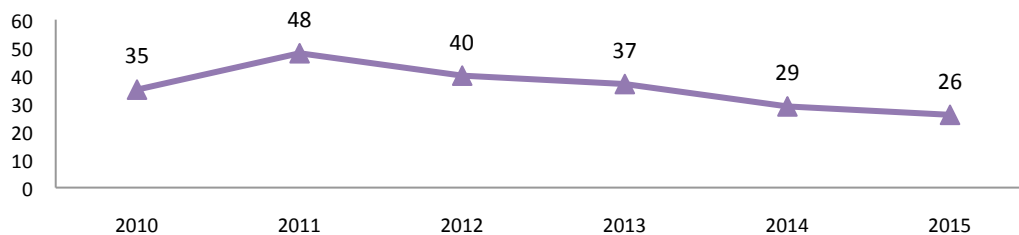# BRIEFING:
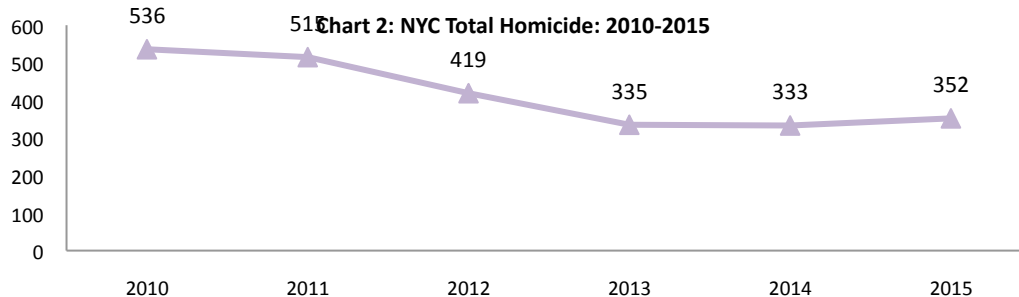# NYC INTIMATE PARTNER HOMICIDE STATISTICS AND MEDIA COVERAGE

I.   Intimate Partner Homicide Statistics

- Overall homicide declined by 43% between 2002 and 2013 (587 vs. 335), while domestic violence (DV) homicides declined 17% during the same time period (76 vs. 63).
- From 2010-2015, intimate partner homicides decreased by 24% (34 vs. 26) (Chart 1).
  - o   This is compared to a 34% decrease in overall homicide over this time period (536 vs. 352) (Chart 2). Since 2010, intimate partner homicides have accounted for almost 1 of every 10 homicides in New York City.
- Generally, overall homicide has declined consistently over time by about 40%, while DV and intimate partner homicides have fluctuated with a general downward trend of about 35%.

Chart 1: NYC Intimate Partner Homicide: 2010-2015

Chart 2: NYC Total Homicide: 2010-2015

Demographic trends:
- Black women were over 3 times more likely to be a victim of an intimate partner homicide compared to men and women of other races.
- The median age of both victims and perpetrators of intimate partner homicide was 39 years.
- Opposite-sex boyfriend/girlfriend cases accounted for a preponderance (40%) of intimate partner homicides over this time period. In fact, in 2015, opposite-sex boyfriend/girlfriend cases comprised 81% of intimate partner homicides.
- The rate of intimate partner homicide in the Bronx is more than double the rate in the rest of the city (1.0 vs. 0.5 per 100,000 residents).

Agency contact:
- A City agency had prior contact with the victim and/or perpetrator in 47% of intimate partner homicides that occurred since 2010.
- NYPD filed a domestic incident report (DIR) involving the victim and perpetrator for a prior incident in 39% of intimate partner homicides.

II. Intimate Partner Homicide Media Review (2013-2016)

We conducted a systematic review of all newspaper articles (N=403) covering NYC intimate partner homicides over the past four years (January 2013-August 2016). Below is a brief overview of the findings:

Generally speaking, coverage of intimate partner homicide was improved in 2016 compared to the previous 3 years, with more articles written per homicide and more articles providing domestic violence (DV) resources to readers, quoting DV advocates, and framing the homicide within the broader social problem of DV.

Sources:
- Only 7 articles over the 4-year period (<2%) included a DV advocate/expert as a source.
- More common sources are public officials (23%) and friends/family of the victim/perpetrator (19%).

Context:
- Nearly 90% of the articles identified the relationship between the victim and the perpetrator. However, only 15% of articles used terminology such as "domestic violence," "intimate partner violence," or "domestic abuse" and only 8% of articles described the homicide as being domestic violence-related.
- Only 24% of articles included a discussion of the history of abuse between the victim and perpetrator. Even fewer framed the homicide within the broader social problem of DV or identified flaws/gaps in the system's response through a solution-oriented lens (6% and 7%, respectively).
- Only 7 articles (<2%) listed DV/intimate partner violence (IPV) resources for readers.

Differences in coverage:
- Articles about younger victims and perpetrators and about dating relationships did not properly identify the homicide as IPV and coverage was less comprehensive.
  - Homicides with younger victims and perpetrators:
    - The relationship between the victim and perpetrator was less likely to be defined in articles about younger victims and younger perpetrators.
    - DV/IPV terminology was less common in articles about younger perpetrators.
  - Boyfriends/girlfriend homicides vs. spousal homicides:
    - The relationship between the victim and perpetrator was less likely to be defined in articles about BF/GF homicides vs. spousal homicides.
    - DV/IPV terminology was less common in articles about BF/GF homicides vs. spousal homicides.
    - Abuse history was less likely to be discussed in articles about BF/GF homicides vs. spousal homicides.
    - Victim blaming language was more common in articles about ex-BF/GF homicide vs. spousal homicide (ex: blame for not calling police, blame for having another partner).
    - Minimizing language was more common in articles about BF/GF and ex-BF/GF homicide vs. spousal homicide (ex: use of 'gal pal' instead of girlfriend/partner).
- Articles about homicides that were committed with a firearm were less likely to be solution-oriented and were more likely to include victim blaming language.