

# State Representative Tammy Nuccio Forum on Domestic Violence and Awareness

January 17, 2024

Tolland Town Hall  
Tolland, CT

# cca | DV MEMBER ORGANIZATIONS

Connecticut Coalition Against Domestic Violence



Tennant's The Women's Center of Greater Danbury



**CT's Domestic Violence Resource Hub**  
[CTSafeConnect.org](http://CTSafeConnect.org) | 888.774.2900  
 Call • Text • Chat • Email • 24/7  
 Connect to Your Local Provider

# The Numbers Tell the Need

## **FY23 service stats**

Total served = 37,020 (slight decrease of about 2% from FY22); 32,807 adults, 4,213 children

Total housed (all housing programs) = 3,197; 1,776 adults, 1,421 children  
Shelter = 2,672 (slight increase of about 6%); 1,311 adults, 1,361 children; Utilization = 153%; Length of stay = 62 days (increase of just over 30% from FY22 when length of stay was 43 days)

Safety planning contacts (multiple plans per individual) = 227,493

One-on-one counseling sessions = 34,564

Most requested services = 1. Housing, 2. Childcare, 3. Basic needs

Criminal court advocacy = 30,469 victims (slight increase of 4% from FY22)

# The Numbers Tell the Need

## Rapid Rehousing:

- Total Participates Served: 989
- Total Adults 434; Children 555
- Total Household newly Housed during FY23: 238
  
- 43% come from emergency shelter
  
- 41% increased income
- 36% maintained income
- 53% exited to paying with no on going housing subsidy
- 35% exited to a housing voucher

# The Numbers Tell the Need

## Fatality Review Stats

2023:

Unofficial 2023 IPV homicides = 15

All victims were female, all offenders were male

10 firearms (67%), 4 knife/edged weapon (27%), 1 strangulation (6%)

7 murder/suicide

At least 4 with minor children present; 1 with adult (teen) child present who was also shot)

# The Numbers Tell the Need

## 2000 – 2022 aggregate data:

- 324 IPV homicides
- **Type of weapon used:**
  - o 42% w/ firearms (single most commonly used weapon)
  - o 32% w/ knife/edged weapon
  - o 10% strangulation/asphyxiation
  - o 8% blunt force
  - o 4% physical force
  - o 3% other
  - o <1% unknown
- 87% victims female
- 90% offenders male
- Majority of victims either married (37%) or dating (24%) their abuser at time of death.
- Majority of victims between the ages of 25-34 (25%) or 35-44 (24%).

## Family Violence Prevention & Response - [C.G.S. § 46b-38a](#)

Connecticut's Family Violence Prevention & Response statute provides the legal definitions for Connecticut's criminal protections for survivors. While Connecticut does not have a specific charge for domestic violence, any crime can become an act of family violence when that crime is committed against a "family or household member." C.G.S. § 46b-38a includes these key definitions related specifically to criminal law:

"Family violence": An incident resulting in physical harm, bodily injury or assault, or an act of threatened violence that constitutes fear of imminent physical harm, bodily injury or assault, including, but not limited to, stalking or a pattern of threatening, between family or household members. Verbal abuse or argument does not constitute family violence unless there is present danger and the likelihood that physical violence will occur.

## Family Violence Prevention & Response - [C.G.S. § 46b-38a](#)

“Family or household member”: Any of the following persons, regardless of the age of such person:

- (A) Spouses or former spouses;
- (B) parents or their children;
- (C) persons related by blood or marriage;
- (D) persons other than those persons described in subparagraph (C) of this subdivision presently residing together or who have resided together;
- (E) persons who have a child in common regardless of whether they are or have been married or have lived together at any time; and,
- (F) persons in, or who have recently been in, a dating relationship.

“Dominant aggressor”: The person who poses the most serious ongoing threat in a situation involving the suspected commission of a family violence crime.



# Public Act 21-78

## What it is:

We understand what coercive control is – conceptually.

## What it does:

PA 21-78 offers a definition of domestic violence which includes coercive control.

## When can it be used:

TRO applications and in consideration by a GAL and the Court as one of 17 best interest factors

# Public Act 21-78

Pursuant to the statutory language, coercive control is a ***pattern of behavior that in purpose or effect unreasonably interferes*** with a person's free will and personal liberty.

The statutory term “coercive control” includes, but is not limited to, unreasonably engaging in any of the following:

1. **Isolating** the family or household member from friends, relatives or other sources of support
2. **Depriving** the family or household member of basic necessities
3. **Controlling, regulating or monitoring** the family or household member's movements, communications, daily behavior, finances, economic resources or access to services

# Public Act 21-78

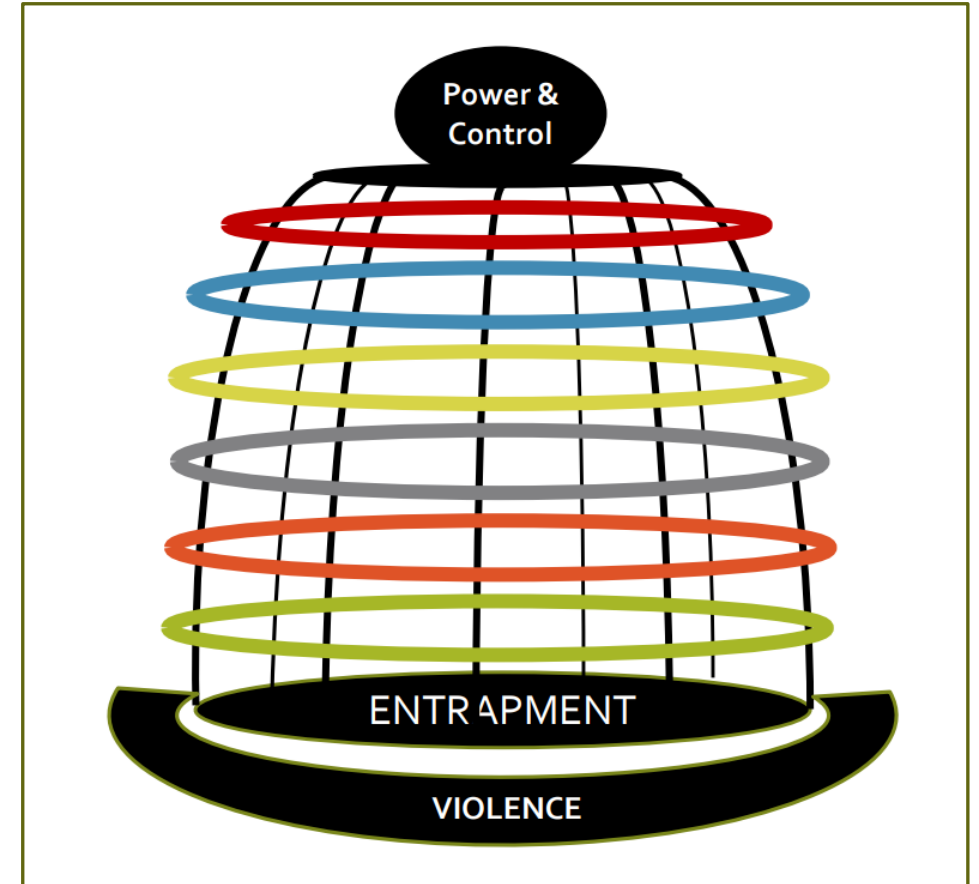
4. **Compelling** the family or household member **by force, threat or intimidation**, including, but not limited to, threats based on actual or suspected immigration status, to:
  - Engage in conduct from which such family or household member has a right to abstain or
  - Abstain from conduct that such family or household member has a right to pursue
5. **Committing or threatening to commit** cruelty to animals that intimidates the family or household member
6. **Forcing** sex acts, or threats of a sexual nature, including, but not limited to, threatened acts of sexual conduct, threats based on a person's sexuality or threats to release sexual images

Coercive Control  
CONCEPTUALLY

What is  
coercive  
control?

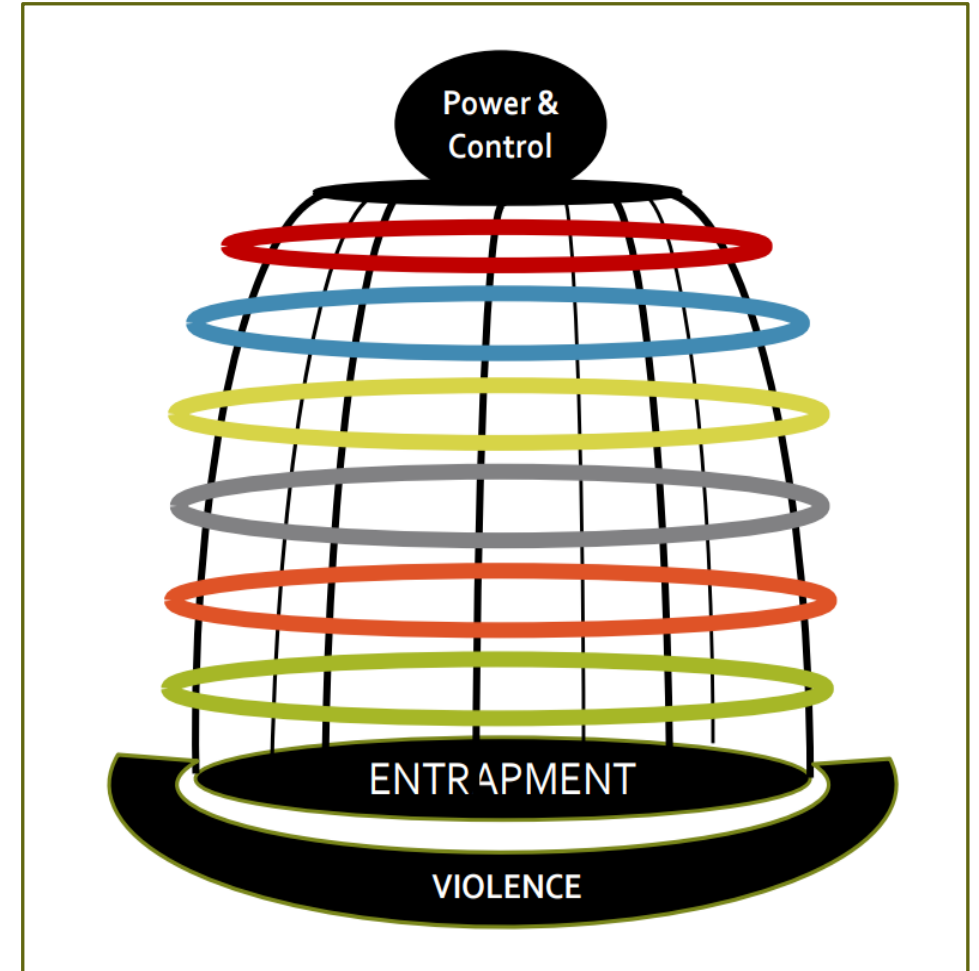
# The Concept of Coercive Control

- Coercive control is **not just psychological**, but structural
  - It's calculated
  - It's intentional
  - It's premeditated
- A distinguishing feature is that it places the victim in an objective state of entrapment.
- Coercive control **diminishes a survivor's ability to exercise agency and autonomy**—the very things that would enable them to leave the relationship—resulting in entrapment.



# The Concept of Coercive Control

- It is qualitatively **different than physical violence**, not just different in degree or severity.
  - Rational, instrumental behavior and not a loss of control
  - Based on multiple tactics like intimidation, degradation, isolation and control
- With physical violence, it can be a single incident. With coercive control it can be never ending, and is often intertwined into **every moment of every day**.



## Methods of Control

**Some coercive control behaviors are criminal acts, and some are not such as:**

### **SEXUAL:**

- Coercing victim to have sex
- Coercing victim to watch pornography
- Engaging in sex with a sexually transmitted infection
- Using date rape drugs, alcohol or other drugs
- Threatening to reveal sexual orientation
- Threatening to release sexual images

## Methods of Control

**Coercive control behaviors are often behaviors that are NOT criminal acts**

### **EMOTIONAL OR PSYCHOLOGICAL:**

- Humiliation
- Extreme jealousy/possessiveness
- Criticizing, insulting, belittling
- Ignoring, dismissing
- Blaming, punishing
- Invading privacy
- Isolation
- Intimidation
- Rigid guidelines



# Methods of Control

**Coercive control behaviors are often behaviors that are NOT criminal acts such as:**

## **TECHNOLOGICAL:**

- Tracking location
- Demanding check-ins
- Excessive texting
- Spyware and monitoring devices
- Monitoring communications

# Methods of Control

**Coercive control behaviors are often behaviors that are NOT criminal acts such as:**

## **FINANCIAL:**

- Withholding money
- Denying access to bank accounts/ATM and credit cards
- Ruining a victim's credit
- Taking the victim's paycheck
- Showing up or calling the victim's workplace incessantly
- Insisting that the victim be driven to work

## Methods of Control

### Additionally:

- Committing or threatening to commit cruelty to animals that intimidates the family or household member

# Red Flags

If there is no physical violence or threat of physical violence, are any of these behaviors present and ongoing?

- Invading privacy
- Isolation
- Intimidation
- Rigid guidelines
- Sexual coercion
- Threatening to reveal sexual orientation
- Threatening to release sexual images
- Tracking location
- Demanding check-ins
- Excessive texting
- Spyware and monitoring devices
- Monitoring communications
- Withholding money
- Ruining a victim's credit
- Taking the victim's paycheck
- No access to bank accounts, ATM and credit cards

# cca | DV MEMBER ORGANIZATIONS

Connecticut Coalition Against Domestic Violence

**Susan B. Anthony Project**  
SAFETY • HEALING • GROWTH

**PRUDENCE CRANDALL CENTER**  
Empowering Healing & Hope since 1973.

**the network**  
Working out for a violence-free society

**PROJECT SAGE**  
to end relationship violence

**SAFE HAVEN**  
FOR VIOLENCE & SEXUAL ABUSE

**The Center**  
for Empowerment and Education

formerly The Women's Center of Greater Danbury

ADVOCACY, EDUCATION & COMMUNITY-AWARENESS  
**DVCC**  
DOMESTIC VIOLENCE CENTER OF CONNECTICUT

**HARMONY PROJECT**  
YWCA GREENWICH  
SERVICES & SUPPORT FOR SAFE RELATIONSHIPS  
867 NOTLINE 3642.0000

**The Center for Family Justice**  
Ave. 600.110.00

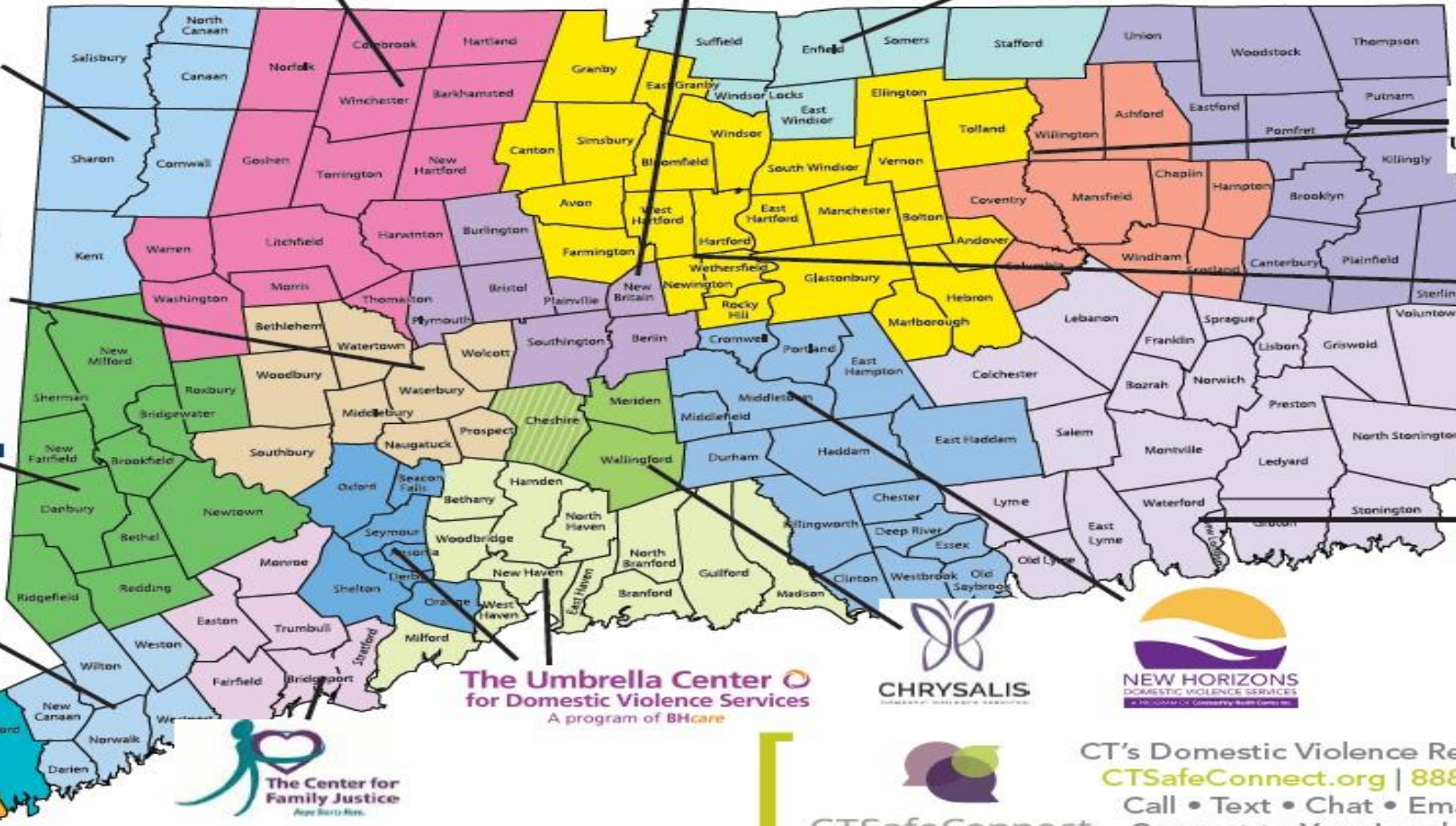
**The Umbrella Center**  
for Domestic Violence Services  
A program of BHcare

**CHRYSALIS**

**NEW HORIZONS**  
DOMESTIC VIOLENCE SERVICES  
A PROGRAM OF Community Action Centers, Inc.

**CTSafeConnect**

**CT's Domestic Violence Resource Hub**  
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**United Services, Inc.**  
Creating healthy communities

**INTERVAL HOUSE**  
working to end domestic violence

**Safe Futures**

# Safe Connect

Safe Connect allows Connecticut to streamline the many access points that have existed for survivors seeking services into one comprehensive, statewide coordinated triage and response.



**CALL or TEXT us**

We listen because you matter.



**EMAIL us**

Tell us if it's safe to reply.



**LIVE CHAT in your language**

We chat back in yours.

[CTSafeConnect.org](https://CTSafeConnect.org) | (888) 774-2900 | 24/7/365

All services are CONFIDENTIAL, SAFE, FREE & VOLUNTARY.



CTSafeConnect

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