	23	22
Risk of Injury to a Minor	82	173	182	216	234
Harassment	55	172	196	267	299
TOTAL FELONIES	565	1,301	1,496	1,633	1,703
MISDEMEANORS					
Assault 3rd	3,825	9,262	9,994	10,327	10,440
Sexual Assault 4th	10	22	13	15	26
Criminal Mischief 2nd	89	167	180	172	180
Criminal Mischief 3rd	371	1,159	1,213	1,223	1,222
Criminal Mischief 4th	18	23	20	28	21
Reckless Endangerment 1st	79	112	102	132	127
Reckless Endangerment 2nd	40	123	99	108	107
Unlawful Restraint 2nd	44	41	49	68	62
Criminal Trespass 1st	265	625	726	846	956
Criminal Trespass 2nd	15	25	29	29	18
Criminal Trespass 3rd	43	120	118	74	62
Threatening	882	1,689	1,756	1,814	1,730
Breach of Peace	3,246	6,116	6,597	7,544	7,392
Disorderly Conduct	2,973	5,010	5,603	6,369	6,548
TOTAL MISDEMEANORS	12,100	24,494	26,499	28,749	28,891
OTHER CHARGES					
Violation (Probation, etc.)	1	6	4	3	2
All else	231	213	196	196	188
TOTAL OTHER	232	219	200	199	190
TOTAL CHARGES	12,897	26,014	28,195	30,581	30,784

Nature of Incident

	1986/ 1987	1987/ 1988	1988/ 1989	1989/ 1990	1990/ 1991
Physical Violence	8,805	17,486	19,204	19,725	19,717
Verbal Threat	3,261	6,888	7,098	9,258	9,404
Property Damage	794	1,541	1,813	1,510	1,577
Sexual Violence	37	99	80	88	86
Total	12,897	26,014	28,195	30,581	30,784

Disposition Given

	1986/ 1987	1987/ 1988	1988/ 1989	1989/ 1990	1990/ 1991
Nolle Prosequi	7,691	12,994	11,354	13,203	13,186
Dismissed	465	789	1,754	1,698	2,103
Fine	398	709	516	595	633
Suspended Sentence with Probation	521	705	680	871	848
Rearrest	*	1,059	2,036	1,892	1,689
Accelerated Rehabilitation	548	221	108	70	87
Incarceration	96	219	236	373	390
Conditional Discharge	110	118	257	354	649
Other	4,158	0	0	0	0
Total	13,987*	16,814	16,941	19,056	19,585

*Disposition information was reported differently during 1986/1987. Specific data on rearrest was not reported. Multiple dispositions for a given case were reported, which accounts for the total of 13,987 under "Disposition Given" above, and 12,897 under "Cases Disposed Of" on page 3 of this report.



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