

2018

Data Report



TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO
CENTRAL
REGISTRY
ON DOMESTIC
VIOLENCE

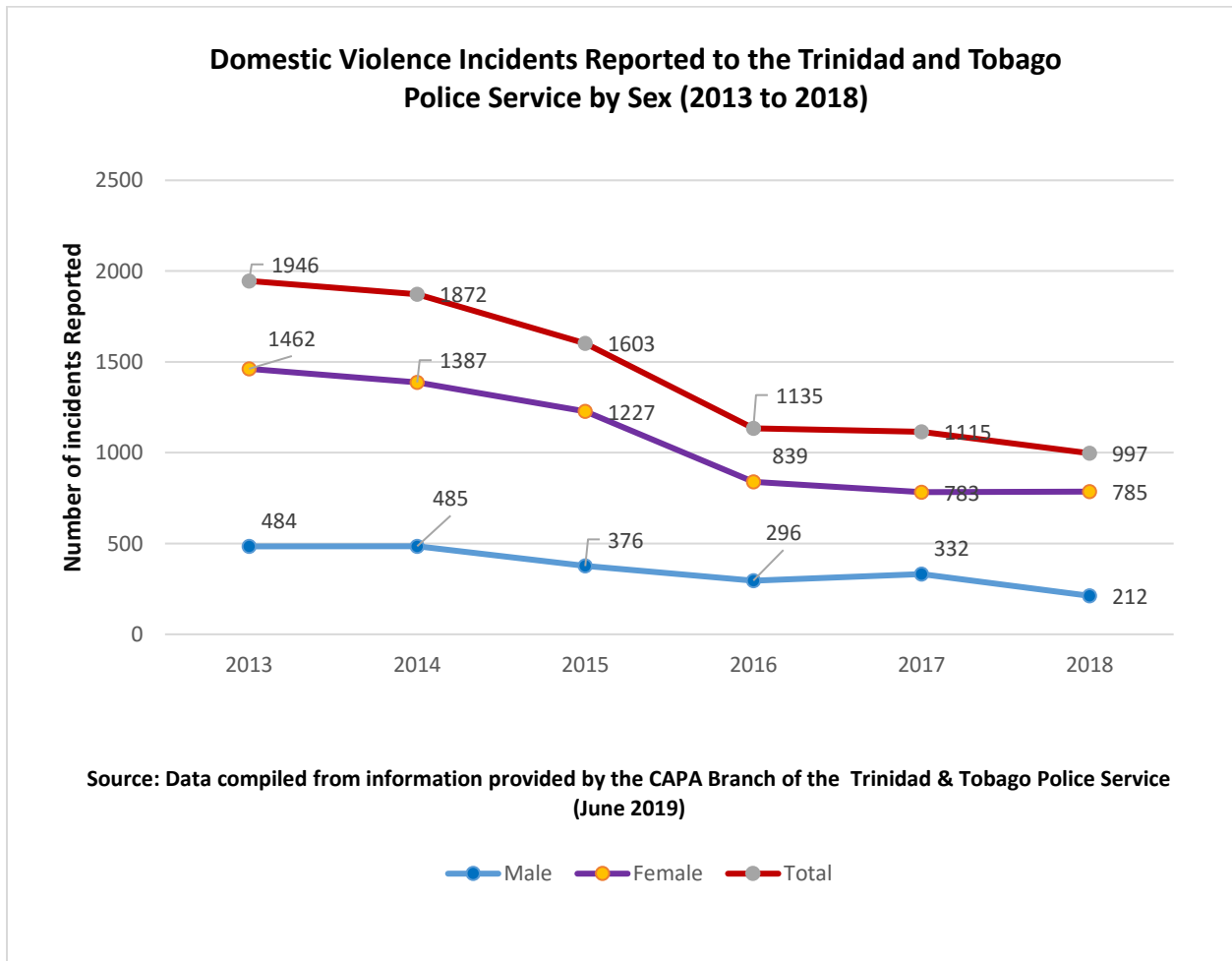
Office of the Prime Minister
Gender Affairs Division
June 2019

Introduction

Domestic Violence continues to be a prominent feature among the crime statistics in Trinidad and Tobago. Notwithstanding the fact that the figures between 2013 and 2018 exhibit a downward trend, the volume of reports suggest that it is serious enough to warrant greater efforts of interagency collaboration to reduce its prevalence and provide the necessary support to victims and perpetrators.

Data from the Crime and Problem Analysis (CAPA) Branch of the Trinidad & Tobago Police Service (TTPS) revealed that there were 8668 reports relating to domestic violence incidents between 2013 and 2018. Approximately 75% of these reports were associated with female individuals. (Figure 1 Refers)

Figure 1



During the same period, there were 183 domestic violence related deaths of which 54% (99) were female. Twenty four of these women were killed in 2018. (Figure 2 refers)

Figure 2

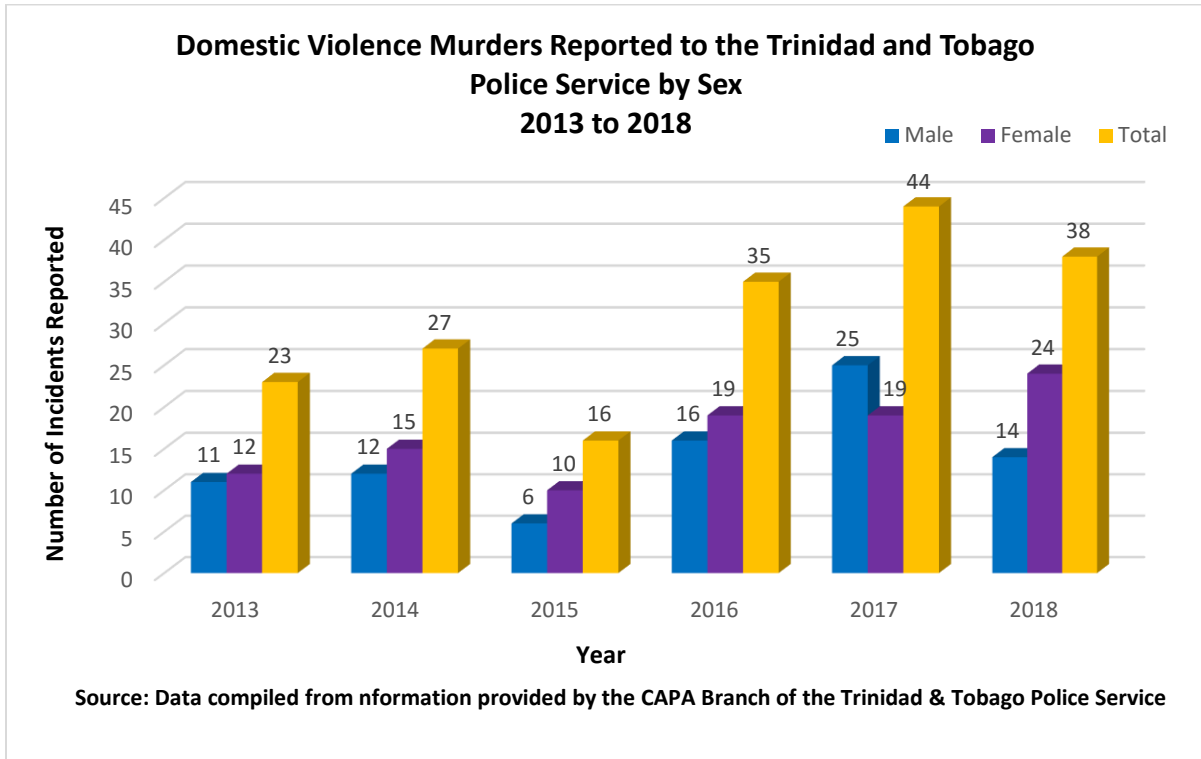


Table I shows the number of calls to the National Domestic Violence Hotline during recent years and speaks to the gravity of the situation. Between October 2013 and September 2018 there were a total of 25,257 calls to the National Domestic Violence Hotline.

Table I

Calls to the National Domestic Violence Hotline (800-SAVE) October 2013 to September 2018	
Fiscal Period	Number of Calls
Oct 2013 to Sept 2014	5903
Oct 2014 to Sept 2015	6952
Oct 2015 to Sept 2016	5189
Oct 2016 to Sept 2017	4438
Oct 2017 to Sept 2018	2775
Total	25257

Role of the Central Registry

The Central Registry is a Domestic Violence Information System which is designed to collect and integrate information relating to any person who are victims or perpetrators of a domestic violence offence from state agencies and private organisations.

The objectives are stated below:

- (a) Provision of a more efficient and effective method of monitoring domestic violence in Trinidad and Tobago;
- (b) To quickly identify past victims/perpetrators of abuse;
- (c) Enhancement of effective evidence-based policy and programme development;
- (d) Enabling the early identification of needs, timely responses and effective, holistic intervention strategies through the ability to review historical data, trend analyses and other statistical reporting tools;
- (e) Improvement in communication/collaboration among practitioners, by the provision of access to historical data/information from a trusted source; and
- (f) Reduction of duplication of services by informing practitioners of all agencies involved with a case and by extension, duplication of cost of service delivery.

Output Capabilities of the Registry

The data collected in the Registry are based on **self-reported incidents** and would not necessarily reflect the population of domestic violence victims or perpetrators. It provides minimum benchmarks from which we can gauge the magnitude of the situation. It should also be noted that the data represent reports and not numbers of persons. Date of birth is used as a benchmark to minimise duplication of records.

The records captured would be able to provide the following information.

- (a) The number of cases of physical, sexual, psychological or financial violence during a specific time period reported to the participating agencies.
- (b) Data disaggregated by severity (moderate/severe); relationship to perpetrator (intimate partner/ relative/other); and frequency (once/few/many time(s)).
The incidents could then be cross-referenced by village, level of educational attainment, employment status, sex and age.

This level of analysis would enable the determination of:

- (a) The district with higher reported incidents;
- (b) The relationship between employment status and incidents of abuse;
- (c) The relationship between educational and incidents of abuse; and
- (d) The relationship between age and incidents of abuse.

Based on the aforementioned, policies, programmes and targeted interventions can be designed to assist at-risk groups.

Agencies Integrated into the CRDV as of December 2018

- The National Domestic Violence Hotline (NDVH /800 – SAVE)
- Safe Homes (8)
- National Family Services Division of the Ministry of Social Development
- Counselling Agencies (2)
- Crime And Problem Analysis (CAPA) Branch of the Trinidad & Tobago Police Service

Methodology

- Reports on incidents occurring between the months of January to December 2018 from the database of the Central Registry platform were extracted via an excel sheet.
- All records relating to children who were not direct victims were removed from the merged database and analyzed separately.
- The data was then scanned for possible duplicates by examining the date of birth of clients to ascertain whether there were similar matches.
- Where similar dates were discovered, other demographic characteristics such as marital status, village, and religion were examined to ascertain whether the date of birth matches could be judged as the same person.
- Data from the records were summarized using Statistical Package for the Social Sciences (SPSS).

Limitations of the Data

All of the reports are agency specific. Referrals, children associated with victims, and the relationship of the perpetrator to the victim were not provided by the Trinidad & Tobago Police Service (TTPS). Additionally, there was a non-response rate of approximately 10% for variables, such as age of victim, occupation, marital status, employment status across all participating agencies.

Information on type of abuse was recorded differently across agencies. While some agencies associate different categories of abuse with one incident, others associate an incident with one category of abuse. This presented a challenge to data harmonization of this variable.

The information on perpetrators was limited to the data supplied by the TTPS. This was due to the fact that, there were very few reports on this sector from the other agencies and most of the data relating to perpetrators from these agencies had no date of birth attached. As a consequence, it was not possible to determine whether any of those records were similar to those provided by the TTPS. Consequently the low response rate of the variables collected did not allow for making meaningful inferences based on the 615 perpetrator data records.

Selected aspects of the data analysis remain agency specific since participating agencies would provide information that is not available across all agencies.

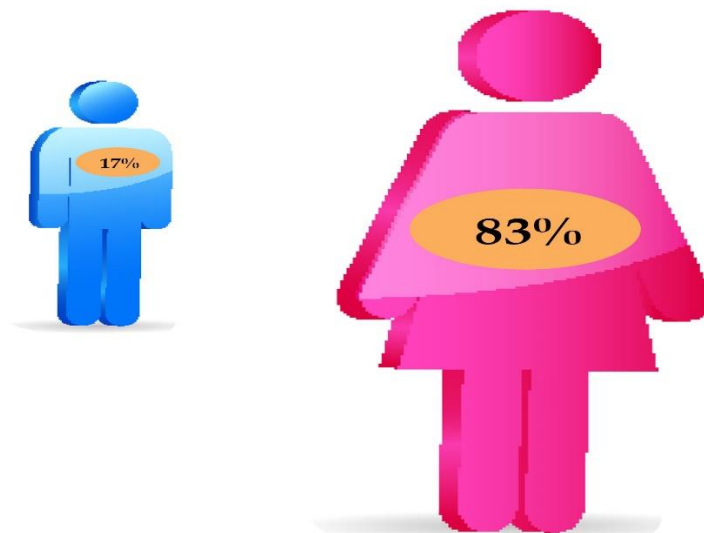
Data Report

The information in this report is an integration of information provided by the National Domestic Violence Hotline (800-Save), Safe Homes and the Trinidad & Tobago Police Service which is represented by CAPA. It represents reports made between **January to December 2018**, focusing on the areas of:

- a) Referrals made by the National Domestic Violence Hotline
- b) Number of children whose parents are victims of domestic violence
- c) Number of children placed in safe homes
- d) Patterns of intimate partner violence
- e) Employment status of clients
- f) Age distribution of unemployed victims
- g) Geographical distribution of all victims
- h) Geographical distribution of unemployed victims
- i) Marital status of victims
- j) Offences committed

Sex Distribution of DV Victims

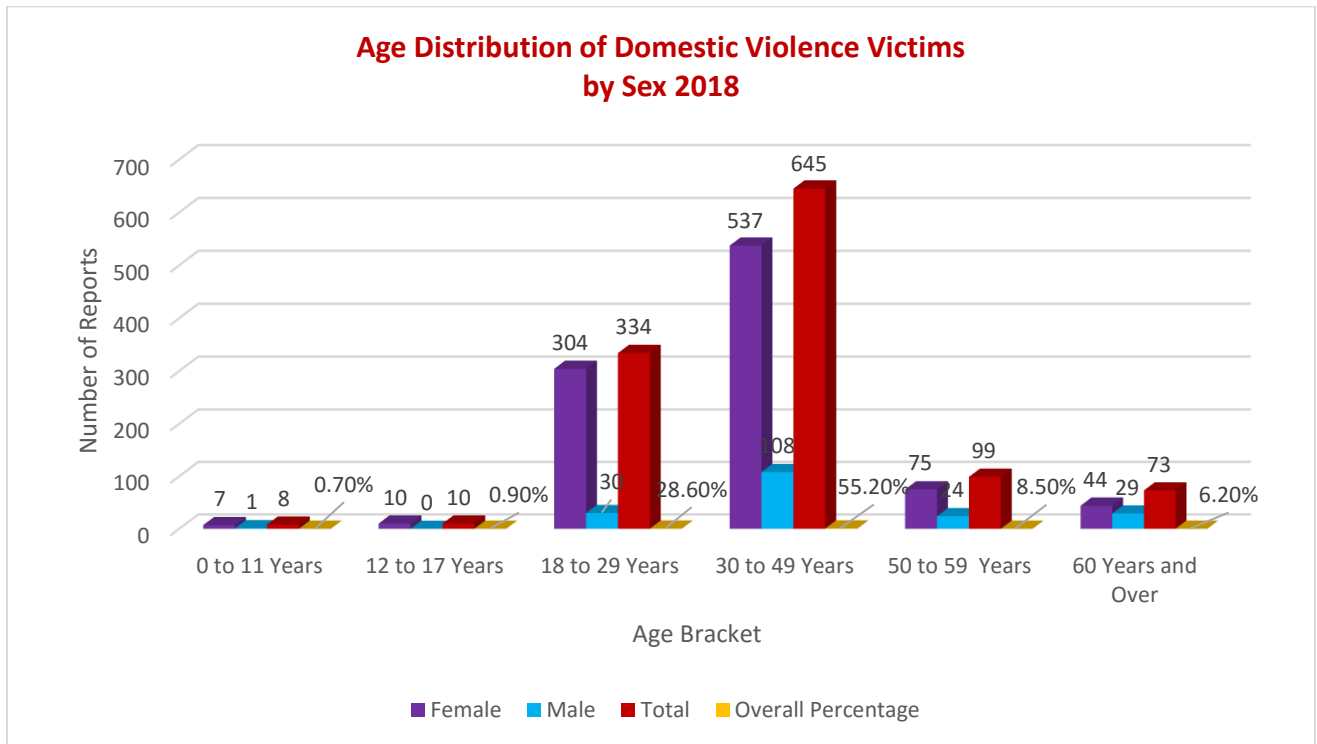
The Central Registry captured data related to 1244 reports for 2018. Approximately 83% (1038) of these reports were associated with female victims while 17% (206) were associated with male victims. The figures for women represent a 6% percentage change as compared to 2017 where 77% of the reports were associated with female victims.



Sex Distribution by Age

An overwhelming majority of reports were related to persons between the ages of 18 to 49 years. Approximately 55% (645) of the reports were associated with victims between the ages of 30 to 49, while persons in the 18 to 29 year old bracket ranked second accounting for 27% (334) of the reports. Figure 3 provides information on the age distribution of victims.

Figure 3



Sex Distribution by Region

Higher percentages of reports relating to female victims were also reflected across all regions, however there were regions where reports relating to male victims are in comparatively larger proportions. The data revealed that the proportion of reports relating to male victims was higher in the regions of Arima and Princes Town, Penal-Debe, Couva and Tunapuna-Piarco when compared to other regions. (Table II Refers)

Table II

***Geographical Distribution of Domestic Violence Victims by Sex
(January to December 2018)***

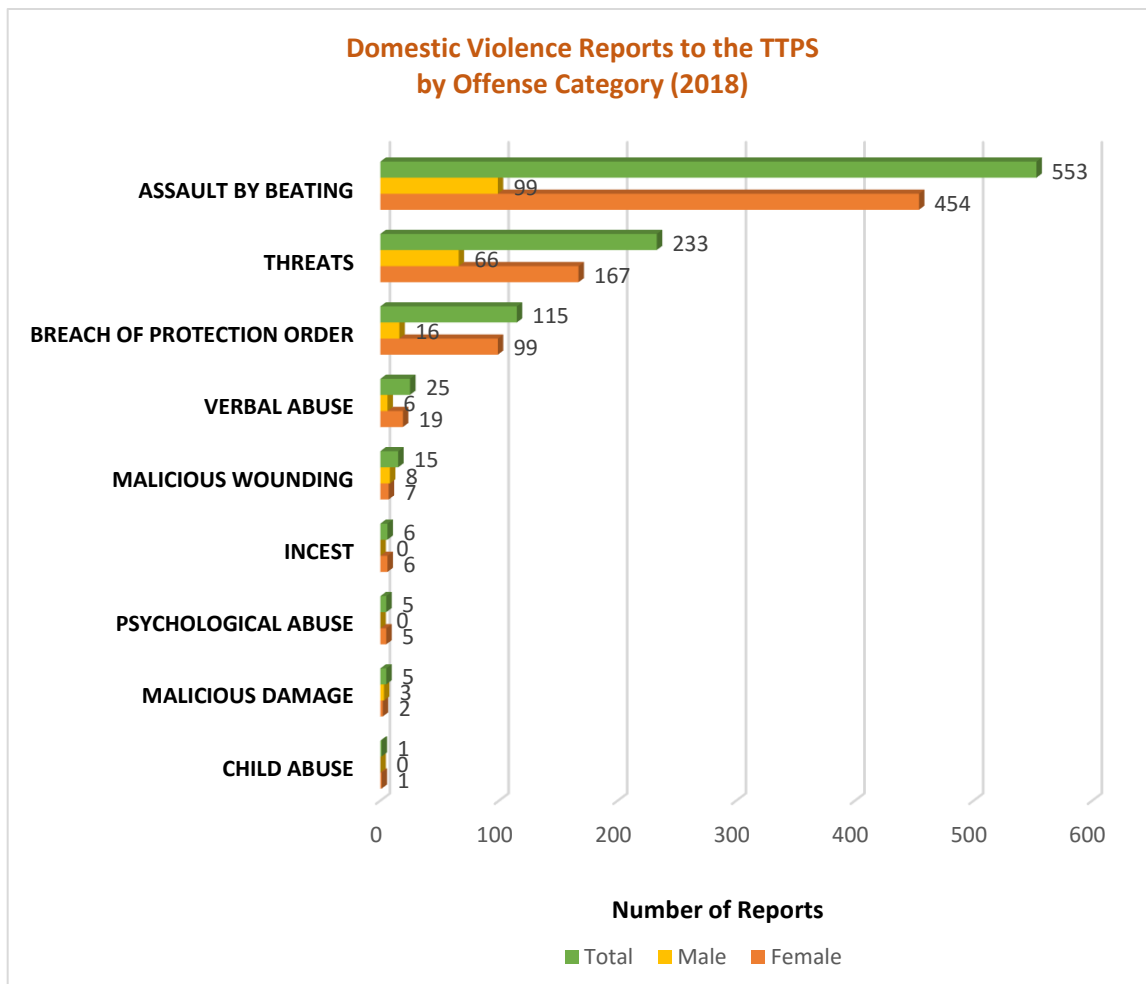
<i>Region</i>	Female		Male		Total Frequency
	Frequency	Proportion (%)	Frequency	Proportion (%)	
Arima	108	77.10%	32	22.90%	140
Chaguanas	107	88.40%	14	11.60%	121
Couva	152	81.70%	34	18.30%	186
Diego Martin	30	88.20%	4	11.80%	34
Not Stated	130	79.80%	33	19.60%	163
Penal-Debe	43	81.10%	10	18.90%	53
Point Fortin	31	91.20%	3	8.80%	34
Port of Spain	39	95.10%	2	4.90%	41
Princes Town	61	75.30%	20	24.70%	81
Rio Claro	16	94.10%	1	5.90%	17
San Fernando	37	90.20%	4	9.80%	41
San Juan - Laventille	64	88.90%	8	11.10%	72
Sangre Grande	38	90.50%	4	9.50%	42
Siparia	32	84.20%	6	15.80%	38
Tobago	12	85.70%	2	14.30%	14
Tunapuna - Piarco	138	82.60%	29	17.40%	167
Total	1038		205		1244

Offences Reported to the TTPS

Data from the TTPS show that 'Assault by Beating' accounted for 58% (533) of the reported offences, 'Threats' 24% (233) and 'Breach of Protection Order' 12% (115). Verbal Abuse, Psychological abuse, Malicious Wounding, Incest and Child Abuse constituted the remaining 6% of offences reported. (Figure 4 refers).

Further examination of the data, by the use of cross-tabulations revealed that female victims were more likely to be victims of 'Assault by Beating' and 'Breach of Protection Order' than male victims. Male victims were more likely to be victims of threats than female victims.

Figure 4

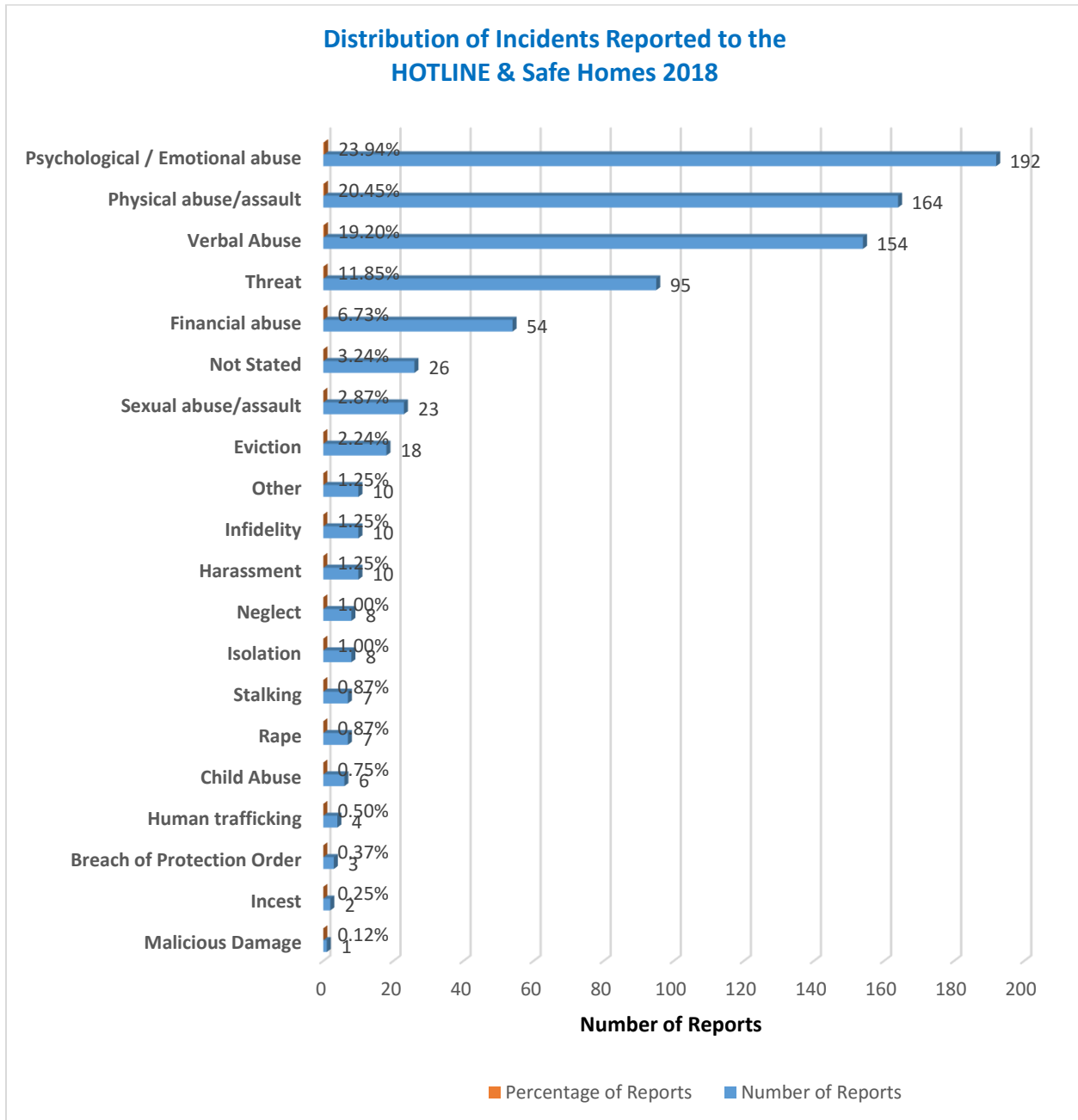


Though useful, one of the shortcomings of the data captured by the TTPS is that they associate one incident with only one category of abuse, when in reality one incident can be linked to multiple abuse categories. For example, an individual who is assaulted may also suffer some degree of psychological abuse. Multiple categories are captured by the National Domestic Violence Hotline and Safe Homes.

Offences Reported to the National Domestic Hotline and Safe Homes

Data captured by the National Domestic Violence Hotline and Safe Homes revealed that psychological abuse is linked to approximately 24% (192) of their reports. Physical abuse/assault and verbal abuse are also prominent among these reports, accounting for 20% (164) and 19% (154) respectively of total reported incidents. (Figure 5 refers)

Figure 5

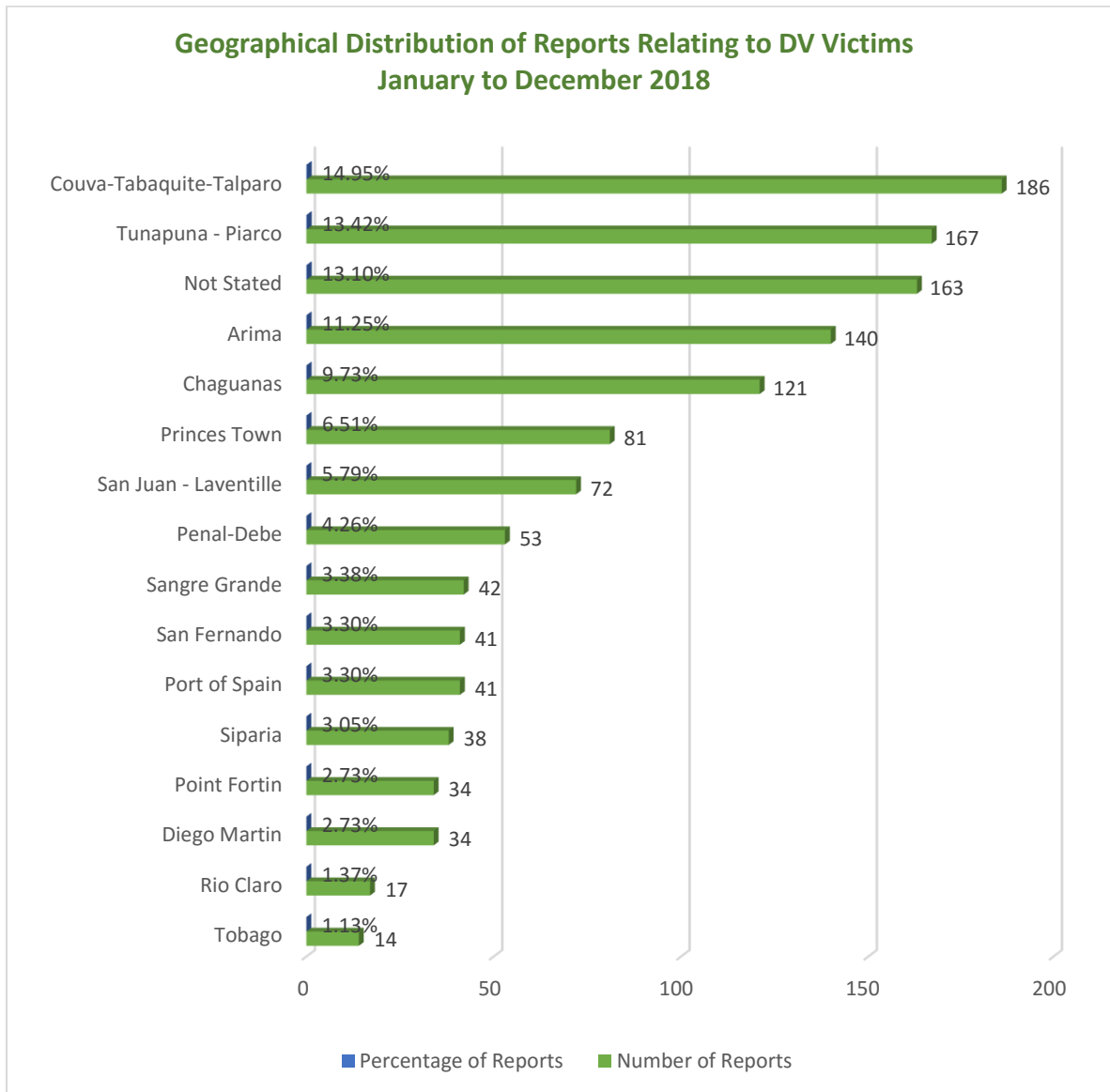


Geographical Distribution of Reports Relating to Victims

Individuals residing in the region Couva-Tabquite-Talparo, accounted for 14.95% (186) of the victims reported. The regions of Tunapuna-Piarco (13.42%) and Arima (11.25%), Chaguanas (9.73%), and Princes Town (6.51%), together account for 41% (509) of the reports. Figure 6 provides a breakdown of reports by region.

The data for 2017, also showed that the Couva-Tabquite-Talparo and Tunapuna-Piarco regions ranked first and second in terms of number of reported cases. The regions of Princes Town and Chaguanas were also in the top six districts in 2017.

Figure 6

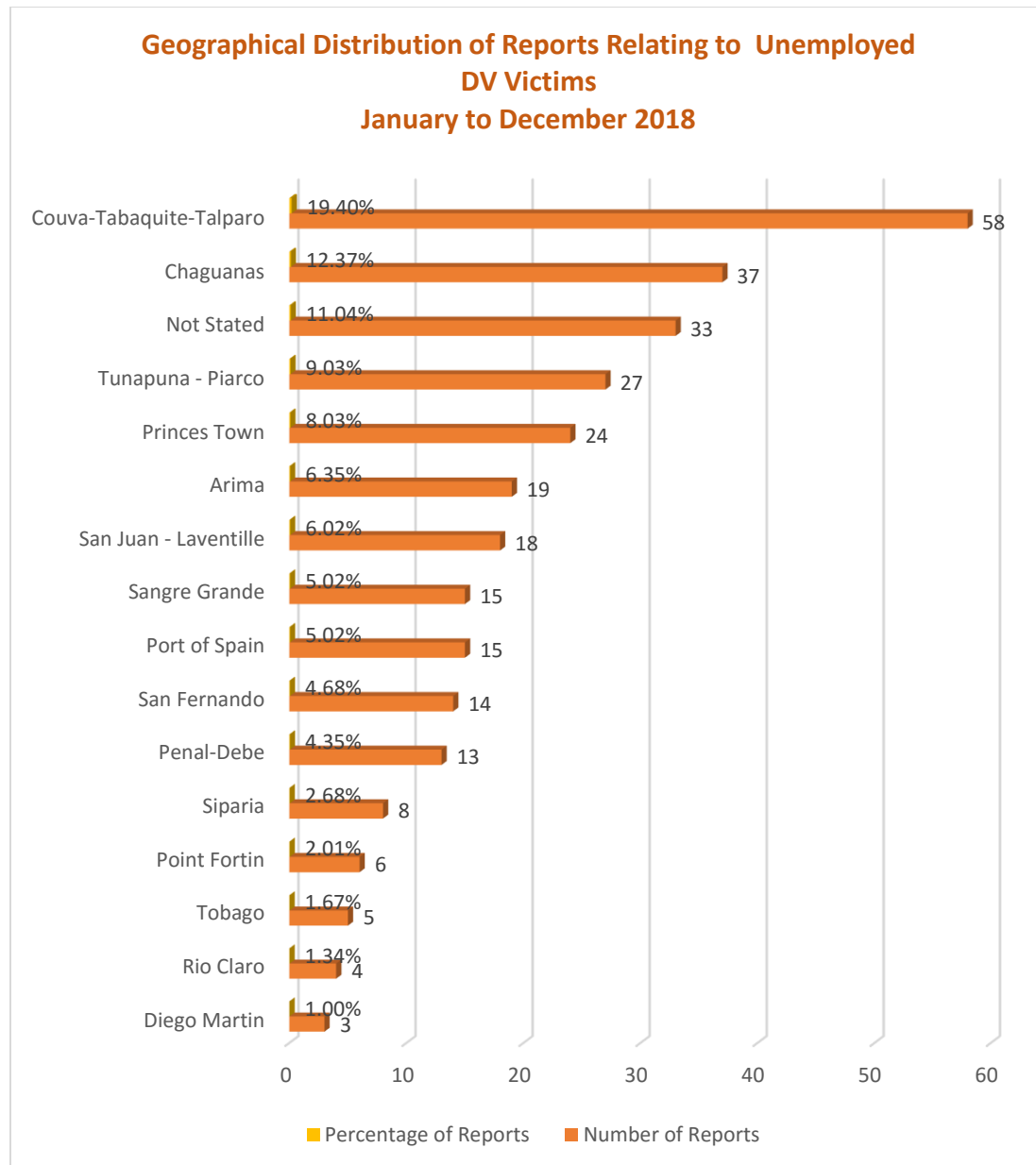


Geographical Distribution of Unemployed Victims

Comparatively larger proportions of reports associated with unemployed victims emanated from the Couva-Tabaquite-Talparo (19.4%), Chaguanas (12.37%), Tunapuna-Piarco (9.03%) Princes Town (8.03%), regions during the period January to December 2018. (Figure 7 refers)

When compared to 2017, the data shows that the number of reports associated with unemployed victims in the Couva -Tabaquite -Talparo Region increased by 8% up from 10.89% in that year. The region of Chaguanas also showed a notable increase up by 5 % from 6.93% in 2017.

Figure 7



Employment Status of Victims

Data captured for 2018 revealed that while 43% of the reported incidents were associated with employed victims, and 24% (299) of the reports were related to unemployed victims. With respect to the sex distribution, reports relating to female victims, were more than five times (1038), that of male victims (206). The results also revealed that female victims were more likely (27.4%) of being unemployed than male victims (7.3%). Male victims were more likely (5.4%) to be retired persons than female victims (1.5%). Table III provides data on the employment status of victims.

These findings for 2018 are consistent with what was obtained in 2017 where it was reported that there was a higher proportion of male victims who were employed (86%) compared to female victims (67%).

Table III

Relationship Between Sex and Employment Status of Domestic Violence Victims

(CRDV January to December 2018)

<i>Status</i>	Female		Male		Total Frequency
	Frequency	Proportion (%)	Frequency	Proportion (%)	
Employed	422	40.60%	107	51.70%	529 (43%)
Unemployed	284	27.40%	15	7.30%	299 (24%)
Full-Time Student	31	3.00%	2	1.00%	33 (2.7%)
Retired	16	1.50%	11	5.40%	27 (2.3%)
Not Stated	285	27.50%	71	34.60%	356 (28%)
Total	1038	100%	206	100%	1244

Unemployment Status by District

Table IV highlights the districts which accounted for 8 or more reports of domestic violence in 2018. The distribution of unemployed victims ranged between 25% and 35% in areas such as Morvant, Gasparillo, Couva and Moruga. Barrackpore, Claxton Bay and Williamsville registered comparatively higher percentages of 42%, 60% and 63% respectively.

Table IV

*Distribution of Unemployed Persons In Districts
Registering More than 10 Reports For 2018*

District	N	% Reports Associated With Unemployed Victims
Barrackpore	8	5 (63%)
Claxton Bay	15	9 (60%)
Williamsville	12	5 (42%)
Moruga	26	9 (35%)
Couva	10	3 (30%)
Gasparillo	42	12(29%)
Cunupia	30	7 (23%)
Morvant	12	3 (25%)
Carapichima	22	4 (18%)
Belmont	18	3 (17%)
Princes Town	29	5 (17%)
Arouca	37	6 (16%)
Chaguanas	40	6 (15%)
Freeport	28	4 (14%)
Penal	32	4 (13%)
La Brea	11	1 (10%)
Diego Martin	13	1 (8%)
Arima	113	8 (7%)
La Horquetta	14	0 (0%)

Intimate Partner Status of Clients Reporting Incidents to the Hotline and Safe Homes for the Year 2018

Table V shows that between January and December of 2018 the National Domestic Violence Hotline and Safe Homes documented 377 reports relating to clients who reported an incident. Approximately 87% of these reports were associated with Intimate Partner Violence (IPV), while only 10% (38) of the reports were associated with non-partners. This is 8% higher than 2017 when IPV violence accounted for 79% of the reports. The 2018 data further revealed that female victims (87.6%) were more likely to report IPV than male victims (66.7%).

In 2018 female victims accounted for 362 (96%) of the reports and male victims were associated with the remaining 15 (4%) reports. Approximately 3% (12) of the records did not identify the relationship to the perpetrator.

Table V

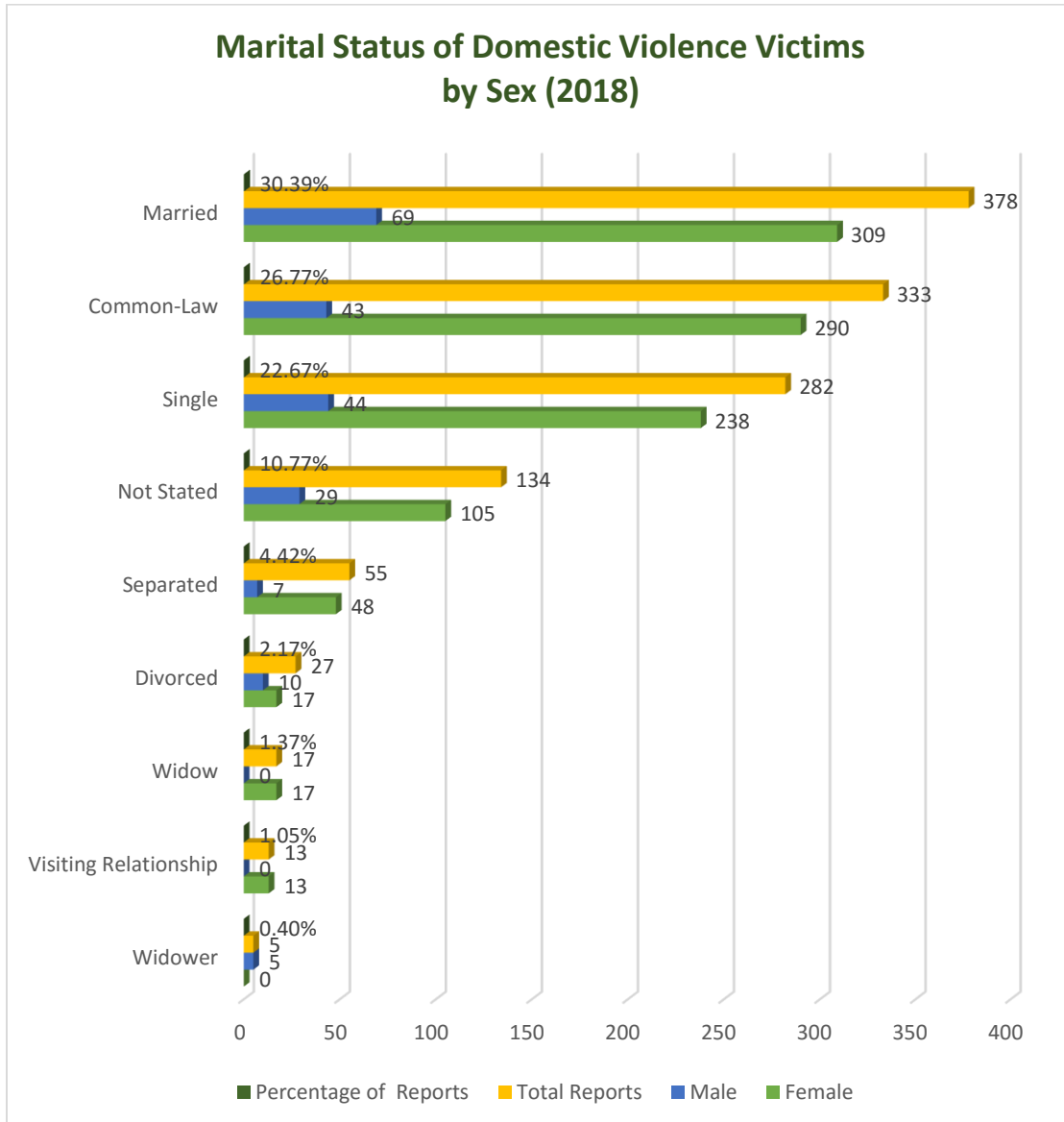
Intimate Partner Violence Reports made to the National Domestic Violence Hotline and Safe Homes (2018)

<i>IPV Status</i>	Female		Male		Total Frequency
	Frequency	Proportion (%)	Frequency	Proportion (%)	
IPV	317	87.6	10	66.7	327 (86.7)
Other	34	9.4	4	26.7	38(10.1%)
Not Stated	11	3	1	6.7	12 (3.2%)
Total	362	100	15	100	377

Marital Status of Victims

The data revealed that married persons accounted for 30% of the reports. Persons in common-law relationships accounted for 27% and persons who were single 26% of reports respectively. Reports associated with persons who were married, in a common-law union and single were also in the first three categories in 2017. (Figure 8 refers).

Figure 8



Origin of Reports Made to the National Domestic Violence Hotline

Data from the National Domestic Violence Hotline showed that self-reports accounted for approximately 60% of overall reports. It is worth noting that of the remaining reports, police officers and service providers made more reports than relatives and friends. (Figure 9 refers).

Figure 9

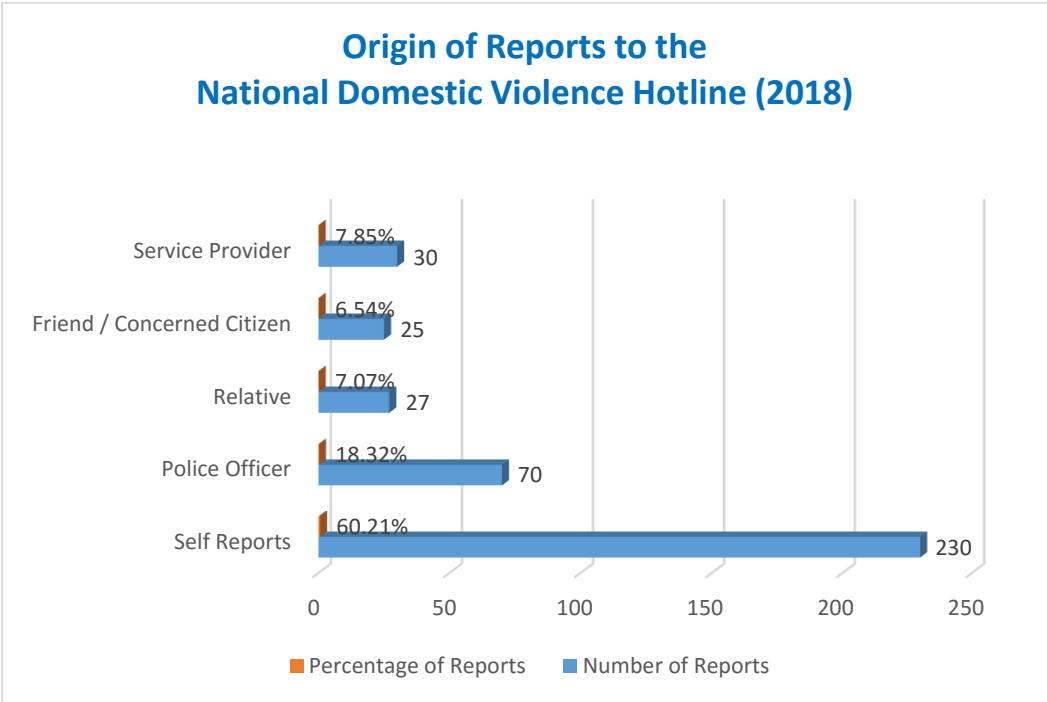
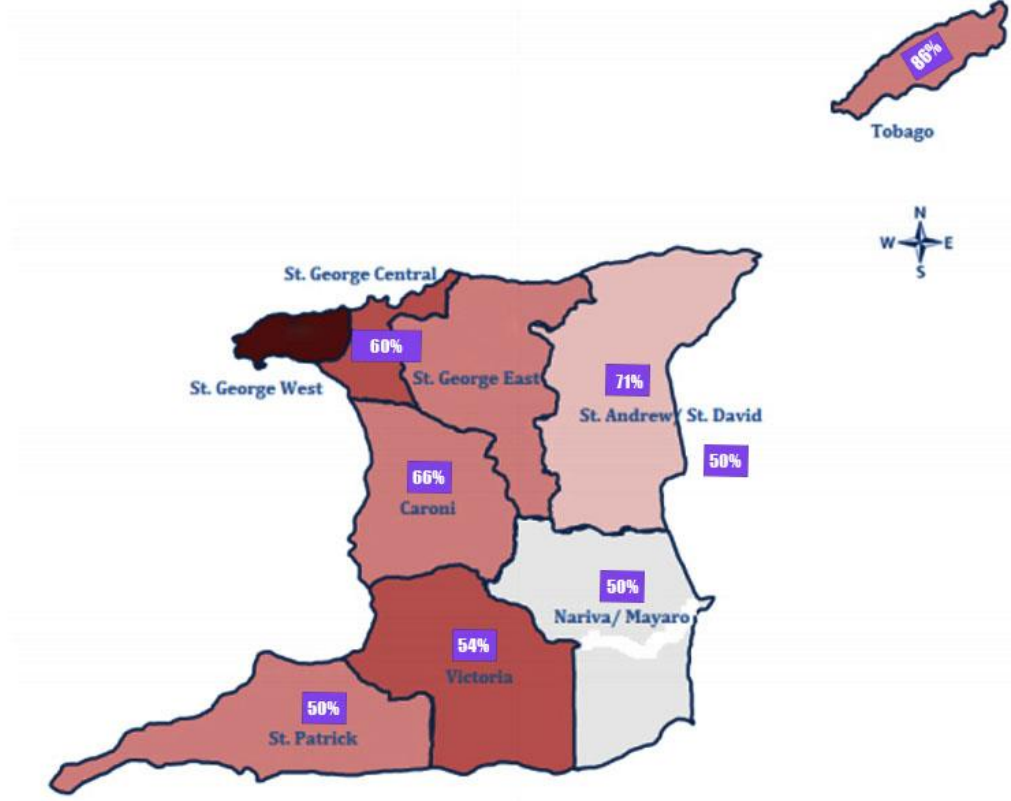


Figure 10 provides a geographical mapping of Self Reporting and shows that it was highest in Tobago and lowest in the counties of St. Patrick-Victoria, Nariva-Mayaro and St. David.

Figure 10

**Distribution of Self Reporting Clients of the National Domestic Violence Hotline
By County (2018)**



Source: Data Collected by the National Domestic Violence Hotline 2018

National Domestic Violence Hotline - Client Referrals

Referrals to the police, safe homes, hotlines, National Family Services and Justices of the Peace accounted for 78% of the total referrals made. Referrals to the police accounted for 23% of the referrals while referrals to safe homes accounted for 21%. A similar pattern obtained in 2017 as seen in Table VI.

Table VI

National Domestic Violence Hotline Client Referrals

<i>Referral Category</i>	<i>2017 and 2018</i>			
	2018		2017	
	Number of Cases	% of Cases	Number of Cases	% of Cases
Social Welfare	9	1.09%	7	0.84%
Mediation	1	0.12%	4	0.48%
Victim and Witness Support	4	0.49%	7	0.84%
Legal Aid	10	1.22%	15	1.80%
Health Centre/Hospital	9	1.09%	16	1.92%
Children's Authority/ChildLine	21	2.55%	10	1.20%
Counselling	21	2.55%	27	3.23%
Rape Crisis/CADV	17	2.07%	27	3.23%
Other	44	5.35%	34	4.07%
None	41	4.99%	44	5.27%
Justice of the Peace	80	9.73%	83	9.94%
National Family Services	61	7.42%	81	9.70%
Hotlines	140	17.03%	106	12.69%
Safe Homes	174	21.17%	197	23.59%
Police	190	23.11%	177	21.20%
Total	822	100.00%	835	100.00%

Number of Referrals Made Per Case

Calls to the National Domestic Violence Hotline and the associated referrals reflect the need for the continuation of reliable and effective support systems to be provided to those in need. A total number of 781 referrals were associated with 381 cases; an average of two referrals per case.

Table VII shows the distribution of referrals and revealed that 16% (62) of the cases were referred to 4 agencies; 22% (85) to 3 agencies; 23% (86) to 2 agencies; 28% (106) to 1 agency and 11% (42) to no agency.

Table VII

Distribution of Client Referrals National Domestic Violence Hotline (2018)		
Number of Referrals to Domestic Violence Services	Number of Cases	Percentage of Cases
None	42	11.02%
One	106	27.82%
Two	86	25.57%
Three	85	22.31%
Four	62	16.27%
TOTAL	381	100%

Children Affected

The total number of children associated with DV clients of the HOTLINE as seen in the **Table VIII** was 561. As much as 10.47% (40) of the clients who were custodians of children had three dependent children and 7.59% (29) of the clients were reported to have four dependent children.

The data for 2018 revealed that the number of children accompanying their mother to safe homes for the period as seen in **Table IX** was at least 34. Approximately 53% (18) of these children were between the ages of one month and five years old. It should be noted that these figures do not reflect children who are not allowed to accompany their mothers to safe homes. This information suggests that interventions and programmes are needed to address this issue.

Table VIII

Number of Dependent Children Associated With HOTLINE Clients January to December 2018			
Number of Clients	Number of Children who are dependents	Percentage of Clients	Total Children
116	0	30.37%	0
90	1	23.56%	90
82	2	21.47%	164
40	3	10.47%	120
29	4	7.59%	116
8	5	2.09%	40
4	6	1.05%	24
1	7	0.26%	7
12	Not Stated	3.14%	
			561

Table IX

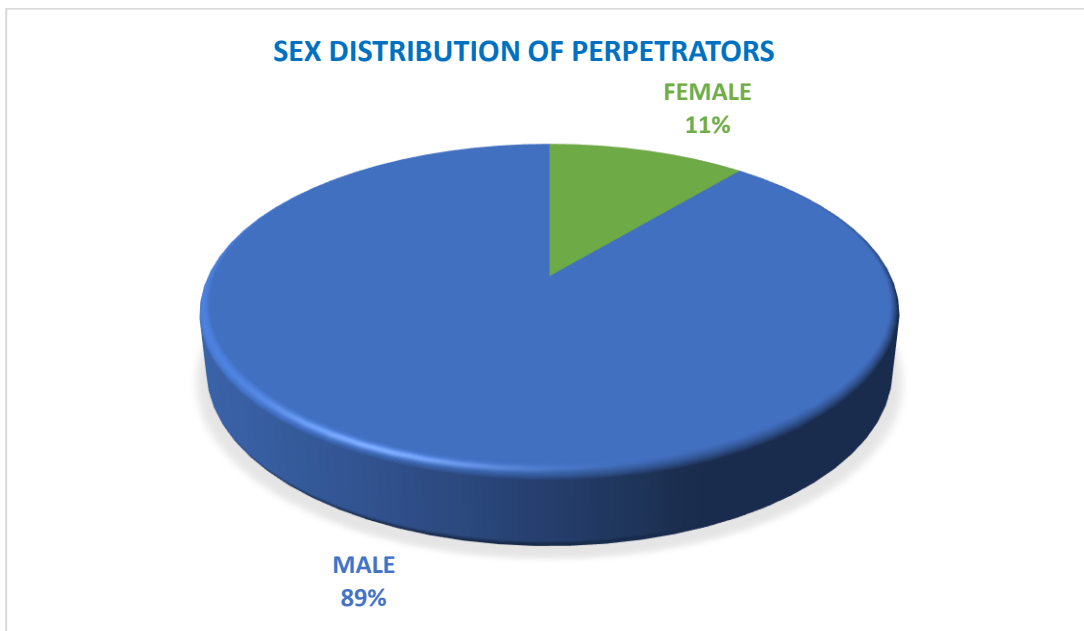
Number of Reported Children Accompanying Mother to Shelters January to December 2018			
	Male	Female	Total
Birth to 5 Years	10	8	18
6 to 11 Years	3	7	10
12 to 17 Years	1	5	6
	14	20	34

Demographics of Perpetrators Information Extracted From TTPS Data

As indicated in the 2017 CRDV Data Report, the information on perpetrators is limited to the data supplied by the TTPS due to the fact that very little data relating to perpetrators were provided by other agencies. The low response rate of the variables associated with perpetrators continued to be a challenge in 2018 and the data collected did not allow for making meaningful inferences based on the 615 perpetrator data records.

Figure 11 reveals that individuals who were male accounted for 89% of the individuals reported to be perpetrators. In 2017 the proportion of reports associated with male perpetrators was 83%.

Figure 11

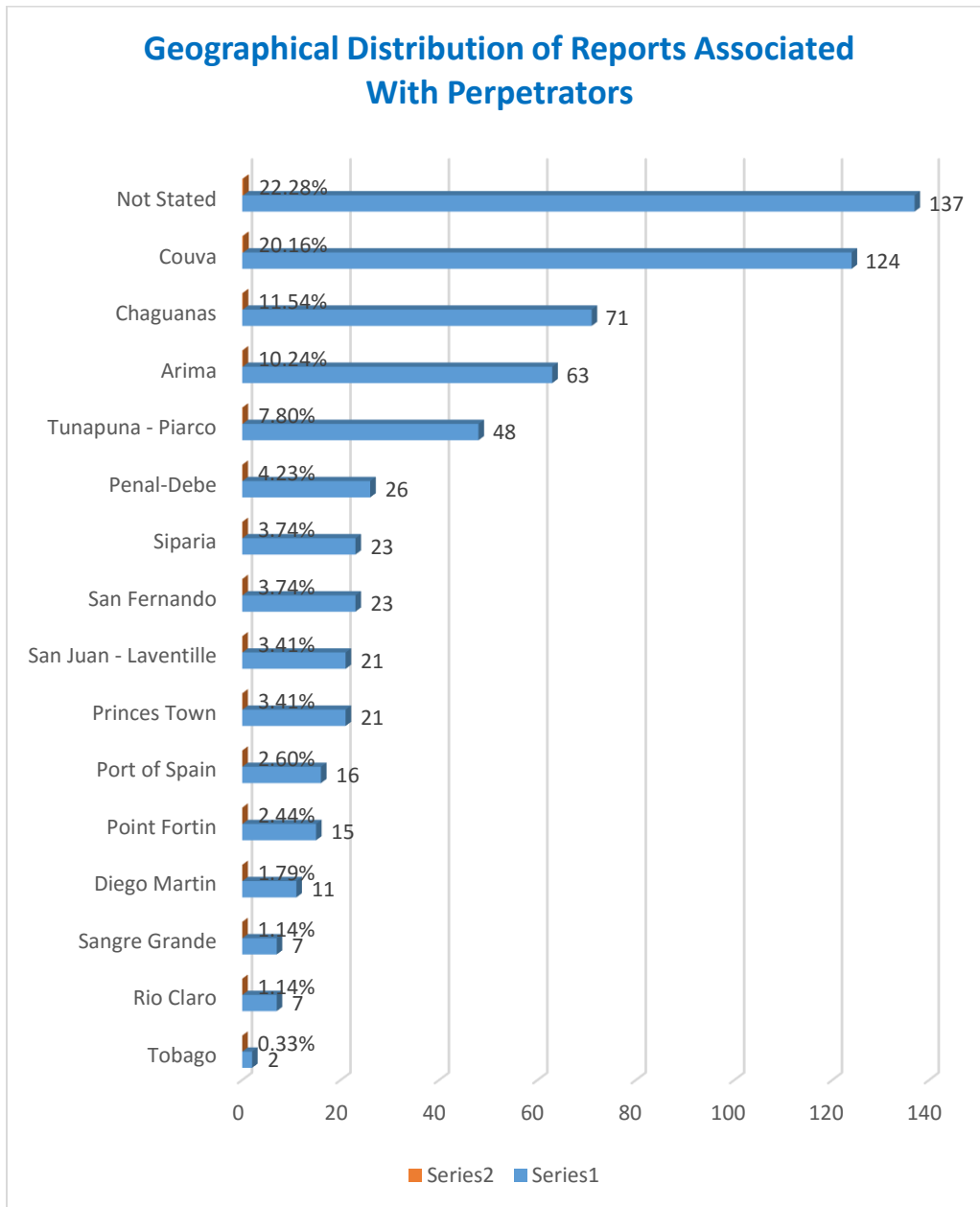


Geographical Distribution of Perpetrators

The geographical origin of 22% (137) of the reported perpetrators was unknown. Available data revealed that at least 20% (124) were from the Couva-Tabaquite-Talparo region and 12% (71) from the Chaguanas region and 10.24% (63) from the Arima region, as seen in Figure 12.

Data for 2017 also revealed that at least 16% of the reports associated with perpetrators emanated for the Couva -Tabaquite-Talparo region.

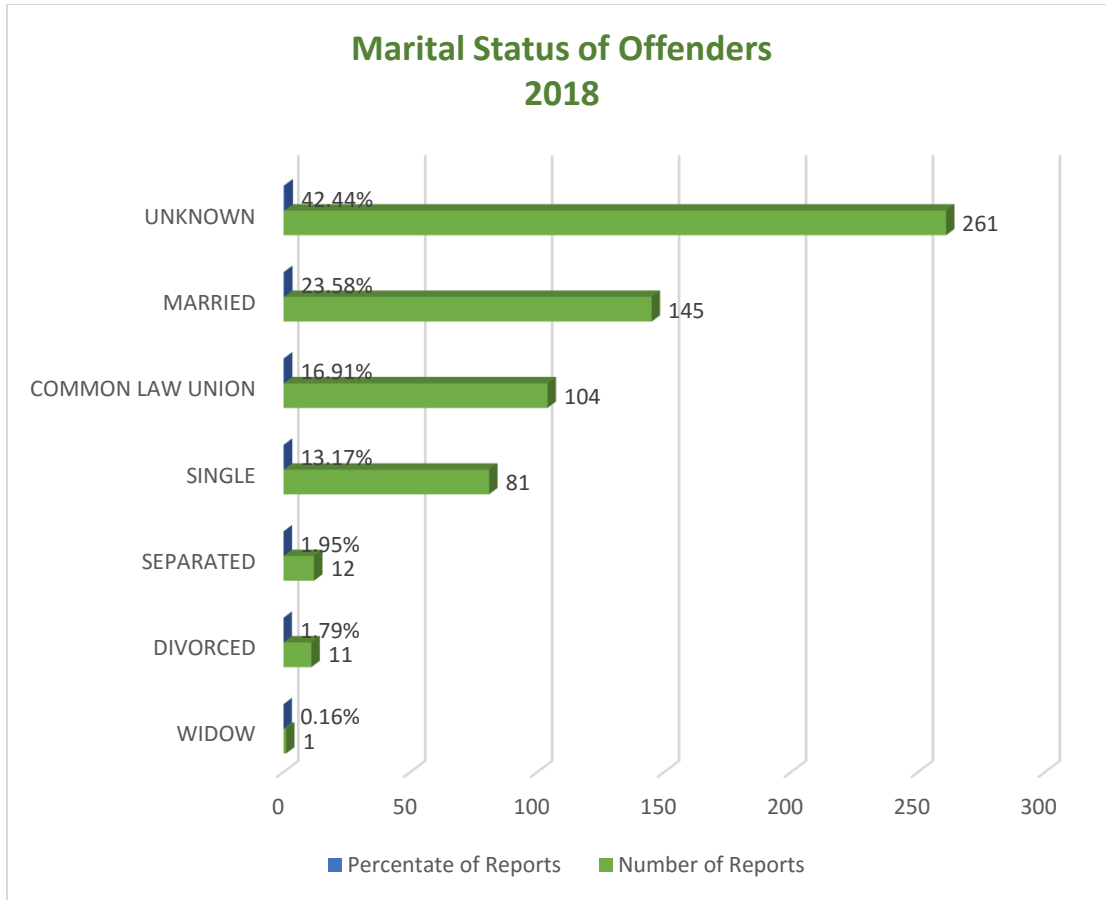
Figure 12



Marital Status of Offenders

Approximately 42% (261) of the reports associated with perpetrators did not indicate the marital status of the offender. Notwithstanding this shortcoming, available data revealed that at least 24% (145) of the perpetrators were married, 17% (104) in a common law union, while 13% (81) were single. Those who were separated, divorced or widowed constituted less than 5% of the overall reports. See Figure 13.

Figure 13



Summary

For the period January to December 2018, intimate partner violence constituted the greater proportion of incidents associated with domestic violence. The majority of persons affected were female, while most of the perpetrators were male. A significant proportion of the victims were in the 18 to 49 year old age group.

Abuse was more predominant among those who were married, in common-law relationships as well as single as opposed to those who were separated or divorced. Physical abuse was associated with more than half of the incidents reported to the TTPS, while data from the National Domestic Violence Hotline showed that psychological abuse was as common as physical abuse.

The data revealed that there was a higher number of reports emanating from the regions of Couva-Tabaquite-Talparo, Tunapuna-Piarco, Arima and Chaguanas. It was also revealed that larger proportions of unemployed victims also reside in these areas. Data revealed that the counties of St. Patrick-Victoria, Nariva-Mayaro and St. David accounted for comparative lower percentages of self reports than other counties.

This suggests that priority should be given to public awareness and programming in these regions. There should also be established procedures and protocols for children who are dependents of victims as they can also be psychologically affected by their parents' circumstances.

The Gender Affairs Division is acting on this information through various strategies, partnerships and programmes outlined below.

- i) **Barbershop** - The programme aims to create a setting for male-to-male discussions about behaviours, attitudes and negative gender stereotypes.
- ii) **Establishment of two domestic violence shelters** which will accommodate mothers with boy children over the age of 12 years.
- iii) Re-establishment of **drop in centres** for women and men.
- iv) **UN Women Foundations Programme** which accelerates action towards preventing gender based violence via the creation of a network of young people between the ages of 13 and 24 who will advocate for non-violent relationships.
- v) **“A Fighting Chance”- Women/Girls Self Defence Programme**
This Programme is proposed for participants (women and girls) to be trained in situational awareness and self-defence in order to better prepare them to defend themselves or their loved ones should the need arise; and to assist in the prevention and reduction of physical and sexual assaults, attacks and abuse. The ‘Fighting Chance’ Self Defence Programme will encompass information and training on specific types of defence and situational-awareness.