

A Foundation Report: Family Violence

Key Takeaway:

Many families in New York City are impacted by family violence, which is a subset of domestic violence. Family violence occurs between members of a family or household who are not involved in a romantic relationship. In New York City, there are a multitude of dedicated services to address child abuse and elder abuse, which also fall within the scope of family violence; however, at this time, there remains limited programming dedicated specifically for serving survivors of other forms of family violence. Increased public awareness and enhancement of existing services are vital to addressing this issue more effectively.

Highlights:

Family Violence Crime in New York City in 2018:

- There were over 80,000 reports of family violence to the NYPD
- Nearly one in three domestic violence felony assaults were family violence-related
- More than one in four domestic violence rapes were family violence-related
- Nearly half of all domestic violence homicides were family violence-related

Looking Ahead:

- In an effort to fill gaps in our understanding of the dynamics of family violence cases and the needs of family violence survivors, the Mayor's Office to End Domestic and Gender-Based Violence intends to conduct a needs assessment with survivors of family violence and build a resource directory of family violence services.

INTRODUCTION

In September 2018, Mayor Bill de Blasio signed Executive Order 36, expanding the scope of the Mayor's Office to Combat Domestic Violence by launching the new Mayor's Office to End Domestic and Gender-Based Violence (ENDGBV). The new Office is leading a citywide, coordinated response to address domestic and gender-based violence, which includes intimate partner violence, family violence, sexual violence, stalking, and trafficking. The following report focuses on the issue of family violence.

Domestic violence comprises two different subcategories of violence: intimate partner violence and family violence (see Figure 1). Family violence is violence that occurs between members of a family or household who are not involved in a romantic relationship. This can include people related by blood (e.g., parents, siblings, aunts/uncles), marriage (e.g., in-laws, step-siblings), foster care, adoption, or any other familial relationship. Family violence includes many different forms of physical, emotional, and verbal abuse, as well as neglect. A sizeable portion of all domestic violence crime in New York City falls within the subset of family violence. There is substantial research literature focused on child abuse and elder abuse, which are two categories of family violence, and there are dedicated child abuse and elder abuse services in New York City. However, less is known about the other categories of family violence, including parental abuse, sibling abuse, and violence between extended family members. The absence of research on the dynamics of these categories of family violence has contributed to the limited development of targeted interventions.

To fill these gaps in knowledge concerning a prevalent problem, the following report provides a focused look at currently available information about family violence crime data and services available in New York City. This preliminary overview makes clear the need for a deeper understanding of the dynamics of the full spectrum of family violence.



Figure 1. Defining the Issue: the present report is focused on family violence, highlighted in the box above

NEW YORK CITY FAMILY VIOLENCE CRIME STATISTICS

In this section, we present 2018 data on New York City family violence crime obtained from the New York City Police Department (NYPD).¹ It is important to note that the following data only represent family violence crime that was reported to law enforcement, and thus, likely underrepresent the overall prevalence of family violence.

Domestic Incident Reports

There were over 80,000 reports of family violence last year alone

In 2018, there were 83,662 family violence-related Domestic Incident Reports (DIRs)² recorded by the NYPD. Figure 2 shows the breakdown of relationship type for these DIRs. The majority of these DIRs occurred between parents and children³ (50.9%), with the child identified as the perpetrator in 33.7% of reports and the parent identified as the perpetrator in 17.2% of reports.

1. Data on domestic incident reports, felony assaults, and rapes are preliminary and subject to revision by the NYPD.

2. A Domestic Incident Report is a report made by a police officer in response to a domestic incident, regardless of whether or not an arrest is made.

3. Child, as used in this report, describes the relationship between the perpetrator and victim, not necessarily the age of either party. I.e., crimes between a parent and child may involve adult or minor children. As a result, incidents perpetrated by the parent of the victim may include cases of child abuse and incidents perpetrated by the child of the victim may include cases of elder abuse.

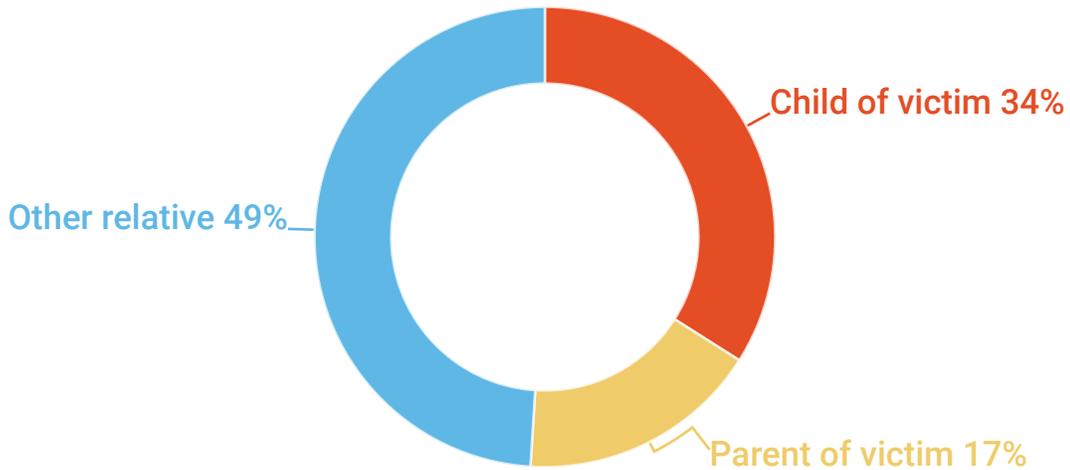


Figure 2. 2018 Family Violence-Related DIRs: Perpetrator Relationship to Victim

Felony Assault

Nearly one in three domestic violence-related felony assaults in New York City were family violence-related

In 2018, there were 2,510 family violence-related felony assaults reported to the NYPD, which account for 30.2% of domestic violence-related felony assaults in the City. Figure 3 shows the breakdown of relationship type for family violence-related felony assaults. The most common relationship type was Other Relative (49.6%), most often referring to violence between siblings and extended family members.

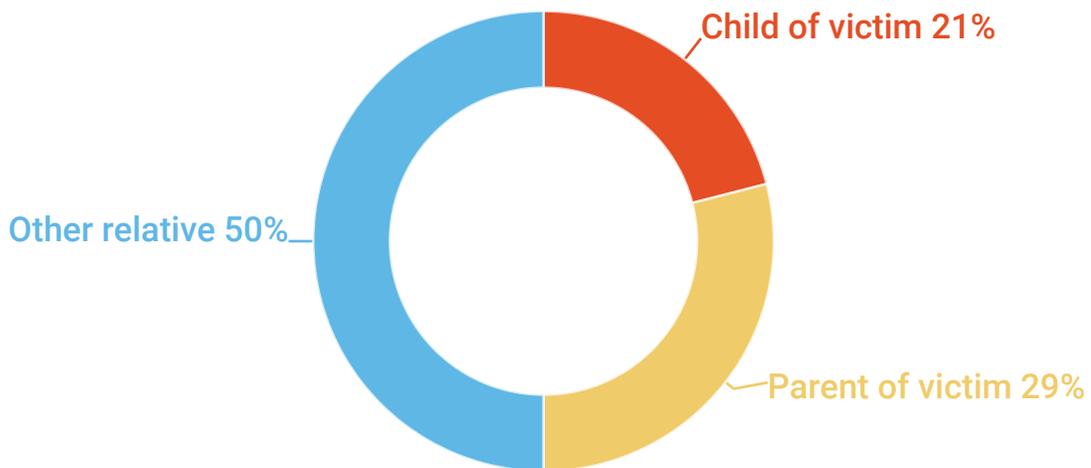


Figure 3. 2018 Family Violence-Related Felony Assaults: Perpetrator Relationship to Victim

Rape

More than one in four domestic violence rapes in New York City were family violence-related

In 2018, there were 196 family violence-related rapes in New York City, which accounts for 28.9% of domestic violence-related rapes in the City. Figure 4 shows the breakdown of relationship type for family violence-related rapes. The most common relationship type was Other Relative (76.5%), most often referring to violence between siblings and extended family members.

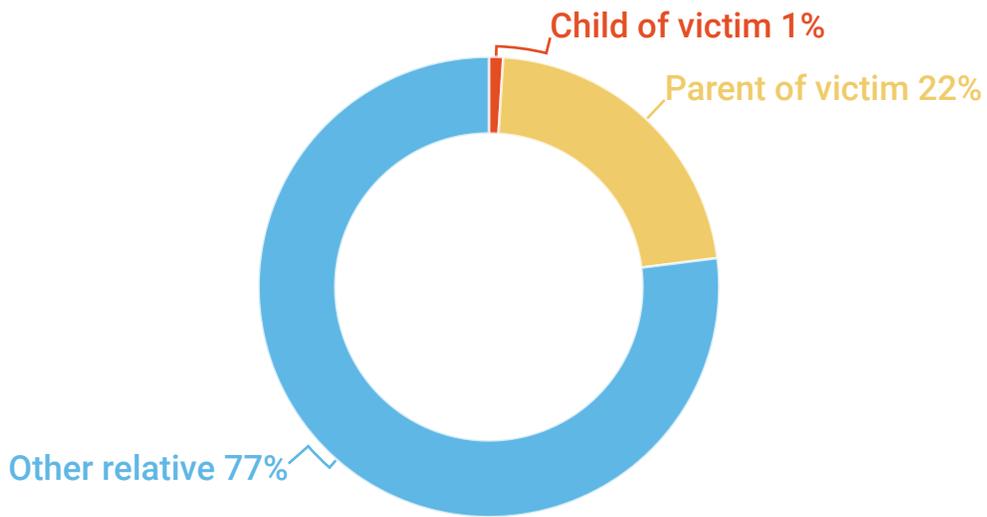


Figure 4. 2018 Family Violence-Related Rapes: Perpetrator Relationship to Victim

As shown in Figures 2-4, over half of all family violence-related DIRs, which reflect all reported domestic incidents, occurred between parents and children. However, family violence-related felony assault and rape offenses are reported more frequently between siblings and extended family members.

Homicides

Nearly half of all domestic violence homicides in New York City were family violence-related

In 2018, there were 25 family violence-related homicides in New York City, which account for 45.5% of domestic violence-related homicides in the City, and 8.5% of total homicides in the City.

Additional data on family violence-related homicides are available including data on the victim-perpetrator relationship, the sex of the victim, whether or not prior DIRs were recorded by the NYPD between the victim and perpetrator, and the homicide method. Figure 5 shows a breakdown of these factors for the 25 family violence-related homicides in 2018. More in-depth analysis of all domestic violence-related homicides in the City is provided in the NYC Domestic Violence Fatality Review Committee Annual Report, available at www.nyc.gov/endgbv.

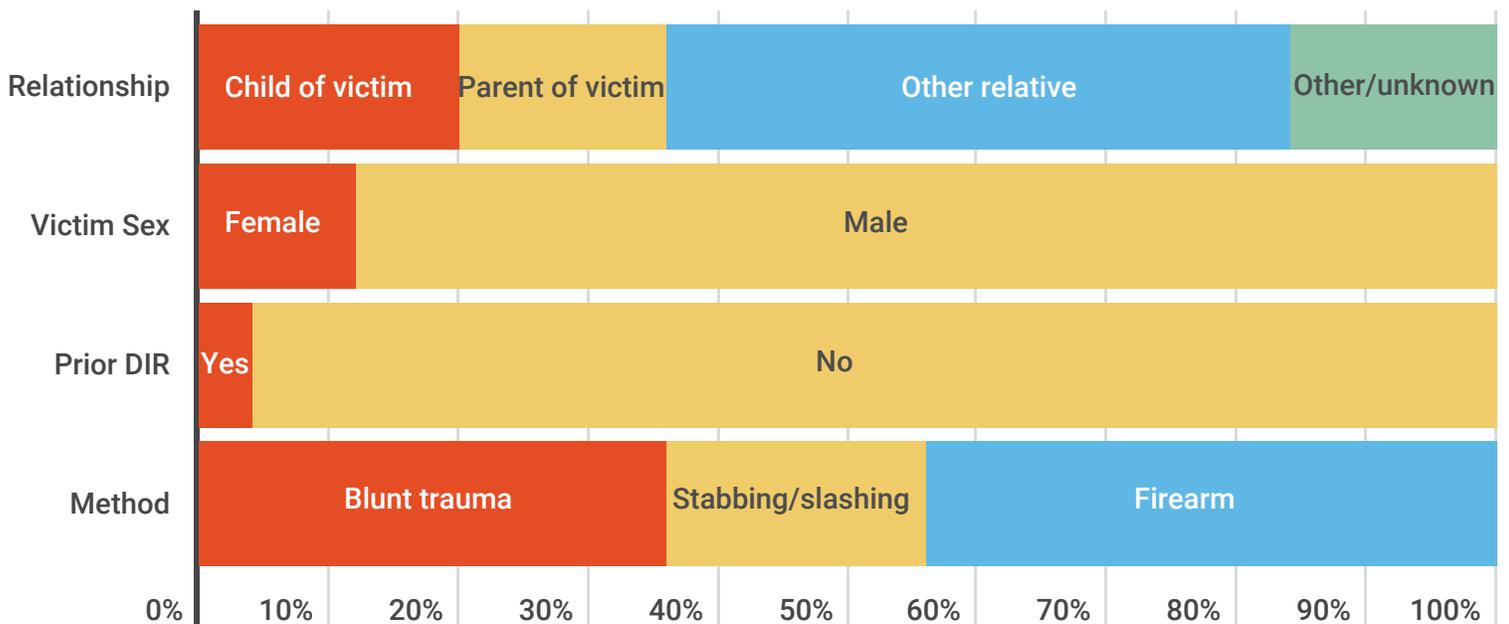


Figure 5. 2018 Family Violence-Related Homicide Characteristics

There are some key differences when comparing the characteristics of the 25 family violence-related homicides to those of the 30 intimate partner violence-related homicides that took place in New York City in 2018 (see Table 1). Specifically, intimate partner violence-related homicides are more likely to involve female victims (73.3% vs. 12.0%) and more likely to have prior recorded DIRs between the victim and perpetrator (46.7% vs. 4.0%) compared to family violence-related homicides. Additionally, the homicide method varies by family violence vs. intimate partner violence. The most common homicide method in family violence cases was a firearm (44.0%), whereas the most common homicide method in intimate partner violence cases was stabbing/slashing (56.7%). Additionally, nine family violence-related homicides (36.0%) were committed using blunt trauma, while no intimate partner violence-related homicides were committed using blunt trauma. The 'Other' category within homicide method includes asphyxiation, arson, or an otherwise unidentified method.

Table 1. Comparison of 2018 Family Violence-Related Homicide and Intimate Partner Violence-Related Homicide Characteristics

	Family violence-related homicides	Intimate partner violence-related homicides
VICTIM SEX		
Female	3	22
Male	22	8
PRIOR DIRS		
Yes	1	14
No	24	6
METHOD		
Blunt trauma	9	0
Stabbing/slashing	5	17
Firearm	11	8
Other	0	5

Family violence crime is concentrated in specific neighborhoods

The Appendix contains a series of maps displaying where the reported family violence-related DIRs, felony assaults, and rapes took place in the City. These maps clearly show that reported family violence-related offenses are concentrated in specific neighborhoods.⁴

For the purposes of comparison between the geographic distribution of family violence and intimate partner violence in the City, the Appendix also contains a series of maps showing the incidence of the same crimes (DIRs, felony assaults, and rapes) occurring between intimate partners. As shown in these maps, reported family violence and intimate partner violence offenses are often concentrated in the same neighborhoods.

4. These maps present one year of data (2018). As we collect more NYPD offense data on family violence, we will have increased ability to note more stable, community-level patterns.

DATA FROM THE NEW YORK CITY FAMILY JUSTICE CENTERS

The New York City Family Justice Centers (FJCs) provide comprehensive civil legal, counseling, and supportive services for survivors of domestic and gender-based violence. In October 2018, ENDGBV began recording in the ENDGBV-maintained FJC database, the number of FJC clients requesting services for family violence. From October 2018 through April 2019, 238 people visited an FJC requesting services for family violence. This by no means represents the totality of family violence survivors who have visited an FJC, but it provides initial insight into the services that family violence survivors seek. Figure 6 shows a breakdown of the categories of family violence experienced by FJC clients for which they were seeking services. The categories shown in Figure 6 reflect the categories used in the FJC intake process, which are different from the relationship categories used by the NYPD in the previous crime figures.

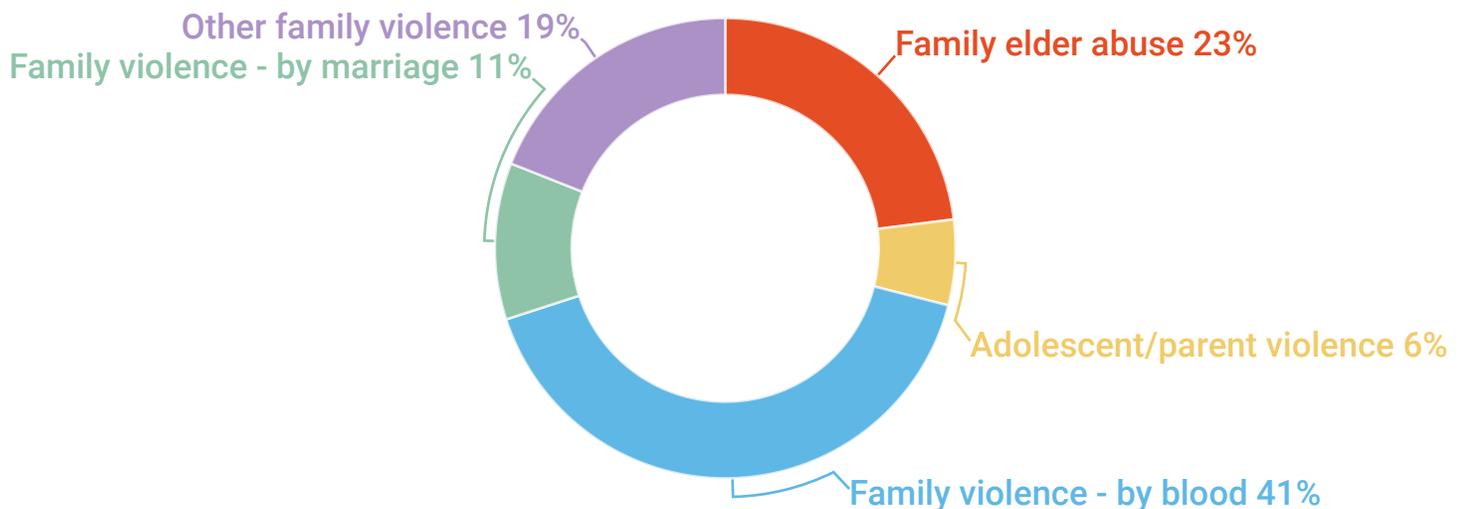


Figure 6. Preliminary Data on Family Violence-Related Visits to an NYC Family Justice Center

Table 2 shows the top five services that the 238 people requesting services for family violence at an FJC were seeking. The most requested service was safety planning (61.8%).

Table 2. Top Five Services Requested by Clients Visiting an NYC Family Justice Center Seeking Family Violence-Related Services

Top services	No. of clients	% of clients
Safety plan	147	61.8%
Counseling/Assessment	117	49.2%
Civil Legal	49	20.6%
Permanent Housing	23	9.7%
Child Counseling	10	4.2%

LOOKING AHEAD

As evidenced by the data in this report, family violence is a widespread issue affecting families across the City, and it makes up a significant portion of total domestic violence crime. Improved understanding of the scope of this issue, the specific dynamics occurring in these relationships, the unique service needs of these families, and the short- and long-term consequences of family violence—including impacts on physical health, mental health, housing, and other measures of safety and well-being—would inform the enhancement of the City’s response to family violence. The Mayor’s Office to End Domestic and Gender-Based Violence (ENDGBV) has developed a series of next steps to begin to address these gaps in the knowledge base concerning family violence.

Firstly, ENDGBV will meet with survivors of family violence and coordinate with partner agencies and community-based organizations to conduct a needs assessment to improve understanding of the primary needs of survivors, as well to better define the issue and various dynamics at play in cases of family violence. This research will be focused primarily on violence between family members that is not in the categories of child abuse or elder abuse, given the established services dedicated to those categories of family violence. Additionally, ENDGBV will systematically connect with service providers to build into NYC HOPE, New York City’s Resource Directory for domestic and gender-based violence services, additional providers who provide dedicated services to survivors of family violence. ENDGBV will also continue to enhance our data collection efforts around family violence. In addition to collecting data related to family violence from client visits to NYC FJCs, the Office will add to the present data related to family violence in New York City. These next steps aim to improve collective understanding of the problem of family violence in New York City, which is necessary to building a responsive system, and survivor-informed community-based responses to support individuals experiencing family violence.

If you, or someone you know, is experiencing domestic violence, call NYC’s 24/7 hotline (1-800-621-HOPE / 1-800-621-4673; TDD 1-866-604-5350), or visit www.nyc.gov/nychope to find resources and support for survivors in NYC.

APPENDIX

The following series of maps reflects family violence crime reported to the NYPD in 2018. These data likely underrepresent the true prevalence of family violence, but provide a sense of the geographic distribution of family violence crime given available data.

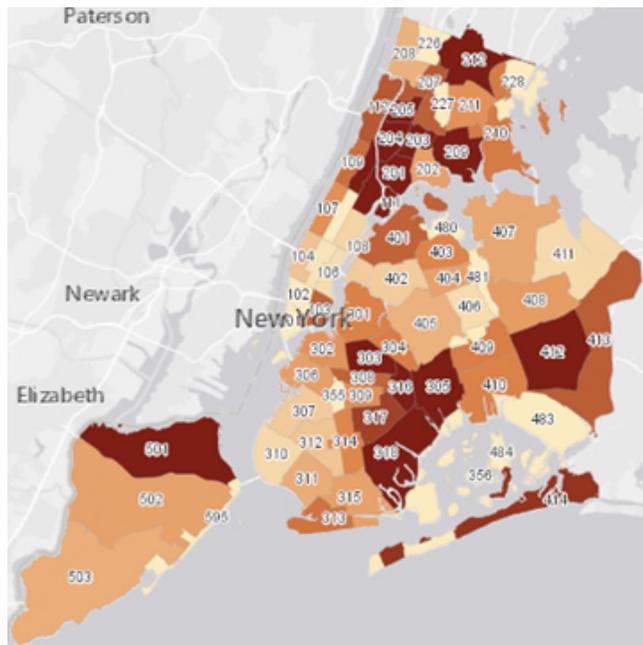


Figure 7. Map of Family Violence-Related DIRs by Neighborhood (2018)

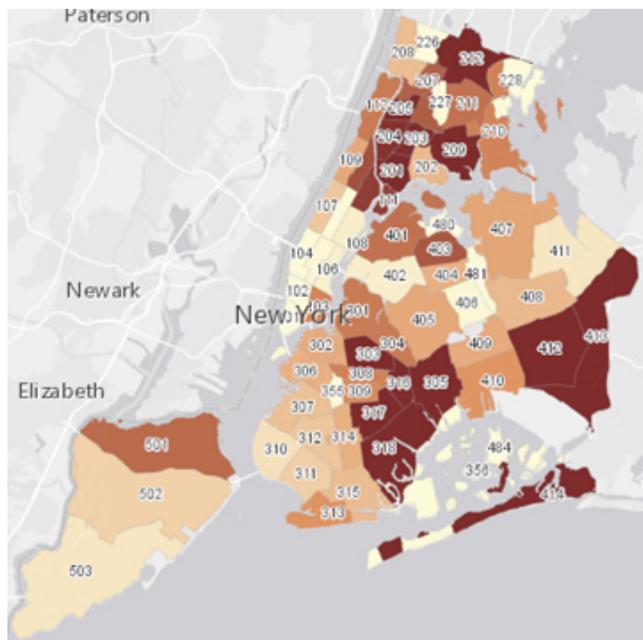


Figure 8. Map of Reported Family Violence-Related Felony Assaults by Neighborhood (2018)

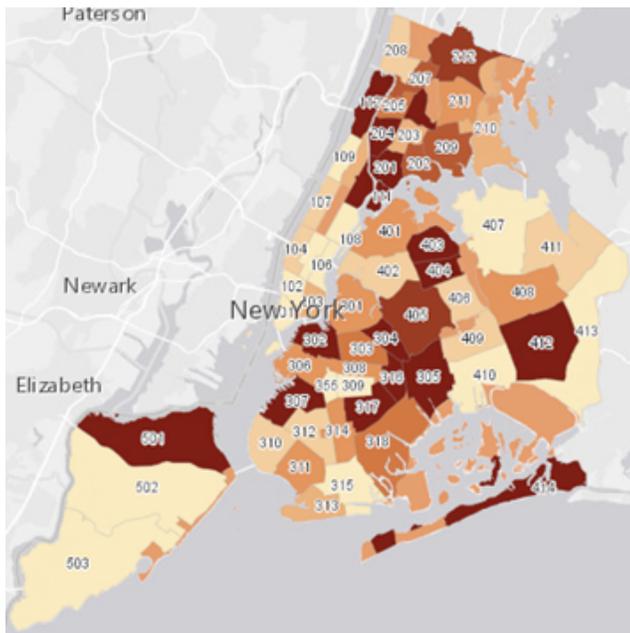


Figure 9. Map of Reported Family Violence-Related Rapes by Neighborhood (2018)

For the purposes of comparison between the geographic distribution of family violence and intimate partner violence in the City, this Appendix also contains a series of maps showing the incidence of the same crimes (DIRs, felony assaults, and rapes) occurring between intimate partners. As shown in these maps, reported family violence and intimate partner violence offenses are often concentrated in the same neighborhoods.

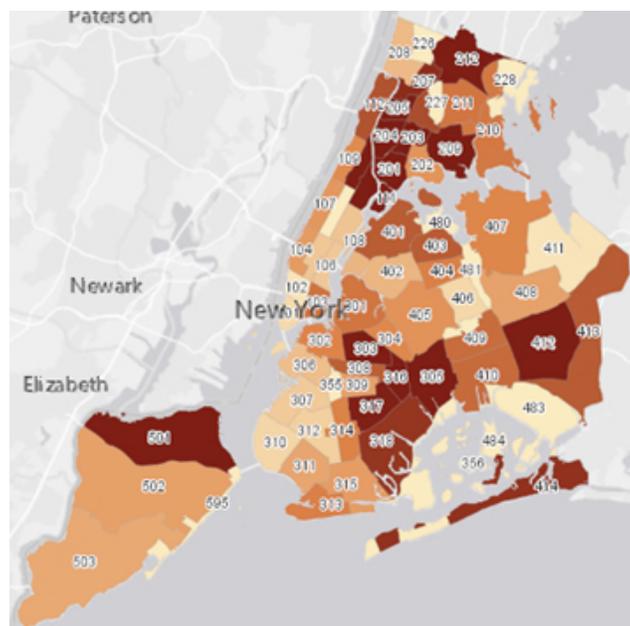


Figure 10. Map of Intimate Partner Violence-Related DIRs by Neighborhood (2018)

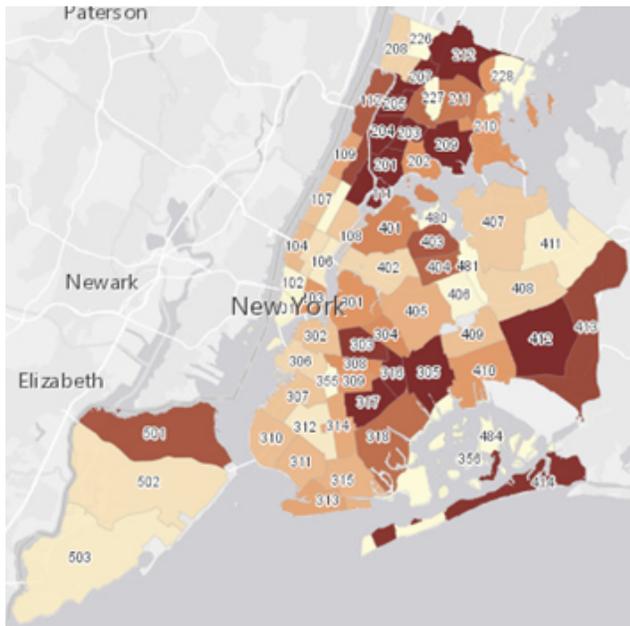


Figure 11. Map of Reported Intimate Partner Violence-Related Felony Assaults by Neighborhood (2018)

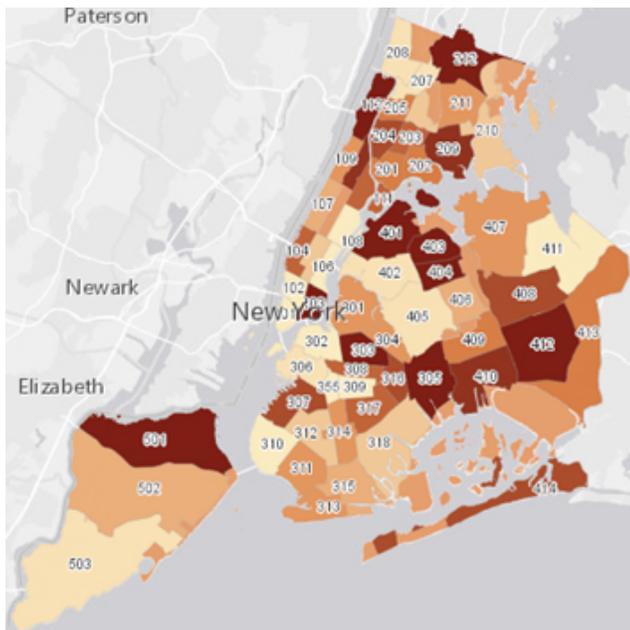


Figure 12. Map of Reported Intimate Partner Violence-Related Rapes by Neighborhood (2018)