

## **2025-02-19 SB 943 - Support.pdf**

Uploaded by: Adam Spangler

Position: FAV

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*Chief Operating Officer*

**STATE OF MARYLAND**  
**OFFICE OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL**

**ANTHONY G. BROWN**  
*Attorney General*

February 19, 2025

TO: The Honorable Will Smith, Jr.  
Chair, Judicial Proceedings Committee

FROM: Adam Spangler  
Legislative Aide, Legislative Affairs, Office of the Attorney General

RE: Senate Bill 943 - Family and Law Enforcement Protection Act – **Support**

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The Office of the Attorney General (OAG) requests a favorable report on **Senate Bill 943**, the Family and Law Enforcement Protection Act. This bill represents a crucial step forward in ensuring the safety of individuals living in situations of domestic violence, an issue that affects countless families across Maryland.

The provisions outlined in this legislation—particularly those addressing the surrender of firearms by respondents—are vital for protecting vulnerable individuals and children from potential harm. Additionally, by implementing a task force to study the use of firearms in domestic violence situations, Maryland can take a proactive approach to understanding and mitigating the risks associated with gun possession in these contexts.

Domestic violence is a pervasive issue that too often leads to tragic outcomes. The inclusion of comprehensive measures requiring petitioners to provide necessary information on firearms adds a layer of security for those seeking protection. Knowing whether the abuser possesses firearms or a valid handgun qualification license can make a significant difference in the safety of victims. This bill not only empowers victims by ensuring their concerns are taken seriously but also equips law enforcement with the necessary tools to respond effectively.

The passage of this bill will help ensure that survivors of domestic violence can seek relief and protection with the knowledge that their safety is prioritized. For the above reasons, the Office of the Attorney General requests a favorable report on **Senate Bill 943**.

cc: The Honorable Senator Shelly Hettleman  
Members of the Senate Judicial Proceedings Committee

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This bill letter is a statement of the Office of Attorney General's policy position on the referenced pending legislation.

For a legal or constitutional analysis of the bill, Members of the House and Senate should consult with the Counsel to the General Assembly, Sandy Brantley. She can be reached at 410-946-5600 or [sbrantley@oag.state.md.us](mailto:sbrantley@oag.state.md.us).

# **SB943\_ArielleJuberg\_FAV.pdf**

Uploaded by: Arielle Juberg

Position: FAV

Dear Members of the Judicial Proceedings Committee,

I urge a favorable report on Senate Bill 943, the Family and Law Enforcement Protection Act. I am a resident of District 8 and a volunteer with Marylanders to Prevent Gun Violence.

As you will hear in other testimony, an average of 47 Marylanders are killed each year due to domestic violence. However, this number does not include the family members, friends, and community members touched by each death. Several years ago, I briefly worked with a man who murdered his wife and daughter. Even though we were brief acquaintances, this horrible act shocked me and continues to haunt me. We must do more to end domestic violence.

The Family and Law Enforcement Protection Act is common-sense legislation that will strengthen domestic violence laws. As a legislature, you have already passed laws requiring firearm relinquishment for people subject to Domestic Violence Protective Orders. This legislation provides clear and specific instructions for firearm relinquishment and explores developing a compliance tracking system.

Without these components in place, our current laws will not be as effective. Less effective laws translate, tragically, to more people killed in Maryland as a result of domestic violence.

I urge a favorable report on SB 943. Thank you for your time, service, and consideration.

Sincerely,

Arielle Juberg  
3411 Upton Road  
Baltimore, MD 21234



## **SB943.pdf**

Uploaded by: Ashley Clark

Position: FAV

# MARYLAND PSYCHIATRIC SOCIETY



February 10, 2025

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The Honorable William C. Smith  
Chair, Judicial Proceedings Committee  
2 East Miller Senate Office Building  
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

RE: Support –Senate Bill 943: Family and Law Enforcement Protection Act

Dear Chairman Smith and Honorable Members of the Committee:

The Maryland Psychiatric Society (MPS) and the Washington Psychiatric Society (WPS) are state medical organizations whose physician members specialize in diagnosing, treating, and preventing mental illnesses, including substance use disorders. Formed more than sixty-five years ago to support the needs of psychiatrists and their patients, both organizations work to ensure available, accessible, and comprehensive quality mental health resources for all Maryland citizens; and strive through public education to dispel the stigma and discrimination of those suffering from a mental illness. As the district branches of the American Psychiatric Association covering the state of Maryland, MPS and WPS represent over 1100 psychiatrists and physicians currently in psychiatric training.

The Maryland Psychiatric Society (MPS) strongly supports Senate Bill 943, the Family and Law Enforcement Protection Act, which enhances Maryland's protective order process by improving firearm surrender requirements for individuals subject to these orders. This bill represents an essential step in strengthening protections for survivors of domestic violence and reducing the risk of firearm-related harm, including homicide and suicide.

Gun violence and domestic violence are inextricably linked. More than half of all intimate partner homicides in the United States are committed with a firearm, and research shows that the presence of a gun in a domestic violence situation increases the risk of homicide by fivefold. Additionally, many perpetrators of domestic violence also pose a suicide risk. Access to a firearm during a period of crisis significantly increases the likelihood of a fatal suicide attempt, and in many domestic violence-related murder-suicides, the shooter has a documented history of abuse. Ensuring that those subject to protective orders do not have access to firearms is a proven, life-saving measure.

Maryland's current law does not go far enough in ensuring that firearms are removed from individuals subject to protective orders. As it stands, law enforcement officers can only seize weapons that are in plain view, limiting their ability to enforce protective orders effectively. SB 943 corrects this dangerous loophole by requiring the surrender of firearms and handgun qualification licenses when a protective order is issued. This ensures that when a judge determines that someone poses a risk to their partner or family, there is a clear legal mechanism to remove their firearms and prevent further violence.

Additionally, this bill strengthens the reporting process by requiring petitioners to provide information on firearms the respondent owns, where they are stored, and other relevant details. While this additional information will make protective order motions more detailed, it is a necessary enhancement to ensure that courts and law enforcement have the tools needed to enforce these orders properly.

MPS strongly supports evidence-based policies that reduce the risk of firearm-related suicide and domestic violence. By ensuring that firearms are properly surrendered when a protective order is granted, SB 943 will help prevent avoidable tragedies and save lives. We urge the committee to issue a favorable report on this bill.

If you have any questions regarding this testimony, please contact MPS lobbyist, Lisa Harris Jones at [lisa.jones@mdlobbyist.com](mailto:lisa.jones@mdlobbyist.com).

Respectfully submitted,  
The Maryland Psychiatric Society and the Washington Psychiatric Society  
Legislative Action Committee

The Maryland Psychiatric Society, Inc., A District Branch of the American Psychiatric Association  
1211 Cathedral Street, Baltimore, Maryland 21201, 410 625-0232, Fax 410 547-0915  
[mps@mdpsych.org](mailto:mps@mdpsych.org), [www.mdpsych.org](http://www.mdpsych.org)

# **SB 943 Family and Law Enforcement Protection Act.p**

Uploaded by: Catherine OMalley

Position: FAV

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BILL NO:	Senate Bill 0943
TITLE:	Family and Law Enforcement Protection Act
COMMITTEE:	Judicial Proceedings
HEARING DATE:	February 19, 2025
POSITION:	<b>SUPPORT</b>

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The Women's Law Center of Maryland is dedicated to ensuring the physical safety, economic security, and bodily autonomy of women throughout the State. The clients that we represent have all experienced intimate partner violence, and the reality and danger of gun violence is something that the staff and clients of the Women's Law Center must grapple with every day. We are submitting this testimony in memory of the clients we have lost to violent partners and their guns.

We strongly support Senate Bill 0943 and the enhanced provisions it provides for the enforcement of the surrendering of firearms by a respondent in a domestic violence statute. Currently, respondent's surrendering of their guns is dependent upon an honor system, in which the courts are forced to trust that someone who has committed acts of violence and is deemed so dangerous as to merit a protective order will suddenly become adherent to the law. Our clients and staff are regularly threatened by violent abusers, and due to the prevailing honor system for firearm surrenders, often live in fear knowing the respondents' have untethered access to guns.

Our last client who lost her life to an unsurrendered firearm was Megan Saunders, who was shot and killed by Devon Elias, against whom she had a protective order on September 14, 2023. Megan called the Women's Law Center almost every day – we helped her obtain her protective order and were representing her in securing custody of the former couple's four-year-old daughter. Megan was a wonderful mother, but she called us over and over again, very apologetically, because she was terrified of Elias as he kept saying threatening things about her to their daughter. She even moved to Pennsylvania to get away from him, but in the end he murdered her in her mom's home with two handguns. Our staff attorney was waiting for her to appear in court that morning, and she never came.

Guns are almost always an issue in securing consent in a protective order, and the respondents who do consent regularly lie about their gun ownership. We strongly support SB 0943's provisions for petitioner reporting of the respondent's firearms as well as the enforcement mechanisms introduced for both search warrants and mandated law enforcement engagement in the reclamation process.

Intimate partner violence and gun violence are inextricably linked, impacting millions of women, families, and communities across the country. Nearly half of all women murdered in the United States are killed by a current or former intimate partner, and more than half of these intimate partner homicides are by firearms, according to Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health. Every month, an average of 76 U.S. women are shot and killed by their intimate partners and while the deadly intersection of guns and intimate partner violence affects all women, it has a disproportionate impact on Black and Indigenous women as well as pregnant and postpartum women (Everytown). We know the LGBTQ+ community and people with disabilities are also highly vulnerable to severe forms of relationship abuse, but there is alarmingly little data on the intersection of firearms and intimate partner violence among these populations because of underreporting of these incidents and failure to invest in research that disaggregates data to fully capture the extent of the problem.

While intimate partner violence involving guns is prevalent, research shows that federal and state policies that disrupt abusers' access to guns can save lives. For all these reasons we urge a favorable report on SB0943.

*The Women's Law Center of Maryland is a non-profit legal services organization whose mission is to ensure the physical safety, economic security, and bodily autonomy of women in Maryland. Our mission is advanced through direct legal services, information and referral hotlines, and statewide advocacy.*

## **SB943 Critical Issues Forum Testimony - 2 19 24 p**

Uploaded by: Clinton Wolcott

Position: FAV

**TESTIMONY OF THE CRITICAL ISSUES FORUM: ADVOCACY  
FOR SOCIAL JUSTICE OF MONTGOMERY COUNTY, MARYLAND  
ON FEBRUARY 19, 2025  
BEFORE THE SENATE JUDICIAL PROCEEDINGS COMMITTEE  
IN SUPPORT OF SENATE BILL 943, THE FAMILY AND LAW ENFORCEMENT  
PROTECTION ACT**

Honorable Chair Smith, Vice-Chair Waldstreicher and Members of the Committee:

The Critical Issues Forum: Advocacy for Social Justice (CIF) provides this testimony in support of SB943, which, if enacted, will increase the protection provided to victims of domestic violence, their families, and law enforcement personnel by mandating the immediate surrender of firearms by accused abusers subject to protective orders. This testimony will focus on the most significant portion of SB943: requiring the surrender of any firearms possessed by the accused abuser prior to the entry of the final protective order, when evidence supports the abuse claim.

Comprised of Temple Beth Ami, Kol Shalom, and Adat Shalom, CIF is a coalition of synagogues with over 1,750 families. CIF is a vehicle for our congregations to speak out on policy issues that relate to our shared values, including the Jewish tradition's emphasis on the primary value of human life and, consequently, on increasing the protection of victims of domestic violence.

Current Maryland law provides for three levels of protective orders, with different consequences for firearms surrender:

- The first, an interim order, can be issued by a judicial commissioner.<sup>1</sup> This protective order is of short duration, generally two business days,<sup>2</sup> and cannot require an accused abuser to surrender firearms in his possession.

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<sup>1</sup>Md. Code, Family Law §§4-504 and 4-504.1.

<sup>2</sup>*Id.* §4.504.1(h).

- The second, a temporary order, can be issued by a judge pending a hearing to determine whether a permanent protective order should issue.<sup>3</sup> Under the current statute, a judge issuing a temporary protective order has the discretion to require the accused abuser to surrender any firearms in his possession, but only if he has committed specified acts, such as the previous use of a firearm against the person seeking the protective order.<sup>4</sup>
- The third, a permanent protective order issued after a hearing, requires the surrender of any firearms in the abuser's possession.<sup>5</sup>

SB493 modifies this tiered approach to firearms possession and instead mandates that all protective orders require the surrender of any firearms possessed by the accused abuser, greatly reducing the possibility that the individual will use a firearm to threaten, injure, or kill the abuse victim or family members before the entry of a final order.<sup>6</sup> These amendments address a significant issue of safety for abused women and law enforcement personnel.

In the U.S., women are five times more likely to be killed when their abuser has access to a firearm.<sup>7</sup> In 2021, the last year for which data is available, almost 800 woman were killed with a firearm by intimate partners.<sup>8</sup> Significantly, in states with stronger firearm relinquishment laws, intimate partner homicide rates are significantly lower.<sup>9</sup> The firearm surrender provisions of SB943 will clearly protect abused women and their families.

In like manner, these provisions will also protect law enforcement personnel. Domestic disturbance/violence incidents are some of the most

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<sup>3</sup> *Id.* §4-505.

<sup>4</sup> *Id.* §4-505(a)(2)(viii).

<sup>5</sup> *Id.* §4-506(f).

<sup>6</sup> SB493, §§4-504.1(D) and 4-505(a)(4).

<sup>7</sup> Campbell, J. C., and et al. (2003). "Risk factors for femicide in abusive relationships: results from a multisite case control study". American Journal of Public Health. (2003). <https://doi.org/10.2105/ajph.93.7.1089>

<sup>8</sup> Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Web-based Injury Statistics Query and Reporting System (WISQARS), "WISQARS National Violent Death Reporting System," last accessed February 11, 2025, <https://wisqars.cdc.gov/nvdrs/>.

<sup>9</sup> [https://www.evidenceforaction.org/state-intimate-partner-violence-related-firearm-laws-and-intimate-partner-homicide-rates-united?utm\\_source=chatgpt.com](https://www.evidenceforaction.org/state-intimate-partner-violence-related-firearm-laws-and-intimate-partner-homicide-rates-united?utm_source=chatgpt.com)

common circumstances in which on-duty law enforcement officers are killed.<sup>10</sup> From 2014 to 2023, 34 officers were killed when responding to domestic disturbances and 25 to domestic violence.<sup>11</sup> Disarming accused abusers will thus protect the Maryland police law enforcement personnel as well.

Importantly, the SB493 amendments are consistent with the Second Amendment. As the Supreme Court stated in *Rahimi*, its most recent Second Amendment decision:

When a restraining order contains a finding that an individual poses a credible threat to the physical safety of an intimate partner, that individual may—consistent with the Second Amendment—be banned from possessing firearms while the order is in effect. Since the founding, our Nation's firearm laws have included provisions preventing individuals who threaten physical harm to others from misusing firearms.<sup>12</sup>

Consistent with that holding, SB943 requires that the petition for a protective order describe “the nature and extent of the abuse for which the relief is being sought.”<sup>13</sup> And a judicial officer, before issuing an interim or temporary protective order, must conclude that “reasonable grounds . . . [exist] that the respondent has abused a person eligible for relief.”<sup>14</sup> To issue a final protective order, the judge must find “by a preponderance of the evidence that the alleged abuse has occurred.”<sup>15</sup> Thus, SB943 meets the “credible threat to the physical safety of an intimate partner” requirement of *Rahimi*.

*Rahimi* also noted that the firearm restriction in the protective order was “temporary,” “only prohibit[ing] firearm possession so long as the

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<sup>10</sup> <https://www.cnn.com/2022/01/22/us/domestic-incidents-police-officers-danger/index.html>

<sup>11</sup> FBI REPORT *Law Enforcement Officers Killed and Assaulted*, 2023

<sup>12</sup> *United States v. Rahimi*, 144 S.Ct. 1889, 1896, 219 L.Ed.2d 351, 362 (2024).

<sup>13</sup> §4-504(b)(1)(ii)1.

<sup>14</sup> Md. Code, Family Law §§ 4-504.1(b) and 4-505(a)(1).

<sup>15</sup> *Id.* §4-506(c)(ii)



defendant 'is' subject to a restraining order.”<sup>16</sup> SB943 and the current Maryland statutes similarly prohibit firearm possession for a limited period of time and only while the respondent is subject to the protective order.<sup>17</sup> And, SB943 specifies the conditions under which the accused abuser may retake possession of the surrendered firearms when the interim, temporary, and final protective orders expire.<sup>18</sup> This clearly meets the standards established by *Rahami*.

For these reasons, the Critical Issues Forum recommends a favorable report on SB943.

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<sup>16</sup>144 S.Ct. at 1902, 219 L.Ed. at 368.

<sup>17</sup> A final protective order can generally last for only one year. Md. Code, Family Law §4-506(j)(1). An interim order terminates after two business days, *Id.* §4-504.1(h). The temporary order generally lasts for not more than seven days, but can be extended for up to six months. *Id.* §4-505(c). In all three cases, the restriction on firearm possession lasts only for the duration of the order. *Id.* §506(f); SB493 §§4-504.1(D) and 4-505(a)(4).

<sup>18</sup> SB943 §4-506.1(C).



# **CFW SB 943 - SUPPORT.pdf**

Uploaded by: Elizabeth Richards

Position: FAV



**COMMISSION FOR WOMEN  
COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT CLUSTER**

February 19, 2025  
Senator William C. Smith  
Chair, Senate Judicial Proceedings Committee  
Miller Senate Office Building, 2 East Street  
Annapolis, MD 21401

RE: SB 943 Family and Law Enforcement Protection Act

Position: **SUPPORT**

Dear Chairperson Smith, and members of the Senate Judicial Proceedings Committee,

On behalf of the Montgomery County Commission for Women, I am writing to ask for your support of SB 943 — Family and Law Enforcement Protection Act. In 2023, 38 women were murdered with a firearm by their partners within the state of Maryland<sup>1</sup>. This statistic aligns with national data that indicates one in three women experience intimate partner violence within their lifetime, with 4.5 million women reporting they have been threatened by their partner with a gun<sup>2,3</sup>. The presence of a firearm in an intimate partner violence case increases the risk that the woman will be killed by five times<sup>4</sup>. Given the risks posed by firearms in intimate partner violence situations, it is imperative that the state has a clear process for the relinquishment of the firearm and strong mechanism for enforcement. This bill closes gaps in the current protective order law by ensuring firearms are relinquished or removed from perpetrators.

Montgomery County Commission for Women advocates for legislation that promotes the equal and full participation of women and girls in every aspect of community living and access to education, healthcare, and work advancement with political and economic power. Women are disproportionately victimized by intimate partner violence, and cannot achieve their full potential when their physical safety is threatened by their current or former partner.

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<sup>1</sup> Herren, K. (2024, November 23). Stop silencing survivors [conference presentation]. Maryland Legislative Agenda for Women. Columbia, MD, United States. [chrome-extension://efaidnbmnnnibpcajpcglclefindmkaj/https://mdlegagendaforwomen.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/11/2024-merged-proposal-packet-for-web.pdf](https://mdlegagendaforwomen.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/11/2024-merged-proposal-packet-for-web.pdf)

<sup>2</sup> Herren, K. (2024, November 23). Stop silencing survivors [conference presentation]. Maryland Legislative Agenda for Women. Columbia, MD, United States. [chrome-extension://efaidnbmnnnibpcajpcglclefindmkaj/https://mdlegagendaforwomen.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/11/2024-merged-proposal-packet-for-web.pdf](https://mdlegagendaforwomen.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/11/2024-merged-proposal-packet-for-web.pdf)

<sup>3</sup> Maryland Legislative Agenda for Women (MLAW). (2024, November 23). MLAW fall agenda conference. [chrome-extension://efaidnbmnnnibpcajpcglclefindmkaj/https://mdlegagendaforwomen.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/11/2024-merged-proposal-packet-for-web.pdf](https://mdlegagendaforwomen.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/11/2024-merged-proposal-packet-for-web.pdf)

<sup>4</sup> Maryland Legislative Agenda for Women (MLAW). (2024, November 23). MLAW fall agenda conference. [chrome-extension://efaidnbmnnnibpcajpcglclefindmkaj/https://mdlegagendaforwomen.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/11/2024-merged-proposal-packet-for-web.pdf](https://mdlegagendaforwomen.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/11/2024-merged-proposal-packet-for-web.pdf)

Therefore, I urge a favorable report on SB 943 on behalf of the Montgomery County Commission for Women.

Sincerely,

Commissioner Elizabeth Richards  
Chair, Policy & Legislative Committee  
Montgomery County Commission for Women

# **SB943\_HB1050 2025 Testimony-2.pdf**

Uploaded by: Karen Herren

Position: FAV



Testimony in **Support** of the  
**Family & Law Enforcement Protection Act**  
SB943/HB1050  
Karen Herren, Executive Director

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February 19, 2025/February 20, 2025

**Marylanders to Prevent Gun Violence (MPGV) Testimony in Support of Senate Bill 943/House Bill 1050**

Marylanders to Prevent Gun Violence (MPGV) is a statewide organization dedicated to reducing gun deaths and injuries in Maryland. We urge the committee to issue a **Favorable** report on Senate Bill 943/House Bill 1050.

**The Problem**

While domestic violence may not always begin with gun violence, firearms too often become the tragic endpoint of an escalating cycle of abuse. Recent incidents in Maryland underscore the devastating consequences of domestic violence combined with easy firearm access:

- **January 2024:** A Glenelg father shot and killed his two teenage children before taking his own life.
- **May 2024:** An Elkridge father killed his wife, daughter-in-law, and adult daughter, and wounded his adult son before dying by suicide.
- **June 2024:** A 12-year-old Baltimore girl was shot and killed by her mother's former intimate partner, who had previously threatened the family.
- **October 2023:** A Maryland judge was shot and killed in his driveway by a man who had just lost a custody ruling.

These stories are not isolated incidents. Each year between 2019 and 2023, an average of **47 individuals in Maryland lost their lives to domestic violence**. In 2023 alone, **at least 32 children** in our state were left without one or both parents due to domestic violence.

Despite existing legal protections, gaps in Maryland law **fail to ensure the prompt and consistent surrender of firearms** from individuals subject to protective orders. This leaves survivors and their families vulnerable to further harm.

## The Need for Action

When an individual is legally prohibited from possessing a firearm—whether through a protective order or a criminal conviction<sup>1</sup> —**swift and enforceable firearm relinquishment is critical**. Maryland's process for Domestic Violence Protective Order (DVPO) proceedings relies too heavily on self-compliance, putting lives at risk.

- **Protective order respondents are not consistently required to surrender firearms until a final order is issued**, meaning abusers can retain their weapons during a period of heightened danger.
- **Judges and Commissioners often lack crucial information early in proceedings** to mandate firearm relinquishment.
- **Victims are often overwhelmed, fearful, or unaware of what information is needed** to trigger court-ordered firearm removal.
- **Courts and law enforcement often lack the necessary information** or clear procedures to take further action when a respondent fails to surrender firearms as required under a DVPO. Without proper tracking and follow-up, dangerous individuals may continue to possess firearms, putting victims and their families at risk.

## The Solution – Senate Bill 943/House Bill 1050

SB 943/HB 1050 strengthens firearm relinquishment procedures in domestic violence cases by:

1. **Allowing the court to order the surrender** of firearms at the interim phase when the circumstances warrant it.
2. **Requiring immediate firearm surrender** when a temporary protective order is issued.
3. **Asking relevant and thought-provoking questions of petitioners** to better understand the scope of the situation.
4. **Extending relinquishment requirements** to include both firearms and handgun qualification licenses.
5. **Creating a work group of relevant stakeholders to evaluate the process** and identify further needed modifications to enhance safety for all.
6. **Establishing clear guidelines for firearm storage and retrieval, with return** only when legally permitted.

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<sup>1</sup> Note that this legislation does not address the surrender process for criminal convictions and is limited specifically to DVPO civil court proceedings. Problems with the criminal processes will need to be addressed at a later point in time.



## Conclusion

Failing to disarm dangerous individuals when protective orders are issued leaves survivors, families, and communities at risk. Maryland needs to **prioritize the safety of domestic violence victims** by ensuring a swift, enforceable, and accountable firearm relinquishment process.

MPGV urges a **Favorable** report on SB 943/HB1050. Thank you for your time and consideration.

## **SB0943- Family and law enforcement protection act.**

Uploaded by: Kathryn Gravely

Position: FAV



Date: February 17, 2025

To: Chair Smith, Vice Chair Waldstreicher, and the Judicial Proceedings Committee

Reference: Senate Bill 943, Family and Law Enforcement Protection Act

Position: FAVORABLE

Dear Chair Smith and Committee Members:

On behalf of LifeBridge Health's Center for Hope, we thank you for this opportunity to provide information in support of Senate Bill 943. Center for Hope provides intervention and prevention for over 7,700 survivors and caregivers impacted by child abuse, domestic violence, community violence, and elder abuse. At LifeBridge Health, we recognize the devastating impact of violence in our communities and the growing number of victims of all ages. As a public health issue, we need to help our communities by partnering with the people in them to break the cycle of violence.

The Center for Hope **strongly supports Senate Bill 943 – Family and Law Enforcement Protection Act**. This legislation orders respondents subject to an interim protective order to surrender firearms in their possession to law enforcement and prohibits them from purchasing a firearm for the duration of the interim protective order. Decades of research support the notion that restricting access to firearms immediately following an incident of domestic or intimate partner violence helps save lives.<sup>1</sup> This bill does exactly that.

An estimated 10 million people and children in the United States are exposed to domestic violence each year. Notably, the mere presence of a firearm in an episode of intimate partner violence increases the risk of homicide by 500%.<sup>2</sup> An estimated 57% of Maryland's domestic violence-related homicides in Maryland were by firearm.<sup>3</sup> The impact of domestic violence goes beyond the intimate partners and includes children who witness and live with domestic violence. Such exposure is not only traumatic, but sometimes deadly. FBI data shows that in domestic violence homicides where at least one person was killed in addition to the intimate

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<sup>1</sup>Díez, C., Kurland, R. P., Rothman, E. F., Bair-Merritt, M., Fleegler, E., Xuan, Z., Galea, S., Ross, C. S., Kalesan, B., Goss, K. A., & Siegel, M. (2017). State Intimate Partner Violence-Related Firearm Laws and Intimate Partner Homicide Rates in the United States, 1991 to 2015. *Annals of internal medicine*, 167(8), 536–543. (State domestic violence laws reduce intimate partner homicide by firearm by 14% when restraining orders are combined with orders for the abuser to relinquish firearms). See also Zeoli, A. M., McCourt, A., Buggs, S., Frattaroli, S., Lilley, D., & Webster, D. W. (2018). Analysis of the Strength of Legal Firearms Restrictions for Perpetrators of Domestic Violence and Their Associations With Intimate Partner Homicide. *American journal of epidemiology*, 187(11), 2365–2371.

<sup>2</sup> Campbell, J. C., Webster, D., Koziol-McLain, J., et al. (2003). Risk factors for femicide in abusive relationships: Results from a multisite case control study. *American journal of public health*, 93(7), 1089-1097.

<sup>3</sup> This is the most recent data available (2022) from the CDC. See <https://publichealth.jhu.edu/center-for-gun-violence-solutions/maryland>.

partner, a quarter of those additional victims were children under the age of 18.<sup>4</sup> Exposure to adverse childhood experiences, such as child abuse and domestic violence, increases a child's risk of long-term physical and mental health problems. Inhibiting access to firearms during the interim protective order stage helps to protect families and children during a period that is statistically the most dangerous.

**For all the above stated reasons, we request a favorable report for Senate Bill 943.**

For more information, please contact:

Kathryn Gravely, Esq.  
Attorney for Violence Prevention, Center for Hope  
[kgravely@lifebridgehealth.org](mailto:kgravely@lifebridgehealth.org)  
Phone: 410-469-4654

Jennifer Witten  
Vice President of Government Relations and Community Development, LifeBridge Health  
[jwitten2@lifebridgehealth.org](mailto:jwitten2@lifebridgehealth.org)

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<sup>4</sup> <https://www.bradyunited.org/resources/issues/domestic-violence-and-guns-2>

# **Testimony Support SB 943- Family and Law Enforceme**

Uploaded by: Ken Shilling

Position: FAV



# Unitarian Universalist Legislative Ministry of Maryland

## Testimony in Support of SB 943- Family and Law Enforcement Protection Act

To: Senator Smith, Chair, and members of the Judicial Proceeding Committee  
From: Ken Shilling, MD UULM-MD Gun Violence Prevention, Issue Lead,  
Unitarian Universalist Legislative Ministry of Maryland.  
Date: February 19, 2025

Unitarians Universalists recognize the need for safety from gun violence in domestic violence situations. We have a moral obligation and responsibility to lower the risk of gun violence to family members. That is why we support **SB 943- Family and Law Enforcement Protection Act**.

Currently, a respondent can turn over one firearm and still have additional firearms in their possession. This means that their family members will continue to live in fear knowing that the respondent has other firearms. A respondent should turn over any and all firearms in their possession.

There must be standard procedures for the respondent to surrender firearms to law enforcement officials. The respondent must surrender firearms at the onset of the initial protective order. The respondent must refrain from possession of any firearm for the duration of the interim protective order.

**SB 943** provides reasonable and standard measures to ensure that the respondent fully comply with the protective orders to surrender any and all firearms. The standards also authorizes law enforcement authorities to search for firearms with probable cause and without the respondent's presence.

We urge you to vote for **SB 943**. We ask you to stand on the side of love and justice. We believe that these provisions will strengthen public safety in Maryland.  
We urge a favorable report.

Thank you,

*Ken Shilling*

Ken Shilling  
Gun Violence Prevention Lead Advocate



## **PO - gun surrender enforcement - testimony - sena**

Uploaded by: Lisae C Jordan

Position: FAV





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**Working to end sexual violence in Maryland**

P.O. Box 8782  
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For more information contact:  
Lisae C. Jordan, Esquire  
443-995-5544  
[www.mcasa.org](http://www.mcasa.org)

**Testimony Supporting Senate Bill 943 with Sponsor Amendments**  
**Lisae C. Jordan, Executive Director & Counsel**  
February 19, 2025

The Maryland Coalition Against Sexual Assault (MCASA) is a non-profit membership organization that includes the State's seventeen rape crisis centers, law enforcement, mental health and health care providers, attorneys, educators, survivors of sexual violence and other concerned individuals. MCASA includes the Sexual Assault Legal Institute (SALI), a statewide legal services provider for survivors of sexual assault. MCASA represents the unified voice and combined energy of all of its members working to eliminate sexual violence. We urge the Judicial Proceedings Committee to report favorably on Senate Bill 943 with Sponsor Amendments.

**Senate Bill 943 – Protective Orders and Surrender of Firearms**

Senate Bill 943 is the result of the work of a workgroup comprised of organizations whose mission it is to reduce gun violence, and of which MCASA's sister coalition, the Maryland Network Against Domestic Violence, was a member. Protective orders are not only for survivors of intimate partner violence, but also help protect certain rape and sexual assault survivors, so MCASA is closely following this work.

SB 943 is an attempt to provide guidance to the courts and law enforcement on how to hold protection order respondents accountable to surrender their firearms if a protection order is issued against them. There are three major components to SB 943. First, our protection order law (MD. Code Ann. FL Section 4-501 et seq.) already requires the mandatory surrender of firearms upon the grant of a final protection order. SB 943 would expand that to a mandatory surrender of firearms at the interim and temporary protection order phase if court grants the order.

Second, Senate Bill 943 creates a list of questions on the petition for protection from abuse. It is an expansive set of questions, and we laud the goal of learning everything possible about a respondent and his gun ownership, as well as reinforcing that the courts must take their responsibility to have respondents surrender guns seriously and ask *every* petitioner about guns. However, we share our colleagues' concerns about the unintended consequences of this very long list and whether it may, perversely, discourage those in danger from seeking protection. Amendments will appropriately protect survivors' privacy and will not be so overwhelming to petitioners.

The third component of SB 943 creates accountability for the respondent to comply with a court order and surrender their guns. It has timing requirements and well as requirements that the respondent certify to the court that he/she has surrendered their guns. It creates a mechanism to hold respondents accountable if they fail to surrender their guns within a certain amount of time and gives law enforcement or prosecutors power to pursue the surrender of the guns. The efforts to hold respondents accountable vary across jurisdictions, but **all petitioners deserve safety, and one of the most important ways to achieve that safety is removal of firearms from those who pose danger to the petitioner.**

MCASA joins in our colleagues' efforts to support important improvements to enforcing the current requirements that guns be surrendered as part of the protective order process. We also support the Sponsor Amendments as changes necessary to make the legislation effective.

**The Maryland Coalition Against Sexual Assault urges the  
Judicial Proceedings Committee to  
report favorably on Senate Bill 943 with Sponsor Amendments**

## **SB943**

Uploaded by: Lydia Watts

Position: FAV

**Testimony in Support of**  
**SB 943 Family and Law Enforcement Protection Act**

**Presented by Lydia C. Watts, Esq., Executive Director, the Rebuild, Overcome, and Rise**  
**(ROAR) Center at University of Maryland, Baltimore**

**February 19, 2025**

Good afternoon Chair and members of the Senate Judicial Proceedings Committee.

My name is Lydia Watts. I am the Executive Director of the Rebuild, Overcome, and Rise (ROAR) Center at the University of Maryland, Baltimore. I am submitting this written testimony in support of **SB 943 Family and Law Enforcement Protection Act**. The views expressed herein are mine as an expert in the field and are not the views of the University of Maryland, Baltimore. ROAR provides wrap-around services to victims of crime in Baltimore City. Since June 2019 when ROAR started providing services, we have assisted over 840 people, all of whom are survivors of crime ranging from homicides, non-fatal shootings, rapes, assaults, intimate partner violence, and more. Some of the people we have helped have experienced gun violence at the hands of an intimate partner – most frequently, ex-, estranged, or current husband or boyfriend – typically at the time of or immediately after separation and/or the start of a legal proceeding, such as a protection order.

I write as an attorney who has represented survivors of domestic violence for over 29 years and as a student attorney and advocate for roughly 6 years before becoming a member of the Maryland Bar in November 1996. I have represented hundreds, if not thousands, of survivors in Maryland, the District of Columbia, and Massachusetts – the three jurisdictions in which I am barred to practice law (though inactive currently in DC and MA). Most of my clients have been low-income, supporting children, living in a metropolitan area, and I was providing those legal services free of charge. Many of them had been threatened with death if they ever told anyone about the violence or left the person who was causing them harm. Some of them were threatened at gunpoint.

I will tell you about one of the earliest cases I took on as a barred attorney in the District of Columbia. I was contacted by another organization in DC to help a survivor because she has sought and was granted a temporary protection order, but when he was served her husband and father of their three kids had cross-filed for his own temporary protection order, which the judge had granted contrary to best practices. When the judge granted the husband's request for a protection order, she vacated the portion of my client's order that required that the husband leave the family home and not enter it until there was a full hearing with both parties present. I filed an emergency motion to restore that protection and to vacate the husband's temporary protection order, which was granted. We started preparing for a contested hearing, anticipating that her husband would return to court with the same allegations he had made to secure his temporary

order, which were false. At the time it was illegal to possess handguns in DC, with some limited exception which did not apply to the husband. No one – not even me - thought to ask my client about whether her husband owned or had access to a gun, even though from the time of the passage of the Violence Against Women Act in 1993 it was unlawful to possess a firearm if under a protection order. Before the date of the full hearing arrived, my client's husband came to their family home in the middle of the night. My client had changed the locks on her door with assistance I was able to obtain for her, and so her husband's key did not work when he tried to open the door. He broke down the front door, which woke up my client. She locked her bedroom door and hid inside her closet. Her husband broke down the bedroom door and immediately found her in the closet. At gun point – with all three kids in the house, the oldest of whom woke up too and begged his father to stop – the husband dragged my client down the stairs and to the front yard where he put the handgun to his wife's head and fired. The gun thankfully jammed and so she was not injured in anyway. Neighbors had called the police, who arrived very quickly. The husband was arrested and ultimately pled guilty in federal District Court to possession of a firearm while under a federal protection order and was sentenced to 10-years in prison, the longest sentence allowed for that crime.

I share that story both because it underscores the importance of being vigilant about gun possession in instances where prior violence has taken place, especially intimate partner violence, but also because that case prompted me to engage in the study of gun violence. I did so as a layperson for nearly 20 years and later enrolled as a Bloomberg American Health Initiative (BAHI) Fellow at the Johns Hopkins University Bloomberg School of Public Health to study gun violence as a public health crisis and completed last August the program of study to earn a Master of Public Health (MPH). During my time as a BAHI Fellow, I read many research studies and reviewed immense amounts of data that provide the scientific basis for this legislation.

**For all these reasons, I urge the Senate Judicial Proceedings Committee to support SB 943.**

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Lydia Watts", followed by a horizontal flourish.

Lydia C. Watts, Esq., MPH  
Executive Director  
Rebuild, Overcome, and Rise (ROAR) Center  
University of Maryland, Baltimore

**sb943.pdf**

Uploaded by: Nicole Hollywood

Position: FAV

Good afternoon. my name is Dr Nicole Hollywood I live in Salisbury Maryland, in district 37. I am a volunteer with the Eastern Shore Local Group of the Maryland Chapter of Moms Demand Action.

I'm also a survivor of gun violence, a gun owner, a mother, and a college educator.

I am here in support of SB 943 and I ask for a favorable report because I know firsthand what it is like to have my children and I repeatedly controlled, threatened and terrorized by an armed abuser and that individuals fleeing domestic violence face a multitude of barriers, chief among them being a lack of clarity and enforcement of firearm prohibitions for perpetrators of domestic violence.

My ex-husband, during one of his many black-out drunk moments, held a gun to one of my son's head. My son was only nine years old at the time. After we separated, he started breaking into my house while armed. Ultimately, I got a restraining order. However, when the judge ordered him to turn in all of his firearms, he only gave up one, despite having an arsenal. There was never any follow up from law enforcement.

Guns amplify the coercive power and control dynamics inherent in abusive intimate relationships. Unfortunately, individuals fleeing domestic violence face a multitude of barriers, chief among them being a lack of clarity and enforcement of firearm prohibitions for perpetrators of domestic violence. This puts the lives of survivors at risk, making them feel hopeless and neglected by a system that is supposed to protect them.

This bill would strengthen Maryland law to make sure that firearms are kept out of the hands of domestic abusers when their victims first seek protection from a court through an interim or temporary protective order, which is an incredibly dangerous time for victims. Additionally, the bill would also ensure courts give clear and specific guidance to respondents of protective orders about firearm surrender requirements.

There should be no ambiguities in the process of disarming domestic abusers. Intimate partner violence and gun violence are inextricably linked. Guns exacerbate violent and abusive situations. Every month, an average of 76 women in the US are shot and killed by an intimate partner—and nearly 6 million women reported having a gun used against them by an intimate partner. Abusers with firearms are five times more likely to kill their female victims. We need to do everything that we can to keep our loved ones safe – and ensure that our laws are equipped to successfully disrupt abusers' access to guns, and save lives.

Thank you for your time.

## **Testimony in support of SB0943 - Family and Law En**

Uploaded by: Richard KAP Kaplowitz

Position: FAV



SB0943\_RichardKaplowitz\_FAV

02/19/2025

Richard Keith Kaplowitz  
Frederick, MD 21703-7134

**TESTIMONY ON SB#0943 - POSITION: FAVORABLE**  
**Family and Law Enforcement Protection Act**

**TO:** Chair Smith, Vice Chair Waldstreicher, and members of the Judicial Proceedings Committee

**FROM:** Richard Keith Kaplowitz

**My name is Richard Kaplowitz. I am a resident of District 3, Frederick County. I am submitting this testimony in support of/ SB#/0943, Family and Law Enforcement Protection Act**

This bill acknowledges a problem in our society and suggests ways to deal with that problem. The problem is the use of a firearm in domestic violence situations.

[In June, 2024], The U.S. Supreme Court Friday upheld a federal law that bars people subject to domestic violence restraining orders from owning a firearm. <sup>1</sup>

In an 8-1 decision in United States v. Rahimi, Chief Justice John Roberts [wrote in the opinion](#) that “our Nation’s firearm laws have included provisions preventing individuals who threaten physical harm to others from misusing firearms.”

“When an individual has been found by a court to pose a credible threat to the physical safety of another, that individual may be temporarily disarmed consistent with the Second Amendment,” Roberts wrote.

This problem exists on a national scale:

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention’s (CDC) National Intimate Partner and Sexual Violence Survey (NISVS), one in three women has experienced domestic violence in her lifetime, with women of color experiencing violence at disproportionately high rates. On average, 57 women in the United States are shot and killed by an intimate partner every month. The presence of a gun during a domestic dispute makes it five times more likely that the woman will be killed. Around 4.5 million women report having been threatened with gun violence by an intimate partner, and nearly one million have been shot by an abusive intimate partner. The Federal Bureau of Investigation’s (FBI) Uniform Crime Reporting Supplementary Homicide Reports found that more than 600 women are shot annually<sup>1</sup>—one every 14 hours. <sup>2</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> <https://marylandmatters.org/2024/06/21/u-s-supreme-court-upholds-law-that-prevents-domestic-abusers-from-owning-guns/>

<sup>2</sup> [https://mdpgv.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/11/A-Safe-Haven\\_Policy-Paper-November-2024-.pdf](https://mdpgv.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/11/A-Safe-Haven_Policy-Paper-November-2024-.pdf)

SB0943\_RichardKaplowitz\_FAV

The purpose of this bill is altering and establishing provisions relating to the surrender of firearms by a respondent under the domestic violence statutes. It mandates the collection of data in Maryland to document what is happening in this area in Maryland. That mandate is accomplished by creating the Task Force to Study the Use of Firearms in Domestic Violence Situations and requiring the Task Force to submit a report on its recommendations on or before November 15, 2025.

This bill can save the lives of victims of domestic violence by providing a road map for dealing with the issue in the most effective manner.

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**I respectfully urge this committee to return a favorable report on SB0943.**

## **SB943 Sponsor amendment**

Uploaded by: Shelly Hettleman

Position: FAV



**SB0943/123722/1**

AMENDMENTS  
PREPARED  
BY THE  
DEPT. OF LEGISLATIVE  
SERVICES

19 FEB 25  
09:36:42

BY: Senator Hettleman  
(To be offered in the Judicial Proceedings Committee)

AMENDMENTS TO SENATE BILL 943  
(First Reading File Bill)

AMENDMENT NO. 1

On page 2, in line 19, and on page 3, in line 5, in each instance, strike “QUALIFICATION LICENSE” and substitute “PERMIT”.

AMENDMENT NO. 2

On page 3, strike beginning with “**WHETHER**” in line 10 down through “**(4)**” in line 17; in lines 18, 22, and 23, strike “**(5)**”, “**(7)**”, and “**(8)**”, respectively, and substitute “**(3)**”, “**(4)**”, and “**(5)**”, respectively; strike in their entirety lines 20 and 21; in line 22, after “**FIREARM**” insert “, IF KNOWN”; and in line 24, strike the semicolon and substitute “, IF KNOWN; AND”.

On pages 3 and 4, strike in their entirety the lines beginning with line 25 on page 3 through line 2 on page 4, inclusive.

AMENDMENT NO. 3

On page 4, in line 3, strike “**(10)**” and substitute “**(6)**”; in line 5, after “**CAR**” insert “, IF KNOWN”; and in line 6, strike the semicolon and substitute “, IF KNOWN.”.

On pages 4 and 5, strike in their entirety the lines beginning with line 7 on page 4 through line 2 on page 5, inclusive.

AMENDMENT NO. 4

On page 6, in line 13, strike “and”; and in line 15, after “Clerk” insert “; AND”.

**(3) PROVIDE THE PETITIONER WITH RESOURCES FOR SAFETY  
PLANNING AND OTHER SUPPORT, INCLUDING CONTACT INFORMATION FOR THE  
MARYLAND NETWORK AGAINST DOMESTIC VIOLENCE”.**

# **SB943\_HETTLEMAN\_FAV.pdf**

Uploaded by: Shelly Hettleman

Position: FAV

SHELLY HETTLEMAN  
Legislative District 11  
Baltimore County

Chair, Rules Committee  
Budget and Taxation Committee

*Subcommittees*  
Capital Budget  
Health and Human Services  
Chair, Pensions



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*Joint Committees*  
Senate Chair, Audit and Evaluation  
Senate Chair, Pensions

TESTIMONY OF SENATOR SHELLY HETTLEMAN  
SB 943 - FAMILY AND LAW ENFORCEMENT PROTECTION ACT

**GUN VIOLENCE AND DOMESTIC VIOLENCE**

This bill is not just about policy, it is about saving lives. This bill takes important steps to strengthen protections for domestic violence victims and law enforcement by ensuring that individuals subject to protective orders are required to relinquish their firearms swiftly.

Gun violence and domestic violence are deeply intertwined, creating a deadly intersection of public health crises that puts victims —particularly Black women and other women of color— at great risk. While each is independently detrimental and perilous, the presence of a firearm in an abusive situation escalates violence and gives rise to even more danger. Guns amplify the inherent power and control dynamics characteristic of abusive intimate relationships, whether as lethal weapons to injure and kill or as a tool to inflict emotional abuse without ever firing a bullet.

We know that when an abuser has access to a gun, the risk of homicide increases by **five times**.<sup>1</sup> Research also shows that more than half of intimate partner homicides against women are perpetrated with a firearm.<sup>2</sup> Black women in Maryland are five times more likely to die from domestic violence-related shootings compared to their representation in the population. Additionally, the impact of gun violence in domestic abuse situations extends beyond direct danger to the victim—posing serious risks to responding law enforcement, as well as to family members and children in the household.

These deaths are not inevitable; we know what works—disarming abusers. Federal law, as well as many state, tribal, and local laws, provide a legal framework to reduce the risk of domestic violence-related firearm injury and fatality by disarming certain domestic abusers. The 2024 Supreme Court decision in *US v Rahimi* affirmed that such laws restricting abusers' access to firearms are permissible under the Second Amendment.

Yet, these legal protections are only as effective as their enforcement. Despite laws mandating disarmament for individuals with protective orders, pretrial conditions, or certain criminal convictions, relinquishment procedures are often inconsistent or inadequate, leaving many survivors vulnerable. Moreover, each local jurisdiction has a different process, resulting in 24 different procedures.

While Maryland is recognized as a leader in gun safety—earning an A- rating from the Giffords Law Center—this grade masks a dangerous gap. In 2022, 56 Marylanders lost their lives due to intimate partner violence. **75% of them were killed with a firearm.** Without a robust, uniform process to ensure that abusers actually relinquish their firearms, survivors remain at risk. SB 943 closes this gap.

## **WHAT SB 943 DOES**

This proposed legislation strengthens firearm relinquishment requirements in protective order proceedings, ensuring compliance with existing laws and closing dangerous gaps that leave survivors at risk of escalating violence. This bill provides several critical, life-saving safeguards by:

- 1. Strengthening firearm removal at every stage of the protective order process:**
  - a. Interim Protective Orders:** Grants judges the discretion to order firearm surrender at the interim stage, aligning with Extreme Risk Protective Order (ERPO) provisions.
  - b. Temporary Protective Orders:** Mandates firearm removal at the temporary order stage, which builds on current policy requiring mandatory removal at the final stage, to establish a layered safety net.
  - c. Final Protective Orders:** Reinforces existing mandatory firearm surrender requirements.
- 2. Establishing a clear and immediate relinquishment procedure:**
  - a. Timeline for surrender:** Requires immediate firearm transfer when an individual is legally prohibited from possession, with a strict deadline of no more than 24 hours.
  - b. Compliance Verification:** Mandates submission of a firearm transfer form to law enforcement within two business days to verify compliance.
  - c. Screening Questions:** Requires the court to ask petitioners (victims) whether the respondent (abuser) possesses firearms during protective order hearings, equipping the court with critical information to assess danger and enforce removal.
- 3. Improving Enforcement and Victim Notification:**
  - a. Non-compliance protocols:** Establishes clear protocols for law enforcement intervention if a firearm is not surrendered within the required timeframe.
- 4. Creates a task force on firearm relinquishment:**
  - a. Purpose:** Evaluates the effectiveness of current firearm surrender procedures, identify enforcement gaps, and recommend improvements.

## **IMPLICATIONS OF SB 943**

This legislation provides a proactive approach to mitigate the devastating impacts of domestic violence by closing dangerous enforcement gaps across Maryland's firearm relinquishment laws. By requiring immediate transfer of firearms, SB 943 will work to significantly reduce the risk that an abuser will use a firearm to harm, threaten, or kill their victims during volatile periods of domestic violence cases. It ensures compliance with existing protections throughout all stages of the protective order process and equips the courts and law enforcement with information regarding the abuser's possession of firearms.



## CONCLUSIONS

The solution is not arming the victims.<sup>3,4</sup> The solution is disarming abusers. Removing firearms from abusers saves lives. SB 943 offers Maryland a proven, life-saving solution to a far-too-common and deadly problem. Therefore, I urge a favorable report from the Judicial Proceedings Committee on SB 943, and I thank you for your consideration.

## References:

1. Campbell JC, Webster D, Koziol-McLain J, et al. Risk factors for femicide in abusive relationships: Results from a multisite case control study. *American Journal of Public Health*. 2003;93(7):1089–1096. <https://ajph.aphapublications.org/doi/full/10.2105/AJPH.93.7.1089>. Accessed Feb 13, 2025. doi: 10.2105/AJPH.93.7.1089.
2. Websdale N, Ferraro K, Barger SD. The domestic violence fatality review clearinghouse: Introduction to a new national data system with a focus on firearms. *Injury Epidemiology*. 2019;6(1):6. <https://doi.org/10.1186/s40621-019-0182-2>. Accessed Feb 13, 2025. doi: 10.1186/s40621-019-0182-2.
3. Hughes D, DeFilippis E. Gun-rights advocates claim owning a gun makes a woman safer. the research says they're wrong. <https://www.thetrace.org/2016/05/gun-ownership-makes-women-safer-debunked/>. Updated 2016. Accessed Feb 13, 2025.
4. Zeoli AM, Bonomi A. Pretty in pink? firearm hazards for domestic violence victims. *Womens Health Issues*. 2015;25(1):3–5. [https://www.whijournal.com/article/S1049-3867\(14\)00112-1/fulltext](https://www.whijournal.com/article/S1049-3867(14)00112-1/fulltext). Accessed Feb 13, 2025. doi: 10.1016/j.whi.2014.09.005.

# **SB 943- Cantrell support testimony.pdf**

Uploaded by: Spencer Cantrell

Position: FAV

**TO:** The Honorable Will Smith, Chairman  
*Judicial Proceedings Committee*

**FROM:** Spencer Cantrell, JD  
*Assistant Scientist, Johns Hopkins Center for Gun Violence Solutions*

**DATE:** February 17, 2025

**RE:** SB 943- Family and Law Enforcement Protection Act

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My name is Spencer Cantrell, and I am an Assistant Scientist at the Johns Hopkins Center for Gun Violence Solutions. **This testimony represents my strong support of SB 943 Family and Law Enforcement Protection Act - a critical bill that will improve the court's ability to ensure protections for victims and survivors of domestic violence by strengthening firearm surrender provisions in protective order cases.**

Prior to joining Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health, I spent most of my professional career working in support of victims and survivors of domestic violence. Firearms were a common challenge in my work with clients as an attorney and victim advocate. Clients were too often threatened by their abuser with a firearm, and the known presence of a firearm in the home or an abuser's access to a firearm often shaped my client's safety planning, from thinking of leaving to their abuser and for years on, as some victims/ survivors would continue to co-parent with their abusers for years to come. Some clients, who I have not seen in years, are people I think of frequently: a client whose abuser was in law enforcement and so when she called the authorities, they dismissed her concerns and would not take a report. I remember another client who was impoverished and too afraid to file for child support because her abuser, the father of her child, had threatened to kill her and her children with a firearm if she ever took him to court for any reason. I'll never forget safety planning with my client who was nine months pregnant about what she would do if the abuser showed up to the maternity ward with a firearm. The challenges and fears of an abuser with firearms were an unfortunate common through line in this work.

The research on the impact of firearms in domestic violence is consistent with what I saw in my work with individual victims and survivors and overwhelmingly shows the importance of consistently removing firearms from domestic violence abusers. Research shows that nearly half of all female homicide victims in the U.S. are killed by current or former intimate partners.<sup>1</sup> In

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<sup>1</sup> Tobin-Tyler E. Intimate Partner Violence, Firearm Injuries and Homicides: A Health Justice Approach to Two Intersecting Public Health Crises. *J Law Med Ethics*. 2023;51(1):64-76. doi: 10.1017/jme.2023.41. Epub 2023 May 25. PMID: 37226755; PMCID: PMC10209983.

2022, 56 Marylanders—ranging in age from 1 to 67 years old—lost their lives in domestic violence-related incidents.<sup>2</sup> Of these fatalities, 75% of all domestic violence homicides involved a firearm.<sup>3</sup> Domestic violence affects more than the victims of abusive relationships; many of Maryland’s domestic violence deaths were bystanders killed in shootings, and 30 children were left behind by victims of domestic violence in 2022.<sup>4</sup> Domestic violence has ripple effects on entire communities. We also know that most mass shooters have a history of committing domestic violence.<sup>5</sup>

The problem is more than clear. However, there are concrete, definitive steps that we can take to make victims of domestic violence and our entire communities much safer. Domestic violence protective orders that require firearm removal are associated with a 12% reduction in intimate partner homicide and a 16% reduction in firearm intimate partner homicide.<sup>6</sup> When domestic violence protective orders firearm restrictions cover ex parte orders, not just final protective orders, there is a 13% reduction in intimate partner homicide and a 16% reduction in firearm intimate partner homicide.<sup>7</sup>

Under current law, gaps in enforcement mechanisms create dangerous loopholes that allow abusers to maintain access to firearms even after a protective order is issued. SB 943 closes these gaps by:

- **Mandating the surrender of firearms** for respondents subject to both temporary and final protective orders, ensuring immediate risk reduction.
- **Providing clear protocols** for judges and prosecutors to track compliance, issue contempt orders, and take actions against respondents who have not surrendered their firearms.
- **Enhancing interagency coordination**, ensuring law enforcement, judicial officials, and victim service providers effectively communicate and share critical information.

Removing firearms from domestic violence incidents is not just a precaution—it is a proven, life-saving intervention. This bill ensures that Maryland is doing everything possible to prevent tragedies before they occur.

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<sup>2</sup> <https://www.mnadv.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/01/2023-DVFRSIT-ReportFinal.pdf>

<sup>3</sup> <https://www.mnadv.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/01/2023-DVFRSIT-ReportFinal.pdf>

<sup>4</sup> <https://www.mnadv.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/01/2023-DVFRSIT-ReportFinal.pdf>

<sup>5</sup> 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*.

<sup>6</sup> Zeoli AM, McCourt A, Buggs S, Frattaroli S, Lilley D, & Webster DW. (2018). Analysis of the strength of legal firearms restrictions for perpetrators of domestic violence and their associations with intimate partner homicide. *American Journal of Epidemiology*.

<sup>7</sup> Zeoli AM, McCourt A, Buggs S, Frattaroli S, Lilley D, & Webster DW. (2018). Analysis of the strength of legal firearms restrictions for perpetrators of domestic violence and their associations with intimate partner homicide. *American Journal of Epidemiology*.

By requiring courts to obtain and act on firearm access information, SB 943 proactively reduces the risk of domestic violence incidents involving guns. This measure helps prevent homicides, injuries, and escalating violence, ultimately saving lives. Consistently documenting firearm possession creates a clear legal pathway for removing guns from individuals who pose a threat, closing dangerous enforcement gaps that might otherwise allow abusers to retain access to deadly weapons.

Accordingly, I respectfully request a **FAVORABLE** committee report on **SB 943**.

# **MCPA - MSA SB 943 - Family and Law Enforcement Pro**

Uploaded by: Andrea Mansfield

Position: FWA



# Maryland Chiefs of Police Association

## Maryland Sheriffs' Association



### MEMORANDUM

TO: The Honorable William Smith Jr., Chair and  
Members of the Senate Judicial Proceedings Committee

FROM: Darren Popkin, Executive Director, MCPA-MSA Joint Legislative Committee  
Andrea Mansfield, Representative, MCPA-MSA Joint Legislative Committee  
Samira Jackson, Representative, MCPA-MSA Joint Legislative Committee

DATE: February 19, 2025

RE: **SB 943 Family and Law Enforcement Protection Act**

POSITION: **SUPPORT WITH AMENDMENTS**

The Maryland Chiefs of Police Association (MCPA) and the Maryland Sheriffs' Association (MSA) **SUPPORT SB 943 WITH AMENDMENTS.**

Under current law, individuals may file to seek a domestic violence protective order if experiencing abuse in a relationship. If a judge determines the petitioner may be harmed by the respondent, the judge may order the respondent to surrender his or her firearms at the temporary protective order stage. If a final protective order is issued, the respondent is required to surrender any firearms in the respondent's possession for the duration of the order. SB 943 alters this process and would require a respondent to surrender any firearms at the interim, temporary, and final protective order stage.

MCPA and MSA understand the urgency associated with seeking a protective order and the need to keep the petitioner safe from harm. However, MCPA and MSA are concerned with the mandatory surrender of firearms at the interim protective stage as this stage lacks judicial review and could result in the firearms being returned to the respondent in a few days following the temporary protective order hearing if the temporary order does not move forward to a final hearing. These hearings are typically held within two days of an interim protective order being issued. Managing this process would be difficult given resources. MCPA and MSA respectfully request this requirement be struck from the bill.

MCPA and MSA would also like to clarify that a firearm should be disposed of in accordance with §5-118 of the Public Safety Article. On page 10, in line (13) following (E) insert "IN ACCORDANCE WITH PUBLIC SAFETY ARTICLE §5-118,".

For these reasons, MCPA and MSA respectfully **SUPPORT SB 943 WITH AMENDMENTS** and requests a **FAVORABLE WITH AMENDMENTS** Committee report.

532 Baltimore Boulevard, Suite 308  
Westminster, Maryland 21157  
667-314-3216 / 667-314-3236

# **SB 943 - FWA - House of Ruth.pdf**

Uploaded by: Deena Hausner

Position: FWA





### Domestic Violence Legal Clinic

2201 Argonne Drive, Baltimore, Maryland 21218

(410) 554-8463 • Fax: (410) 243-3014 • [www.hruth.org](http://www.hruth.org) • [legal@hruthmd.org](mailto:legal@hruthmd.org)

Toll Free: 1-888-880-7884 • Maryland Relay: 711

Bill No.: Senate Bill 943  
Bill Title: Family and Law Enforcement Protection Act  
Committee: Judicial Proceedings  
Hearing Date: February 19, 2025  
Position: **FWA**

House of Ruth is a non-profit organization providing shelter, counseling, and legal services to victims of domestic violence throughout the State of Maryland. House of Ruth has offices in Baltimore City, Baltimore County, Prince George's County, and Montgomery County. Senate Bill 943 would broaden the circumstances under which respondents in protective order cases are required to surrender firearms. **We urge the Senate Judicial Proceedings Committee to amend and favorably report on Senate Bill 943.**

Currently, the protective order statute requires respondents to surrender firearms after issuance of a final protective order. Courts may order a respondent to surrender firearms at the temporary protective order stage under certain circumstances and in the discretion of the judge. Senate Bill 943 would expand the current law to require surrender of firearms upon issuance of any temporary protective order, as well as upon issuance of an interim protective order.

A significant feature of the bill as drafted is a list of questions to add to the protective order petition about the respondent's possession of firearms and matters related to firearm use, such as whether the respondent hunts, goes to a firing range, and lives with people who are aware of the respondent's possession of firearms, to name a few. While we laud the intended purpose of these questions, we are deeply concerned about the negative and potentially dangerous impact these questions may have on victims of domestic violence. We fear that victims will be at greater risk of harm when their abusive partners find out that they are working with a domestic violence agency and disclosed these extensive, personal details about the respondent. In addition, we are concerned that many petitioners will feel intimidated by the long list and either abandon filing for a protective order altogether or refrain from mentioning the presence of firearms in order to avoid answering the questions. House of Ruth worked with other domestic violence advocates and the bill's sponsor to suggest amendments that remove almost all of the questions, except the few that directly get at the presence of firearms and their location. The draft amendments include a provision that the courts provide information to petitioners about domestic violence service providers, which we also support.

**The House of Ruth urges the Senate Judicial Proceedings Committee to amend and report favorably on Senate Bill 943.**

# **SB 943 - MNADV - FWA.pdf**

Uploaded by: Laure Ruth

Position: FWA



**BILL NO:** Senate Bill 943  
**TITLE:** Family Law - Protective Orders - Surrender of Firearms  
**COMMITTEE:** Judicial Proceedings  
**HEARING DATE:** February 19, 2025  
**POSITION:** Favorable with Amendments

---

The Maryland Network Against Domestic Violence (MNADV) is the state domestic violence coalition that brings together victim service providers, allied professionals, and concerned individuals for the common purpose of reducing intimate partner and family violence and its harmful effects on our citizens. **MNADV urges the COMMITTEE to favorably report on SB 943 with amendments.**

Senate Bill 943 is the result of the work of a workgroup comprised of organizations whose mission it is to reduce gun violence, and of which the MNADV was a member. Marylanders to Prevent Gun Violence and the workgroup issued a White Paper in late 2024 about gun violence and domestic violence.<sup>1</sup> From that work this bill arose. SB 943 is an attempt to provide guidance to the courts and law enforcement on how to hold protection order respondents accountable to surrender their firearms if a protection order is issued against them. The White Paper is replete with data that shows that the link between domestic violence and guns is quite literally, deadly.

There are three major components to SB 943. First, our protection order law (MD. Code Ann. FL Section 4-501 et seq.) already requires the mandatory surrender of firearms upon the grant of a final protection order. SB 943 would expand that to a mandatory surrender of firearms at the interim and temporary protection order phase if court grants the order.

Second, Senate Bill 943 creates a list of questions on the petition for protection from abuse. It is an expansive set of questions, and we laud the goal of learning everything possible about a respondent and his gun ownership, as well as reinforcing that the courts must take their responsibility to have respondents surrender guns seriously and ask every petitioner about guns. However, we have a grave concern that the extensive list of questions will look and seem overwhelming to petitioners. We fear the result will be petitioners giving up before they finish

---

<sup>1</sup> [https://mdpgv.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/11/A-Safe-Haven\\_Policy-Paper-November-2024-.pdf](https://mdpgv.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/11/A-Safe-Haven_Policy-Paper-November-2024-.pdf)



filling out the petition for protection, or in the alternative just saying “no, he/she has no guns” instead of having to fill in all the answers. Working with the coalition of gun prevention and domestic violence advocates as well as the sponsors, we support proposed amendments that significantly lessen the number of questions. The amended language will appropriately protect survivors’ privacy and will not be so overwhelming as to discourage petitioners from filing for protection from domestic abuse. In our experience, the idea that a petitioner has anywhere near the amount of information seeking to be gathered by these questions is unrealistic at best. We believe the amendment leaves the questions that address the real question - does he/she have guns? If so, do you know where they are or where he/she keeps them? We also support a policy, whether in law or just in practice, for referral by the court or magistrate for all petitioners to the domestic violence service provider in their jurisdiction. Some jurisdictions do this in the ordinary course in temporary protection order hearings, which are almost always ex parte.

The third component of SB 943 creates accountability for the respondent to comply with a court order and surrender their guns. It has timing requirements and well as requirements that the respondent certify to the court that he/she has surrendered their guns. It creates a mechanism to hold respondents accountable if they fail to surrender their guns within a certain amount of time and gives law enforcement or prosecutors power to pursue the surrender of the guns. The efforts to hold respondents accountable vary across jurisdictions, but **all petitioners deserve safety, and one of the most important ways to achieve that safety is removal of firearms from those who pose danger to the petitioner.**

We do wonder how a mandatory surrender of guns at the interim stage would work, given that the temporary order hearing is 24-48 hours after the interim is granted. It is logistically complex due to the hearing on the temporary order occurring so soon after the hearing on the interim order.

Attached to our testimony are charts with statistics about domestic violence homicides in Maryland from 2019-2023. From 2019-2023, of the 237 domestic violence homicides on our state, 75% were with the use of a gun.



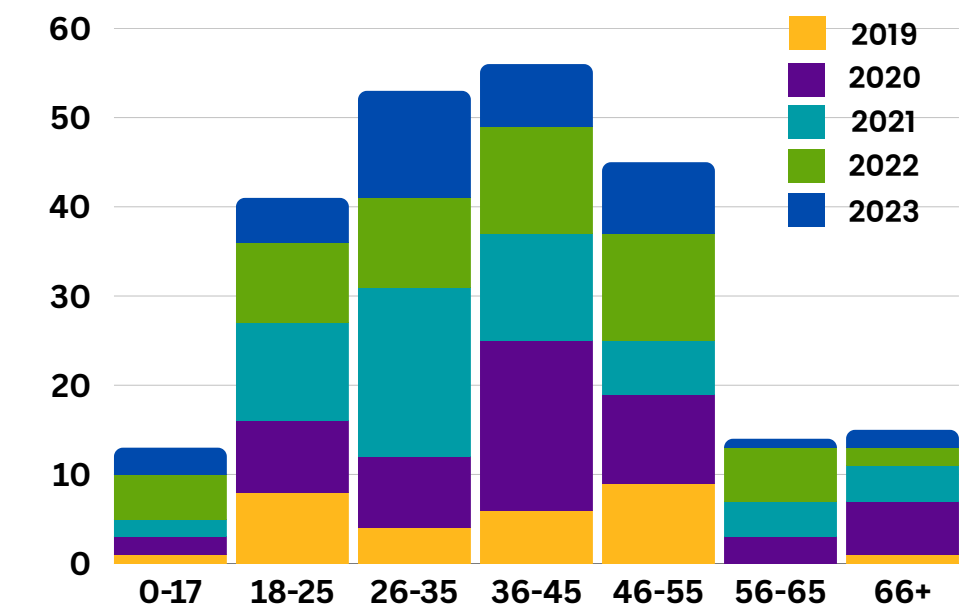
For the above stated reasons, the **Maryland Network Against Domestic Violence** urges a **favorable report on SB 943 with amendments.**

For further information contact Laure Ruth ■ Public Policy Director ■ 301-852-3930 ■ [lruth@mnadv.org](mailto:lruth@mnadv.org)

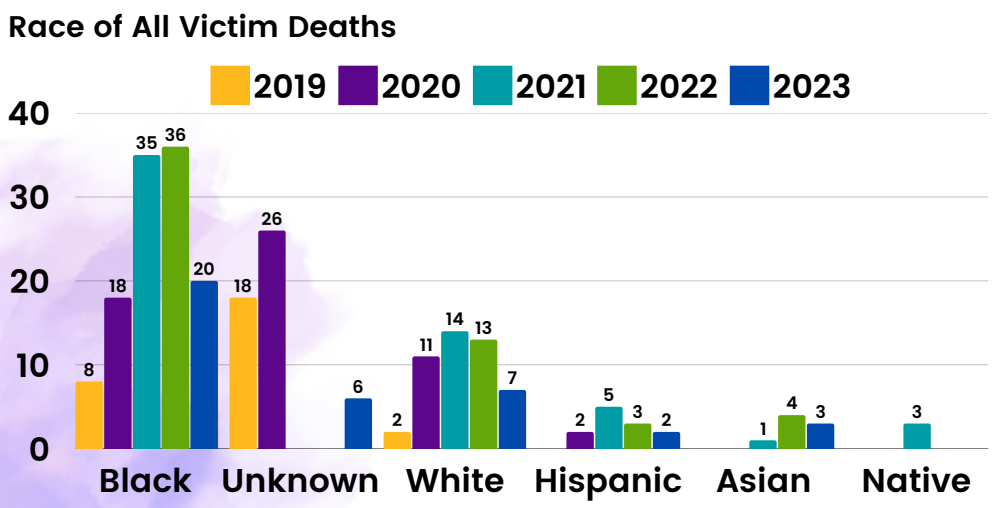
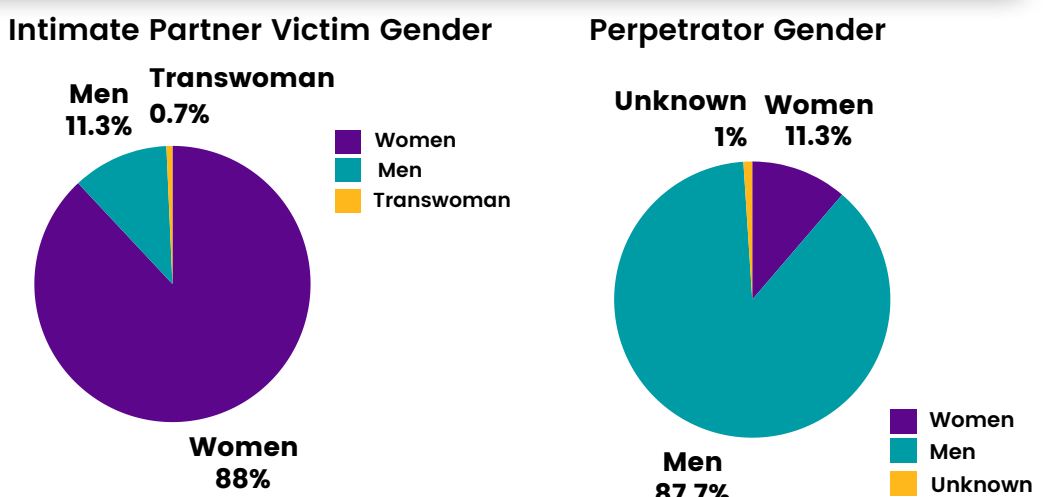
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1997 Annapolis Exchange Parkway, Suite 300 ■ Annapolis, MD 21401  
Tel: 301-429-3601 ■ E-mail: [info@mnadv.org](mailto:info@mnadv.org) ■ Website: [www.mnadv.org](http://www.mnadv.org)

Age of Death



Gender and Racial Disparity



In the past 5 years,  
**237 Marylanders**  
lost their lives to domestic violence

Deaths by Category

YEARS	Bystander	Victim	Perpetrator	Unknown	DEATHS
2019	3	20	6	0	29
2020	3	38	11	4	56
2021	7	38	13	0	58
2022	16	27	13	0	56
2023	11	19	7	1	38
Total	40	142	50	5	237

*This trifold was developed using information provided by the Maryland Network Against Domestic Violence (MNADV) through their tracking and verification efforts. MNADV collects and analyzes data on intimate partner violence homicides in Maryland annually to raise awareness and guide prevention initiatives. For further information about the data, please contact MNADV.*



MARYLAND NETWORK AGAINST DOMESTIC VIOLENCE  
WWW.MNADV.ORG

Questions? Email us at [Info@MNADV.org](mailto:Info@MNADV.org)

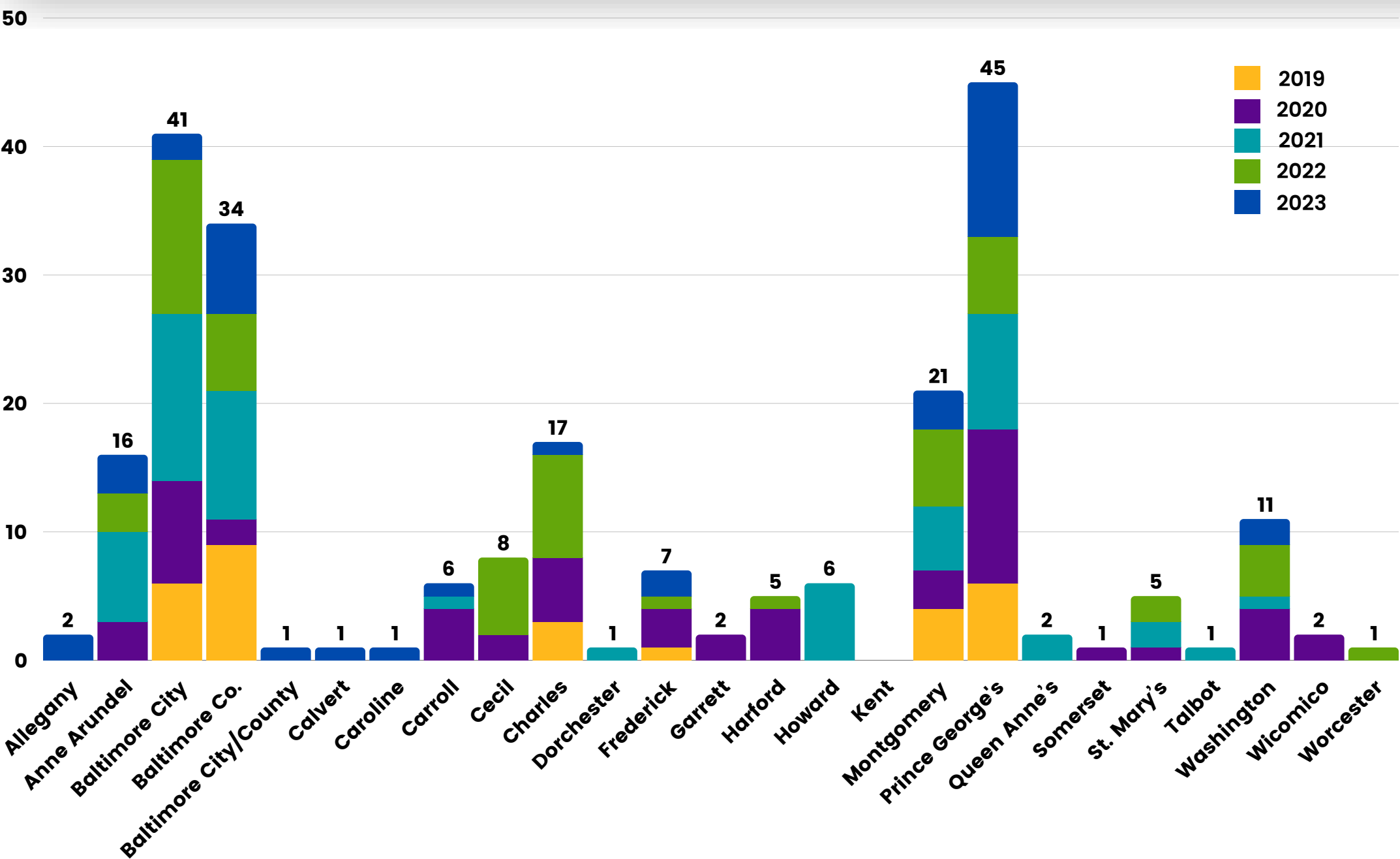


Five Years of  
IPV Homicides  
in Maryland:  
Key Trends, Risk  
Factors, and Insights

In Remembrance of the Lives Lost to  
Domestic Violence in Maryland  
January 1st, 2019 – December 31st, 2023

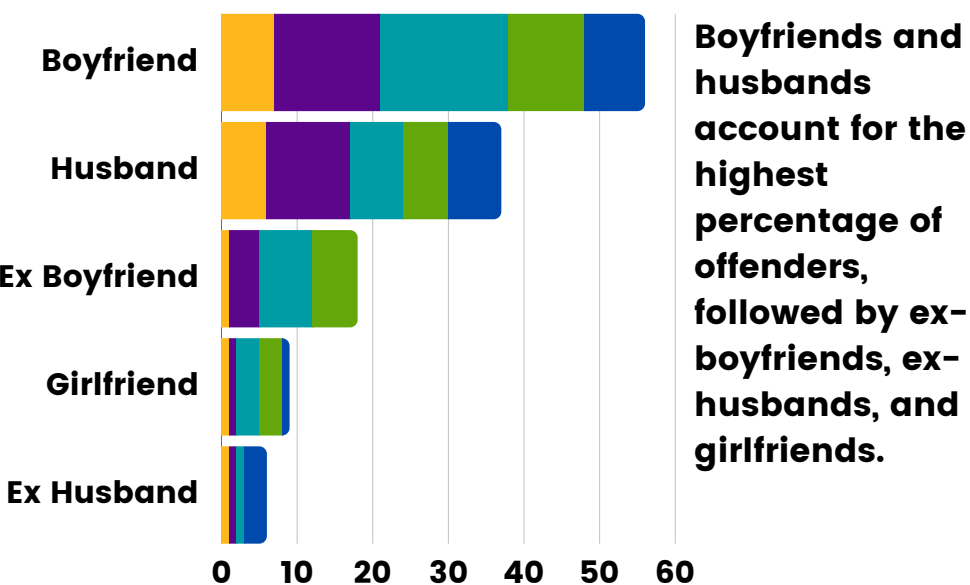


# Maryland Domestic Violence Deaths by Jurisdiction

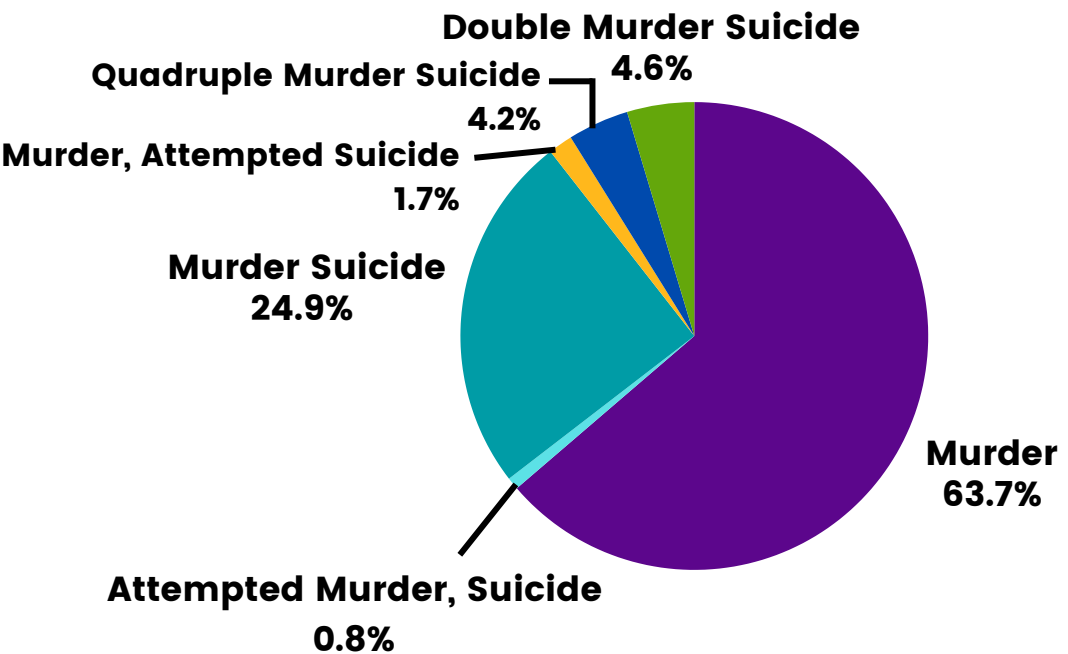


# Understanding the Perpetrators

## Offender Relationship (Top 5)



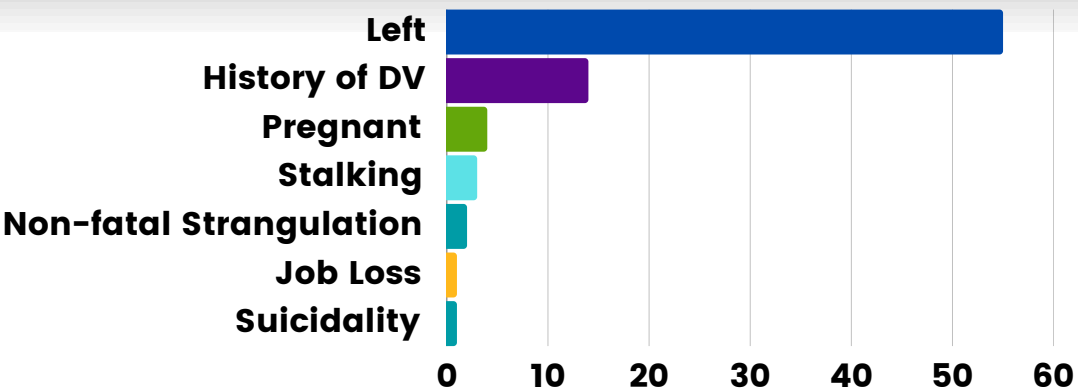
## Murder Suicides



36% of IPV homicides in Maryland resulted in an attempted or completed suicide by the perpetrator.

## Primary Lethality Factors

Of the 78 deaths with known lethality factors, 69% of those included people who had left the relationship already, 18% of the deaths had a perpetrator with a criminal or civil history of DV, and the remaining 14% involved non-fatal strangulation, pregnancy, stalking, job loss, or suicidality.



**75%** Guns were used in 75% all IPV-related deaths

# **SB 943 - MDH - JPR - LOSWA (1).pdf**

Uploaded by: Meghan Lynch

Position: FWA





Wes Moore, Governor · Aruna Miller, Lt. Governor · Laura Herrera Scott, M.D., M.P.H., Secretary

February 19, 2025

The Honorable William C. Smith, Jr.  
Chair, Judicial Proceedings Committee  
3 East Miller Senate Office Building  
Annapolis, MD 21401-1991

**RE: Senate Bill (SB) 943 – Family and Law Enforcement Protection Act – Letter of Support with Amendments**

Dear Chair Smith and Committee Members:

The Maryland Department of Health (Department) respectfully submits this letter of support with amendments for Senate Bill (SB) 943 – Family and Law Enforcement Protection Act. SB 943 seeks to increase the implementation and compliance of firearm surrender after a domestic violence protective order (DVPO) has been issued.

Domestic violence is a public health crisis impacting communities all over Maryland, and the intersection of domestic violence and firearms is particularly deadly. In 2021, there were 88 domestic violence homicides, and more than half of them were committed with a firearm.<sup>1</sup> The impacts of domestic firearm violence can extend far into the community. More than two-thirds of all mass shootings in the United States started with a domestic violence incident or by a perpetrator with a history of domestic violence.<sup>2</sup>

Addressing domestic gun violence and intimate partner violence is key to the mission of the Department's new Center for Firearm Violence Prevention and Intervention (the Center). The Center was established in 2024 to reduce gun violence through a public health approach. SB 943 establishes the Task Force to Study the Use of Firearms in Domestic Violence Situations, staffed by the Center, to analyze and examine stakeholder accountability in firearm surrender following the issuance of a DVPO. However, the time line prescribed in the bill will not be enough for the Task Force to convene, collect and analyse the insights from all the different members, and craft a report. Therefore, the Department recommends extending the time period to twelve months.

---

<sup>1</sup> WISQARS. (2021) National Violent Death Reporting System (NVDRS) <https://wisqars.cdc.gov/nvdrs/> Domestic violence includes: spouse or other intimate partner (current or ex), parent, child, other relative, and other intimate partner involvement.

<sup>2</sup> 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*.

The Department supports efforts to strengthen the firearm surrender process to protect families and the law enforcement officers from the escalation of violence during domestic violence cases. If you would like to discuss this further, please do not hesitate to contact Sarah Case-Herron, Director of Governmental Affairs at [sarah.case-herron@maryland.gov](mailto:sarah.case-herron@maryland.gov).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "LH Scott", is positioned above the typed name.

Laura Herrera Scott, M.D., M.P.H.  
Secretary

In the Senate Judicial Proceedings Committee:

**AMENDMENTS TO SENATE BILL 943**

**(First Reading File Bill)**

On page 13, line 3, strike “November 15, 2025” and insert “**May 15, 2026**” and on page 13, line 10, strike “6 months and, by the end of November 2025” and insert “**12 months and, by the end of May 30, 2026**”.

## **SB 943 Domestic Violence.pdf**

Uploaded by: Cathy Wright

Position: UNF



**SB 943**  
**Family Law – Protective Orders – Surrender of Firearms**

**UNFAVORABLE**

While the Maryland State Rifle & Pistol Association (MSRPA) supports efforts to promote public safety, we oppose SB 943.

This legislation has the potential to violate the constitutional rights of Maryland citizens through the arbitrary seizure of firearms. It would allow protective orders based on an expansive and invasive questionnaire to seek personal information about family, friends, and associates of the accused. This legislation could lead to frivolous claims potentially leading to the loss of someone's Second Amendment rights.

SB 943 also violates a person's Fourth Amendment which protects individuals from unreasonable searches. The bill would allow law enforcement to search any location based solely on probable cause and would not require naming or describing the specific place for the search. This is also a violation of Article 26 of the Maryland Declaration of Rights.

A person may be deprived of their constitutional rights only after receiving proper notice and an opportunity to be heard. This bill would violate a citizen's right to due process, an important clause in our Fourteenth Amendment.

Unfortunately, this bill will not reduce gun violence. The MSRPA supports efforts to improve domestic violence prevention and protection, but this bill does not provide these resources. SB 943 is unconstitutional and does not protect our citizens and families.

The Maryland State Rifle & Pistol Association respectfully requests an UNFAVORABLE report on SB 943.

Thank you for your consideration.

Cathy S. Wright, MSRPA VP Legislative Affairs

[cwright@msrpa.org](mailto:cwright@msrpa.org)

<https://www.msrpa.org>

919.360.0484

**The MSRPA is the official National Rifle Association state organization for Maryland. The MSRPA's mission is to defend your rights in Maryland, support training in firearm safety and shooting skills through its affiliated clubs, and sponsor and sanction local competition throughout the state.**

# **SB0943-HB1050\_Testimony\_2A\_Maryland.pdf**

Uploaded by: John Josselyn

Position: UNF



### **Senate Bill 943 – House Bill 1050 Family and Law Enforcement Protection Act UNFAVORABLE**

As a deterrent to domestic violence, Senate Bill 943 and House Bill 1050 will fail both in the near term and in years to come because of a total failure to accept that violence is behavior and not technology. Violence is behavior most often borne of the offenders' life experience. Domestic abusers often grew up in a household where violence was used to establish and maintain dominance over others.

Firearms which are the focus of these bills are based on the sponsor's assumption that a violent abuser is somehow rendered harmless if the abuser's firearms are confiscated. It also presumes the person is incapable of acquiring another firearm, knife, sword, bow and arrow, or any other implement at hand. This approach is both myopic and lacking in perspective because it fails to address the overwhelming majority of domestic violence incidents.

While murder is the most egregious outcome, it represents only .1% (202) of the overall 142,034 domestic violence incidents reported from 2019 through 2023. Non-aggravated domestic assaults accounted for 115,286 incidents, while 26,546 incidents involved aggravated assaults.

Of the aggravated assaults recorded during the period from 2019 through 2023, 8% percent (2,319) involved a firearm, 18.5% (4,911) involved a knife, 29.6% (7,861) involved "other" weapons. Most aggravated assaults at 43.2% (11,455) involve no weapon, which clearly demonstrates the limitations of these bills as a viable means to protect those are experiencing domestic violence.

**Senate Bill 0943 / House Bill 1050**  
**Unfavorable**

By adding no fewer than 30 questions to the process, these bills may well be counterproductive. Victims seeking relief could be intimidated by the nature and extent of the questions and thus be discouraged from seeking help. The situation is exacerbated if the victim's level of education is insufficient to the task. Further, the victim may be fearful of naming friends and associates of the respondent who may then retaliate. This is especially true if the respondent is involved in some form of illicit activity involving these same friends and associates.

These bills are feel-good in nature, they provide no real protection and engender a false sense of security which only renders the victim more vulnerable.

It should be noted that this testimony does not address the numerous legal issues inherent in the bills.

We urge an unfavorable report on Senate Bill 943 and House Bill 1050.

Respectfully,

John H. Josselyn  
2A Maryland  
02/15/2025

Attachments: 0-4

NIBRS Reports – Homicide 2022-2024 (values & percentages)  
NIBRS Reports – Crimes Against Persons 2022-2024 (values)  
United States Census 2023 Maryland Population by Race and Hispanic Origin  
Maryland Uniform Crime Report 2023 – Domestic Violence  
Maryland Uniform Crime Reports 2019-2023 – Murder



**DOMESTIC VIOLENCE 2019-2023**  
**Data Source: MSP Uniform Crime Report - 2023**

<b>Domestic Related Crime</b>							
	<b>2019</b>	<b>2020</b>	<b>2021</b>	<b>2022</b>	<b>2023</b>	<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>PERCENT</b>
Homicide	34	43	53	36	36	202	0.1%
Assault	30,157	28,070	27,939	27,337	28,329	141,832	99.9%
<b>COLUMN TOTALS</b>	<b>30,191</b>	<b>28,113</b>	<b>27,992</b>	<b>27,373</b>	<b>28,365</b>	<b>142,034</b>	

<b>Aggravated Assault</b>							
	<b>2019</b>	<b>2020</b>	<b>2021</b>	<b>2022</b>	<b>2023</b>	<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>PERCENT</b>
Firearm	367	417	455	513	567	2,319	8.7%
Knife	1,201	909	921	889	991	4,911	18.5%
Other Weapon	2,152	1,552	1,356	1,280	1,521	7,861	29.6%
No Weapon	1,780	2,168	2,361	2,530	2,616	11,455	43.2%
<b>COLUMN TOTALS</b>	<b>5,500</b>	<b>5,046</b>	<b>5,093</b>	<b>5,212</b>	<b>5,695</b>	<b>26,546</b>	

<b>Non-aggravated Assault</b>							
	<b>2019</b>	<b>2020</b>	<b>2021</b>	<b>2022</b>	<b>2023</b>	<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>PERCENT</b>
Simple	24,646	23,004	22,832	22,112	22,613	115,207	99.9%
Stalking	11	20	14	13	21	79	0.1%
<b>COLUMN TOTALS</b>	<b>24,657</b>	<b>23,024</b>	<b>22,846</b>	<b>22,125</b>	<b>22,634</b>	<b>115,286</b>	

<b>Relationship: Victim to Abuser</b>							
	<b>2019</b>	<b>2020</b>	<b>2021</b>	<b>2022</b>	<b>2023</b>	<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>PERCENT</b>
Husband	1,734	1,553	1,529	1,579	1,669	8,064	5%
Wife	4,050	3,725	3,687	3,567	3,623	18,652	11%
Male Cohabitant	2,423	2,137	2,318	2,016	1,831	10,725	6%
Female Cohabitant	5,995	5,656	6,084	5,215	4,763	27,713	16%
Homosexual Cohabitant	614	454	487	549	552	2,656	2%
Sibling	2,018	1,900	1,834	1,660	1,726	9,138	5%
Niece, Nephew, Aunt, Uncle etc.	1,043	993	976	921	978	4,911	3%
Grandparent or Grandchild	471	431	409	414	465	2,190	1%
Child or stepchild	3,042	2,604	2,694	2,599	2,862	13,801	8%
Parent or Stepparent	3,426	3,079	3,101	2,950	3,083	15,639	9%
Vulnerable Adult	154	147	241	180	170	892	1%
Individuals with Child in Common	2,820	3,061	3,060	2,813	3,109	14,863	9%
Male Intimate Partner	1,957	1,983	1,745	1,983	2,293	9,961	6%
Female Intimate Partner	6,232	6,266	5,635	6,194	6,438	30,765	18%
Homosexual Intimate Partner	524	443	391	392	455	2,205	1%
<b>COLUMN TOTALS</b>	<b>36,503</b>	<b>34,432</b>	<b>34,191</b>	<b>33,032</b>	<b>34,017</b>	<b>172,175</b>	

**DOMESTIC VIOLENCE 2019-2023**  
**Data Source: MSP Uniform Crime Report - 2023**

Victim's Sex							
	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	TOTALS	PERCENT
Female	25,169	23,942	23,881	22,913	23,350	119,255	69%
Male	11,330	10,485	10,294	10,116	10,663	52,888	31%
Unknown	4	5	16	3	4	32	0.02%
<b>COLUMN TOTALS</b>	36,503	34,432	34,191	33,032	34,017	172,175	

Victim's Race							
	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	TOTALS	PERCENT
American Indian	41	60	51	53	61	266	0.2%
Asian	439	456	508	461	495	2,359	1.4%
Black	19,520	18,286	18,387	18,193	18,418	92,804	53.9%
Pacific Islander	46	45	44	44	48	227	0.1%
White	16,248	15,194	14,871	13,930	14,536	74,779	43.4%
Other	209	391	330	351	459	1,740	1.0%
<b>COLUMN TOTALS</b>	36,503	34,432	34,191	33,032	34,017	172,175	

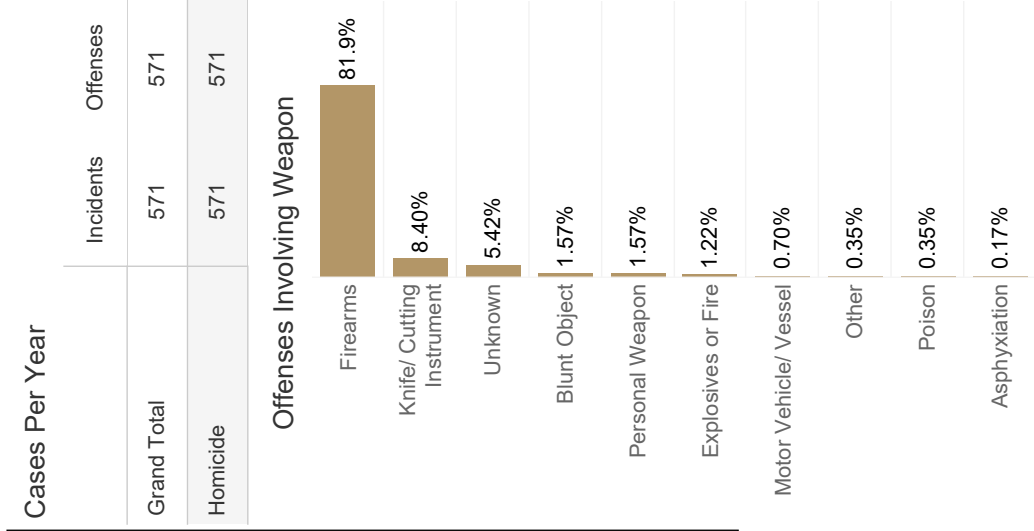
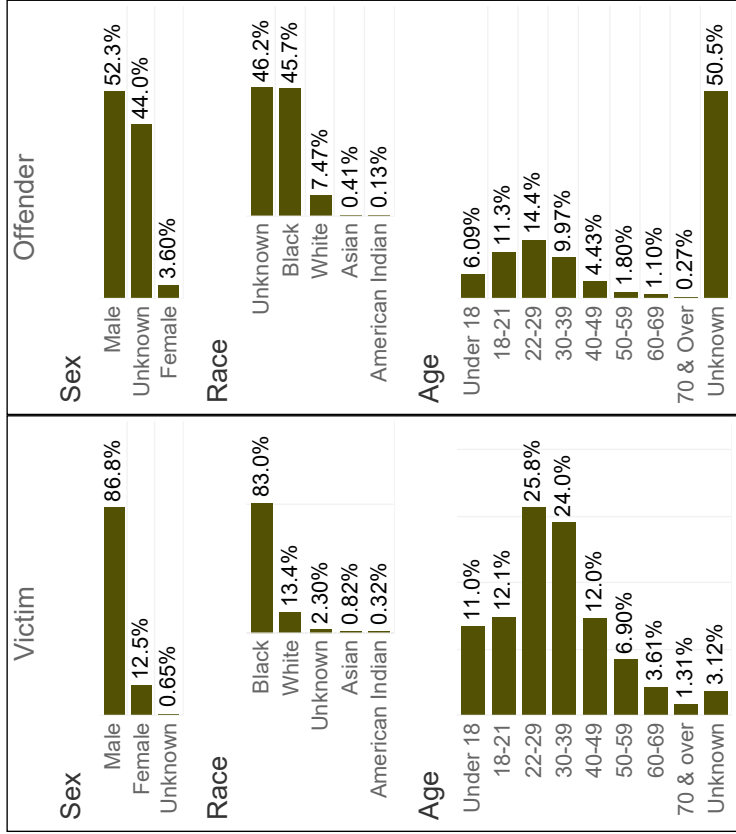
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## Crimes Against Person - 2022

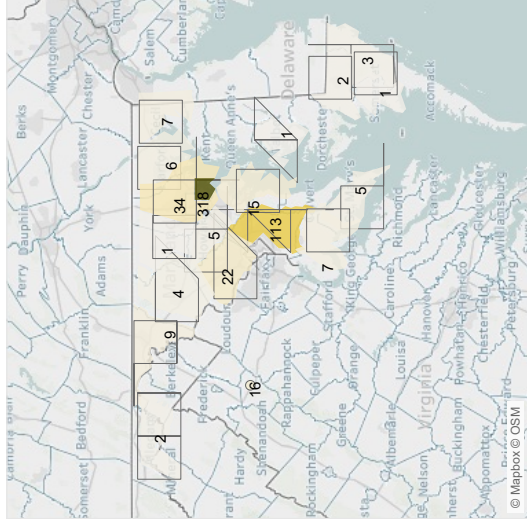
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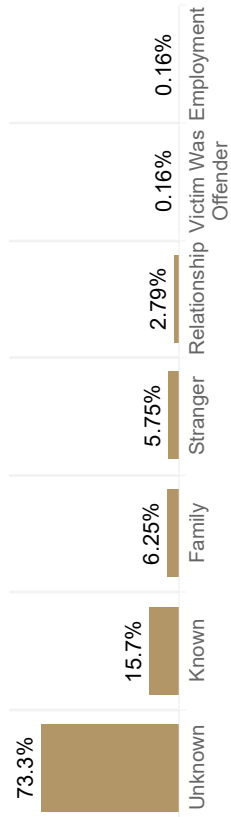
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Arrests are not related to the number of incidents. Arrests include any arrestee who was arrested whether related to a current case or not, but was charged with a crime against person.



### Offenses by County



### Victim Relationship to Offender



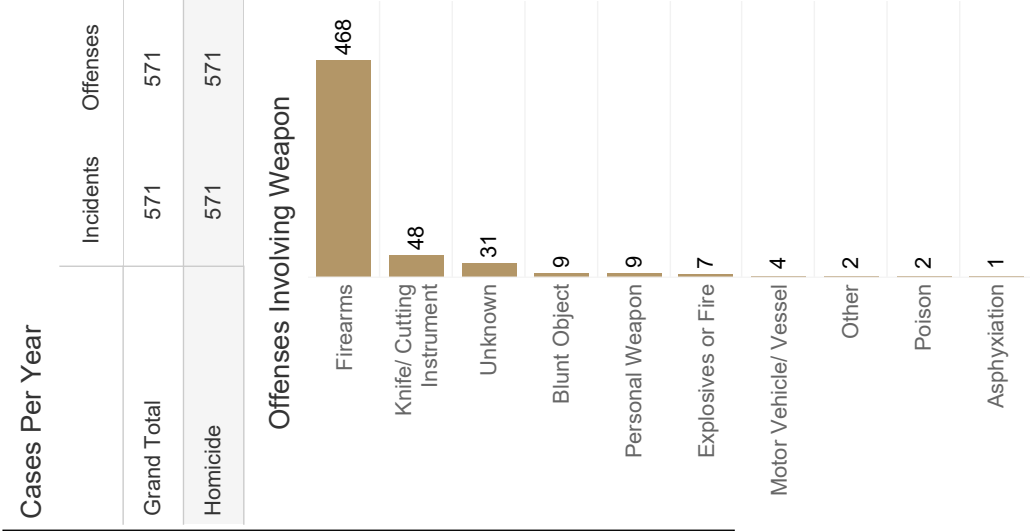
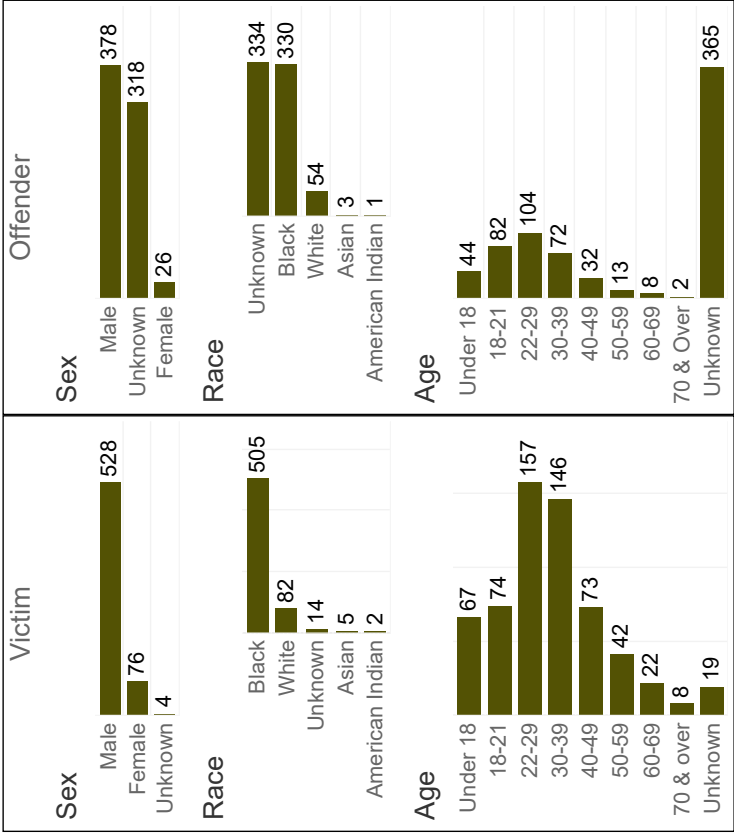
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## Crimes Against Person - 2022

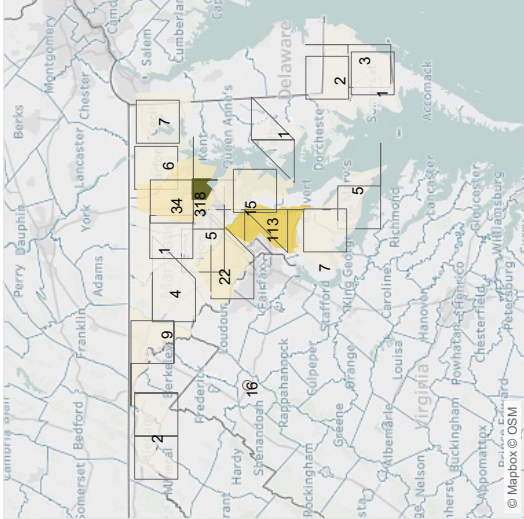
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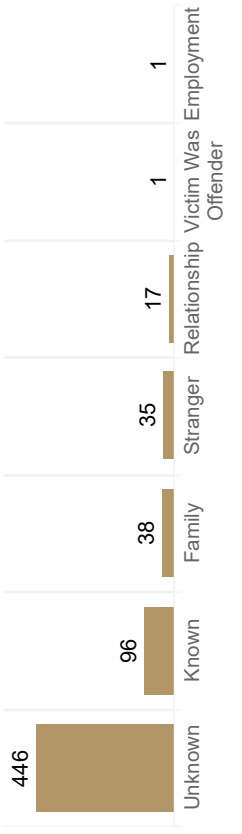
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Arrests are not related to the number of incidents. Arrests include any arrestee who was arrested whether related to a current case or not, but was charged with a crime against person.



### Offenses by County



### Victim Relationship to Offender



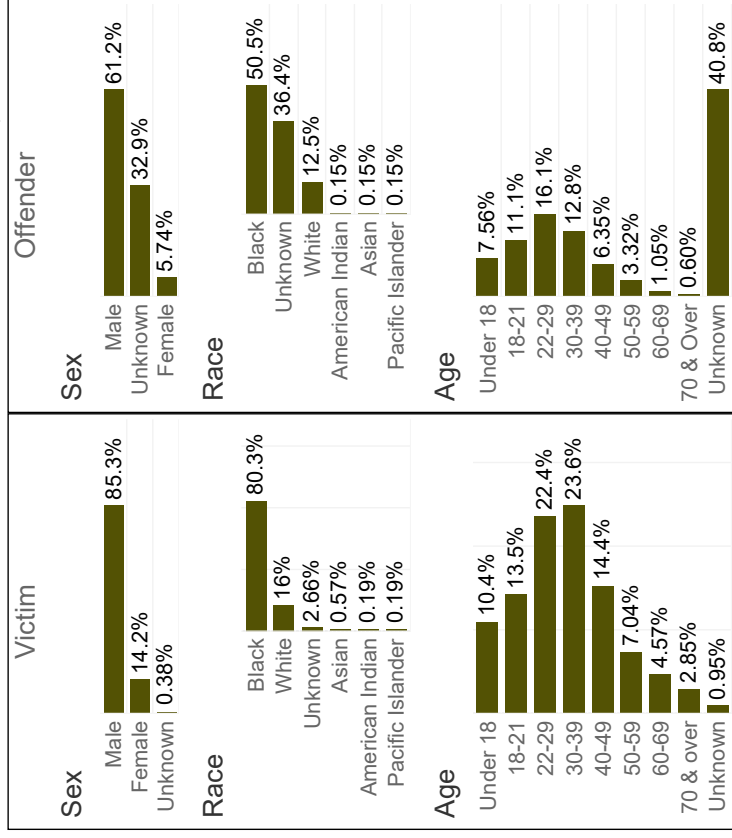
## Crimes Against Person - 2023

Crimes against Person Dashboard with Percentages or Values as an option

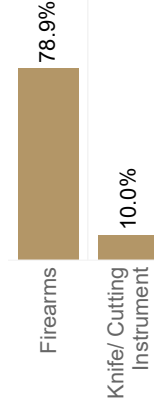
Arrests are not related to the number of incidents. Arrests include any arrestee who was arrested whether related to a current case or not, but was charged with a crime against person.



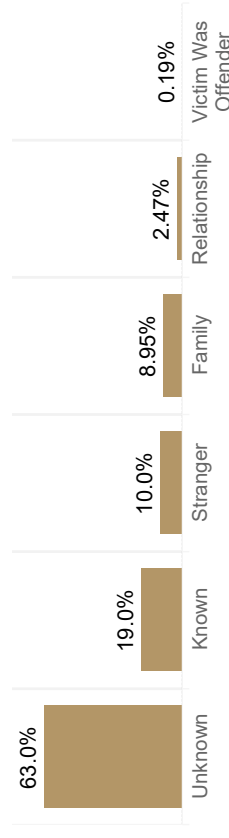
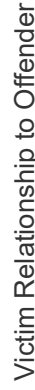
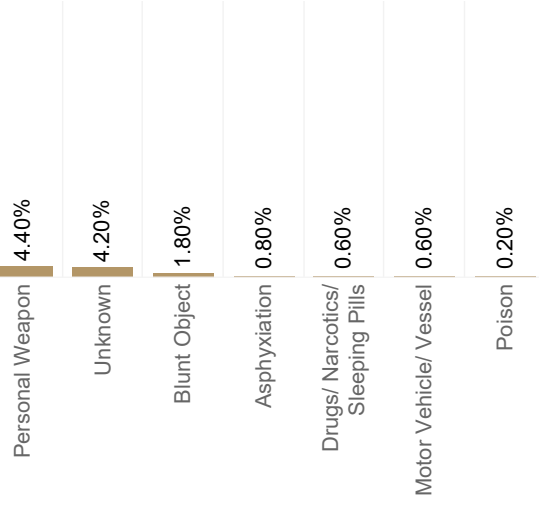
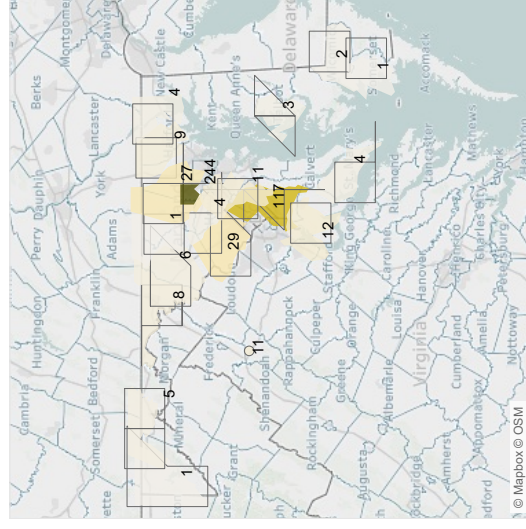
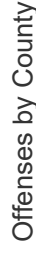
**Back to Main**



Cases Per Year		Incidents	Offenses	Cleared	% Cleared	Victims	Offenders
Grand Total		499	499	215	43.1%	525	661
Homicide		499	499	215	43.1%	525	661



Arrests for Crimes Against Person	
Homicide	1.61%
Assault	94.4%
Human Trafficking	0.11%
Kidnaping/Abduction	0.24%
Sex Offenses	3.53%









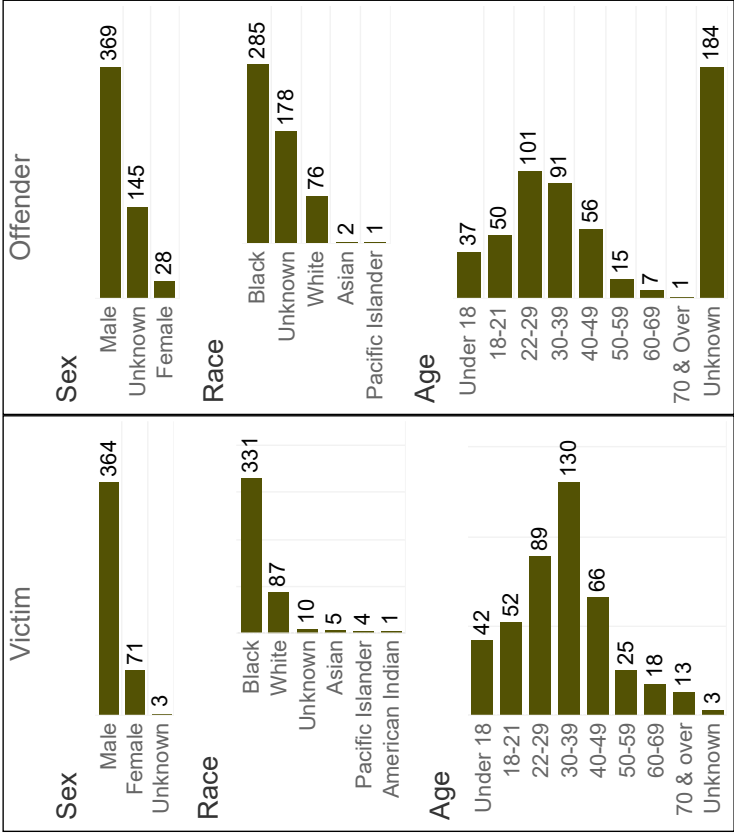
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## Crimes Against Person - 2024

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Crimes against Person Dashboard with Percentages or Values as an option  
Arrests are not related to the number of incidents. Arrests include any arrestee who was arrested whether related to a current case or not, but was charged with a crime against person.





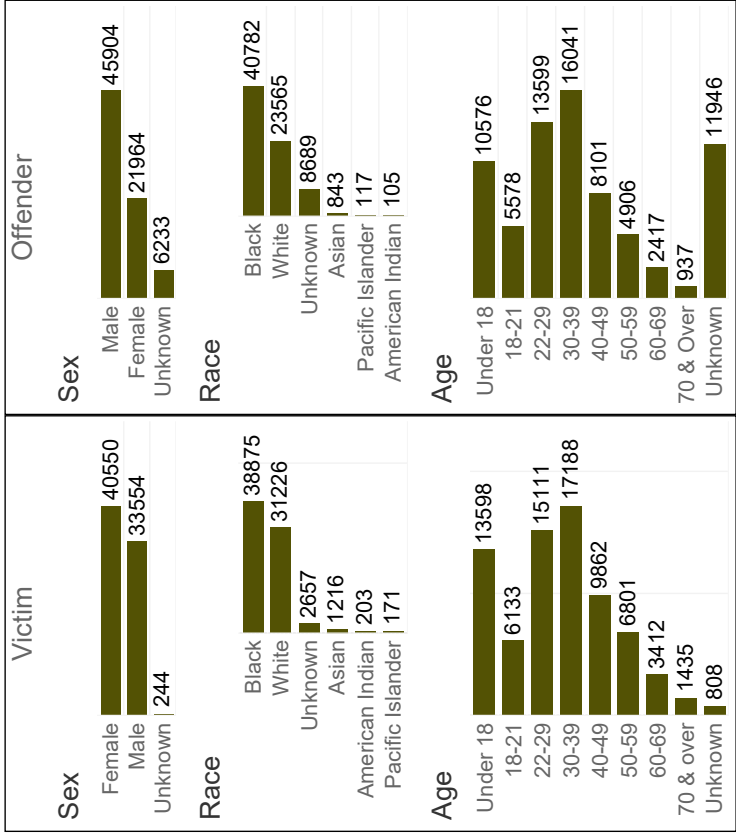
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## Crimes Against Person - 2022



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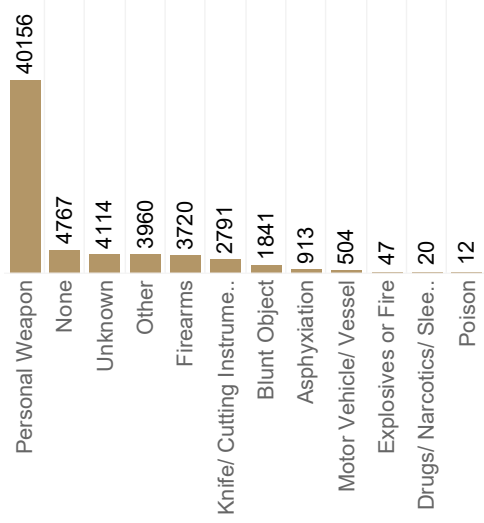
Crimes against Person Dashboard with Percentages or Values as an option  
Arrests are not related to the number of incidents. Arrests include any arrestee who was arrested whether related to a current case or not, but was charged with a crime against person.



### Cases Per Year

	Incidents	Offenses	Cleared	% Cleared	Victims	Offenders
Grand Total	59,518	60,463	15,802	26.6%	74,543	74,373
Homicide	623	623	212	34.0%	663	785
Assault	54,727	55,548	14,857	27.1%	69,356	68,980
Human Trafficking	73	73	32	43.8%	82	127
Kidnaping/Abduction	152	152	66	43.4%	162	207
Sex Offenses	3,943	4,067	724	18.4%	4,280	4,274

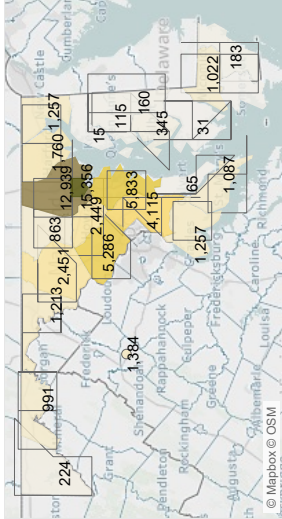
### Offenses Involving Weapon



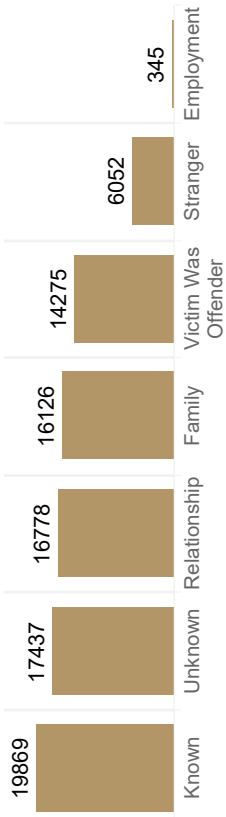
### Arrests for Crimes Against Person

Homicide	227
Assault	15405
Human Trafficking	6
Kidnaping/Abduction	28
Sex Offenses	605

### Offenses by County



### Victim Relationship to Offender



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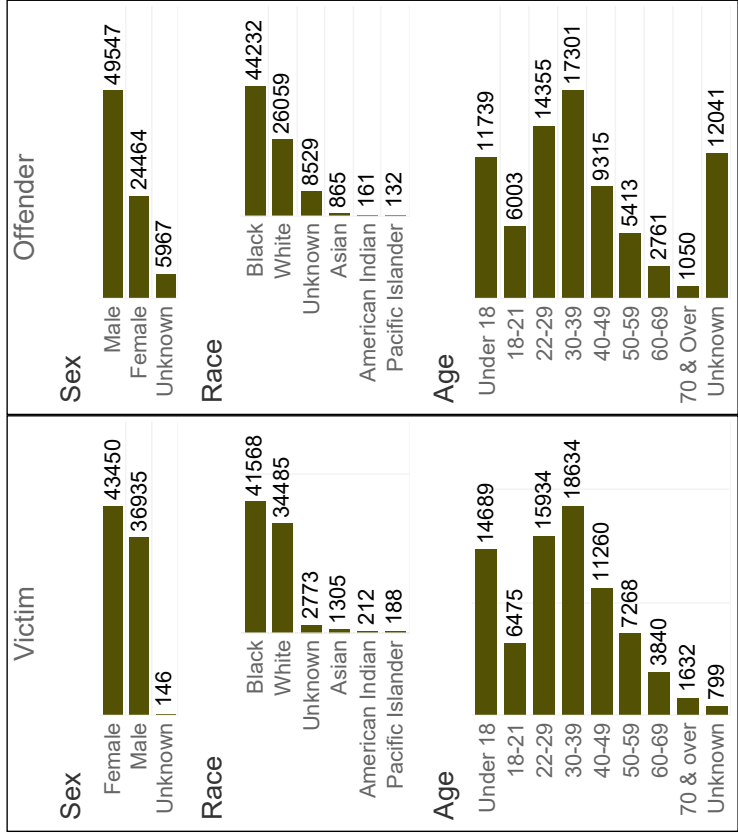
## Crimes Against Person - 2023



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Crimes against Person Dashboard with Percentages or Values as an option  
Arrests are not related to the number of incidents. Arrests include any arrestee who was arrested whether related to a current case or not, but was charged with a crime against person.



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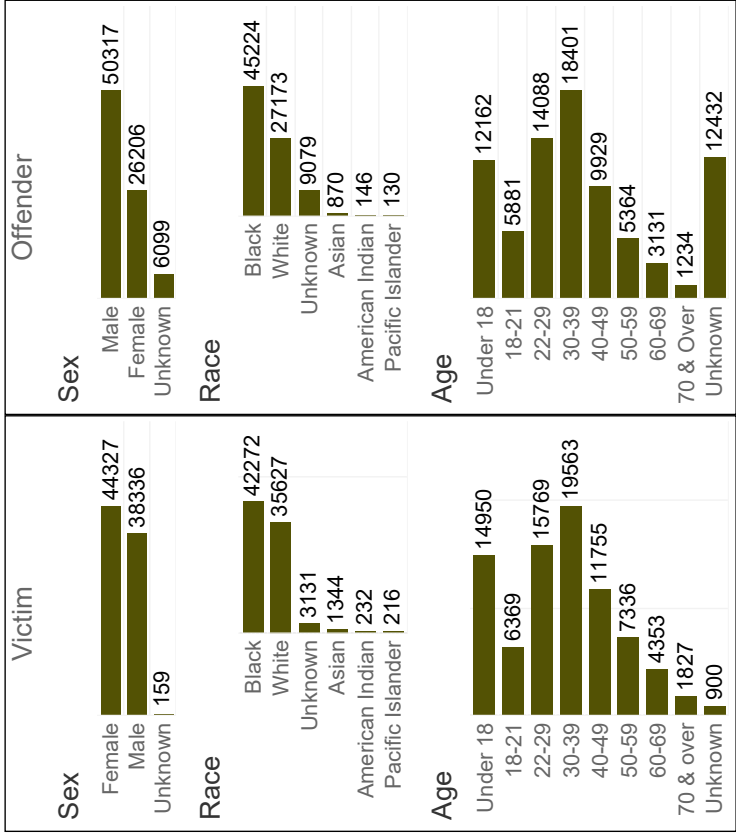
## Crimes Against Person - 2024



Back to Main

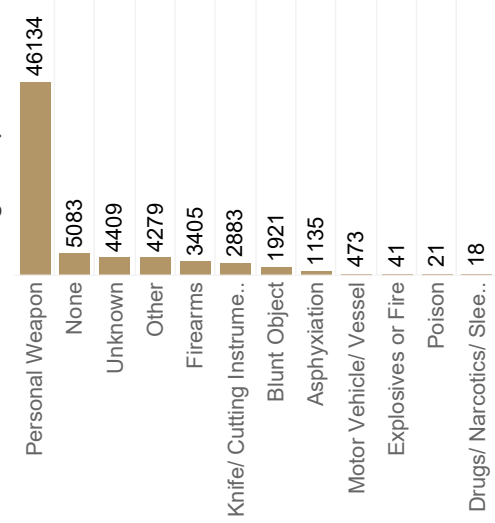


Crimes against Person Dashboard with Percentages or Values as an option  
Arrests are not related to the number of incidents. Arrests include any arrestee who was arrested whether related to a current case or not, but was charged with a crime against person.



Cases Per Year						
	Incidents	Offenses	Cleared	% Cleared	Victims	Offenders
Grand Total	66,314	67,261	19,672	29.7%	82,964	82,848
Homicide	456	456	219	48.0%	475	584
Assault	61,934	62,801	18,861	30.5%	78,272	77,980
Human Trafficking	65	65	29	44.6%	71	97
Kidnaping/Abduction	149	149	60	40.3%	168	213
Sex Offenses	3,710	3,790	596	16.1%	3,978	3,974

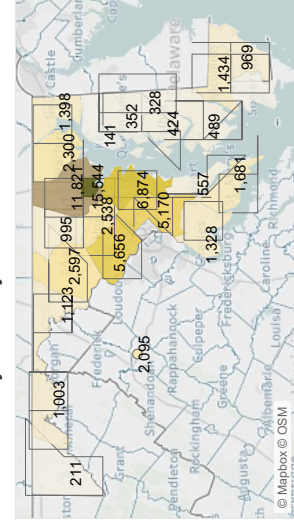
### Offenses Involving Weapon



### Arrests for Crimes Against Person

Homicide	331
Assault	21051
Human Trafficking	21
Kidnaping/Abduction	45
Sex Offenses	733

### Offenses by County



Maryland Population by Race and Hispanic Origin

Source: <https://www.census.gov/quickfacts/fact/table/MD/PST045223>

Race and Hispanic Origin		Q	Maryland
i Population estimates, July 1, 2023, (V2023)		⚠ 6,180,253	
PEOPLE			
Race and Hispanic Origin			
i White alone, percent		⚠ 57.2%	
i Black alone, percent (a) (a)		⚠ 31.6%	
i American Indian and Alaska Native alone, percent (a) (a)		⚠ 0.8%	
i Asian alone, percent (a) (a)		⚠ 7.1%	
i Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander alone, percent (a) (a)		⚠ 0.1%	
i Two or More Races, percent		⚠ 3.3%	
i Hispanic or Latino, percent (b) (b)		⚠ 12.6%	
i White alone, not Hispanic or Latino, percent		⚠ 47.3%	



## QuickFacts

### Maryland

QuickFacts provides statistics for all states and counties. Also for cities and towns with a *population of 5,000 or more*.

Enter state, county, city, town, or zip code

-- Select a fact --



## Table

Race and Hispanic Origin		Q	Maryland
i Population estimates, July 1, 2023, (V2023)			6,180,253
PEOPLE			
Race and Hispanic Origin			
i White alone, percent			57.2%
i Black alone, percent (a) (a)			31.6%
i American Indian and Alaska Native alone, percent (a) (a)			0.8%
i Asian alone, percent (a) (a)			7.1%
i Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander alone, percent (a) (a)			0.1%
i Two or More Races, percent			3.3%
i Hispanic or Latino, percent (b) (b)			12.6%
i White alone, not Hispanic or Latino, percent			47.3%

[About datasets used in this table](#)

### Value Notes

Methodology differences may exist between data sources, and so estimates from different sources are not comparable.

Some estimates presented here come from sample data, and thus have sampling errors that may render some apparent differences between geographies statistically indistinguishable. Click the Quick Info **i** icon to the left of each item to learn about sampling error.

The vintage year (e.g., V2024) refers to the final year of the series (2020 thru 2024). Different vintage years of estimates are not comparable.

Users should exercise caution when comparing 2019-2023 ACS 5-year estimates to other ACS estimates. For more information, please visit the [2023 5-year ACS Comparison Guidance](#) page.

### Fact Notes

- (a) Includes persons reporting only one race
- (b) Hispanics may be of any race, so also are included in applicable race categories
- (c) Economic Census - Puerto Rico data are not comparable to U.S. Economic Census data

### Value Flags

- D Suppressed to avoid disclosure of confidential information
- F Fewer than 25 firms
- FN Footnote on this item in place of data
- NA Not available
- S Suppressed; does not meet publication standards
- X Not applicable
- Z Value greater than zero but less than half unit of measure shown
- Either no or too few sample observations were available to compute an estimate, or a ratio of medians cannot be calculated because one or both of the median estimates falls in the lowest or upper interval of an estimate
- N Data for this geographic area cannot be displayed because the number of sample cases is too small.

QuickFacts data are derived from: Population Estimates, American Community Survey, Census of Population and Housing, Current Population Survey, Small Area Health Insurance Estimates, Small Area Income and Poverty Estimates, Housing Unit Estimates, County Business Patterns, Nonemployer Statistics, Economic Census, Survey of Business Owners, Building Permits.

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Measuring America's People, Places, and Economy



# DOMESTICALLY RELATED CRIMES

## BACKGROUND

The Domestic Violence Act of 1994 mandated that all law enforcement agencies in Maryland submit copies of incident reports involving domestic violence to the Maryland Department of State Police. The Maryland UCR Program created a revised domestic violence (formerly known as Battered Spouse) data collection form. The new form allowed for the collection of more data based upon a revised definition of a domestic violence incident under the Maryland UCR Program guidelines.

In 2012, HB1146/SB647 "Domestically Related Crimes" was signed into law to help improve the recording and tracking of domestic violence crimes. Maryland does not have a distinct crime of domestic violence, therefore, the new law helps law enforcement, advocates, prosecutors and judges better protect domestic violence victims and set more appropriate conditions for abusers.

To better align with Maryland Law, the Maryland UCR Program expanded the definition of domestic violence to include ten additional relationships in calendar year 2013. Prior to 2013, the only reported relationships between domestic violence victims and offenders were husband, wife and cohabitant. This expansion of the additional relationships explains the increase in the total number of domestically related crimes reported. The title of the reporting program was also changed to the Maryland Domestically Related Crime Reporting Program.

Under the Maryland UCR Program, the definition for a domestically related crime mirrors HB1146/SB647: "any crime committed by a suspect (respondent) against a victim who is a person eligible for relief, as defined in §4-501 of the Family Law Article or who had a sexual relationship with the suspect within 12 months before the commission of the crime. This also includes homosexual relationships."

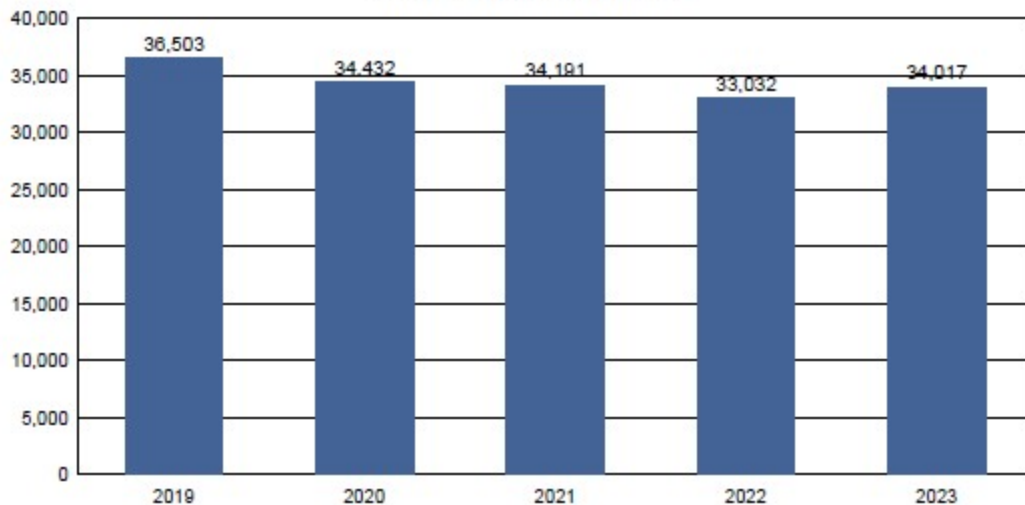
A "person eligible for relief", as defined in §4-501 of the Family Law Article includes:

- The current or former spouse of the respondent;
- A cohabitant of the respondent;
- A person related to the respondent by blood, marriage, or adoption;
- A parent, stepparent, child, or stepchild of the respondent or the person eligible for relief who resides or resided with the respondent or person eligible for relief for at least 90 days within 1 year before the filing of the petition;
- A vulnerable adult;
- An individual who has a child in common with the respondent.
- An individual who has had a sexual relationship with the respondent within 1 year before the filing of the petition; and
- An individual who alleges that the respondent committed, within 6 months before the filing of the petition, any of the following acts against the individual:
  - (i) rape or a sexual offense under § 3-303, § 3-304, § 3-307, or § 3-308 of the Criminal Law Article; or
  - (ii) attempted rape or sexual offense in any degree.

There were a total of 34,017 domestic violence crimes reported statewide in 2023, as compared to 33,032 crimes in 2022. This represents a 3.0 percent change in the number of domestic violence crimes.

## DOMESTICALLY RELATED CRIMES

Total Number of Incidents



### RELATIONSHIPS

Domestic violence reporting includes the nature of the victim's relationship with his or her abuser. The breakdown is as follows:

	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
Husband	1,734	1,553	1,529	1,579	1,669
Wife	4,050	3,725	3,687	3,567	3,623
Male Cohabitant	2,423	2,137	2,318	2,016	1,831
Female Cohabitant	5,995	5,656	6,084	5,215	4,763
Homosexual Cohabitant	614	454	487	549	552
Sibling	2,018	1,900	1,834	1,660	1,726
Niece, Nephew, Aunt, Uncle, Cousin, In-Law	1,043	993	976	921	978
Grandparent or Grandchild	471	431	409	414	465
Child or Stepchild	3,042	2,604	2,694	2,599	2,862
Parent or Stepparent	3,426	3,079	3,101	2,950	3,083
Vulnerable Adult	154	147	241	180	170
Individuals With Child in Common	2,820	3,061	3,060	2,813	3,109
Male Intimate Partner	1,957	1,983	1,745	1,983	2,293
Female Intimate Partner	6,232	6,266	5,635	6,194	6,438
Homosexual Intimate Partner	524	443	391	392	455
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>36,503</b>	<b>34,432</b>	<b>34,191</b>	<b>33,032</b>	<b>34,017</b>



<b>CRIME</b>	<b>2019</b>	<b>2020</b>	<b>2021</b>	<b>2022</b>	<b>2023</b>
Homicide	34	43	53	36	36
Rape	461	355	426	381	379
Robbery	447	280	381	321	310
Assault	30,157	28,070	27,939	27,337	28,329
Breaking or Entering	298	315	354	336	333
Larceny-Theft	956	894	619	705	632
Motor Vehicle Theft	224	206	132	101	95
Arson	27	22	33	22	30
Forgery	24	22	18	18	21
Fraud	126	105	99	148	140
Embezzlement	0	0	1	1	2
Receiving Stolen Property	0	0	0	0	2
Malicious Destruction of Property	589	992	850	971	970
Illegal Weapons	0	2	3	1	4
Sex Offenses	146	200	224	233	229
Drug Abuse Violations	1	0	0	0	0
Offenses Against Family & Children	1,259	1,473	1,580	1,078	973
Disorderly Conduct	22	71	85	119	100
All Other Offenses	1,732	1,382	1,394	1,224	1,432
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>36,503</b>	<b>34,432</b>	<b>34,191</b>	<b>33,032</b>	<b>34,017</b>

5 Year Homicide  
Average 40.4

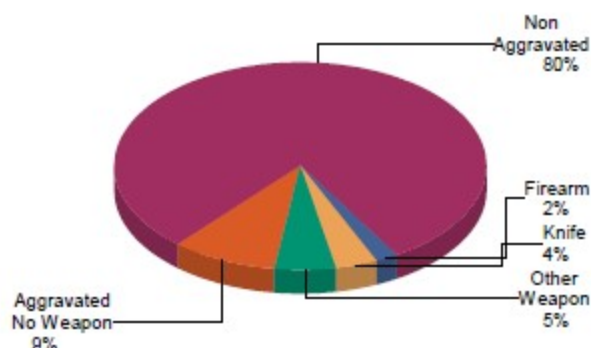




## ASSAULTS

Assault is the most frequent type of domestically related crime reported. There were a total of 28,329 domestic assaults in 2023. This represents 83.3 percent of all domestically related crimes. There were 5,695 domestic assaults reported as an "aggravated domestically related assault," which means an unlawful attack by one person upon another for the purpose of inflicting severe or aggravated bodily injury. Aggravated assaults represented 20.10 percent of the total reported domestically related assaults in 2023.

## Domestically Related Assaults



### AGGRAVATED

	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
Firearm	367	417	455	513	567
Knife	1,201	909	921	889	991
Other Weapons	2,152	1,552	1,356	1,280	1,521
No Weapons	1,780	2,168	2,361	2,530	2,616

### NON AGGRAVATED

Simple	24,646	23,004	22,832	22,112	22,613
Stalking	11	20	14	13	21

<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>30,157</b>	<b>28,070</b>	<b>27,939</b>	<b>27,337</b>	<b>28,329</b>
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### MONTHLY OCCURRENCES

	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
January	3,025	2,871	2,783	2,688	3,051
February	2,680	2,634	2,427	2,460	2,697
March	3,066	3,011	2,753	2,903	2,794
April	3,114	2,633	2,774	2,855	2,860
May	3,358	2,926	3,085	2,930	3,037
June	3,247	2,961	2,864	2,427	2,897
July	3,181	3,137	3,038	2,879	2,825
August	3,123	3,016	2,851	2,809	2,812
September	3,082	2,874	2,959	2,819	2,722
October	2,894	2,989	3,092	2,816	2,854
November	2,847	2,654	2,785	2,706	2,717
December	2,886	2,726	2,780	2,740	2,751
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>36,503</b>	<b>34,432</b>	<b>34,191</b>	<b>33,032</b>	<b>34,017</b>

**DAY OF WEEK**

	<b>2019</b>	<b>2020</b>	<b>2021</b>	<b>2022</b>	<b>2023</b>
Sunday	6,168	5,774	5,816	5,603	6,005
Monday	5,142	4,622	4,802	4,504	4,780
Tuesday	5,074	4,614	4,398	4,346	4,481
Wednesday	4,720	4,651	4,348	4,313	4,458
Thursday	4,759	4,557	4,588	4,351	4,392
Friday	4,878	4,751	4,779	4,478	4,574
Saturday	5,762	5,463	5,460	5,437	5,327
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>36,503</b>	<b>34,432</b>	<b>34,191</b>	<b>33,032</b>	<b>34,017</b>

**HOUR OF DAY**

	<b>2019</b>	<b>2020</b>	<b>2021</b>	<b>2022</b>	<b>2023</b>
12:00 A.M.	2,928	1,818	1,924	1,688	1,930
1:00 A.M.	1,350	1,356	1,373	1,411	1,475
2:00 A.M.	1,132	1,121	1,132	1,100	1,152
3:00 A.M.	827	893	826	972	1,008
4:00 A.M.	632	649	630	698	809
5:00 A.M.	509	495	551	555	674
6:00 A.M.	577	545	568	565	641
7:00 A.M.	813	674	800	825	901
8:00 A.M.	1,051	995	1,039	1,087	1,150
9:00 A.M.	1,252	1,220	1,273	1,222	1,166
10:00 A.M.	1,423	1,459	1,357	1,355	1,298
11:00 A.M.	1,553	1,574	1,504	1,421	1,369
12:00 Noon	1,631	1,637	1,590	1,556	1,490
1:00 P.M.	1,568	1,553	1,502	1,229	1,326
2:00 P.M.	1,488	1,452	1,402	1,304	1,302
3:00 P.M.	1,644	1,657	1,621	1,575	1,428
4:00 P.M.	1,805	1,768	1,728	1,576	1,620
5:00 P.M.	1,886	1,821	1,734	1,739	1,684
6:00 P.M.	2,021	1,927	1,852	1,762	1,872
7:00 P.M.	2,002	1,967	1,953	1,820	1,873
8:00 P.M.	2,166	2,059	2,042	1,958	2,032
9:00 P.M.	2,236	2,020	2,056	1,982	2,011
10:00 P.M.	2,053	1,899	1,870	1,855	1,951
11:00 P.M.	1,956	1,873	1,864	1,777	1,855
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>36,503</b>	<b>34,432</b>	<b>34,191</b>	<b>33,032</b>	<b>34,017</b>

**Analysis**

In 2023, the greatest number of domestically related crimes reported occurred around 8:00 P.M. The highest number of domestically related crimes reported occurred on Sunday.

## VICTIMS

### AGE

Victims of domestically related crimes between 25 to 39 years of age accounted for 43.4 percent of the total victims.

### SEX

	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
Female	25,169	23,942	23,881	22,913	23,350
Male	11,330	10,485	10,294	10,116	10,663
Unknown	4	5	16	3	4
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>36,503</b>	<b>34,432</b>	<b>34,191</b>	<b>33,032</b>	<b>34,017</b>

### RACE

	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
American Indian	41	60	51	53	61
Asian	439	456	508	461	495
Black	19,520	18,286	18,387	18,193	18,418
Pacific Islander	46	45	44	44	48
White	16,248	15,194	14,871	13,930	14,536
Other	209	391	330	351	459
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>36,503</b>	<b>34,432</b>	<b>34,191</b>	<b>33,032</b>	<b>34,017</b>

### HOUSEHOLD STATUS

	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
Living Together	21,611	20,376	20,494	20,414	21,139
Not Living Together	11,058	10,560	10,360	9,503	9,788
Unknown	3,834	3,496	3,337	3,115	3,090
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>36,503</b>	<b>34,432</b>	<b>34,191</b>	<b>33,032</b>	<b>34,017</b>



**ALCOHOL AND DRUG INVOLVEMENT**

In domestically related crimes, reporting the use of alcohol, drugs or both by either the offender or victim are captured.

	<b>2019</b>	<b>2020</b>	<b>2021</b>	<b>2022</b>	<b>2023</b>
Alcohol	6,396	6,126	5,548	5,369	5,330
Drugs	709	778	840	674	694
Alcohol & Drugs	300	323	306	304	314
None	15,119	13,613	14,115	14,153	15,186
Unknown	13,979	13,592	13,382	12,532	12,493
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>36,503</b>	<b>34,432</b>	<b>34,191</b>	<b>33,032</b>	<b>34,017</b>

**CIRCUMSTANCES**

	<b>2019</b>	<b>2020</b>	<b>2021</b>	<b>2022</b>	<b>2023</b>
Alcohol	1,262	1,313	1,268	1,360	1,360
Drugs	579	584	615	468	522
Food or Cooking	424	345	291	332	328
Friends	165	167	129	72	109
Gambling	13	6	10	12	18
Household Chores	581	600	625	645	720
Infidelity	3,437	3,038	3,002	3,113	3,281
Job or Lack of Job	177	143	123	167	148
Mental Imbalance	623	750	920	951	951
Money	1,713	1,506	1,234	1,250	1,253
Offspring	1,597	1,548	1,533	1,607	1,833
Property	2,805	2,604	2,302	1,958	1,620
Relatives	448	408	430	638	606
Sex	731	681	750	693	700
Sports or Hobby	32	32	12	16	38
Television	104	92	63	52	90
Separation	1,084	1,011	1,015	988	1,182
Divorce	202	186	164	175	223
Reconciliation	111	116	138	110	106
Staying Out Late	304	231	233	231	226
Other	14,131	13,691	15,238	13,762	13,552
Unknown	5,980	5,380	4,096	4,432	5,151
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>36,503</b>	<b>34,432</b>	<b>34,191</b>	<b>33,032</b>	<b>34,017</b>

## CLEARANCES

There are two ways of clearing a case. One is by making an arrest and charging the person(s) with the offense. The other is known as an exceptional clearance. Exceptional clearance means the police know the identity and location of the person(s) who committed the offense and have enough information to arrest them. However, there is some reason beyond their control that prevents them from making the arrest.

The arrest and exceptional clearances reported reflect the disposition at the time the domestically related crime report form was forwarded to the UCR Program. These reports are not updated; therefore, other arrests and exceptional clearances may occur, but would not be reflected in the following totals.

	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
Arrest	11,775	9,950	9,491	9,144	9,774
Exception	9,418	8,944	9,656	7,362	5,002
Unknown	15,310	15,538	15,044	16,526	19,241
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>36,503</b>	<b>34,432</b>	<b>34,191</b>	<b>33,032</b>	<b>34,017</b>

During 2023, 43.4 percent of all domestically related cases were cleared. A breakdown of the clearances in 2023 includes 28.7 percent by arrest, 14.7 percent by exceptional clearance and 56.6 percent unknown.

## DOMESTICALLY RELATED CRIMES BY COUNTY

	2023	2022	2021	2020	2019	5 Year Average (Rounded)
Allegany County	344	320	331	397	411	360
Anne Arundel County	3,389	3,225	3,640	3,881	3,917	3,610
Baltimore County	7,847	8,048	8,989	8,913	10,454	8,850
Baltimore City	6,435	6,501	6,729	6,523	6,335	6,504
Calvert County	311	344	415	395	411	375
Caroline County	62	46	63	94	109	74
Carroll County	477	507	558	625	580	549
Cecil County	700	549	522	582	531	576
Charles County	1,128	975	955	1,003	1,135	1,039
Dorchester County	113	129	152	152	165	142
Frederick County	1,724	1,564	1,498	1,393	1,305	1,496
Garrett County	131	93	91	86	81	96
Harford County	1,263	1,141	1,109	1,199	1,228	1,188
Howard County	1,664	1,693	1,670	1,800	1,854	1,736
Kent County	40	28	31	41	36	35
Montgomery County	3,659	3,393	3,434	2,952	2,963	3,280
Prince George's County	1,982	1,840	1,272	1,802	2,340	1,847
Queen Anne's County	256	246	191	194	148	207
St. Mary's County	1,315	1,139	1,210	1,129	1,081	1,174
Somerset County	159	131	107	114	159	134
Talbot County	87	49	55	56	102	69
Washington County	162	194	170	151	164	168
Wicomico County	636	633	646	613	704	646
Worcester County	120	225	340	328	280	258
Statewide Agencies*	13	19	13	9	10	12
<b>State Total</b>	<b>34,017</b>	<b>33,032</b>	<b>34,191</b>	<b>34,432</b>	<b>36,503</b>	<b>34,435</b>

\* Statewide agencies report offenses but do not identify county of occurrence.

**CRIME BREAKDOWN  
DOMESTICALLY RELATED CRIMES BY VICTIM SEX**

		Male	Female	Unk
Grand Total		10,663	23,350	4
All Other Offenses		387	1,044	1
Arson		11	19	0
Assault		9,250	19,076	3
	Aggravated - Firearm	91	476	0
	Aggravated - Knife	495	496	0
	Aggravated - Other Dangerous	702	819	0
	Aggravated - Personal Weap..	334	2,282	0
	Simple	7,626	14,984	3
	Stalking	2	19	0
Breaking or Entering		58	275	0
	Attempt	3	29	0
	Forcible	32	172	0
	Non Forcible	23	74	0
Disorderly Conduct		37	63	0
Embezzlement		0	2	0
Forgery		10	11	0
Fraud, Bad Checks False Pretense		43	97	0
Homicide		19	17	0
Illegal Weapons		0	4	0



**CRIME BREAKDOWN  
DOMESTICALLY RELATED CRIMES BY VICTIM SEX**

		Male	Female	Unk
Larceny-Theft		182	450	0
Motor Vehicle Theft		23	72	0
	Automobiles	23	72	0
Offenses Against Family, Desertion, Non-Support, Neglect		251	722	0
Rape		32	347	0
	Attempted	0	10	0
	Forcible	32	337	0
Receiving Stolen Property		1	1	0
Robbery		28	282	0
	Firearm	2	13	0
	Knife	4	15	0
	Other Dangerous Weapon	1	8	0
	Personal Weapon	21	246	0
Sex Offense (Except Rape)		27	202	0
Vandalism, Malicious Destruction of Property		304	666	0



# MURDER

Murder and non-negligent manslaughter is the willful (non-negligent) killing of one human being by another.

## VOLUME AND RATE

During 2019, a total of 543 murders were reported. This represents a 11.0 percent change from 2018. Murder accounted for 2.0 percent of all violent crime and 0.4 percent of the crime index. In 2019, there were 9.0 murders per 100,000 of population.

## ANALYSIS OF MURDER

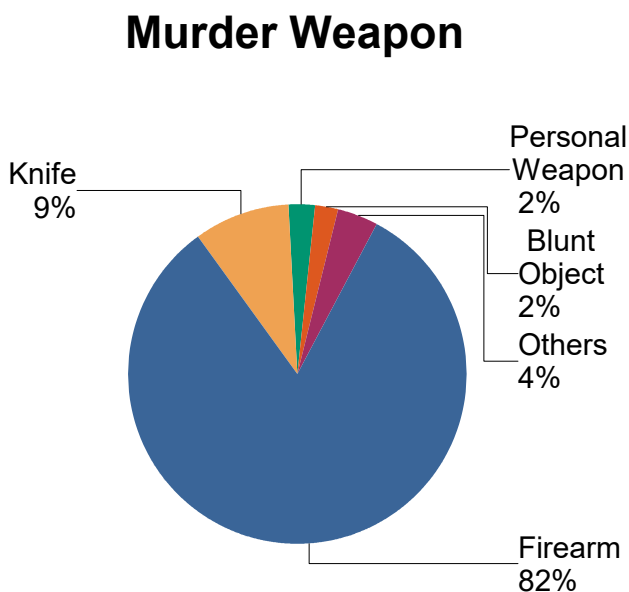
In 2019, 243 murders were cleared with 3.3 percent of these clearances involving only juvenile offenders. A total of 236 persons were arrested for murder during 2019. A breakdown of persons arrested for murder is: 91.9 percent male; 8.1 percent female; 5.9 percent juvenile; 72.9 percent Black; 26.7 percent White and 0.4 percent consisting of American Indian, Asian and Pacific Islander.

During 2019, 251 of the murder victims were in the 18 to 29 age group, representing 46.2 percent of the total. There were 29 juvenile victims of murder, accounting for 5.3 percent of the total murder victims. Firearms were used in 82.2 percent of the reported murders in 2019. This represents a 13.7 percent change in their use when compared to the use of firearms in 2018. Knives accounted for 9.1 percent of the reported murders in 2019, an 18.8 percent change of the reported knife related murders in 2018.

Drug related murders accounted for 1.7 percent of the total in 2019. In 2018, drug related murders accounted for 2.7 percent of the total.

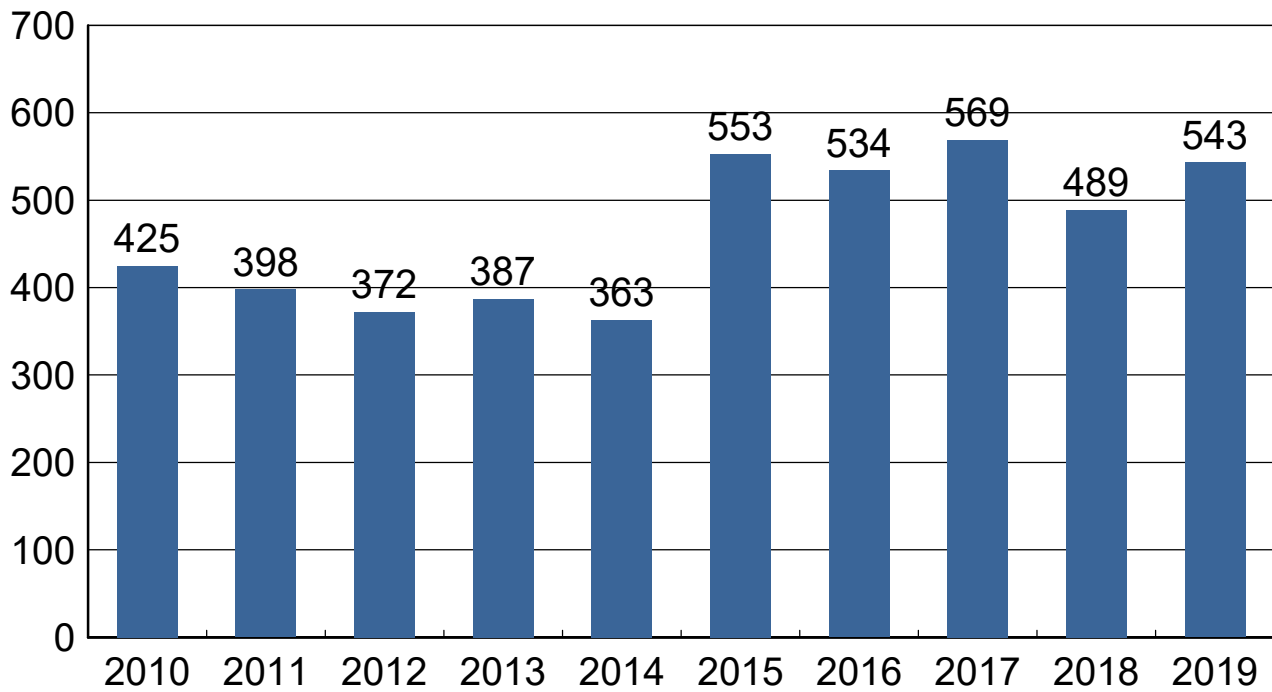
Family members, as offenders, accounted for 4.8 percent of the total murders in 2019, compared to 7.6 percent in 2018. Of the family members as offenders, husband and wife or boyfriend and girlfriend (those who had lived together) reflect 0.6 percent of the total murders reported.

Additionally, an acquaintance is listed in 13.0 percent of the murders reported in 2019. Strangers and unknown relationships accounted for 5.4 percent and 70.7 percent respectively.



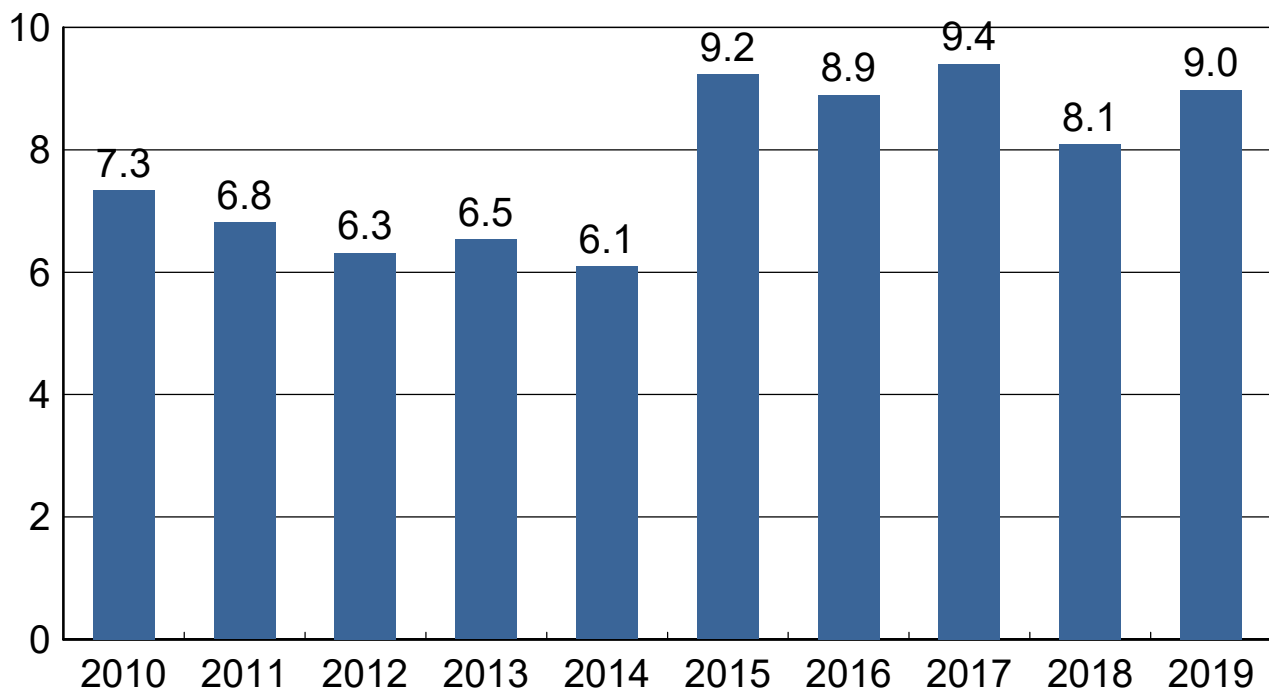
# MURDER

Total Number of Murders



# MURDER

Rate per 100,000 Population



## Murder by County

	2019	2018	2017	2016	2015	5 Year Average (rounded)
Allegany County	0	2	4	5	3	3
Anne Arundel County	20	25	21	25	17	22
Baltimore City	348	309	342	318	344	332
Baltimore County	50	28	35	35	32	36
Calvert County	0	1	2	1	2	1
Caroline County	1	0	0	0	0	0
Carroll County	1	1	0	2	0	1
Cecil County	2	2	3	3	9	4
Charles County	5	11	8	6	3	7
Dorchester County	2	1	0	4	1	2
Frederick County	3	3	5	2	7	4
Garrett County	0	0	0	0	0	0
Harford County	7	9	10	9	7	8
Howard County	8	1	5	6	2	4
Kent County	0	0	1	0	0	0
Montgomery County	14	20	26	15	29	21
Prince George's County	75	61	81	88	78	77
Queen Anne's County	0	1	1	0	0	0
St. Mary's County	1	1	4	2	2	2
Somerset County	1	1	1	2	0	1
Talbot County	1	1	0	0	0	0
Washington County	3	8	9	3	9	6
Wicomico County	1	3	9	5	7	5
Worcester County	0	0	2	3	1	1
Statewide Agencies*	0	0	0	0	0	0
<b>State Total</b>	<b>543</b>	<b>489</b>	<b>569</b>	<b>534</b>	<b>553</b>	<b>538</b>

\* Statewide agencies report offenses but do not identify county of occurrence.

## MURDER BREAKDOWN REPORT

Population			RATE	COUNT	% CHANGE
2018	6,042,718	ACTUAL	2018	8.09	489
			2019	8.98	543
2019	6,045,680	JUSTIFIABLE	2018	0.38	23
			2019	0.36	22
					-4.35%

### VICTIMS BY RACE

		RATE	# OF ACTUALS	% OF TOTAL	% CHANGE
White	2018	1.24	75	15.34%	
	2019	1.46	88	16.21%	17.33%
Black	2018	6.65	402	82.21%	
	2019	7.46	451	83.06%	12.19%
Asian	2018	0.08	5	1.02%	
	2019	0.05	3	0.55%	-40.00%
American Indian	2018	0.02	1	0.20%	
	2019	0.00	0	0.00%	-100.00%
Pacific Islander	2018	0.00	0	0.00%	
	2019	0.00	0	0.00%	
Unknown Race	2018	0.10	6	1.23%	
	2019	0.02	1	0.18%	-83.33%

### OFFENDERS BY RACE

		RATE	# OF ACTUALS	% OF TOTAL	% CHANGE
		0.96	58	10.53%	
		1.17	71	11.36%	22.41%
		4.40	266	48.28%	
		4.43	268	42.88%	0.75%
		0.03	2	0.36%	
		0.02	1	0.16%	-50.00%
		0.02	1	0.18%	
		0.00	0	0.00%	-100.00%
		0.00	0	0.00%	
		0.00	0	0.00%	
		3.71	224	40.65%	
		4.71	285	45.60%	27.23%

### BY ETHNICITY

		RATE	# OF ACTUALS	% OF TOTAL	% CHANGE
Hispanic	2018	0.36	22	4.50%	
	2019	0.51	31	5.71%	40.91%
Non Hispanic	2018	6.65	402	82.21%	
	2019	5.86	354	65.19%	-11.94%
Unknown	2018	1.08	65	13.29%	
	2019	2.61	158	29.10%	143.08%

### BY ETHNICITY

		RATE	# OF ACTUALS	% OF TOTAL	% CHANGE
		0.30	18	3.27%	
		0.58	35	5.57%	94.44%
		4.57	276	50.09%	
		3.79	229	36.46%	-17.03%
		4.25	257	46.64%	
		6.02	364	57.96%	41.63%

### BY AGE

		RATE	# OF ACTUALS	% OF TOTAL	% CHANGE
Under 18	2018	0.45	27	5.52%	
	2019	0.48	29	5.33%	7.41%
18 - 21	2018	0.86	52	10.63%	
	2019	1.31	79	14.52%	51.92%
22 - 29	2018	2.60	157	32.11%	
	2019	2.85	172	31.62%	9.55%
30 & over	2018	4.15	251	51.33%	
	2019	4.33	262	48.16%	4.38%
Unknown	2018	0.03	2	0.41%	
	2019	0.03	2	0.37%	0.00%

### BY AGE

		RATE	# OF ACTUALS	% OF TOTAL	% CHANGE
		0.33	20	3.63%	
		0.23	14	2.23%	-30.00%
		0.68	41	7.44%	
		0.79	48	7.64%	17.07%
		1.06	64	11.62%	
		1.34	81	12.90%	26.56%
		1.64	99	17.97%	
		1.51	91	14.49%	-8.08%
		5.41	327	59.35%	
		6.52	394	62.74%	20.49%

NOTE: "Rate" = Number of murders per 100,000 population rounded to the nearest hundredth

## MURDER BREAKDOWN REPORT WEAPON INVOLVED IN MURDER

		RATE	# OF ACTUALS	% OF TOTAL	% CHANGE
FIREARMS	2018	7.48	452	82.03%	
	2019	8.50	514	82.24%	13.72%
TYPE UNKNOWN	2018	0.53	32	5.81%	
	2019	0.73	44	7.04%	37.50%
HANDGUN	2018	6.64	401	72.78%	
	2019	7.64	462	73.92%	15.21%
RIFLE	2018	0.10	6	1.09%	
	2019	0.05	3	0.48%	-50.00%
SHOTGUN	2018	0.20	12	2.18%	
	2019	0.07	4	0.64%	-66.67%
OTHER GUN	2018	0.02	1	0.18%	
	2019	0.02	1	0.16%	0.00%
KNIFE	2018	0.79	48	8.71%	
	2019	0.94	57	9.12%	18.75%
BLUNT OBJECT	2018	0.13	8	1.45%	
	2019	0.25	15	2.40%	87.50%
PERSONAL WEAPON	2018	0.23	14	2.54%	
	2019	0.25	15	2.40%	7.14%
POISON	2018	0.00	0	0.00%	
	2019	0.00	0	0.00%	
EXPLOSIVES	2018	0.00	0	0.00%	
	2019	0.00	0	0.00%	
FIRE	2018	0.02	1	0.18%	
	2019	0.05	3	0.48%	200.00%

NOTE: "Rate" = Number of murders per 100,000 population rounded to the nearest hundredth

## MURDER BREAKDOWN REPORT WEAPON INVOLVED IN MURDER

		RATE	# OF ACTUALS	% OF TOTAL	% CHANGE
NARCOTICS	2018	0.02	1	0.18%	
	2019	0.03	2	0.32%	100.00%
DROWNING	2018	0.00	0	0.00%	
	2019	0.00	0	0.00%	
STRANGULATION	2018	0.12	7	1.27%	
	2019	0.00	0	0.00%	-100.00%
ASPHYXIATION	2018	0.00	0	0.00%	
	2019	0.02	1	0.16%	
OTHER WEAPONS	2018	0.33	20	3.63%	
	2019	0.30	18	2.88%	-10.00%

NOTE: "Rate" = Number of murders per 100,000 population rounded to the nearest hundredth

## MURDER BREAKDOWN REPORT BY CIRCUMSTANCE

		RATE	# OF ACTUALS	% OF TOTAL	% CHANGE
RAPE	2018	0.02	1	0.20%	
	2019	0.00	0	0.00%	-100.00%
ROBBERY	2018	0.41	25	5.11%	
	2019	0.55	33	6.08%	32.00%
BREAKING OR ENTERING	2018	0.05	3	0.61%	
	2019	0.02	1	0.18%	-66.67%
LARCENY	2018	0.00	0	0.00%	
	2019	0.00	0	0.00%	
MOTOR VEHICLE THEFT	2018	0.00	0	0.00%	
	2019	0.00	0	0.00%	
ARSON	2018	0.00	0	0.00%	
	2019	0.07	4	0.74%	
PROSTITUTION OR COMMERCIAL VICE	2018	0.00	0	0.00%	
	2019	0.00	0	0.00%	
OTHER SEX OFFENSE	2018	0.00	0	0.00%	
	2019	0.00	0	0.00%	
NARCOTIC DRUG LAW	2018	0.22	13	2.66%	
	2019	0.15	9	1.66%	-30.77%
GAMBLING	2018	0.00	0	0.00%	
	2019	0.00	0	0.00%	
OTHER - NOT SPECIFIED	2018	0.26	16	3.27%	
	2019	0.20	12	2.21%	-25.00%
ABORTION	2018	0.00	0	0.00%	
	2019	0.00	0	0.00%	
LOVERS' TRIANGLE	2018	0.03	2	0.41%	
	2019	0.03	2	0.37%	0.00%

NOTE: "Rate" = Number of murders per 100,000 population rounded to the nearest hundredth

## MURDER BREAKDOWN REPORT BY CIRCUMSTANCE

		RATE	# OF ACTUALS	% OF TOTAL	% CHANGE
CHILD KILLED BY BABYSITTER	2018	0.02	1	0.20%	
	2019	0.05	3	0.55%	200.00%
BRAWL DUE TO INFLUENCE OF ALCOHOL	2018	0.05	3	0.61%	
	2019	0.00	0	0.00%	-100.00%
BRAWL DUE TO INFLUENCE OF NARCOTICS	2018	0.05	3	0.61%	
	2019	0.00	0	0.00%	-100.00%
ARGUMENT OVER MONEY OR PROPERTY	2018	0.12	7	1.43%	
	2019	0.13	8	1.47%	14.29%
OTHER ARGUMENTS	2018	1.26	76	15.54%	
	2019	1.41	85	15.65%	11.84%
GANGLAND KILLINGS	2018	0.03	2	0.41%	
	2019	0.03	2	0.37%	0.00%
JUVENILE GANG KILLINGS	2018	0.00	0	0.00%	
	2019	0.00	0	0.00%	
INSTITUTIONAL KILLINGS	2018	0.00	0	0.00%	
	2019	0.00	0	0.00%	
SNIPER ATTACK	2018	0.00	0	0.00%	
	2019	0.00	0	0.00%	
OTHER	2018	0.76	46	9.41%	
	2019	0.71	43	7.92%	-6.52%
ALL SUSPECTED FELONY TYPE	2018	0.00	0	0.00%	
	2019	0.00	0	0.00%	
NOT ENOUGH INFORMATION TO DETERMINE	2018	4.82	291	59.51%	
	2019	5.64	341	62.80%	17.18%

NOTE: "Rate" = Number of murders per 100,000 population rounded to the nearest hundredth



## MURDER BREAKDOWN REPORT BY RELATIONSHIP

		RATE	# ACTUALS	% OF TOTAL	% CHANGE
ALL FAMILY RELATED	2018	0.70	42	7.62%	
	2019	0.50	30	4.80%	-28.57%
HUSBAND	2018	0.03	2	0.36%	
	2019	0.00	0	0.00%	-100.00%
WIFE	2018	0.15	9	1.63%	
	2019	0.07	4	0.64%	-55.56%
COMMON-LAW HUSBAND	2018	0.00	0	0.00%	
	2019	0.00	0	0.00%	
COMMON-LAW WIFE	2018	0.00	0	0.00%	
	2019	0.00	0	0.00%	
FATHER	2018	0.05	3	0.54%	
	2019	0.07	4	0.64%	33.33%
MOTHER	2018	0.07	4	0.73%	
	2019	0.05	3	0.48%	-25.00%
SON	2018	0.05	3	0.54%	
	2019	0.10	6	0.96%	100.00%
DAUGHTER	2018	0.08	5	0.91%	
	2019	0.02	1	0.16%	-80.00%
BROTHER	2018	0.03	2	0.36%	
	2019	0.03	2	0.32%	0.00%
SISTER	2018	0.02	1	0.18%	
	2019	0.00	0	0.00%	-100.00%

NOTE: "Rate" = Number of murders per 100,000 population rounded to the nearest hundredth

## MURDER BREAKDOWN REPORT BY RELATIONSHIP

		RATE	# ACTUALS	% OF TOTAL	% CHANGE
IN-LAW	2018	0.00	0	0.00%	
	2019	0.05	3	0.48%	
STEPFATHER	2018	0.03	2	0.36%	
	2019	0.02	1	0.16%	-50.00%
STEPMOTHER	2018	0.02	1	0.18%	
	2019	0.00	0	0.00%	-100.00%
STEPSON	2018	0.02	1	0.18%	
	2019	0.02	1	0.16%	0.00%
STEPDAUGHTER	2018	0.00	0	0.00%	
	2019	0.00	0	0.00%	
EX-HUSBAND	2018	0.00	0	0.00%	
	2019	0.00	0	0.00%	
EX-WIFE	2018	0.03	2	0.36%	
	2019	0.00	0	0.00%	-100.00%
OTHER FAMILY	2018	0.12	7	1.27%	
	2019	0.08	5	0.80%	-28.57%
BOYFRIEND OR GIRLFRIEND	2018	0.18	11	2.00%	
	2019	0.25	15	2.40%	36.36%
BOYFRIEND	2018	0.05	3	0.54%	
	2019	0.05	3	0.48%	0.00%
GIRLFRIEND	2018	0.13	8	1.45%	
	2019	0.20	12	1.92%	50.00%

NOTE: "Rate" = Number of murders per 100,000 population rounded to the nearest hundredth

# MURDER

Murder and non-negligent manslaughter is the willful (non-negligent) killing of one human being by another.

## VOLUME AND RATE

During 2020, a total of 573 murders were reported. This represents a 5.5 percent change from 2019. Murder accounted for 2.3 percent of all violent crime and 0.5 percent of the crime index. In 2020, there were 9.5 murders per 100,000 of population.

## ANALYSIS OF MURDER

In 2020, 285 murders were cleared with 4.9 percent of these clearances involving only juvenile offenders. A total of 269 persons were arrested for murder during 2020. A breakdown of persons arrested for murder is: 92.2 percent male; 7.8 percent female; 7.8 percent juvenile; 79.2 percent Black; 19.0 percent White and 1.9 percent consisting of American Indian, Asian and Pacific Islander.

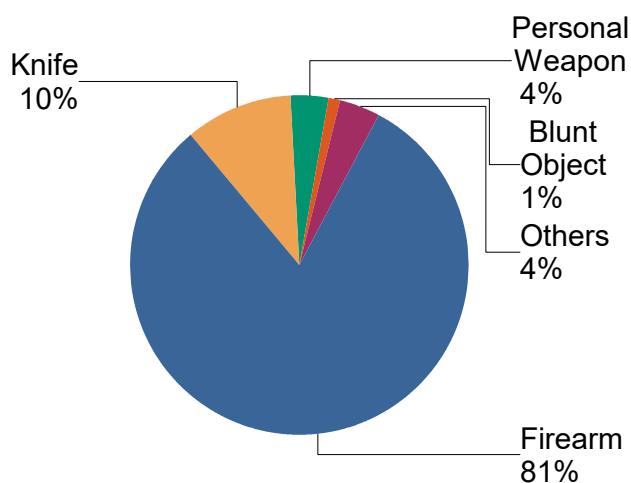
During 2020, 253 of the murder victims were in the 18 to 29 age group, representing 44.2 percent of the total. There were 30 juvenile victims of murder, accounting for 5.2 percent of the total murder victims. Firearms were used in 81.0 percent of the reported murders in 2020. This represents a 2.9 percent change in their use when compared to the use of firearms in 2019. Knives accounted for 10.4 percent of the reported murders in 2020, a 19.3 percent change of the reported knife related murders in 2019.

Drug related murders accounted for 1.2 percent of the total in 2020. In 2019, drug related murders accounted for 1.7 percent of the total.

Family members, as offenders, accounted for 6.4 percent of the total murders in 2020, compared to 4.8 percent in 2019. Of the family members as offenders, husband and wife or boyfriend and girlfriend (those who had lived together) reflect 2.3 percent of the total murders reported.

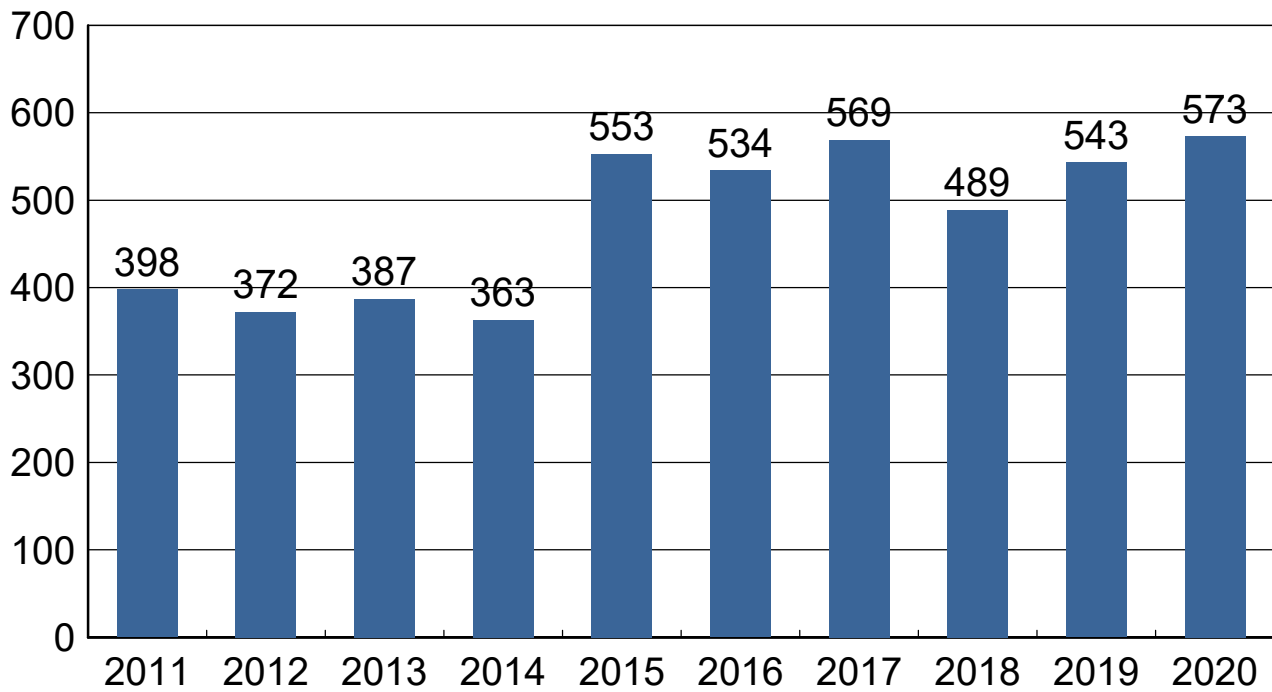
Additionally, an acquaintance is listed in 10.6 percent of the murders reported in 2020. Strangers and unknown relationships accounted for 7.4 percent and 68.0 percent respectively.

**Murder Weapon**



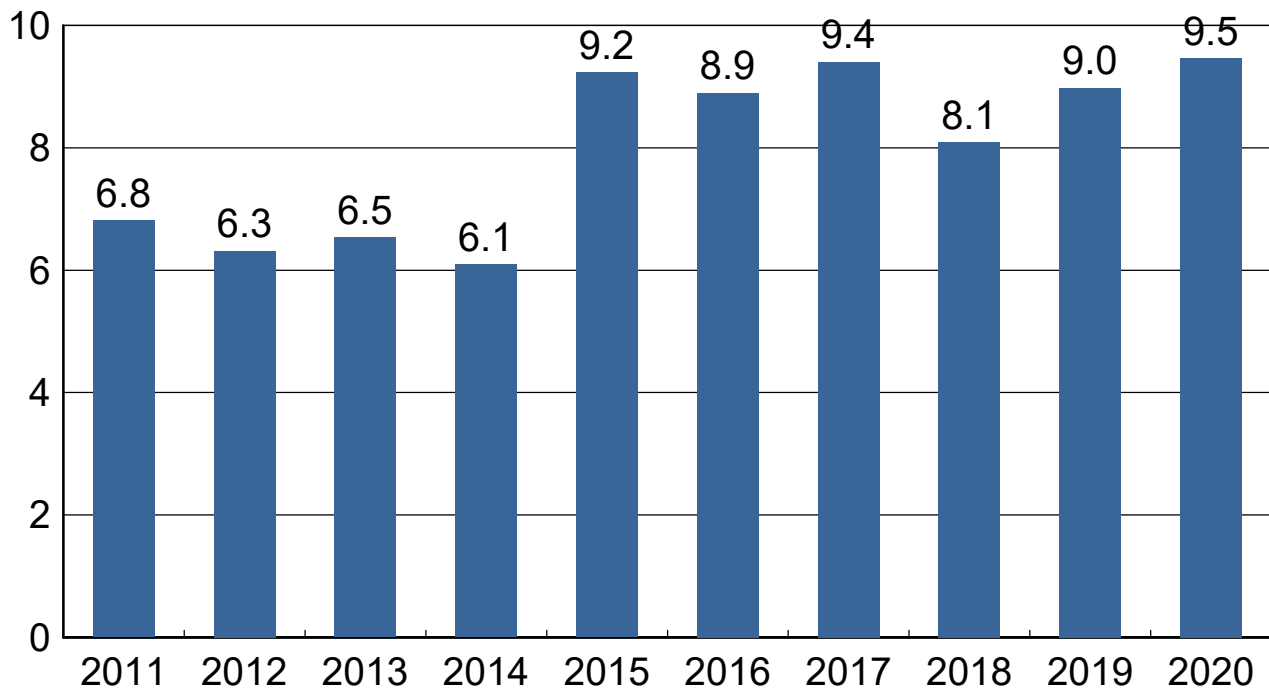
# MURDER

Total Number of Murders



# MURDER

Rate per 100,000 Population



## Murder by County

	2020	2019	2018	2017	2016	5 Year Average (rounded)
Allegany County	1	0	2	4	5	2
Anne Arundel County	26	20	25	21	25	23
Baltimore City	334	348	309	342	318	330
Baltimore County	33	50	28	35	35	36
Calvert County	1	0	1	2	1	1
Caroline County	0	1	0	0	0	0
Carroll County	5	1	1	0	2	2
Cecil County	1	2	2	3	3	2
Charles County	16	5	11	8	6	9
Dorchester County	3	2	1	0	4	2
Frederick County	9	3	3	5	2	4
Garrett County	2	0	0	0	0	0
Harford County	5	7	9	10	9	8
Howard County	7	8	1	5	6	5
Kent County	0	0	0	1	0	0
Montgomery County	18	14	20	26	15	19
Prince George's County	93	75	61	81	88	80
Queen Anne's County	0	0	1	1	0	0
St. Mary's County	7	1	1	4	2	3
Somerset County	0	1	1	1	2	1
Talbot County	0	1	1	0	0	0
Washington County	8	3	8	9	3	6
Wicomico County	3	1	3	9	5	4
Worcester County	1	0	0	2	3	1
Statewide Agencies*	0	0	0	0	0	0
<b>State Total</b>	<b>573</b>	<b>543</b>	<b>489</b>	<b>569</b>	<b>534</b>	<b>542</b>

\* Statewide agencies report offenses but do not identify county of occurrence.

## MURDER BREAKDOWN REPORT

Population			RATE	COUNT	% CHANGE
2019	6,045,680	ACTUAL	2019	8.98	543
			2020	9.46	573
2020	6,055,802	JUSTIFIABLE	2019	0.36	22
			2020	0.33	20

### VICTIMS BY RACE

		RATE	# OF ACTUALS	% OF TOTAL	% CHANGE
White	2019	1.46	88	16.21%	
	2020	1.60	97	16.93%	10.23%
Black	2019	7.46	451	83.06%	
	2020	7.79	472	82.37%	4.66%
Asian	2019	0.05	3	0.55%	
	2020	0.05	3	0.52%	0.00%
American Indian	2019	0.00	0	0.00%	
	2020	0.02	1	0.17%	
Pacific Islander	2019	0.00	0	0.00%	
	2020	0.00	0	0.00%	
Unknown Race	2019	0.02	1	0.18%	
	2020	0.00	0	0.00%	-100.00%

### OFFENDERS BY RACE

		RATE	# OF ACTUALS	% OF TOTAL	% CHANGE
White	2019	1.17	71	11.36%	
	2020	0.92	56	8.58%	-21.13%
Black	2019	4.43	268	42.88%	
	2020	5.12	310	47.47%	15.67%
Asian	2019	0.02	1	0.16%	
	2020	0.03	2	0.31%	100.00%
American Indian	2019	0.00	0	0.00%	
	2020	0.05	3	0.46%	
Pacific Islander	2019	0.00	0	0.00%	
	2020	0.00	0	0.00%	
Unknown Race	2019	4.71	285	45.60%	
	2020	4.66	282	43.19%	-1.05%

### BY ETHNICITY

		RATE	# OF ACTUALS	% OF TOTAL	% CHANGE
Hispanic	2019	0.51	31	5.71%	
	2020	0.51	31	5.41%	0.00%
Non Hispanic	2019	5.86	354	65.19%	
	2020	7.63	462	80.63%	30.51%
Unknown	2019	2.61	158	29.10%	
	2020	1.32	80	13.96%	-49.37%

### BY ETHNICITY

		RATE	# OF ACTUALS	% OF TOTAL	% CHANGE
Hispanic	2019	0.58	35	5.57%	
	2020	0.28	17	2.56%	-51.43%
Non Hispanic	2019	3.79	229	36.46%	
	2020	5.12	310	46.69%	35.37%
Unknown	2019	6.02	364	57.96%	
	2020	5.56	337	50.75%	-7.42%

### BY AGE

		RATE	# OF ACTUALS	% OF TOTAL	% CHANGE
Under 18	2019	0.48	29	5.33%	
	2020	0.50	30	5.22%	3.45%
18 - 21	2019	1.31	79	14.52%	
	2020	1.47	89	15.48%	12.66%
22 - 29	2019	2.85	172	31.62%	
	2020	2.72	165	28.70%	-4.07%
30 & over	2019	4.33	262	48.16%	
	2020	4.79	290	50.43%	10.69%
Unknown	2019	0.03	2	0.37%	
	2020	0.02	1	0.17%	-50.00%

### BY AGE

		RATE	# OF ACTUALS	% OF TOTAL	% CHANGE
Under 18	2019	0.23	14	2.23%	
	2020	0.30	18	2.71%	28.57%
18 - 21	2019	0.79	48	7.64%	
	2020	0.88	53	7.98%	10.42%
22 - 29	2019	1.34	81	12.90%	
	2020	1.37	83	12.50%	2.47%
30 & over	2019	1.51	91	14.49%	
	2020	1.83	111	16.72%	21.98%
Unknown	2019	6.52	394	62.74%	
	2020	6.59	399	60.09%	1.27%

NOTE: "Rate" = Number of murders per 100,000 population rounded to the nearest hundredth

## MURDER BREAKDOWN REPORT WEAPON INVOLVED IN MURDER

		RATE	# OF ACTUALS	% OF TOTAL	% CHANGE
FIREARMS	2019	8.50	514	82.24%	
	2020	8.74	529	81.01%	2.92%
TYPE UNKNOWN	2019	0.73	44	7.04%	
	2020	0.69	42	6.43%	-4.55%
HANDGUN	2019	7.64	462	73.92%	
	2020	7.73	468	71.67%	1.30%
RIFLE	2019	0.05	3	0.48%	
	2020	0.25	15	2.30%	400.00%
SHOTGUN	2019	0.07	4	0.64%	
	2020	0.07	4	0.61%	0.00%
OTHER GUN	2019	0.02	1	0.16%	
	2020	0.00	0	0.00%	-100.00%
KNIFE	2019	0.94	57	9.12%	
	2020	1.12	68	10.41%	19.30%
BLUNT OBJECT	2019	0.25	15	2.40%	
	2020	0.13	8	1.23%	-46.67%
PERSONAL WEAPON	2019	0.25	15	2.40%	
	2020	0.38	23	3.52%	53.33%
POISON	2019	0.00	0	0.00%	
	2020	0.02	1	0.15%	
EXPLOSIVES	2019	0.00	0	0.00%	
	2020	0.00	0	0.00%	
FIRE	2019	0.05	3	0.48%	
	2020	0.00	0	0.00%	-100.00%

NOTE: "Rate" = Number of murders per 100,000 population rounded to the nearest hundredth

## MURDER BREAKDOWN REPORT WEAPON INVOLVED IN MURDER

		RATE	# OF ACTUALS	% OF TOTAL	% CHANGE
NARCOTICS	2019	0.03	2	0.32%	
	2020	0.03	2	0.31%	0.00%
DROWNING	2019	0.00	0	0.00%	
	2020	0.00	0	0.00%	
STRANGULATION	2019	0.00	0	0.00%	
	2020	0.05	3	0.46%	
ASPHYXIATION	2019	0.02	1	0.16%	
	2020	0.02	1	0.15%	0.00%
OTHER WEAPONS	2019	0.30	18	2.88%	
	2020	0.30	18	2.76%	0.00%

NOTE: "Rate" = Number of murders per 100,000 population rounded to the nearest hundredth



## MURDER BREAKDOWN REPORT BY CIRCUMSTANCE

		RATE	# OF ACTUALS	% OF TOTAL	% CHANGE
RAPE	2019	0.00	0	0.00%	
	2020	0.00	0	0.00%	
ROBBERY	2019	0.55	33	6.08%	
	2020	0.31	19	3.32%	-42.42%
BREAKING OR ENTERING	2019	0.02	1	0.18%	
	2020	0.00	0	0.00%	-100.00%
LARCENY-THEFT	2019	0.00	0	0.00%	
	2020	0.00	0	0.00%	
MOTOR VEHICLE THEFT	2019	0.00	0	0.00%	
	2020	0.00	0	0.00%	
ARSON	2019	0.07	4	0.74%	
	2020	0.00	0	0.00%	-100.00%
PROSTITUTION OR COMMERCIAL VICE	2019	0.00	0	0.00%	
	2020	0.00	0	0.00%	
OTHER SEX OFFENSE	2019	0.00	0	0.00%	
	2020	0.00	0	0.00%	
NARCOTIC DRUG LAW	2019	0.15	9	1.66%	
	2020	0.12	7	1.22%	-22.22%
GAMBLING	2019	0.00	0	0.00%	
	2020	0.02	1	0.17%	
OTHER - NOT SPECIFIED	2019	0.20	12	2.21%	
	2020	0.26	16	2.79%	33.33%
ABORTION	2019	0.00	0	0.00%	
	2020	0.02	1	0.17%	
LOVERS' TRIANGLE	2019	0.03	2	0.37%	
	2020	0.08	5	0.87%	150.00%

NOTE: "Rate" = Number of murders per 100,000 population rounded to the nearest hundredth

## MURDER BREAKDOWN REPORT BY CIRCUMSTANCE

		RATE	# OF ACTUALS	% OF TOTAL	% CHANGE
CHILD KILLED BY BABYSITTER	2019	0.05	3	0.55%	
	2020	0.02	1	0.17%	-66.67%
BRAWL DUE TO INFLUENCE OF ALCOHOL	2019	0.00	0	0.00%	
	2020	0.07	4	0.70%	
BRAWL DUE TO INFLUENCE OF NARCOTICS	2019	0.00	0	0.00%	
	2020	0.00	0	0.00%	
ARGUMENT OVER MONEY OR PROPERTY	2019	0.13	8	1.47%	
	2020	0.15	9	1.57%	12.50%
OTHER ARGUMENTS	2019	1.41	85	15.65%	
	2020	1.82	110	19.20%	29.41%
GANGLAND KILLINGS	2019	0.03	2	0.37%	
	2020	0.00	0	0.00%	-100.00%
JUVENILE GANG KILLINGS	2019	0.00	0	0.00%	
	2020	0.00	0	0.00%	
INSTITUTIONAL KILLINGS	2019	0.00	0	0.00%	
	2020	0.00	0	0.00%	
SNIPER ATTACK	2019	0.00	0	0.00%	
	2020	0.00	0	0.00%	
OTHER	2019	0.71	43	7.92%	
	2020	1.44	87	15.18%	102.33%
ALL SUSPECTED FELONY TYPE	2019	0.00	0	0.00%	
	2020	0.03	2	0.35%	
NOT ENOUGH INFORMATION TO DETERMINE	2019	5.64	341	62.80%	
	2020	5.14	311	54.28%	-8.80%

NOTE: "Rate" = Number of murders per 100,000 population rounded to the nearest hundredth

## MURDER BREAKDOWN REPORT BY RELATIONSHIP

		RATE	# ACTUALS	% OF TOTAL	% CHANGE
ALL FAMILY RELATED	2019	0.50	30	4.80%	
	2020	0.69	42	6.44%	40.00%
HUSBAND	2019	0.00	0	0.00%	
	2020	0.08	5	0.77%	
WIFE	2019	0.07	4	0.64%	
	2020	0.17	10	1.53%	150.00%
COMMON-LAW HUSBAND	2019	0.00	0	0.00%	
	2020	0.00	0	0.00%	
COMMON-LAW WIFE	2019	0.00	0	0.00%	
	2020	0.00	0	0.00%	
FATHER	2019	0.07	4	0.64%	
	2020	0.05	3	0.46%	-25.00%
MOTHER	2019	0.05	3	0.48%	
	2020	0.10	6	0.92%	100.00%
SON	2019	0.10	6	0.96%	
	2020	0.07	4	0.61%	-33.33%
DAUGHTER	2019	0.02	1	0.16%	
	2020	0.07	4	0.61%	300.00%
BROTHER	2019	0.03	2	0.32%	
	2020	0.07	4	0.61%	100.00%
SISTER	2019	0.00	0	0.00%	
	2020	0.02	1	0.15%	

NOTE: "Rate" = Number of murders per 100,000 population rounded to the nearest hundredth

## MURDER BREAKDOWN REPORT BY RELATIONSHIP

		RATE	# ACTUALS	% OF TOTAL	% CHANGE
IN-LAW	2019	0.05	3	0.48%	
	2020	0.00	0	0.00%	-100.00%
STEPFATHER	2019	0.02	1	0.16%	
	2020	0.00	0	0.00%	-100.00%
STEPMOTHER	2019	0.00	0	0.00%	
	2020	0.02	1	0.15%	
STEPSON	2019	0.02	1	0.16%	
	2020	0.00	0	0.00%	-100.00%
STEPDAUGHTER	2019	0.00	0	0.00%	
	2020	0.00	0	0.00%	
EX-HUSBAND	2019	0.00	0	0.00%	
	2020	0.00	0	0.00%	
EX-WIFE	2019	0.00	0	0.00%	
	2020	0.03	2	0.31%	
OTHER FAMILY	2019	0.08	5	0.80%	
	2020	0.03	2	0.31%	-60.00%
BOYFRIEND OR GIRLFRIEND	2019	0.25	15	2.40%	
	2020	0.33	20	3.07%	33.33%
BOYFRIEND	2019	0.05	3	0.48%	
	2020	0.02	1	0.15%	-66.67%
GIRLFRIEND	2019	0.20	12	1.92%	
	2020	0.31	19	2.91%	58.33%

NOTE: "Rate" = Number of murders per 100,000 population rounded to the nearest hundredth

## MURDER BREAKDOWN REPORT BY RELATIONSHIP

		RATE	# ACTUALS	% OF TOTAL	% CHANGE
NEIGHBOR	2019	0.03	2	0.32%	
	2020	0.02	1	0.15%	-50.00%
ACQUAINTANCE	2019	1.34	81	12.96%	
	2020	1.14	69	10.58%	-14.81%
EMPLOYEE	2019	0.00	0	0.00%	
	2020	0.00	0	0.00%	
EMPLOYER	2019	0.00	0	0.00%	
	2020	0.00	0	0.00%	
FRIEND	2019	0.12	7	1.12%	
	2020	0.15	9	1.38%	28.57%
HOMOSEXUAL RELATIONSHIP	2019	0.00	0	0.00%	
	2020	0.00	0	0.00%	
OTHER - KNOWN TO VICTIM	2019	0.23	14	2.24%	
	2020	0.31	19	2.91%	35.71%
STRANGER (NOT KNOWN TO VICTIM)	2019	0.56	34	5.44%	
	2020	0.79	48	7.36%	41.18%
RELATIONSHIP NOT DETERMINABLE	2019	7.31	442	70.72%	
	2020	7.33	444	68.10%	0.45%

NOTE: "Rate" = Number of murders per 100,000 population rounded to the nearest hundredth

# MURDER

Murder and non-negligent manslaughter is the willful (non-negligent) killing of one human being by another.

## VOLUME AND RATE

During 2021, a total of 395 murders were reported through summary reporting methods. Murder accounted for 2.7 percent of all violent crime and 0.5 percent of the crime index. In 2021, there were 6.4 murders per 100,000 of population.

## ANALYSIS OF SUMMARY REPORTING AGENCIES FOR MURDER

In 2021, 220 murders were cleared with 4.1 percent of these clearances involving only juvenile offenders. A total of 231 persons were arrested for murder during 2021. A breakdown of persons arrested for murder is: 93.5 percent male; 6.5 percent female; 7.4 percent juvenile; 78.8 percent Black; 20.3 percent White and 0.9 percent consisting of American Indian, Asian and Pacific Islander.

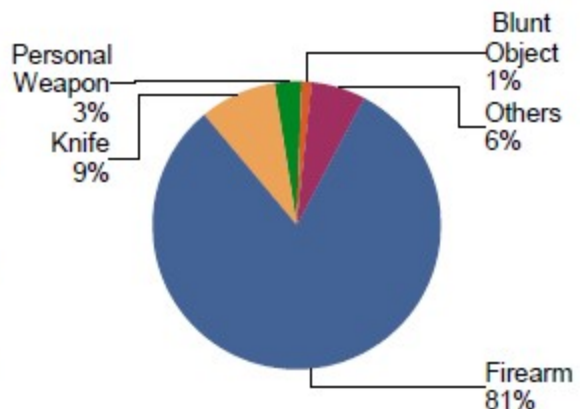
During 2021, 147 of the murder victims were in the 18 to 29 age group, representing 37.2 percent of the total. There were 23 juvenile victims of murder, accounting for 5.8 percent of the total murder victims. Firearms were used in 81.2 percent of the reported murders in 2021. Knives accounted for 8.5 percent of the reported murders in 2021.

Drug related murders accounted for 0.3 percent of the total in 2021.

Family members, as offenders, accounted for 6.9 percent of the total murders in 2021. Of the family members as offenders, husband and wife or boyfriend and girlfriend (those who had lived together) reflect 1.5 percent of the total murders reported.

Additionally, an acquaintance is listed in 13.6 percent of the murders reported in 2021. Strangers and unknown relationships accounted for 3.2 percent and 70.6 percent respectively.

**Murder Weapon**



# MURDER BREAKDOWN REPORT

Population		RATE	COUNT
2021	6,165,129	ACTUAL	395
		JUSTIFIABLE	14

VICTIMS BY RACE				OFFENDERS BY RACE		
	RATE	# OF ACTUALS	% OF TOTAL	RATE	# OF ACTUALS	% OF TOTAL
White	1.23	76	19.24%	0.73	45	9.74%
Black	5.06	312	78.99%	3.80	234	50.65%
Asian	0.10	6	1.52%	0.05	3	0.65%
American Indian	0.00	0	0.00%	0.00	0	0.00%
Pacific Islander	0.00	0	0.00%	0.00	0	0.00%
Unknown Race	0.02	1	0.25%	2.92	180	38.96%

BY ETHNICITY				BY ETHNICITY		
	RATE	# OF ACTUALS	% OF TOTAL	RATE	# OF ACTUALS	% OF TOTAL
Hispanic	0.65	40	10.13%	0.34	21	4.51%
Non Hispanic	5.40	333	84.30%	3.89	240	51.50%
Unknown	0.36	22	5.57%	3.33	205	43.99%

BY AGE				BY AGE		
	RATE	# OF ACTUALS	% OF TOTAL	RATE	# OF ACTUALS	% OF TOTAL
Under 18	0.36	22	5.56%	0.29	18	3.86%
18 - 21	0.84	52	13.13%	0.63	39	8.37%
22 - 29	1.56	96	24.24%	1.05	65	13.95%
30 & over	3.55	219	55.30%	1.54	95	20.39%
Unknown	0.06	4	1.01%	4.04	249	53.43%
8	0.02	1	0.25%			
85	0.02	1	0.25%			
92	0.02	1	0.25%			

NOTE: "Rate" = Number of murders per 100,000 population rounded to the nearest hundredth

## MURDER BREAKDOWN REPORT WEAPON INVOLVED IN MURDER

	RATE	# OF ACTUALS	% OF TOTAL
FIREARMS	6.16	380	81.20%
TYPE UNKNOWN	1.14	70	14.96%
HANDGUN	4.93	304	64.96%
RIFLE	0.08	5	1.07%
SHOTGUN	0.02	1	0.21%
OTHER GUN	0.00	0	0.00%
KNIFE	0.65	40	8.55%
BLUNT OBJECT	0.10	6	1.28%
PERSONAL WEAPON	0.23	14	2.99%
POISON	0.02	1	0.21%
EXPLOSIVES	0.00	0	0.00%
FIRE	0.00	0	0.00%
NARCOTICS	0.00	0	0.00%
DROWNING	0.00	0	0.00%
STRANGULATION	0.03	2	0.43%
ASPHYXIATION	0.03	2	0.43%
OTHER WEAPONS	0.37	23	4.91%

NOTE: "Rate" = Number of murders per 100,000 population rounded to the nearest hundredth



## MURDER BREAKDOWN REPORT BY CIRCUMSTANCE

	RATE	# OF ACTUALS	% OF TOTAL
RAPE	0.00	0	0.00%
ROBBERY	0.26	16	4.05%
BREAKING OR ENTERING	0.00	0	0.00%
LARCENY-THEFT	0.02	1	0.25%
MOTOR VEHICLE THEFT	0.00	0	0.00%
ARSON	0.00	0	0.00%
PROSTITUTION OR COMMERCIAL VICE	0.00	0	0.00%
OTHER SEX OFFENSE	0.00	0	0.00%
NARCOTIC DRUG LAW	0.02	1	0.25%
GAMBLING	0.00	0	0.00%
OTHER - NOT SPECIFIED	0.15	9	2.28%
ABORTION	0.00	0	0.00%
LOVERS' TRIANGLE	0.02	1	0.25%
CHILD KILLED BY BABYSITTER	0.05	3	0.76%
BRAWL DUE TO INFLUENCE OF ALCOHOL	0.00	0	0.00%
BRAWL DUE TO INFLUENCE OF NARCOTICS	0.02	1	0.25%
ARGUMENT OVER MONEY OR PROPERTY	0.02	1	0.25%
OTHER ARGUMENTS	1.31	81	20.51%
GANGLAND KILLINGS	0.00	0	0.00%
JUVENILE GANG KILLINGS	0.00	0	0.00%

NOTE: "Rate" = Number of murders per 100,000 population rounded to the nearest hundredth

## MURDER BREAKDOWN REPORT BY CIRCUMSTANCE

	RATE	# OF ACTUALS	% OF TOTAL
INSTITUTIONAL KILLINGS	0.00	0	0.00%
SNIPER ATTACK	0.00	0	0.00%
OTHER	0.91	56	14.18%
ALL SUSPECTED FELONY TYPE	0.02	1	0.25%
NOT ENOUGH INFORMATION TO DETERMINE	3.63	224	56.71%

NOTE: "Rate" = Number of murders per 100,000 population rounded to the nearest hundredth

## MURDER BREAKDOWN REPORT BY RELATIONSHIP

	RATE	# ACTUALS	% OF TOTAL
ALL FAMILY RELATED	0.52	32	6.84%
HUSBAND	0.00	0	0.00%
WIFE	0.11	7	1.50%
COMMON-LAW HUSBAND	0.00	0	0.00%
COMMON-LAW WIFE	0.00	0	0.00%
FATHER	0.06	4	0.85%
MOTHER	0.13	8	1.71%
SON	0.02	1	0.21%
DAUGHTER	0.03	2	0.43%
BROTHER	0.05	3	0.64%
SISTER	0.02	1	0.21%
IN-LAW	0.02	1	0.21%
STEPFATHER	0.02	1	0.21%
STEPMOTHER	0.00	0	0.00%
STEPSON	0.02	1	0.21%
STEPDAUGHTER	0.00	0	0.00%
EX-HUSBAND	0.00	0	0.00%
EX-WIFE	0.02	1	0.21%
OTHER FAMILY	0.03	2	0.43%
BOYFRIEND OR GIRLFRIEND	0.23	14	2.99%
BOYFRIEND	0.06	4	0.85%

NOTE: "Rate" = Number of murders per 100,000 population rounded to the nearest hundredth

## MURDER BREAKDOWN REPORT BY RELATIONSHIP

	RATE	# ACTUALS	% OF TOTAL
GIRLFRIEND	0.16	10	2.14%
NEIGHBOR	0.00	0	0.00%
ACQUAINTANCE	1.02	63	13.46%
EMPLOYEE	0.00	0	0.00%
EMPLOYER	0.00	0	0.00%
FRIEND	0.08	5	1.07%
HOMOSEXUAL RELATIONSHIP	0.00	0	0.00%
OTHER - KNOWN TO VICTIM	0.21	13	2.78%
STRANGER (NOT KNOWN TO VICTIM)	0.24	15	3.21%
RELATIONSHIP NOT DETERMINABLE	5.29	326	69.66%

NOTE: "Rate" = Number of murders per 100,000 population rounded to the nearest hundredth



# MURDER

Murder and non-negligent manslaughter is the willful (non-negligent) killing of one human being by another.

## VOLUME AND RATE

During 2022, a total of 15 murders were reported through summary reporting methods. Murder accounted for 1.3 percent of all violent crime and 0.2 percent of the crime index. In 2022, there were 0.2 murders per 100,000 of population.

## ANALYSIS OF SUMMARY REPORTING AGENCIES FOR MURDER

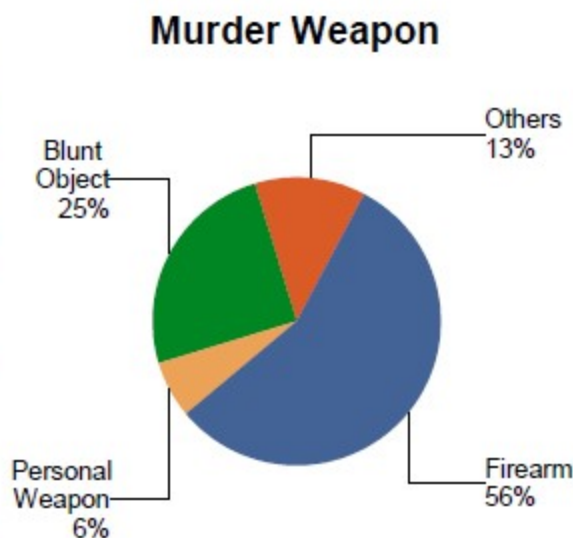
In 2022, 12 murders were cleared with 25.0 percent of these clearances involving only juvenile offenders. A total of 14 persons were arrested for murder during 2022. A breakdown of persons arrested for murder is: 92.9 percent male; 7.1 percent female; 21.4 percent juvenile; 85.7 percent Black; 14.3 percent White and 0.0 percent consisting of American Indian, Asian and Pacific Islander.

During 2022, 7 of the murder victims were in the 18 to 29 age group, representing 46.7 percent of the total. There was 1 juvenile victim of murder, accounting for 6.7 percent of the total murder victims. Firearms were used in 56.3 percent of the reported murders in 2022. Knives accounted for 0.0 percent of the reported murders in 2022.

Drug related murders accounted for 0.0 percent of the total in 2022.

Family members, as offenders, accounted for 18.8 percent of the total murders in 2022. Of the family members as offenders, husband and wife or boyfriend and girlfriend (those who had lived together) reflect 6.3 percent of the total murders reported.

Additionally, an acquaintance is listed in 6.3 percent of the murders reported in 2022. Strangers and unknown relationships accounted for 25.0 percent and 37.5 percent respectively.



# MURDER BREAKDOWN REPORT

Population		RATE		COUNT
2022	6,164,660	ACTUAL	0.24	15

VICTIMS BY RACE				OFFENDERS BY RACE			
	RATE	# OF ACTUALS	% OF TOTAL		RATE	# OF ACTUALS	% OF TOTAL
White	0.05	3	20.00%	White	0.08	5	31.25%
Black	0.19	12	80.00%	Black	0.08	5	31.25%
Asian	0.00	0	0.00%	Asian	0.00	0	0.00%
American Indian	0.00	0	0.00%	American Indian	0.00	0	0.00%
Pacific Islander	0.00	0	0.00%	Pacific	0.00	0	0.00%
Unknown Race	0.00	0	0.00%	Unknown Race	0.10	6	37.50%
BY ETHNICITY				BY ETHNICITY			
	RATE	# OF ACTUALS	% OF TOTAL		RATE	# OF ACTUALS	% OF TOTAL
Hispanic	0.00	0	0.00%	Non Hispanic	0.13	8	50.00%
Non Hispanic	0.23	14	93.33%	Unknown	0.13	8	50.00%
Unknown	0.02	1	6.67%				
BY AGE				BY AGE			
	RATE	# OF ACTUALS	% OF TOTAL		RATE	# OF ACTUALS	% OF TOTAL
Under 18	0.02	1	6.67%	18 - 21	0.02	1	6.25%
18 - 21	0.08	5	33.33%	22 - 29	0.05	3	18.75%
22 - 29	0.03	2	13.33%	30 & over	0.10	6	37.50%
30 & over	0.11	7	46.67%	Unknown	0.10	6	37.50%

NOTE: "Rate" = Number of murders per 100,000 population rounded to the nearest hundredth

# MURDER BREAKDOWN REPORT WEAPON INVOLVED IN MURDER

	RATE	# OF ACTUALS	% OF TOTAL
FIREARMS	0.15	9	56.25%
TYPE UNKNOWN	0.00	0	0.00%
HANDGUN	0.15	9	56.25%
RIFLE	0.00	0	0.00%
SHOTGUN	0.00	0	0.00%
OTHER GUN	0.00	0	0.00%
KNIFE	0.00	0	0.00%
BLUNT OBJECT	0.06	4	25.00%
PERSONAL WEAPON	0.02	1	6.25%
POISON	0.00	0	0.00%
EXPLOSIVES	0.00	0	0.00%
FIRE	0.00	0	0.00%
NARCOTICS	0.00	0	0.00%
DROWNING	0.00	0	0.00%
STRANGULATION	0.02	1	6.25%
ASPHYXIATION	0.02	1	6.25%
OTHER WEAPONS	0.00	0	0.00%

NOTE: "Rate" = Number of murders per 100,000 population rounded to the nearest hundredth

# MURDER BREAKDOWN REPORT BY CIRCUMSTANCE

	RATE	# OF ACTUALS	% OF TOTAL
RAPE	0.00	0	0.00%
ROBBERY	0.06	4	26.67%
BREAKING OR ENTERING	0.00	0	0.00%
LARCENY-THEFT	0.00	0	0.00%
MOTOR VEHICLE THEFT	0.00	0	0.00%
ARSON	0.00	0	0.00%
PROSTITUTION OR COMMERCIAL VICE	0.00	0	0.00%
OTHER SEX OFFENSE	0.00	0	0.00%
NARCOTIC DRUG LAW	0.00	0	0.00%
GAMBLING	0.00	0	0.00%
OTHER - NOT SPECIFIED	0.00	0	0.00%
ABORTION	0.00	0	0.00%
LOVERS' TRIANGLE	0.02	1	6.67%
CHILD KILLED BY BABYSITTER	0.00	0	0.00%
BRAWL DUE TO INFLUENCE OF ALCOHOL	0.00	0	0.00%
BRAWL DUE TO INFLUENCE OF NARCOTICS	0.00	0	0.00%
ARGUMENT OVER MONEY OR PROPERTY	0.02	1	6.67%
OTHER ARGUMENTS	0.00	0	0.00%
GANGLAND KILLINGS	0.00	0	0.00%
JUVENILE GANG KILLINGS	0.00	0	0.00%
INSTITUTIONAL KILLINGS	0.00	0	0.00%
SNIPER ATTACK	0.00	0	0.00%
OTHER	0.06	4	26.67%
ALL SUSPECTED FELONY TYPE	0.02	1	6.67%
NOT ENOUGH INFORMATION TO DETERMINE	0.06	4	26.67%

NOTE: "Rate" = Number of murders per 100,000 population rounded to the nearest hundredth

SB0943-HB1050\_2A\_Maryland\_Informatinal\_Testimony\_Attachment\_#4\_2022



# MURDER BREAKDOWN REPORT BY RELATIONSHIP

	RATE	# ACTUALS	% OF TOTAL
ALL FAMILY RELATED	0.05	3	18.75%
HUSBAND	0.00	0	0.00%
WIFE	0.02	1	6.25%
COMMON-LAW HUSBAND	0.00	0	0.00%
COMMON-LAW WIFE	0.00	0	0.00%
FATHER	0.02	1	6.25%
MOTHER	0.00	0	0.00%
SON	0.00	0	0.00%
DAUGHTER	0.00	0	0.00%
BROTHER	0.00	0	0.00%
SISTER	0.00	0	0.00%
IN-LAW	0.00	0	0.00%
STEPFATHER	0.00	0	0.00%
STEPMOTHER	0.02	1	6.25%
STEPSON	0.00	0	0.00%
STEPDAUGHTER	0.00	0	0.00%
EX-HUSBAND	0.00	0	0.00%
EX-WIFE	0.00	0	0.00%
OTHER FAMILY	0.00	0	0.00%
BOYFRIEND	0.00	0	0.00%
GIRLFRIEND	0.00	0	0.00%
NEIGHBOR	0.00	0	0.00%
ACQUAINTANCE	0.02	1	6.25%
EMPLOYEE	0.00	0	0.00%
EMPLOYER	0.00	0	0.00%
FRIEND	0.03	2	12.50%
HOMOSEXUAL RELATIONSHIP	0.00	0	0.00%
OTHER - KNOWN TO VICTIM	0.00	0	0.00%
STRANGER (NOT KNOWN TO VICTIM)	0.06	4	25.00%
RELATIONSHIP NOT DETERMINABLE	0.10	6	37.50%

NOTE: "Rate" = Number of murders per 100,000 population rounded to the nearest hundredth

# MURDER

Murder and non-negligent manslaughter is the willful (non-negligent) killing of one human being by another.

## VOLUME AND RATE

During 2023, a total of 12 murders were reported through summary reporting methods. Murder accounted for 2.2 percent of all violent crime and 0.5 percent of the crime index. In 2023, there were 0.2 murders per 100,000 of population.

## ANALYSIS OF SUMMARY REPORTING AGENCIES FOR MURDER

In 2023, 9 murders were cleared with 11.1 percent of these clearances involving only juvenile offenders. A total of 6 persons were arrested for murder during 2023. A breakdown of persons arrested for murder is: 83.3 percent male; 16.7 percent female; 16.7 percent juvenile; 66.7 percent Black; 33.3 percent White and 0.0 percent consisting of American Indian, Asian and Pacific Islander.

During 2023, 7 of the murder victims were in the 18 to 29 age group, representing 58.3 percent of the total. There were 2 juvenile victims of murder, accounting for 16.7 percent of the total murder victims. Firearms were used in 83.3 percent of the reported murders in 2023. Knives accounted for 0.0 percent of the reported murders in 2023.

Drug related murders accounted for 0.0 percent of the total in 2023.

Family members, as offenders, accounted for 8.3 percent of the total murders in 2023. Of the family members as offenders, husband and wife or boyfriend and girlfriend (those who had lived together) reflect 0.0 percent of the total murders reported.

Additionally, an acquaintance is listed in 0.0 percent of the murders reported in 2023. Strangers and unknown relationships accounted for 16.7 percent and 41.7 percent respectively.



# MURDER BREAKDOWN REPORT

Population		RATE	COUNT
2023	6,246,242	ACTUAL	0.19
			12

VICTIMS BY RACE				OFFENDERS BY RACE			
	RATE	# OF ACTUALS	% OF TOTAL		RATE	# OF ACTUALS	% OF TOTAL
White	0.06	4	33.33%	White	0.06	4	33.33%
Black	0.13	8	66.67%	Black	0.08	5	41.67%
Asian	0.00	0	0.00%	Asian	0.00	0	0.00%
American Indian	0.00	0	0.00%	American Indian	0.00	0	0.00%
Pacific Islander	0.00	0	0.00%	Pacific	0.00	0	0.00%
Unknown Race	0.00	0	0.00%	Unknown Race	0.05	3	25.00%
BY ETHNICITY				BY ETHNICITY			
	RATE	# OF ACTUALS	% OF TOTAL		RATE	# OF ACTUALS	% OF TOTAL
Hispanic	0.05	3	25.00%	Non Hispanic	0.14	9	75.00%
Non Hispanic	0.14	9	75.00%	Unknown	0.05	3	25.00%
Unknown	0.00	0	0.00%				
BY AGE				BY AGE			
	RATE	# OF ACTUALS	% OF TOTAL		RATE	# OF ACTUALS	% OF TOTAL
Under 18	0.03	2	16.67%	18 - 21	0.02	1	8.33%
18 - 21	0.05	3	25.00%	22 - 29	0.03	2	16.67%
22 - 29	0.06	4	33.33%	30 & over	0.10	6	50.00%
30 & over	0.05	3	25.00%	Unknown	0.05	3	25.00%

NOTE: "Rate" = Number of murders per 100,000 population rounded to the nearest hundredth

## MURDER BREAKDOWN REPORT WEAPON INVOLVED IN MURDER

	RATE	# OF ACTUALS	% OF TOTAL
FIREARMS	0.16	10	83.33%
TYPE UNKNOWN	0.00	0	0.00%
HANDGUN	0.16	10	83.33%
RIFLE	0.00	0	0.00%
SHOTGUN	0.00	0	0.00%
OTHER GUN	0.00	0	0.00%
KNIFE	0.00	0	0.00%
BLUNT OBJECT	0.00	0	0.00%
PERSONAL WEAPON	0.02	1	8.33%
POISON	0.00	0	0.00%
EXPLOSIVES	0.00	0	0.00%
FIRE	0.00	0	0.00%
NARCOTICS	0.00	0	0.00%
DROWNING	0.00	0	0.00%
STRANGULATION	0.00	0	0.00%
ASPHYXIATION	0.00	0	0.00%
OTHER WEAPONS	0.02	1	8.33%

NOTE: "Rate" = Number of murders per 100,000 population rounded to the nearest hundredth



## MURDER BREAKDOWN REPORT BY CIRCUMSTANCE

	RATE	# OF ACTUALS	% OF TOTAL
RAPE	0.00	0	0.00%
ROBBERY	0.00	0	0.00%
BREAKING OR ENTERING	0.00	0	0.00%
LARCENY-THEFT	0.00	0	0.00%
MOTOR VEHICLE THEFT	0.00	0	0.00%
ARSON	0.00	0	0.00%
PROSTITUTION OR COMMERCIAL VICE	0.00	0	0.00%
OTHER SEX OFFENSE	0.00	0	0.00%
NARCOTIC DRUG LAW	0.00	0	0.00%
GAMBLING	0.00	0	0.00%
OTHER - NOT SPECIFIED	0.02	1	8.33%
ABORTION	0.00	0	0.00%
LOVERS' TRIANGLE	0.00	0	0.00%
CHILD KILLED BY BABYSITTER	0.00	0	0.00%
BRAWL DUE TO INFLUENCE OF ALCOHOL	0.00	0	0.00%
BRAWL DUE TO INFLUENCE OF NARCOTICS	0.00	0	0.00%
ARGUMENT OVER MONEY OR PROPERTY	0.00	0	0.00%
OTHER ARGUMENTS	0.00	0	0.00%
GANGLAND KILLINGS	0.00	0	0.00%
JUVENILE GANG KILLINGS	0.00	0	0.00%
INSTITUTIONAL KILLINGS	0.00	0	0.00%
SNIPER ATTACK	0.00	0	0.00%
OTHER	0.05	3	25.00%
ALL SUSPECTED FELONY TYPE	0.00	0	0.00%
NOT ENOUGH INFORMATION TO DETERMINE	0.13	8	66.67%

NOTE: "Rate" = Number of murders per 100,000 population rounded to the nearest hundredth

## MURDER BREAKDOWN REPORT BY RELATIONSHIP

	RATE	# ACTUALS	% OF TOTAL
ALL FAMILY RELATED	0.02	1	8.33%
HUSBAND	0.00	0	0.00%
WIFE	0.00	0	0.00%
COMMON-LAW HUSBAND	0.00	0	0.00%
COMMON-LAW WIFE	0.00	0	0.00%
FATHER	0.00	0	0.00%
MOTHER	0.00	0	0.00%
SON	0.00	0	0.00%
DAUGHTER	0.02	1	8.33%
BROTHER	0.00	0	0.00%
SISTER	0.00	0	0.00%
IN-LAW	0.00	0	0.00%
STEPFATHER	0.00	0	0.00%
STEPMOTHER	0.00	0	0.00%
STEPSON	0.00	0	0.00%
STEPDAUGHTER	0.00	0	0.00%
EX-HUSBAND	0.00	0	0.00%
EX-WIFE	0.00	0	0.00%
OTHER FAMILY	0.00	0	0.00%
BOYFRIEND	0.00	0	0.00%
GIRLFRIEND	0.00	0	0.00%
NEIGHBOR	0.05	3	25.00%
ACQUAINTANCE	0.00	0	0.00%
EMPLOYEE	0.00	0	0.00%
EMPLOYER	0.00	0	0.00%
FRIEND	0.00	0	0.00%
HOMOSEXUAL RELATIONSHIP	0.00	0	0.00%
OTHER - KNOWN TO VICTIM	0.02	1	8.33%
STRANGER (NOT KNOWN TO VICTIM)	0.03	2	16.67%
RELATIONSHIP NOT DETERMINABLE	0.08	5	41.67%

NOTE: "Rate" = Number of murders per 100,000 population rounded to the nearest hundredth

# **MD SB 943 Firearm Surrender.pdf**

Uploaded by: John Weber

Position: UNF

**Institute for Legislative Action**

11250 WAPLES MILL ROAD

FAIRFAX, VIRGINIA 22030



**NRA**

February 17, 2025

Chairman Smith and Members of the Committee on Judicial Proceedings,

My name is John Weber, and I represent the National Rifle Association and our members in Maryland. The NRA is opposed to SB 943.

This legislation presents a risk to the constitutional rights of Maryland citizens by allowing protective orders to be issued based on an invasive questionnaire that hunts into personal details about the social network of the accused. This legislation opens the door for frivolous claims where personal grievances could lead to the wrongful stripping of someone's Second Amendment rights. The broadness of the criteria for filing a petition could easily be exploited, potentially turning these laws into tools for harassment rather than protection.

There are serious Fourth Amendment concerns with this legislation as well. The provision that allows law enforcement to search any location where they believe a firearm might be found, based simply on probable cause, is an overreach into the privacy of Maryland citizens. This potentially violates the Fourth Amendment's protections against unreasonable searches and sets a dangerous precedent for government intrusion into private life.

This bill lacks sufficient due process protections. Respondents could have their rights stripped away based solely on accusations. Individuals will not be given an adequate opportunity for defense or the presumption of innocence.

The expansive questionnaire, which requires details about one's personal life, friends, and activities, turns the process into a fishing expedition which will divert resources from targeted interventions based on clear evidence of danger. The inclusion of questions about one's social connections in this bill could lead to a chilling effect on associational freedom. This not only affects personal relationships but also our broader communities.

SB 943 is not likely to reduce gun violence. Rather than disarming law-abiding citizens through bureaucratic means we should be advocating for solutions such as improved mental health services, education, and community support systems. These alternatives would respect constitutional rights while addressing public safety.

In conclusion, I respectfully request an unfavorable report on SB 943.

Thank you for your time and consideration,

NRA-ILA State Director



# **SB0943 (HB 1050) Family Law Enforcement Protection**

Uploaded by: Karla Mooney

Position: UNF

SB0943 Family and Law Enforcement Protection Act

Karla Mooney

District 29C

Leonardtown MD

I oppose this bill as it goes way too far- probing into friends and associations of a person who may be red flagged. Whether it is based on Domestic Violence or not this is guilty before proven innocent- and should not be allowed.

Please find an unfavorable report to this bill.

# **MSI Testimony on HB 1050 and SB 943 revised.pdf**

Uploaded by: Mark Pennak

Position: UNF



President  
Mark W. Pennak

February 20, 2025

## WRITTEN TESTIMONY OF MARK W. PENNAK, PRESIDENT, MSI, IN OPPOSITION TO HB 1050 AND SB 943

I am the President of Maryland Shall Issue (“MSI”). Maryland Shall Issue is a Section 501(c)(4), all-volunteer, non-partisan, non-profit organization dedicated to the preservation and advancement of gun owners’ rights in Maryland. It seeks to educate the community about the right of self-protection, the safe handling of firearms, and the responsibility that goes with carrying a firearm in public. I am also an attorney and an active member of the Bar of the District of Columbia and the Bar of Maryland. I recently retired from the United States Department of Justice, where I practiced law for 33 years in the Courts of Appeals of the United States and in the Supreme Court of the United States. I am an expert in Maryland Firearms Law, federal firearms law and the law of self-defense. I am also a Maryland State Police certified handgun instructor for the Maryland Wear and Carry Permit and the Maryland Handgun Qualification License and a certified NRA instructor in rifle, pistol, personal protection in the home, personal protection outside the home, muzzle loading, as well as a range safety officer. I appear today IN OPPOSITION to HB 1050 and the cross-file, SB 943.

### The Bill

This Bill amends MD Code, Family Law, § 4-504 to impose additional disclosure requirements on petitioners seeking a protective order from domestic abuse to include whether the respondent has a Handgun Qualification License (“HQL”) or owns or possesses a firearm. If the respondent has an HQL or a firearm, then the Bill requires the Petitioner to state whether the petitioner has an HQL or owns or possesses a firearm along with a long list of other information regarding firearms owned or possessed by the respondent.

The Bill would amend MD Code, Family Law, § 4-504.1 to provide that an interim protective order SHALL ORDER THE RESPONDENT TO SURRENDER TO LAW ENFORCEMENT AUTHORITIES ANY FIREARM IN THE RESPONDENT’S POSSESSION, AND TO REFRAIN FROM POSSESSION OF ANY FIREARM, FOR THE DURATION OF THE INTERIM PROTECTIVE ORDER. Interim order issued under Section 4-504-1 may be entered by a court “commissioner and where the “commissioner finds that there are reasonable grounds to believe that the respondent has abused a person eligible for relief. Such orders are entered *ex parte*, without any hearing and are based solely on the contents of the petition for a protective order. MD Code, Family Law, § 4-504.1(b).

The Bill would also amend MD Code, Family Law, § 4-505 to impose the same disqualification whenever a “TEMPORARY PROTECTIVE ORDER” is issued under that section of the code. Section 4-505(a) provides that “[i]f, after a hearing

on a petition, whether ex parte or otherwise, a judge finds that there are reasonable grounds to believe that a person eligible for relief has been abused, the judge may enter a temporary protective order to protect any person eligible for relief from abuse.” The Bill specifically deletes existing language found in Section 4-505(a)(2)(viii) that conditions an order directing the seizure of firearms on findings that the respondent used a firearm against the petitioner or threatened the petitioner with a firearm or otherwise inflicted or threatened to inflict “serious bodily harm” on the petitioner.

The amendments made to Section 4-504.1 and Section 4-505 are incorporated into the final protective orders authorized by MD Code, Family Law, § 4-506(c)(1). Section 4-506(c)(1)(ii) provides that a final protective order may be entered “if the judge finds by a preponderance of the evidence that the alleged abuse has occurred.” Section 4-506(f) provides that “[t]he final protective order shall order the respondent to surrender to law enforcement authorities any firearm in the respondent's possession, and to refrain from possession of any firearm, for the duration of the protective order.” Nothing in Section 4-506 conditions that firearms disqualification on any finding that the respondent has engaged in or threatened physical harm or misused a firearm in any way. Indeed, Section 4-506(c)(3)(ii) authorizes “mutual final protective orders” against both the petitioner and the respondent “only if the judge makes a detailed finding of fact that: 1. both parties acted primarily as aggressors; and 2. neither party acted primarily in self-defense.”

The Bill also amends MD Code, Family Law, § 4-506.1 to impose new requirements associated with any surrender of a firearm by a respondent under these sections. Those requirements include mandating that the respondent II) PROVIDE WRITTEN PROOF OF THE SURRENDER TO THE COURT AND THE LOCAL SHERIFF'S OFFICE WITHIN 2 BUSINESS DAYS AFTER THE SURRENDER. (2) IF THE RESPONDENT DOES NOT POSSESS A FIREARM, THE RESPONDENT SHALL SUBMIT AN AFFIDAVIT TO THE COURT TO THAT EFFECT SIGNED UNDER PENALTY OF PERJURY WITHIN 2 BUSINESS DAYS AFTER THE SURRENDER. (3) IF THE RESPONDENT HAS LAWFULLY SOLD OR TRANSFERRED A FIREARM WITHIN THE PRIOR 30 DAYS, THE RESPONDENT SHALL SUBMIT THE TRANSFER PAPERWORK TO THE COURT WITHIN 2 BUSINESS DAYS AFTER THE SURRENDER.

The Bill also amends Section 4-506.1 to provide that a law enforcement officer may enforce the provisions of subtitle 5 of Title 4 by authorizing the officer to PROCEED WITHOUT THE RESPONDENT'S PRESENCE, IF NECESSARY, TO ANY PLACE WHERE THE LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICER HAS PROBABLE CAUSE TO BELIEVE A FIREARM IN THE POSSESSION OF THE RESPONDENT IS LOCATED TO ENSURE THAT THE RESPONDENT DOES NOT GAIN ACCESS TO A FIREARM. No warrant is required by the Bill for such seizures. The Bill amends MD Code, Family Law, § 4-509 to extend its enforcement provisions to the amendments made by the Bill. Under Section 4-509(b), a failure to comply with the any protective order including the newly minted disqualifications imposed by the Bill, is a misdemeanor punishable (1) for a first offense, a fine not exceeding \$1,000

or imprisonment not exceeding 90 days or both; and (2) for a second or subsequent offense, a fine not exceeding \$2,500 or imprisonment not exceeding 1 year or both.

### **The Disarmament Provisions Violate the Fourth Amendment and Article 26 of the Maryland Declaration of Rights.**

The first issue is that this Bill amends both Section 4-504-1 (interim protective orders) and Section 4-505 (temporary protective orders) to allow a seizure of firearms without any showing of probable cause. As amended, Section 4-504-1 authorizes the seizure of firearms via an interim protective order based on a finding “that there are reasonable grounds to believe that the respondent has abused a person eligible for relief.” See Section 4-504-1(b). As amended, Section 4-505(a) authorizes a temporary protective order to seize firearms if “a judge finds that there are reasonable grounds to believe that a person eligible for relief has been abused.”

By mandating seizures of personal property based solely on “reasonable grounds” the amendments made by the Bill violate the Fourth Amendment. The Fourth Amendment to the United States Constitution provides: “The right of the people to be secure in their persons, . . . and effects, against unreasonable searches and seizures, shall not be violated, **and no Warrants shall issue, but upon probable cause, supported by Oath or affirmation . . .**” (Emphasis added). Article 26 of the Maryland Declaration of Rights provides: “That all warrants, without oath or affirmation, to search suspected places, or to seize any person or property, are grievous and oppressive; and all general warrants to search suspected places, or to apprehend suspected persons, without naming or describing the place, or the person in special, are illegal, and ought not to be granted.” “Article 26 of the Maryland Declaration of Rights provides that “all warrants, without oath or affirmation, to search suspected places, or to seize any person or property, are grievous and oppressive; and all general warrants to search suspected places, or to apprehend suspected persons, without naming or describing the place, or the person in special, are illegal, and ought not to be granted.” Article 26 provides “the same protections as the Fourth Amendment.” *Rovin v. State*, 488 Md. 144, 183, 321 A.3d 201 (2024).

These constitutional provisions apply to any seizures of personal property, regardless of terminology. “[T]his Court has never interpreted the warrant requirement of the Fourth Amendment to require a particular label.” *Whittington v. State*, 474 Md. 1, 25 (2021). Courts in Maryland have thus held that the failure to use the word “warrant” does not absolve a court order of its “probable cause” burden. See *Whittington*, 474 Md. at 27. See also *Yith v. Nielsen*, 881 F.3d 1155, 1166 (9th Cir. 2018) (noting a warrant is a “writ directing or authorizing someone to do an act, esp. one directing a law enforcer to make an arrest, a search, or a seizure” (quoting Black’s Law Dictionary (10th ed. 2014))); *In re Subpoena Duces Tecum*, 228 F.3d 341, 348 (4th Cir. 2000) (“A warrant is a judicial authorization to a law enforcement officer to search or seize persons or things.”); *United States v. Leon*, 468 U.S. 897, 920 n.21 (1984) (“A warrant is a judicial mandate to an officer to conduct a search or make an arrest ....”); *Utah v. Strieff*, 579 U.S. 232, 240 (2016). The protective orders for the seizure of firearms authorized by this Bill are

unquestionably “warrants” within the meaning of the Fourth Amendment and Article 26 of the Maryland Declaration of Rights.

In *United States v. Place*, 462 U.S. 696, 701 (1983), the Supreme Court held that “the Court has viewed a seizure of personal property as per se unreasonable within the meaning of the Fourth Amendment unless it is accomplished pursuant to a judicial warrant issued upon probable cause and particularly describing the items to be seized.” See also *United States v. Jacobsen*, 466 U.S. 109, 113 (1984) (“A ‘seizure’ of property occurs when there is some meaningful interference with an individual’s possessory interests in that property.”). A warrant based on probable cause is therefore indisputably required for the seizure of personal property unless some recognized exception applies. See *Illinois v. McArthur*, 531 U.S. 326, 331 (2001). Nothing in the Bill falls conditions these mandated seizures upon any showing that falls with any recognized exception to the warrant requirement. Indeed, as amended by this Bill **every** protective order issued under these statutory provisions **must include** a seizure order.

Stated simply, “reasonable grounds” is not “probable cause.” In *United States v. Carpenter*, 585 U.S. 296 (2018), the Supreme Court held that a court order failed to comply with the Fourth Amendment where the statute under which the order issued only required “‘*reasonable grounds*’ for believing records were ‘relevant and material to an ongoing investigation,’” a standard that the Court ruled “falls well short of the probable cause required for a warrant.” *Id.* at 317 (emphasis added). Likewise, the Maryland Supreme Court has repeatedly held that “the term ‘reasonable grounds’ . . . means ‘reasonable articulable suspicion’ and *not preponderance of the evidence or probable cause.*” *Motor Vehicle Admin. v. Shepard*, 399 Md. 241, 254 (2007) (emphasis added).

This point was stressed in *Motor Vehicle Admin. v. Kraft*, 452 Md. 589, 607 (2017), where the Court stated that it “has interpreted the ‘reasonable grounds’ standard to mean ‘reasonable articulable suspicion’ and to be a lower standard than preponderance of the evidence or probable cause.” *Id.* (quoting *Shepard*, 399 Md. at 254; citing *Motor Vehicle Admin. v. Dove*, 413 Md. 70, 95 (2010); *Motor Vehicle Admin. v. Shea*, 415 Md. 1, 19 (2010)); see also *Motor Vehicle Admin. v. Usan*, 486 Md. 352, 365 n.4 (2024) (“We have explained that “reasonable suspicion requires less in the way of quantity and quality of evidence than is required for probable cause and it falls considerably short of satisfying a preponderance of the evidence standard.”). Amending Section 4-504-1 and Section 4-505 to allow seizures of personal property (firearms) based on nothing more than “reasonable grounds” would make those Sections unconstitutional under the Fourth Amendment and Article 26 of the Maryland Declaration of Rights.

## **The Bill Violates the Second Amendment**

The constitutionality of the firearms disqualifications imposed by these Sections violates the right to keep and bear arms under the Second Amendment. Under *NYSRPA v. Bruen*, 597 U.S. 1 (2022), as construed and applied in *United States v.*

*Rahimi*, 602 U.S. 680 (2024), any disqualification is unconstitutional unless “relevantly similar” or “distinctly similar” restrictions were imposed during the Founding era of 1791. Those provisions of the Family Law Article allow a protective order for “abuse,” but that term is not limited to and does not require a finding that a person had inflicted actual harm or posed a credible risk of physical harm. Indeed, Maryland case law does not require any showing that the “abuse” constitute physical abuse or even the risk of physical harm. Rather, the petitioner may obtain such a protective order for “mental abuse.” *C.M. v. J.M.*, 258 Md.App. 40, 57, 295 A.3d 1 (2023).

These provisions are thus much broader than the federal qualification specified by 18 U.S.C. § 922(g)(8)(C)(i), the portion of Section 922(g)(8) adjudicated in *Rahimi*. Section 922(g)(8)(C)(i) imposes a federal firearms disqualification on a person who is subject to a court order that “includes a finding that such person represents a credible threat to **the physical safety** of such intimate partner or child.” (Emphasis added). *Rahimi*, sustained that provision as historically justified. See 602 U.S. at 693 (“Our analysis starts and stops with Section 922(g)(8)(C)(i) because the Government offers ample evidence that the Second Amendment permits the disarmament of individuals who pose a credible threat to the physical safety of others.”).

**None** of protective order provisions, including the sections amended by this Bill conditions the firearms disqualification on any such finding. Indeed, the Bill actually repeals existing provisions of Section 4-505 that linked misuse of firearms to the seizure authorized by existing law. In *Rahimi*, the individual (Rahimi) had been previously found by a court to pose a credible threat to the physical safety of another and the Court sustained the disqualification based on that prior judicial finding. But, in so holding, the Court also rejected the government’s argument that only “responsible” individuals enjoyed Second Amendment rights. See 602 U.S. at 703 (“in holding that Section 922(g)(8) is constitutional as applied to Rahimi, we reject the Government’s contention that Rahimi may be disarmed simply because he is not ‘responsible.’”).

After *Rahimi*, any disqualification provision that does not require a finding that the respondent “represents a credible threat to the **physical safety** of such intimate partner or child” is likely to fail. This focus on dangerousness was outcome-determinative in *Range v. United States*, 124 F.4th 218 (3d Cir. 2024) (*en banc*), where the Third Circuit very recently held, post-*Rahimi*, that the firearms disqualification imposed on a non-violent misdemeanor under 18 U.S.C. § 922(g)(1), was unconstitutional under *Bruen* and *Rahimi* as applied to the plaintiff in that case. See also *United States v. Williams*, 113 F.4th 637, 658–61 (6th Cir. 2024), *cert. denied sub nom Boima v. United States*, No. 24-6021 (Jan. 23, 2025) (post-*Rahimi*, distinguishing between crimes that “pose a significant threat of danger,” and crime that that posed no such risks). We have found no historical tradition at the Founding that imposed disarmament based on non-dangerous behavior. Mental abuse on its face does not constitute “a credible threat to the



**physical safety**” of any person, much less the type of prior, individualized determination of the type required by federal law as adjudicated in *Rahimi*.

### **The Disqualification Provisions Violate the Due Process Clause**

The interim and temporary protective order provisions amended by this Bill mandate the imposition of the disqualification without so much as hearing at which the respondent has an opportunity to be heard, including the right to cross-examine witnesses and present evidence. This Bill thus further departs from the disqualification imposed by Section 922(g)(8), because Section 922(g)(8) conditions the disqualification upon a hearing at which the respondent has a full right to participate. Section 922(g)(8)(A) imposes such disqualification only “after a hearing of which such person received actual notice, *and at which such person had an opportunity to participate.*” (Emphasis added). *Ex parte* hearings do not qualify. As noted, there is no such right to participate accorded by Section 4-504.1 or Section 4-505.

Allowing the seizure of property and imposing a disqualification on a constitutional right allowing the respondent due process is a basic violation of an individual’s right to be heard under the Due Process Clause of the Fourteenth Amendment. Lawful owners of firearms have a Second Amendment right to possess their firearms and may be deprived of that constitutional right only after receiving proper notice and a opportunity to be heard. See *Cleveland Board of Education v. Loudermill*, 470 U.S. 532, 543 (1985); *Board of Regents v. Roth*, 408 U.S. 564, 577–78 (1972). And because possession of firearms is constitutionally protected by the Second Amendment, that right to be heard must include more elaborate procedural rights—such as the rights to present evidence, to cross examine adverse witnesses, and to be represented by counsel. See *Zinerman v. Burch*, 494 U.S. 113, 127 (1990) (“the Court usually has held that the Constitution requires some kind of a hearing before the State deprives a person of liberty or property”). *Ex parte* proceedings cannot be used to strip people of their constitutional right to keep and bear arms. See *Henry v. County of Nassau*, 6 F.4th 324, 334 (2d Cir.2021) (holding that *ex parte* proceedings could not be used to justify stripping a person of his Second Amendment rights).

The procedures associated with Sections 4-504.1 and 4-505 proceedings come nowhere close to meeting these requirements. It is not until a final protective order proceeding under Section 4-506 do respondents have **any** right and opportunity to be heard and even that provision does not purport to guarantee the right to cross-examine witnesses or submit evidence. See Section 4-506(a). And that post-deprivation hearing could come as much as 6 months after the entry of the temporary order. See Section 4-505(c)(2). That delay is intolerable. A post-deprivation hearing is constitutionally sufficient only where there is “necessity of quick action” or “impracticality.” *Logan v. Zimmerman Brush Co.*, 455 U.S. 422, 436

(1982). The disqualifications imposed by this Bill are not dependent in the slightest on any need for quick action or any showing of “impracticality.”

### **The Bill Violates the Fifth Amendment Privilege Against Self-Incrimination**

Remarkably, the Bill amends Section 4-506.1 to require the respondent to speak by providing “written proof of the surrender” of the firearms, or an “affidavit” signed under penalty of perjury that the respondent does not possess any firearms and to provide submit “transfer paperwork” to the court demonstrating that the respondent has lawfully sold or transferred a firearm transferred his or her firearms. Any failure to make these statements presumably may be punishable as contempt of court. A false statement made under penalties for perjury is a serious offense punishable under MD Code, Criminal Law, § 9-101(b) by imprisonment for a term “not exceeding 10 years.”

These provisions compel the respondent to be a witness against himself and that is a basic violation of the Fifth Amendment. In *Haynes v. United States*, 390 U.S. 85 (1968), the Supreme Court struck down part of the National Firearms Act that allowed the use in a criminal prosecution information that the law required to be submitted during the registration process. The Court reasoned that the person making the compelled information “realistically can expect that registration will substantially increase the likelihood of his prosecution” and “facilitate his prosecution.” *Id.* at 977. The *Haynes* Court thus held “that a proper claim of the constitutional privilege against self-incrimination provides a full defense to prosecutions either for failure to register a firearm under § 5841 [of the NFA] or for possession of an unregistered firearm under § 5851 [of the NFA].” 390 U.S. at 100.

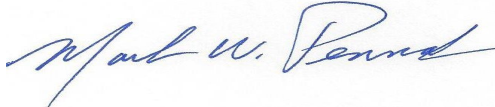
In response to *Haynes*, Congress amended the National Firearms Act to eliminate the registration requirement. Instead, Congress established a whole new system where a transferee of an NFA item is not required to register. Under those amendments, only the transferor registers the item and is not allowed to transfer the item until the government confirms that the transferee may take possession. Thus, the transferee becomes registered without having to make any statements. This system was sustained by the Supreme Court in *United States v. Freed*, 401 U.S. 601, 605 (1971). Under those amendments, the transferee never is required to make any statements that could later be used against him or her and the information provided by the transferor is “not available to state or other federal authorities and, as a matter of law, cannot be used as evidence in a criminal proceeding with respect to a prior or concurrent violation of law.” *Id.* at 605-06. See *United States v. Aiken*, 974 F.2d 446, 448 n.3 (4th Cir. 1992). No such assurances are provided by this Bill.

These principles have direct application to the disclosures compelled by the Bill. The protective orders compel dispossession of firearms, as does Section 4-506.1(a)(1)(i), as amended by the Bill. A failure to comply with the protective orders is a misdemeanor offense, punishable by fine and imprisonment. Requiring the respondent to submit “written proof of the surrender” to the court and the local

sheriff's office or submit a sworn affidavit thus compel the respondent to be a witness that he or she has complied with these criminal provisions. In principle, those compelled statements are indistinguishable from the compelled registration at issue in *Haynes*. As in *Haynes*, a person who fails to submit this "proof" or "affidavit" can "reasonably fear" that the failure will increase the risk of prosecution. *Haynes*, 390 U.S. at 97. The information or the required affidavit create "hazards of incrimination" that are both "real and appreciable." *Id.* No more is required to invalidate these provisions under the Fifth Amendment.

We urge an unfavorable report.

Sincerely,



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Please find **UNFAVORABLE** SB943  
Family and Law Enforcement Protection Act

This bill creates a firearm registry by another name by requiring detailed reporting of all firearm transactions, transfers, and ownership records. While the bill may not explicitly state it creates a registry, the mass collection of gun owner data could be used to track and monitor citizens. Government should NOT be tracking of gun ownership anymore than it should be tracking who had an abortion.

Law enforcement is granted expanded authority to seize firearms in certain situations, including vague "public safety concerns." This could easily be abused to justify confiscation without clear evidence of a crime, especially when combined with Maryland's existing Extreme Risk Protection Orders (ERPOs) (Red Flag Laws). Examples of potential abuse:

- \* A neighbor disputes with a lawful gun owner and falsely reports them as a "threat" to authorities.
- \* Routine traffic stops could turn into firearm confiscations if an officer subjectively deems a legal firearm as a "potential public safety issue."
- \* Firearms reported as lost or stolen could lead to legal repercussions for gun owners who fail to report an incident within the bill's required time frame.

By imposing strict reporting requirements for firearm transactions, losses, or thefts, the bill creates new legal traps for gun owners. Failure to report on time could result in fines or criminal charges, even if the gun owner acted in good faith. This disproportionately affects lower-income gun owners who may not have access to legal counsel or resources to navigate Maryland's complex gun laws.

Senate Bill 943 is a dangerous expansion of government oversight over legal gun ownership. While framed as a public safety measure, its real impact is creating pathways for firearm registration, increased confiscation, and law enforcement overreach. By treating lawful gun owners as potential criminals, SB943 erodes civil rights protections and gives too much power to the state to dictate who can own firearms and under what conditions. This bill is not about family safety—it is about opening the door to prosecutorial mischief and control over the supposedly free citizens of this State.



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