

RESULTS

2021 VICTIM OFFENDER RELATIONSHIPS

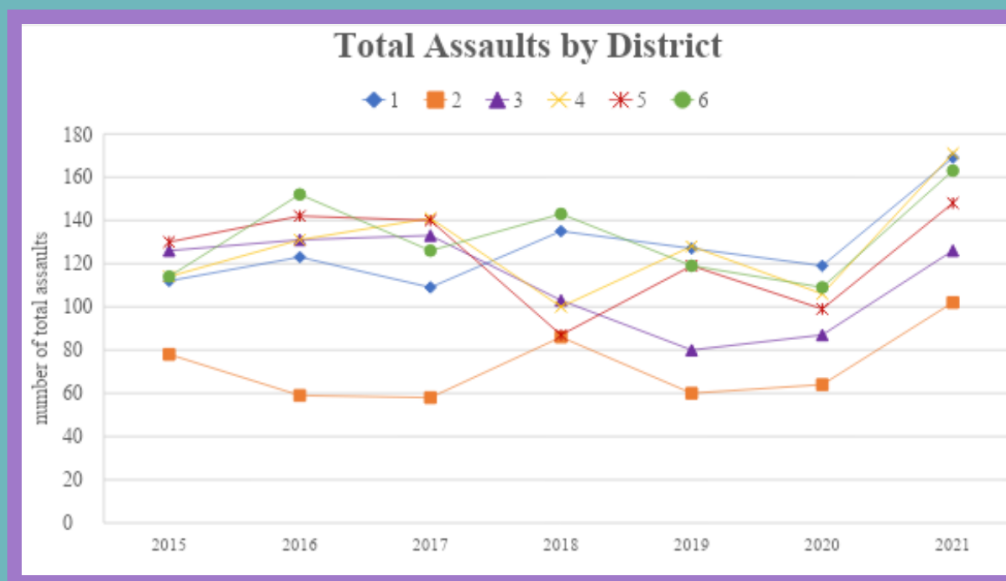
The 2021 increase in domestic violence assaults appear to be due primarily to violence caused by current or former non-married partners, followed by family members and current and former spouses (Table 2).

Table 2: Victim Offender Relationships, 2021

Relationship	N	%
Non-married partner	395	44.89
Ex-non-married partner	226	25.68
Spouse	65	7.39
Ex-spouse	9	1.02
Victim was offender	32	3.64
Child	29	3.3
Family member	86	9.77
Non-family/intimate domestic violence	31	3.52
Unknown relationship	7	0.8

TRENDS IN DOMESTIC VIOLENCE ASSAULTS

Figure 1 details the trends in domestic violence assaults across the six districts. Across districts, domestic violence assaults increased between 2020 and 2021, with the sharpest increase in District 4. Districts 1 and 6 follow similar stable patterns across time, while Districts 3 and 5 experienced fluctuations in rate between 2018 and 2020. District 2 follows a distinct pattern, with notably fewer assaults annually than the other districts. However, it experienced the same increase as the other districts in 2021 at a similar rate. Given these trends, we examined what type of assault may have driven this 2021 increase in each district.



TRENDS BY DISTRICT

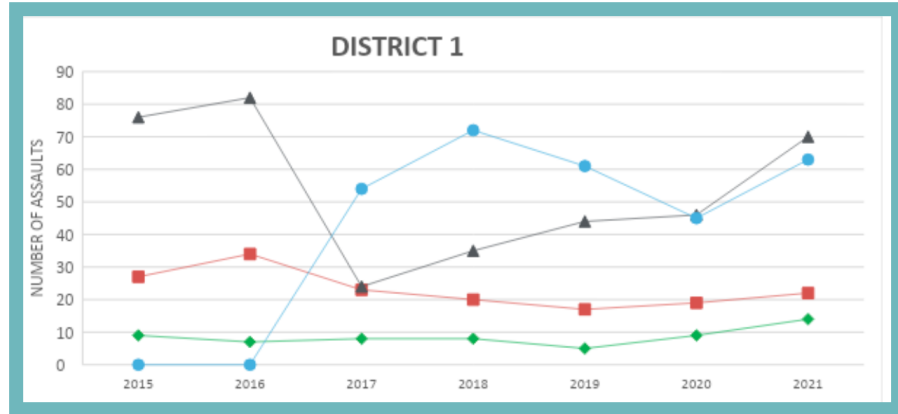
In 2017, 4th degree assaults were added as a category of domestic violence assaults. In the following figures, this accounts for the zero-values of 4th degree assaults in 2015 and 2016, and likely drives the stark decline of 3rd degree assaults in 2017 as many of these may have been newly classified as 4th degree.

KEY

- ◆ 1st Degree Assault
- 2nd Degree Assault
- ▲ 3rd Degree Assault
- 4th Degree Assault

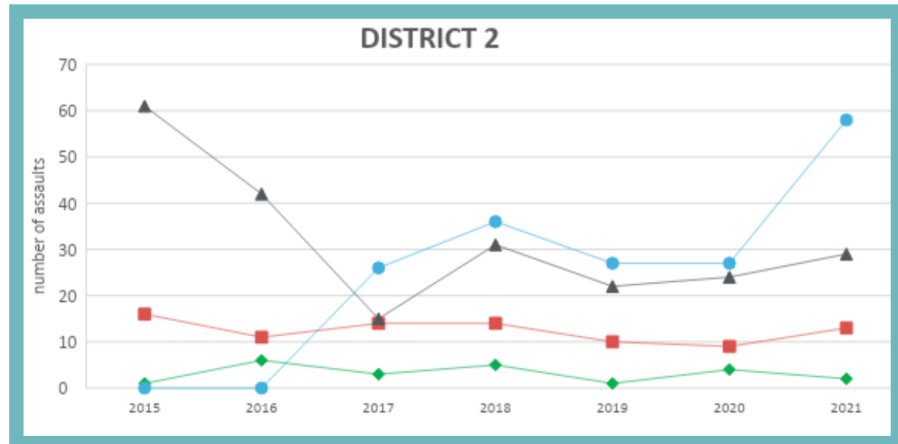
DISTRICT ONE

Serious assaults in District 1 have been moderately stable over time. Third degree assaults have been steadily increasing since 2017. Fourth degree assaults have stayed relatively stable at a higher rate across the time studied. Both 1st and 2nd degree assaults have been increasing steadily since 2019. The increase in assaults in District 1 in 2021 appear to be driven by increases in minor assaults (3rd & 4th degree).



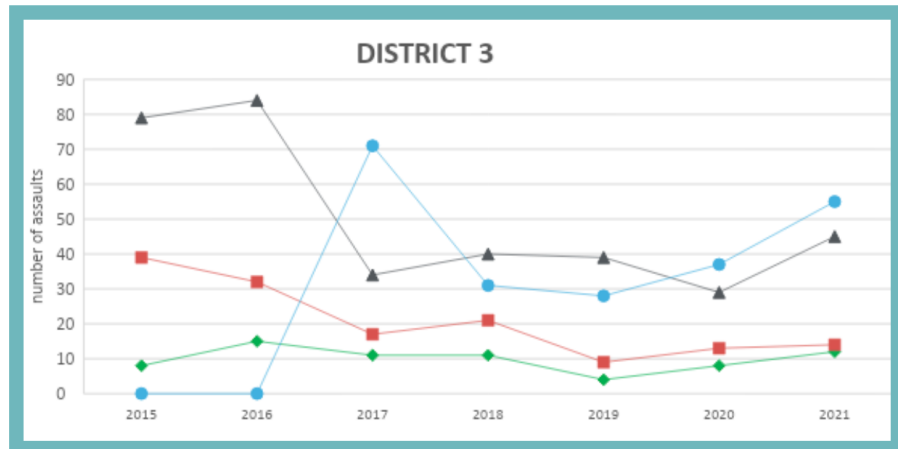
DISTRICT TWO

District 2 shows similar patterns to District 1, with serious assaults staying relatively stable across years, a mild increase in 3rd degree assaults after 2017, and a high stable number of 4th degree assaults before 2021. Unlike District 1, District 2 had an extremely sharp increase in 4th degree assaults in 2021 which likely drives the increase in assaults.

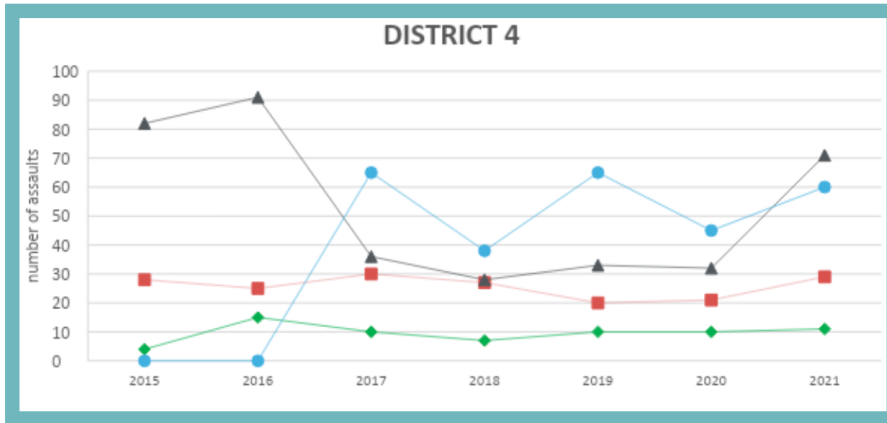


DISTRICT THREE

District 3 follows a similar pattern to the first two districts, albeit with a greater stability in assault types across time. Fourth- and third-degree assaults likely account for most of the 2021 increase, although District 3 has been experiencing a steady increase in 1st degree assaults since 2019.

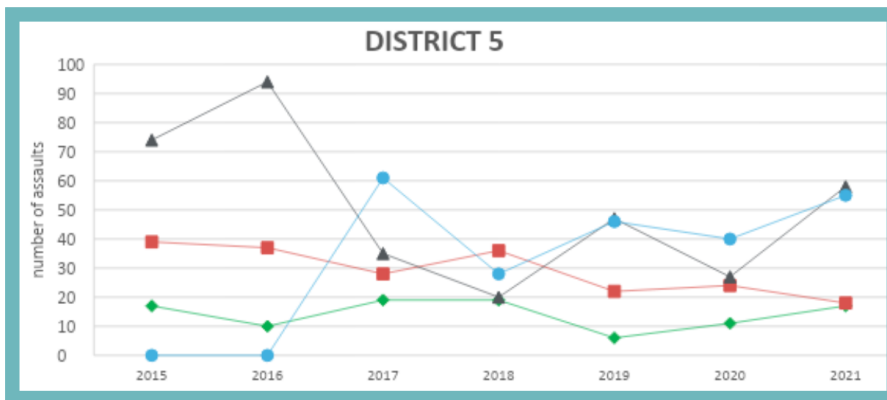


◆	1st Degree Assault
■	2nd Degree Assault
▲	3rd Degree Assault
●	4th Degree Assault



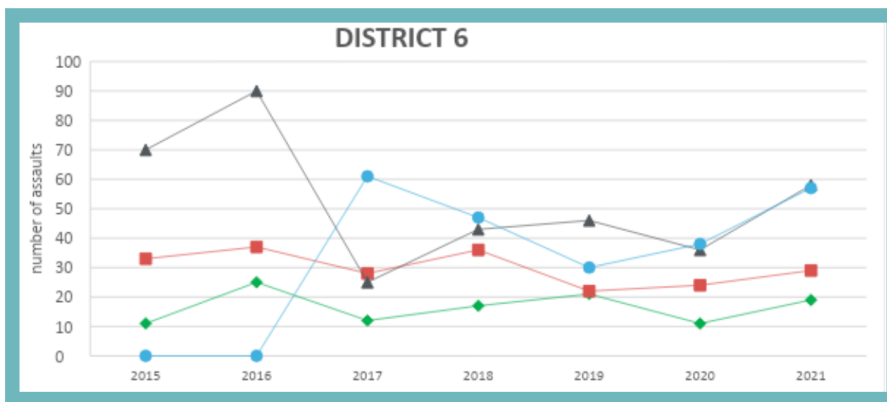
DISTRICT FOUR

District 4 experienced a higher, steadier number of 2nd degree domestic violence assaults than the first three districts and an increase in those assaults in 2021. Third degree assaults stabilized around a steady lower number after the law change until 2021, when there was a large increase in 3rd degree assaults, likely contributing to the notably sharper 2021 increase. While 4th degree assaults varied widely across the period, they have remained around a steady average, including 2021.



DISTRICT FIVE

Like District 4, District 5 has a notably high number of 2nd degree assaults, although here the rate has showed a steady decrease since 2019. Like District 3, there has been a notable increase in 1st degree assaults since 2019, which continued in 2021. Unlike the other districts, District 5 experiences a more similar number of assaults across types. The increase here is likely to be driven by a combination of increases in 1st, 3rd, and 4th degree assaults.



DISTRICT SIX

District 6 has seen a steady increase in all assault types over the past few years. While this increase happened at a higher rate in 2021, it is possible that District 6's increase follows a steady pattern of increase over the past few years. Like many of the other districts, the sharpest increase in 2021 was in 3rd and 4th degree assaults.

SPATIAL RESULTS

The Spatial results can be found at <https://arcg.is/PLriG> and appendixes located on pages 10-17. Predominantly, the areas that illuminate as hotspots from year to year are in the Downtown; in the southeast portion of the city, specifically Dutchtown and Gravois Park (District 3); and north of what is commonly known as the “Delmar Divide,” including Carr Square (District 4), Columbus Square (District 4), Hyde Park (District 4), Penrose (District 5), College Hill (District 6), and O’Fallon Park (District 6). The concentration of domestic assaults remained consistent in these neighborhoods during the analysis period. However, the hot spot areas appear to be progressively expanding since 2016, with neighborhoods with low domestic violence assaults exhibiting increases (i.e., Walnut Park West, North Point, Baden, & River View in District 6; Hamilton Heights and West End in District 5).

With the exception of the Dutchtown and Carr Square neighborhoods, domestic assaults concentrate in residential neighborhoods. Dutchtown and Carr Square are primarily residential, but also have a mix of various commercial businesses in the area. The median household income in these neighborhoods ranges from approximately \$12,000 per year to \$33,000 per year. Approximately 30% of the residents of these neighborhoods live below the federal poverty line. This degree of poverty and low income base may impact the services available to help combat domestic violence.

Four primary findings emerged from the analyses:

- 1 Incidents of domestic violence assaults in St. Louis City have increased since 2015, but the increase has been steady and it does not appear to be pandemic driven.
- 2 The increase in domestic violence assaults appears to be primarily driven by incidents of 3rd and 4th degree assaults. Assaults in the 1st and 2nd degree also show a slight and steady annual increase.
- 3 It appears that incidents of domestic violence assaults are primarily committed by non-married current and former partners.
- 4 Domestic violence assaults concentrate in 8 neighborhoods within four districts: Dutchtown and Gravois Park (District 3), Carr Square (District 4), Columbus Square (District 4), Hyde Park (District 4), Penrose (District 5), College Hill (District 6), and O’Fallon Park (District 6)