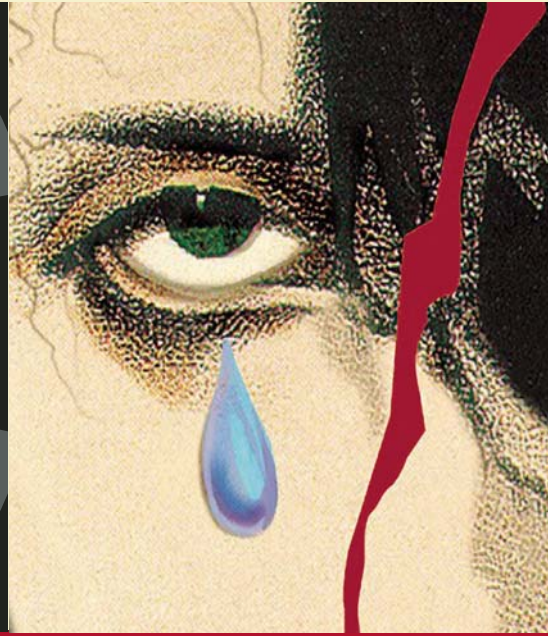


# SANTA CRUZ COUNTY

# DOMESTIC VIOLENCE COMMISSION



2004

## 2004 Annual Report to the Community

- Battered Women's Task Force
- Batterer's Treatment Provider
- Chief Probation Officer
- City of Santa Cruz Commission for the Prevention of Violence Against Women
- Community Clinic Coalition
- County Administrative Officer
- District Attorney
- Dominican Hospital
- Family Law Bar of Santa Cruz County
- Family Mediation Service
- Health Services Agency
- Human Resources Agency
- Law Enforcement Chiefs Association
- Public Defender
- Representative of the Gay/Lesbian/Bisexual Community
- Representative of the Latino Community
- Senior's Commission
- Sheriff-Coroner
- Superintendent of Santa Cruz County Office of Education
- Superior Court Judge
- Survivor of Domestic Violence
- Sutter Maternity and Surgery Center of Santa Cruz
- Walnut Avenue Women's Center
- Watsonville Community Hospital
- Women's Commission
- Women's Crisis Support~ Defensa de Mujeres

# On behalf of the Santa Cruz Domestic Violence Commission (DVC), I am pleased to present the 2nd annual DVC's Report to the Community for calendar year 2004.

The Santa Cruz County Domestic Violence Commission recognizes that domestic violence is a serious social problem and is dedicated to its elimination from our community. Through collaborative efforts, the Commission develops and recommends education, prevention and intervention policies that hold batterers accountable and ensure safety and support for victims including children and survivors. As a Commission, we need to continue to better educate our community in domestic violence issues and to more effectively support its victims. We believe that all people have a right to a life free of violence.

This second report will enable the Commission and the community to begin to see trends and changes in reporting of domestic violence, how our local advocacy agencies are being used and how our legal agencies respond to domestic violence. Domestic violence continues to be under-reported to law enforcement, but our statistics indicate that there has been a significant increase (58%) in the number of clients of advocacy agencies that also report their incident to law enforcement agencies. In addition, in Santa Cruz County there has been a 24% increase in the numbers of victims that are being assisted by advocacy agencies.

There has been a 23% decrease in the number of felony DV arrests by LEAs and a commensurate decrease in the number of DV felony cases filed by the DA (28%). There has also been a 22% decrease in the number of emergency protective orders obtained by LEAs.

The number of children in the home where a DV incident was reported county wide has decreased between 11% and 28% when compared to 2003. In the Courts, there has been a 33% decrease in the number of permanent restraining orders granted compared to 2003.

## The DV Commission has five goals as mandated by the Santa Cruz County Code Chapter 2.118:

- **Help increase coordination between agencies, departments and the courts, and with victims of domestic violence and abuse;**
- **Promote effective and accessible education, prevention, intervention and treatment techniques which will be developed based upon research and data collection;**
- **Seek to improve the response to domestic violence abuse so as to reduce incidents of domestic violence;**
- **Examine issues relating to domestic violence and make recommendations in regard to administrative and legislative action to be taken by the Board of Supervisors;**
- **Establish a committee from among the membership, with the addition of a representative of the office of the Santa Cruz County Counsel, as specified by Penal Code Section 853.6(a), to develop protocols for use by law enforcement officers and recommend adoption of said protocols to the Board of Supervisors.**

The DV Commission hopes that the annual publication of this report to the community will continue to provide this much needed information to the public as we strive to live in a community free of domestic violence.

## I want to thank the many people who were responsible for contributing to developing this report:

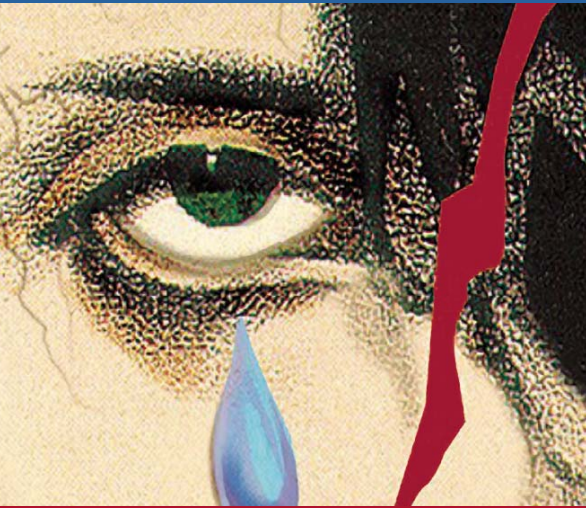
Alan Hiromura, David Rabow, Donna Lind, Fred Nohr, Jo Anne Myall, Joanne De Los Reyes, Linda Starn and Tod Connor. We owe special thanks to Mike Lee and Jason Solis from Dominican Hospital's Communications & Marketing Department.

At the bottom of the pages, you will find the reference to Santa Cruz County women who have lost their lives at the hands of abusive partners. These women paid the ultimate price. We wish to keep their memories in the forefront as a reminder to all.



**THE HONORABLE  
BOB LEE**

District Attorney,  
Santa Cruz County



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The cover image was developed by teens from Watsonville High School, New School and the YWCA for last October's Domestic Violence Awareness campaign, sponsored by the Women's Crisis Support~Defensa de Mujeres. The theme was "fear and disrespect does not equal healthy relationships." The final image was designed by artist Tom Trujillo.

We would like to thank the following agencies and individuals for their participation in gathering data for this report:

### DV Intervention Programs & Probation

**MARY SIMONI**  
Pacific Treatment Associates

**JENNY SARMIENTO**  
Family Services Agency  
of Pajaro Valley

**BARBARA DAVIES**  
Family Services Agency  
of Pajaro Valley

**TIM MAYO**  
ALTO Counseling

**RC PADILLA**  
ALTO Counseling

**JODI HARVEY**  
Simply Your Best

**LINDA PEREZ**  
Pajaro Valley Prevention  
and Student Assistance

**JENNY SARMIENTO**  
Pajaro Valley Prevention  
and Student Assistance

**JUDITH COX**  
Probation

**JULIE LANGLEY**  
Probation

### DA's Office & Superior Court

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**LILY HEREDIA**  
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Coordinator, Civil Courts

**STEPHEN CARLTON**  
Domestic Violence Court  
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**DON ALLEGRI**  
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Children Services Division

**JULIA SHEEHAN**  
Information Technology  
Support, Family & Children  
Services Division

### Advocacy Agencies

**DEE O'BRIEN**  
Walnut Avenue Women's Center

**JENNIFER ROSE**  
Walnut Avenue Women's Center

**CELIA ORGANISTA**  
Women's Crisis Support~  
Defensa de Mujeres

**JOANNE DE LOS REYES**  
Women's Crisis Support~  
Defensa de Mujeres

**JANET SEMINERO**  
Women's Crisis Support~  
Defensa de Mujeres

**MEGHAN VAUGHN**  
Women's Crisis Support~  
Defensa de Mujeres

**PATRICIA GILBERTSON**  
Family Matters

### Law Enforcement & Death Review Team

**CHIEF RICHARD EHLE**  
Capitola Police Department

**LORRIE WILSON**  
Capitola Police Department

**CHIEF HOWARD SKERRY**  
Santa Cruz Police Department

**MARGARET MACHI**  
Santa Cruz Police Department

**SHERIFF MARK TRACY**  
SC County Sheriff-Coroner

**SHERIFF STEVE ROBBINS**  
SC County Sheriff-Coroner

**HEATHER HARRIS**  
SC County Sheriff-Coroner

**CHIEF MICHAEL ALUFFI**  
UCSC Police Department

**LINDA WOLFE**  
UCSC Police Department

**CHIEF STEVE LIND**  
Scotts Valley Police Department

**PAT HARDING**  
Scotts Valley Police Department

**CHIEF TERRY MEDINA**  
Watsonville Police Department

**EVANGELINA ACOSTA**  
Watsonville Police Department

**CHIEF RANGER RALPH FAIRFIELD**  
California State Parks

**JOANNE DANIELSON**  
California State Parks

**SENIOR DEPUTY HARBOR MASTER  
DON KINNAMON**  
Santa Cruz Harbor Patrol

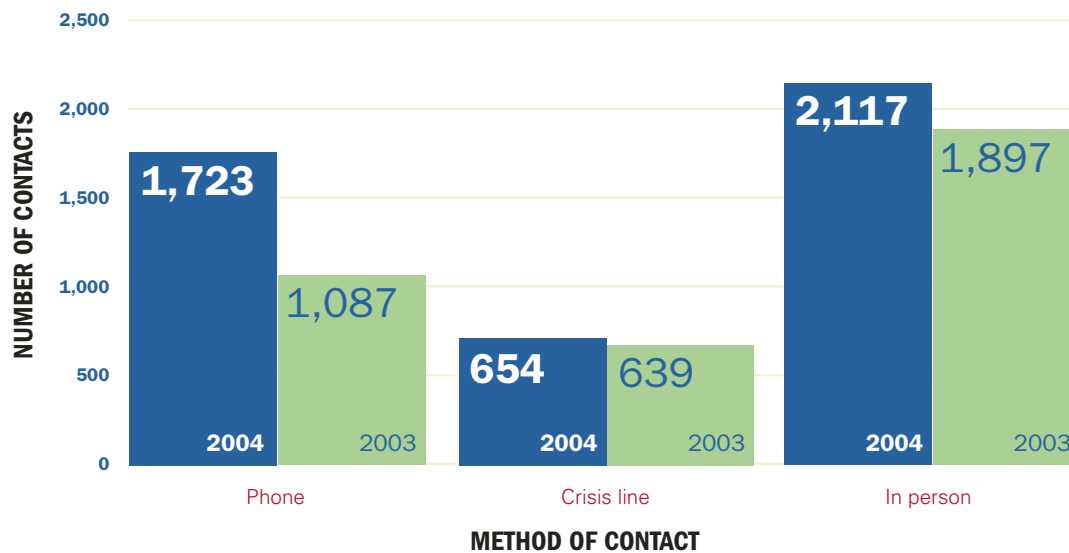
**DEPUTY HARBOR MASTER  
ALEX PRINCE**  
Santa Cruz Harbor Patrol

**DETECTIVE PATRICK DIMICK**  
Death Review Team



# LOW TOLERANCE FOR DV KEEPS ADVOCACY AGENCIES BUSY

## DOMESTIC VIOLENCE ADVOCACY AGENCY CLIENTS RECEIVING SERVICES 2003 & 2004



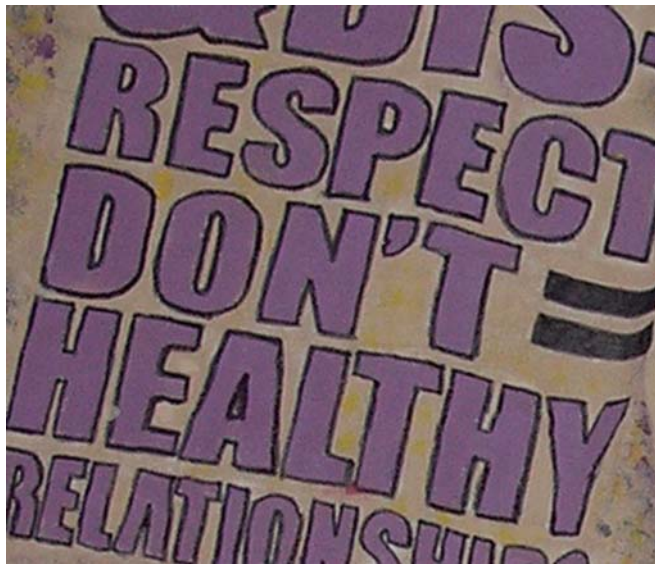
Advocacy agencies experienced a 24% increase in clients from 2003, attributing the spike to increased domestic violence awareness in our community. Tolerance for domestic violence has lessened and women are increasingly reaching out and seeking services. Meanwhile, advocacy agencies and their services have increased visibility and referrals from agencies like Child Protective Services, County Health Services Agency and local resources centers have grown.

2004 saw the average number of first-time DV clients decrease by 50%. However, most clients are not first-time victims. Accessing services usually comes after two or more incidents. It is rare that a woman seeks assistance after the first incident as denial and shock are still overwhelming.

The number of advocacy agency clients reporting their domestic violence incident to law enforcement agencies increased by 58% in 2004. This, too, can be attributed to lower tolerance and victims support reporting.

Sheltered clients were slightly more common in 2004, and the number of needy clients who could not be provided with shelter was 80% higher than the previous year. A contributing factor could be that helping agencies track the total number of people seeking shelter—not only victims of DV. Also, denials could have been due to victims' not meeting specific shelter criteria. This increase is more of a reflection of the local housing problem.

In an effort to understand the overall statistics each agency described its internal trends.



## Women's Crisis Support~ Defensa de Mujeres

During 2004, Women's Crisis Support~Defensa de Mujeres (WCS~DdM) experienced a 13% increase in client load and a slight drop in Crisis Line calls.

There has been a significant increase in the number of WCS~DdM clients making domestic violence reports to law enforcement agencies. This may be the result of the merging of WCS~DdM's Crisis Intervention and Legal Programs. Clients now receive crisis intervention, peer counseling and legal assistance services from one worker, without having to transfer between departments. This has made the process easier for clients, and seems to have increased client reliance on the criminal justice system. Although the number of permanent restraining orders granted to clients assisted by advocacy agencies has declined from last year, the increase in criminal reporting has resulted in many clients benefiting from criminal protective orders, minimizing the need for civil restraining orders.

In 2004, the total number of women and children served at the agency's emergency shelter increased by over 20%. Requests for shelter increased by 48%; however, many of these requests were from women who did not meet the agency's domestic violence emergency shelter criteria. The local housing problem has probably contributed to this increase of ineligible applicants.

## DOMESTIC VIOLENCE ADVOCACY & LAW ENFORCEMENT 2003 & 2004 YEARLY STATISTICS

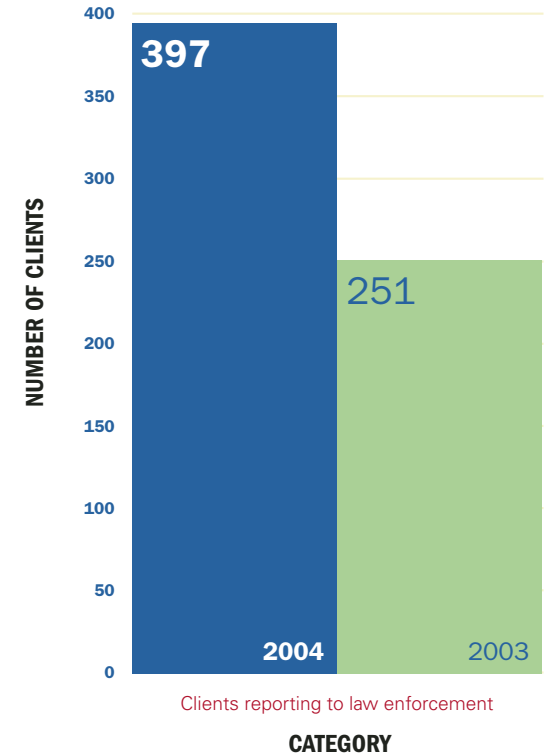
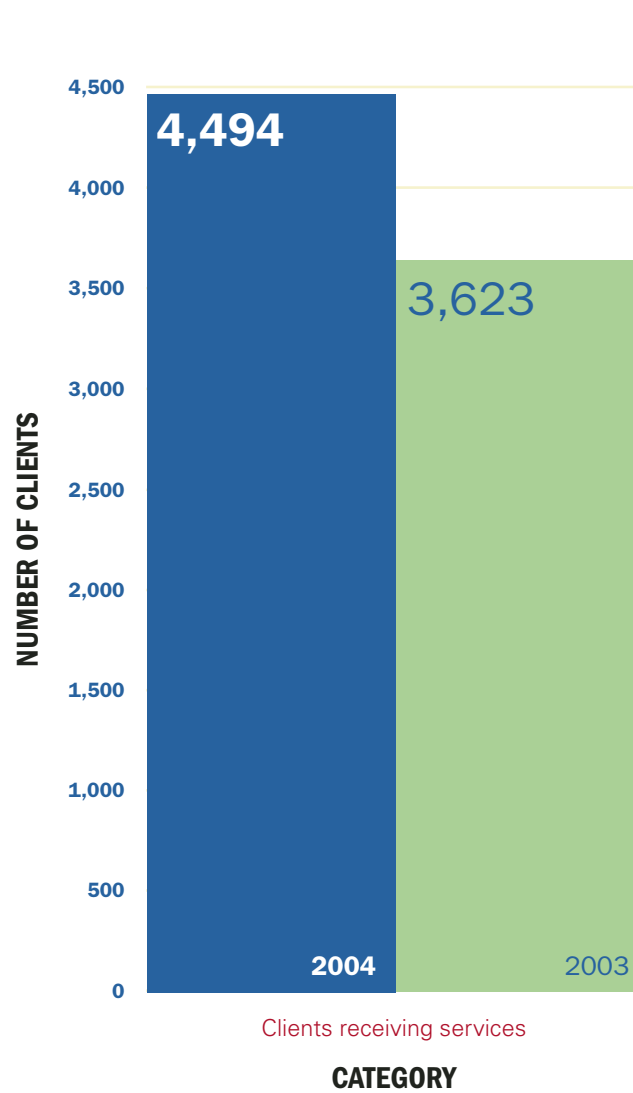
### Walnut Avenue Women's Center

Walnut Avenue Women's Center saw a 42% increase in the number of participants in 2004.

This increase can, in part, be attributed to the development of partnerships with local family resource centers. These partnerships have increased the number of women and children seen both on- and off-site. They have also built trust with and in staff and advocates at other centers, which has increased referrals to Walnut Avenue Women's Center programs.

The Walnut Avenue Women's Center's effective outreach efforts to both underserved and unserved populations resulted in almost 20% increase in its Latina participants. This goal was accomplished by hiring bilingual and bicultural staff, increasing monolingual Spanish speaking services and improving cultural competency.

The Center's outreach efforts have brought in new participants, increasing awareness and knowledge of the greater community. The Center has received an increase in calls from concerned family members, friends, teachers, members of the faith community, community leaders, and neighbors asking for support and resources for family and friends.



## Family Matters

Since Family Matters is not gender-specific and due to lack of available services for males with other agencies, Family Matters in 2004 experienced a significant increase in male clients seeking assistance in regards to female perpetrators. Family Matters receives regular referrals of male clients from the Family Law Facilitator's Office and from the Court Clerk's Office. Certainly there are overall far more female domestic violence victims than males, but there appears to be more male victims than traditional statistics might indicate. Out of necessity, Family Matters has had to develop expertise with male client issues.

Family Matters' overall numbers increased by 45% in 2004, despite decreased funding. But the decreased funding has resulted in fewer staff and higher caseloads. Lack of available funding has required Family Matters to take a more focused approach to assisting clients.

In 2004, Family Matters saw fewer clients who experienced domestic violence for the first time, attributing the trend to the pattern of victims enduring multiple incidents prior to seeking services.

## The Victim Witness Center

Housed in the District Attorney's office and funded solely by state funds, the Victim Witness Center provides services to victims of all violent crimes. It was established over 20 years ago by a mandate of the California Penal Code. The Center has long recognized the physical, emotional and financial toll crime takes on the victim, the victim's family and the community.

The Center's staff strives to reduce trauma by providing information, assistance and support to victims in their interactions with the criminal justice system. The Center is staffed by advocates and claims specialists.

Advocates work to support the victims and to protect their rights through crisis intervention, emergency assistance, referral to community agencies, counseling, orientation to the criminal justice system, court escort, case disposition information, and other services. Victims of domestic violence are referred to local community-based organizations for support groups, childcare and other services.

Claims specialists process the claims filed locally with the California Victim Compensation Program, available to all victims for financial compensation of non-reimbursed, crime-related losses. Victims of domestic violence most commonly utilize the compensation program for mental health, medical and relocation expenses. Claims specialists work closely with local providers to assist the victims. The specialists' role is to verify the expenses and sources of reimbursement.

In 2004, contacts with victims of domestic violence decreased due to the reduction in staff as a result of decreased state funding. The number of domestic violence victims applying for relocation assistance also decreased, due to policy changes at the state level that require additional documentation and emphasize relocation immediately after the crime. In addition, limits on mental health benefits were adopted in 2003, requiring victims to utilize all other sources of reimbursement—insurance, MediCal and other public programs—prior to utilizing the compensation program.





# LAW ENFORCEMENT: A STEADFAST PARTNER IN FIGHTING DV

In 2004, the Santa Cruz County law enforcement community logged 23% fewer arrests for felony domestic violence and recorded 22% fewer emergency protective orders than in 2003. Note that the number of people contacting advocacy groups for domestic violence conversely increased in 2004.

From reviewing restraining orders, law enforcement agencies determined that residents in 2004 appeared to be contacting advocacy groups and obtaining restraining orders prior to the situation becoming physical and requiring LEA intervention.

"This would tend to indicate that awareness has been raised in the county and that people know how to contact advocacy agencies for assistance and are taking protective steps before the situation becomes violent," says Scotts Valley Police Sergeant Donna Lind. "There is also an indication that spouses are learning that a report to law enforcement means an automatic arrest of the offender."

"This can be both positive and negative. The positive is that the word is getting out to the public that a report means an arrest of the suspect. The negative is that victims are failing to report due to psychological and economic issues."

For 2004, the Santa Cruz County Sheriff's Office, Capitola Police Department, Scotts Valley Police Department, Santa Cruz Police Department, Watsonville Police Department, California State Parks, University of California Santa Cruz Police Department and Santa Cruz Harbor Patrol examines five aspects of domestic violence.

The California Highway Patrol did not collect data, as they do not handle domestic violence calls. These cases are referred to the Santa Cruz County Sheriff's Office.

**Law enforcement agencies were asked how many:**

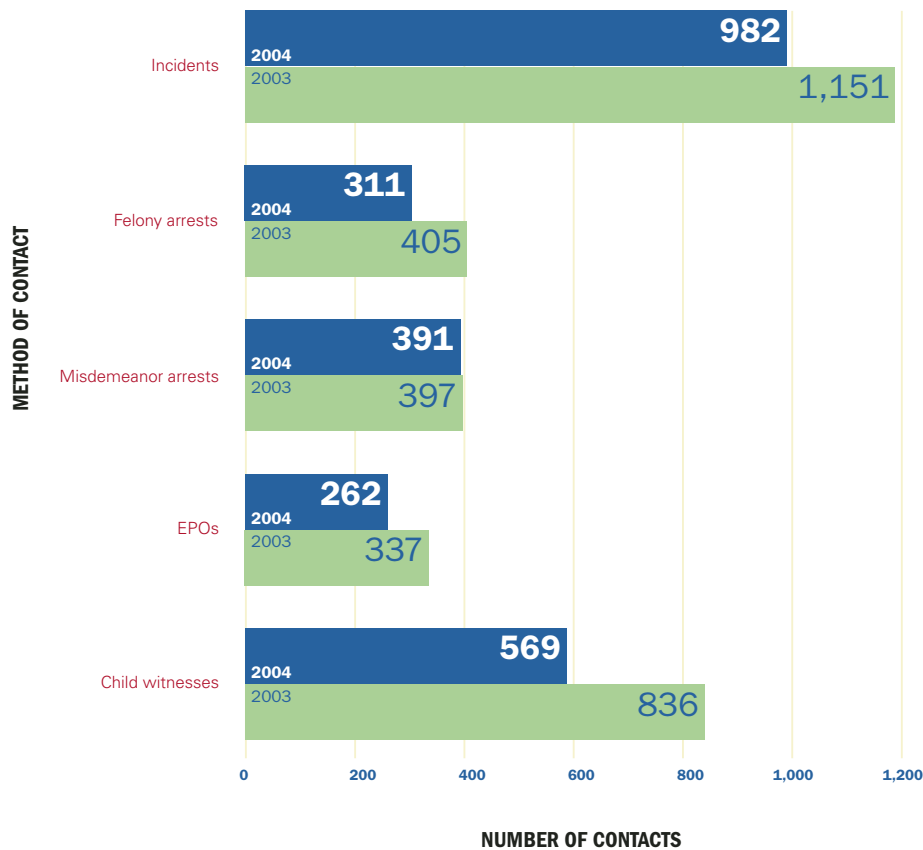
- Total domestic violence incidents were reported?
- Felony domestic violence arrests were made?
- Misdemeanor domestic violence arrests were made?
- Emergency Protective Orders were obtained?
- Children were living in the home where domestic violence was occurring?

With only two years of tracking statistics, there has been insufficient time to determine an actual pattern of variances between law enforcement agencies. However, it was discovered that the Santa Cruz Police Department statistics were higher than the other LEAs because they were including information that was not being reported by other law enforcement agencies. This anomaly will be corrected in 2005.



## DOMESTIC VIOLENCE LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCIES 2003 & 2004 STATISTICS

■ 2004 ■ 2003



### Domestic Violence Was Not Always a Law Enforcement Issue

In the not-so-distant past, domestic violence was viewed as a “family” problem, something in which the public and law enforcement should not meddle.

In 1985, Penal Code section 273.5 was adopted as law in California, specifically identifying domestic violence as a criminal act that no longer required a victim to make a citizen’s arrest against a batterer.

Legislation continues to be an ongoing element of domestic violence intervention, with laws enacted each year to address the issue. Some of those laws passed in the past three years include: SB 1894—assists with funding of programs addressing domestic violence; AB 1915—expands the definition of domestic violence to include minors who have not been emancipated; SB 1745—requires collaboration with agencies in their responses to homes where children reside and domestic violence is occurring; and SB 1505—requires Child Protective Service workers to receive training on violence within the context of dating.

**All the laws pertaining to domestic violence enacted since 1970 in California can be viewed at these Websites:**

- [www.purpleberets.org](http://www.purpleberets.org)
- [www.snbw.org](http://www.snbw.org)
- [www.caadv.org](http://www.caadv.org)
- [www.justicewomen.com](http://www.justicewomen.com)
- [www.sccb.org](http://www.sccb.org)
- [www.sen.ca.gov/sor/whats-new/whatsnew.htm](http://www.sen.ca.gov/sor/whats-new/whatsnew.htm)

In 1995, a countywide policy was adopted to address special issues involving domestic violence. The policy spells out specific tasks that each agency should perform. This protocol is in its second revision following further legislative action to help curb domestic violence.



# 2004 CHILD WITNESSES OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

For comparison purposes, the State describes the rate of children in a home where domestic violence is occurring as the number of affected children per 1,000 population. The rate for the unincorporated areas of Santa Cruz County in 2004 was 7.6, Scotts Valley was 7.5, Santa Cruz City was 18.1, Capitola was 2.9 and Watsonville was 8.8. (Note that Scotts Valley last year reported a 25 per 1,000 rate because they were using a broader definition of domestic violence that included verbal incidents as well.)



Countywide, the reported rate of children living in a home where domestic violence is occurring is a little less than 9 children per 1,000. This means that about 540 children throughout the county are living in a home where domestic violence is occurring. This number is only a reflection of those cases where law enforcement was called and where the officer noted the number of children living in the home. Assuming that the number of incidents of violence is generally under-reported, and that in reported cases the officers sometimes did not know to look for children or were not able to identify children being in the home, the actual number is likely higher.

The 2003 rate was almost 14 per 1,000, so the number appears to have decreased in 2004. While one possibility is that there is less violence occurring in homes with children, other possibilities include under-reporting and decreased emphasis on capturing this data by law enforcement agencies due to reduction in grants and training.

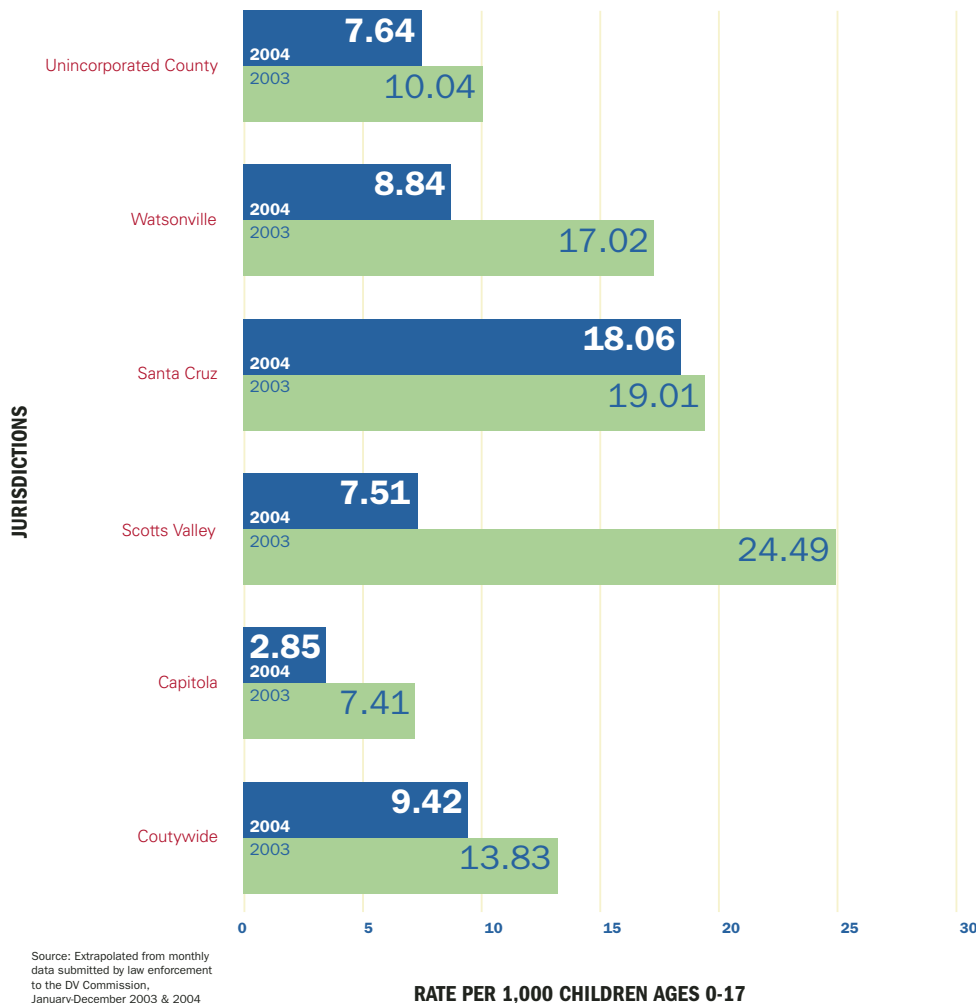
A second measure of the number of children witnessing domestic violence is obtained from Child Protective Services (CPS). CPS receives notification of cases with domestic violence occurring in the home from law enforcement agencies and other sources. However, for this report, only those referred by law enforcement agencies are included. In 2004, CPS received on average one new case a day from this county. CPS tracks the number of families, not the number of children living in each house. Comparing 2003 and 2004 CPS statistics, a similar slight decrease was noted in 2004 from 399 cases, to 354. This decrease of 11% is less than the 32% decrease noted by law enforcement agencies.

# ANNUAL RATE OF CHILD WITNESSES TO DOMESTIC VIOLENCE IN SANTA CRUZ COUNTY

## YEARLY TOTALS

### 2003 & 2004 STATISTICS

■ 2004 ■ 2003



Source: Extrapolated from monthly data submitted by law enforcement to the DV Commission, January-December 2003 & 2004

Differences could be explained by multiple children living in a home with domestic violence—a decrease by one family would decrease CPS stats by one but would decrease law enforcement data by however many children were in that home.

The effect of witnessing domestic violence by children continues to be a great concern and a frustrating area to study. The Domestic Violence Commission is on an important path to help identify this complicated issue. Investigators in this area have described the difficulties of limited funds, inconsistent definitions, and the undetermined effect of contributing factors to inconsistent information such as size of family, age of parent, amount of other violence in the home and the child's overall health. However, the importance of getting information from partnerships with law enforcement, advocacy agencies and Child Protective Services is obvious. Only with these groups talking to each other will patterns emerge and solutions present themselves.

Former prosecutor David Rabow, now an attorney with Women's Crisis Support~Defensa de Mujeres, described the frustration of seeing a child from one of his criminal cases showing up for services as a victim: "To see the cycle of violence repeating itself just breaks your heart," he says. "You know that you did the best you could, but still we, as a community, failed to break that cycle. And now a young woman with her own child is experiencing the same domestic violence that she witnessed as a child."



# DOMESTIC VIOLENCE POSES A BALANCING ACT FOR DA

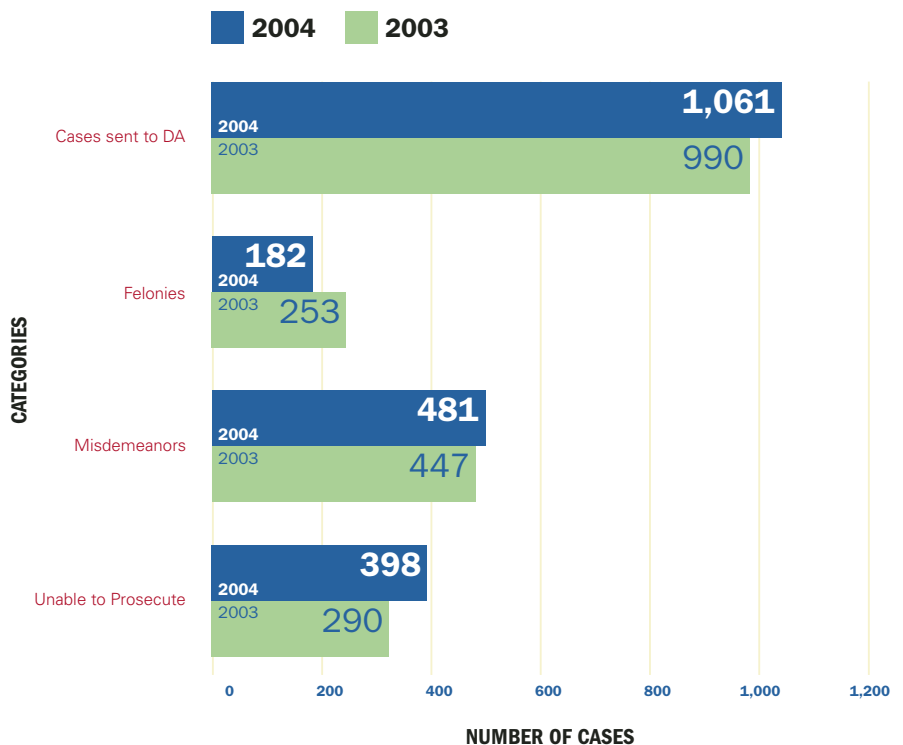
For 2004, the Santa Cruz County District Attorney's Office received approximately 1,061 domestic violence referrals, of which 663 were filed on—182 felonies, and 481 misdemeanors.

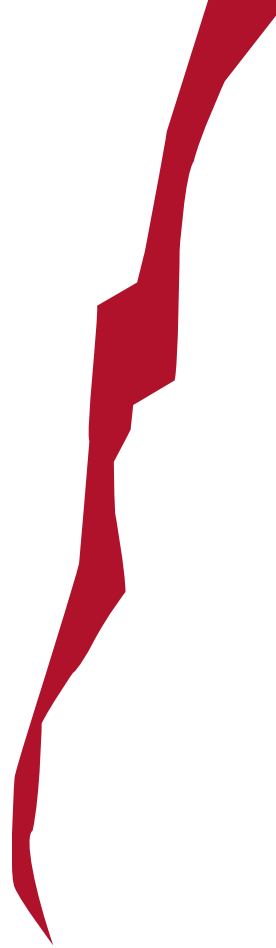
The Family Protection Unit of the District Attorney's Office was staffed by five prosecutors in 2004. One of four operational units in the District Attorney's Office, the Family Protection Unit prosecutes cases involving domestic violence, as well as child abuse, non-familial stalking and elder abuse. Domestic violence cases include acts of violence, harassment, spousal stalking and violations of restraining orders.

Case referrals come into the DA's office from local law enforcement agencies, and most filing decisions are made immediately. All cases are evaluated with regard to victim safety issues.

The decision to file a case is multi-faceted. First and foremost, the prosecutor has an ethical obligation to prosecute only cases that can be proved at trial beyond a reasonable doubt. In reaching their decision, prosecutors look at issues such as existence and severity of injury; credibility of parties involved; intoxication levels; history of domestic violence (reported and unreported); and children in the home. The office operates under the philosophy that every case is treated equally, whether a misdemeanor or felony.

## DOMESTIC VIOLENCE DISTRICT ATTORNEY FILINGS 2003 & 2004 STATISTICS





After a decision is made to file charges, all cases are assigned to a prosecutor who follows the case from arraignment to sentencing. The goal of vertical prosecution is to give the victim consistent information and support, and to be certain that an accurate history of the case is made available to the court.

Family Protection Unit prosecutors work in conjunction with District Attorney inspectors to conduct the follow-up investigation necessary to support conviction via plea bargain or court trial or jury trial.

In addition, the DA's Victim Services Advocates assist victims with financial and emotional recovery. Strong working relationships with outside agencies assist in making the system as responsive to the victim as possible. A "soft" waiting room in the District Attorney's office was completed in 2003, providing a safe and comfortable area for victims and witnesses outside of the courtroom. Pagers are also provided to give additional flexibility to victims and witnesses who must often wait long periods of time for their appearances at court proceedings.

In the early stages of the case, the Family Protection Unit attempts to contact the victim to ascertain if there are safety issues, and directs them as needed to appropriate agencies for counseling and other assistance. It is common for DV victims to be hostile towards authorities. Family Protection Unit prosecutors and inspectors are aware of the socioeconomic and psychological issues behind this behavior and strive to develop working relationships with all victims.

There are a number of tools that can be used to achieve prosecutorial goals even if the victim is hostile. Law enforcement agencies are encouraged to audiotape conversations with victims and photograph injuries at the scene. Videotaped interviews with victims and/or children and witnesses are even better, since video captures the nuances of complex family dynamics and can assist in reaching plea bargains in the early stages of prosecution. Video can also assist the prosecution in a case at trial.

Negotiating the appropriate sentence for perpetrators is complex. It is necessary to balance the safety of the victim and the community against the need to attempt to rehabilitate the perpetrator, because the likelihood that the perpetrator will return to the family is high. The goal of the Family Protection Unit is to seek the maximum sentence the law will allow for repeat offenders.

Program statistics for calendar year 2004 are based on full year data from the District Attorney's new, enhanced case management system that was implemented in April 2003. It is anticipated that future year data will be more consistent to allow for better comparison and analysis.



# COURTS SEE DECREASE IN PERMANENT ORDERS

For 2004, the number of people applying for a Temporary Restraining Order (TRO) was relatively unchanged, from 601 last year to 587 this year. The number of Permanent Restraining Orders (PRO) granted decreased from 221 to 149, or only 25% of those seeking a TRO end up having a PRO granted.

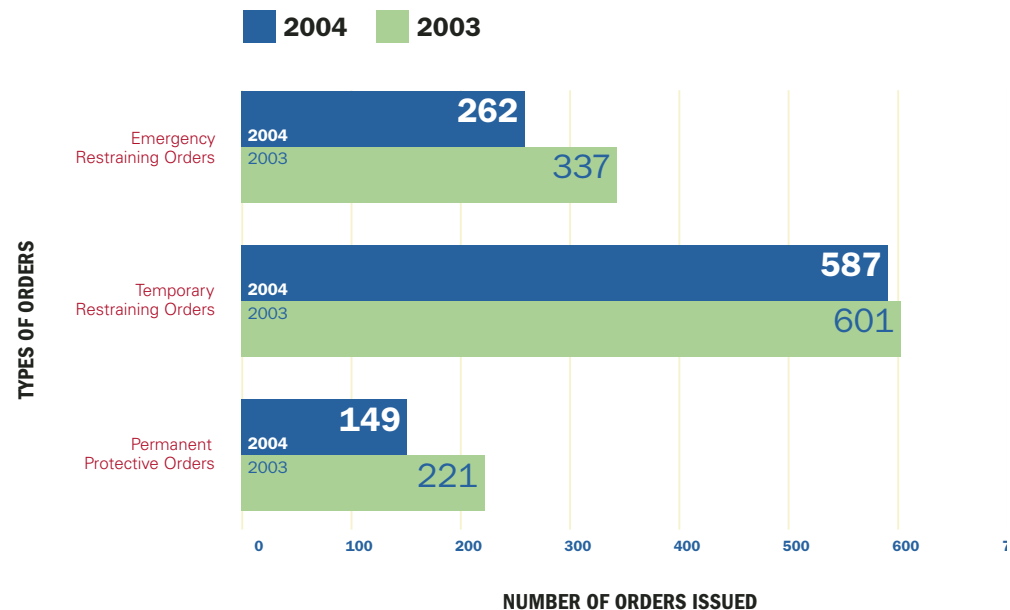
Usually, a permanent order was not granted because the petitioner did not follow through with the process. Do people find the process too difficult? Are they being intimidated or threatened by their abusers? Do they believe the system won't really help them? Do people may find that the cooling off period gained by a temporary order is sufficient and simply do not feel the need for permanent protection? More data is needed.

Stephen Carlton, Domestic Violence Calendar Coordinator, reads almost every restraining order that comes through the Santa Cruz Courts. It is his perception that over the past year, the requests reflected fewer instances of serious physical violence and more instances of emotional abuse. This could imply that more victims are getting the message: restraining orders are available for many forms of abusive behavior.

A significant number of people continue to obtain TROs with the assistance of an advocacy agency. In 2004, advocacy agencies helped file over 26 TROs a month, a slight decrease from 30 per month in 2003. The percentage of all TROs filed with the assistance of an advocacy agency decreased from about 54% in 2003 to 47% in 2004.

The Superior Court processes all applications for protective orders filed under the Domestic Violence Prevention Act. Paperwork is received, a file created and taken to a judge for immediate review. Assuming a temporary order is granted, notice is then sent to the Sheriff's Office for entry into the statewide database.

## DOMESTIC VIOLENCE COURT ORDERS 2003 & 2004 STATISTICS



- EMERGENCY PROTECTIVE ORDERS (EPO)**  
Obtained at the time of the incident by a law enforcement officer, approved by a judge and effective for a period of five days.
- TEMPORARY RESTRAINING ORDERS (TRO)**  
Obtained by the victim during a court process, approved by a judge and time limited.
- PERMANENT RESTRAINING ORDERS (PRO)**  
Obtained by the victim in a court process, approved by a judge and valid for extended periods of time.

# PROBATION/DOMESTIC VIOLENCE INTERVENTION PROGRAMS

## Intervention Programs Important Component of Abuser's Probation

Conditions of probation in domestic violence abuse cases can include incarceration, individual therapy, expanded search and seizure, drug testing or restitution. In most cases, the defendant is also ordered to complete a 52-week intervention program. At the time of sentencing, the defendant is given instructions to both report to the Probation Department and sign up for an intervention program within five days of sentencing. Regular court reviews monitor intervention program participation and overall progress on probation.

Penal Code Section 1203.097 allows participants 16 months to complete a program. A leave of absence may be granted for valid reasons, such as family emergencies, medical issues, military duty and work-related travel. Participants can be discharged as "Failed-to-Complete" for failure to pay program fees, violating substance use policies, incurring a new offense, transferring to another program, moving out of the county or absconding from the jurisdiction.

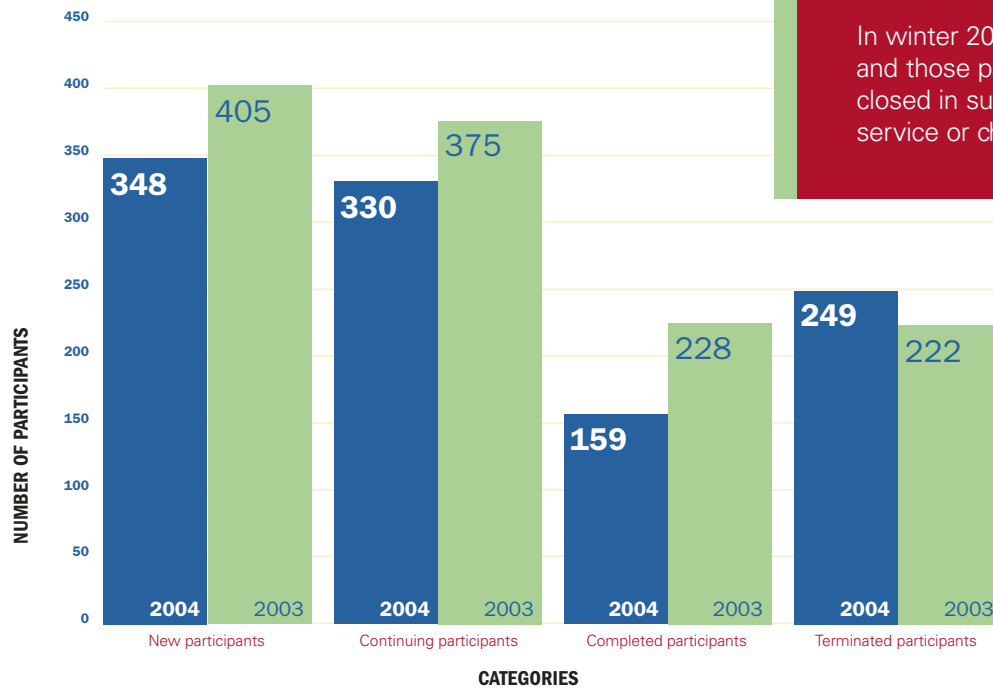
The 2004 yearly statistics show that approximately 23% of all participants graduated from programs. It is difficult to determine an appropriate yearly graduation rate for several reasons, such as clients entering programs at any time during the year and the varying lengths of time that it takes to complete the program.

In winter 2004, Family Services North County discontinued its women's intervention group, and those participants were transferred to Simply Your Best. Family Services of Pajaro Valley closed in summer 2004. All participants were transferred to other programs with no break in service or change in facilitator.

The Santa Cruz County Probation Department works closely with:

- Family Services Agency
- Family Services Agency of Pajaro Valley
- Pacific Treatment Associates
- Simply Your Best
- Alto/Fenix Counseling
- Pajaro Valley Prevention and Student Assistance (PVPSA)

in helping to ensure the client follows all terms of probation and remains violence free.



## DV INTERVENTION AGENCIES YEARLY TOTALS 2003 & 2004 STATISTICS

■ 2004 ■ 2003



## 2004 Summary

The data compiled for 2004 gives a sketch, but certainly not the whole landscape, of domestic violence in Santa Cruz County last year. Thanks to the narratives provided by our allied agencies, the Domestic Violence Commission hopes this annual report gives the background that supports the details.

### Advocacy

The average number of clients that received services from advocacy agencies increased by nearly 25 percent while police intervention decreased about the same amount. Thanks to diverse programs and outreach, advocacy agencies continue to be the first responders for more DV victims. In some cases, service levels increased despite funding cuts to advocacy agencies. In 2004, the need continued to outpace the supply of transitional housing options for victims.

### Law Enforcement

The total number of felony DV arrests made by LEAs decreased by 23 percent when compared to 2003. Experts attribute the drop not to decreased violence, but to the integral, intervening role of advocacy agencies and the sufficiency of a civil restraining order in most cases.

Data indicates that the various law agencies that interview victims of domestic violence still have not adopted a uniform way of generating domestic violence statistics.

### Child Witnesses

The number of children living in a home where a DV incident has occurred decreased countywide 11-28 percent when compared to 2003. It remains difficult to collect information on how many children are impacted by domestic violence because standard methodology is still being developed.

### District Attorney

The average number of felony DV cases filed by the DA each month decreased by 28 percent when compared to 2003. This closely correlates to the 23 percent decrease in felony DV arrests by law enforcement.

### Courts

The percentage of permanent restraining orders granted when compared to temporary restraining orders filed in 2004 decreased by 31 percent when compared to 2003. Most times, when the process was derailed it was because the victim did not follow through.

### Batterers Programs

The County Probation Department works with the various intervention programs, which are mandatory for anyone convicted of domestic violence. The number of batterers graduating from DV intervention programs decreased by 30 percent when compared to 2003 statistics, reflecting the downtrend in arrests/prosecution.

For complete report data, or for further information on the Commission, visit our Website at:

[www.co.santa-cruz.ca.us](http://www.co.santa-cruz.ca.us)