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THE UNIVERSITY OF NORTH CAROLINA  
**GREENSBORO**



# Evaluation of the Offender Focused Domestic Violence Initiative in High Point (NC) and Lexington (NC)

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# Evaluation & Replication

- ✎ Community Oriented Policing Services (COPS) Office funded UNCG to evaluate High Point Police Department's *Offender Focused Domestic Violence Initiative* with Lexington, NC as the replication site
- ✎ LPD had several existing advantages for replication in place prior to implementing the strategy:
  - Ongoing PSN/focused deterrence strategy in place since 2010
  - Understanding of the dynamic of DV in relationships among officers and command staff; reinforced through training
  - Strong commitment from the Chief and buy-in from other partners (i.e., District Attorney's Office, probation, victim service providers)

# Data Preface: Lessons Learned

- ✎ Solid baseline data about intimate partner domestic violence (IPDV) is difficult to obtain from agency records
    - Coding issues for *intimate partner* DV vs general DV
      - IPDV coding may not occur until an agency adopts the strategy
    - If no specific IPDV code, what offenses should be used for baseline data?
  - ✎ For recidivism after notification, what counts as a reoffense?
    - New IPDV assault/charge
    - What about, for example, pre-trial conditions of release such as no-contact orders
  - ✎ Need to contextualize the data within what we know about intimate partner relationships in which the DV happens
    - Couples stay together, they share a residence/responsibilities, and remember, the victim just “wants the violence to stop”
  - ✎ Some of the strategy’s greatest successes will not be quantified in the data
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# Defining Success of the Strategy:

## Research Questions & Operational Definitions

### ∞ Is offender behavior changing?

- Offender recidivism: subsequent DV-related arrest after notification
- DV arrests: change over time pre to post

### ∞ Is victim harm decreasing?

- Reported injuries from DV arrest reports: change over time

### ∞ What is the effect on law enforcement resources?

- Calls for service: change over time
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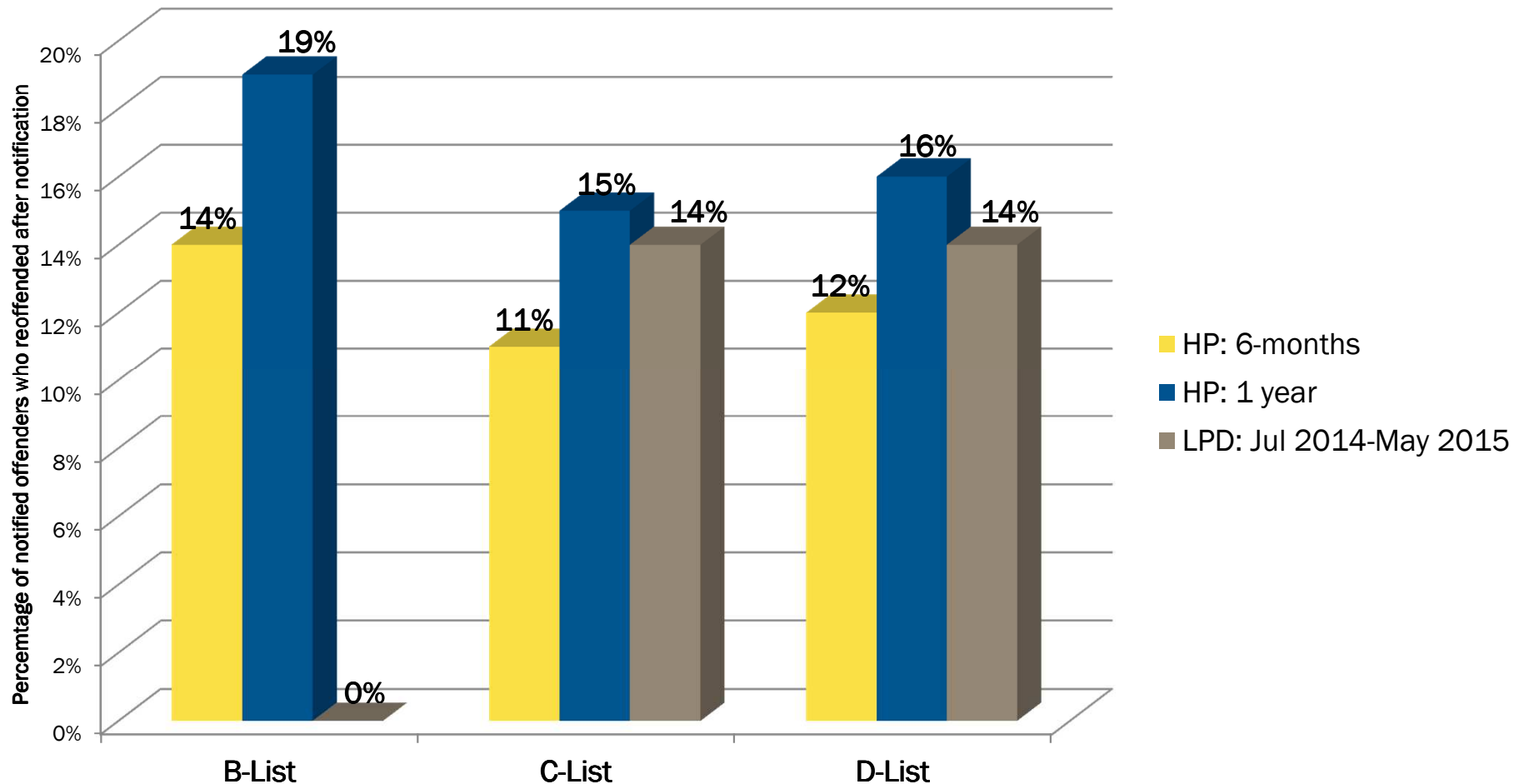
# Who has been notified?

## Characteristics of Notified Offenders

	High Point (Feb 2012-Apr 2014)				Lexington (Jul 2014-May 2015)			
	N	Sex	Avg Age	DV History	N	Sex	Avg Age	DV History
B List	49	92% male	37	Avg. 4 priors up to 13	Not applicable			
C List	883	77% male	34	62% 1X only; Avg. 2 priors up to 15 priors	170	79% male	34	79% 1X only; Avg. 1.6 priors up to 4 priors
D List	201	69% male	35.5	65% no priors	214	77% male	34.8	83% no priors

# Is offender behavior changing?

Recidivism Rates for Notified Offenders in High Point & Lexington

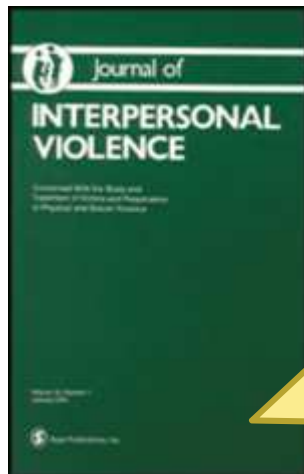


# Notified Offender Recidivism Rates in Perspective

“Typically, the rate of re-offense by perpetrators of domestic violence is **30 to 40%**, irrespective of the type of intervention used...”

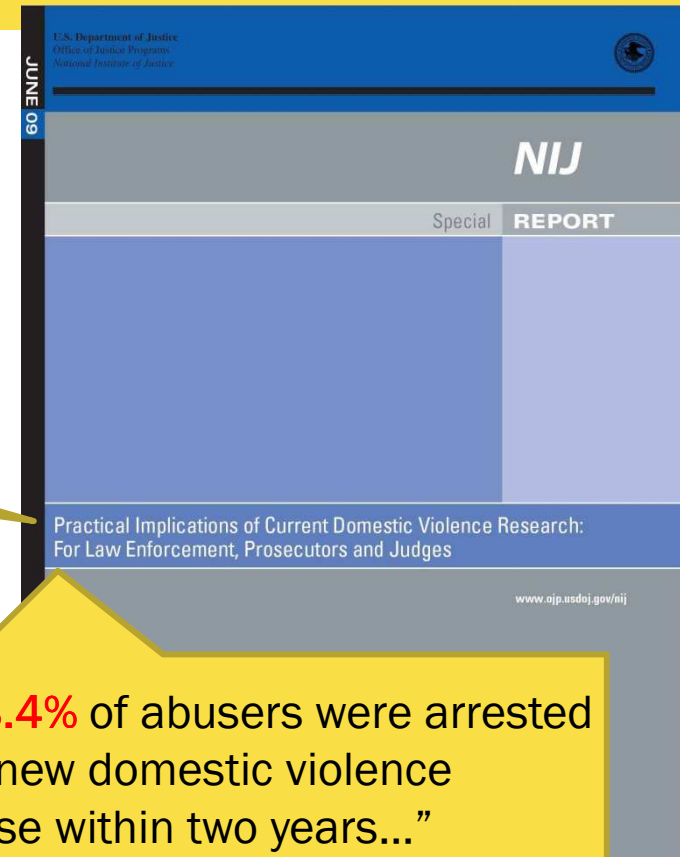
“Depending on how reabuse is measured, over what period of time...a hard core of approximately **1/3 of abusers will reabuse** in the short run, and more will reabuse in the long run.”

- **~60% who reoffend, do so within 6 months.**



Stover, C. S. (2005), Volume 20

“Studies have suggested that recidivism rates in domestic violence cases are high...estimating **40%-80%** or more of repeat violence (Garner, Fagan, & Maxwell, 1995; Shepard, 1992).”



- “**...38.4%** of abusers were arrested for a new domestic violence offense within two years...”
- “Studies...documented reabuse...ranging from **26-41%** within five to 30 months.”

<https://www.ncjrs.gov/pdffiles1/nij/225722.pdf>

# Possible Predictors of Reoffense After Notification

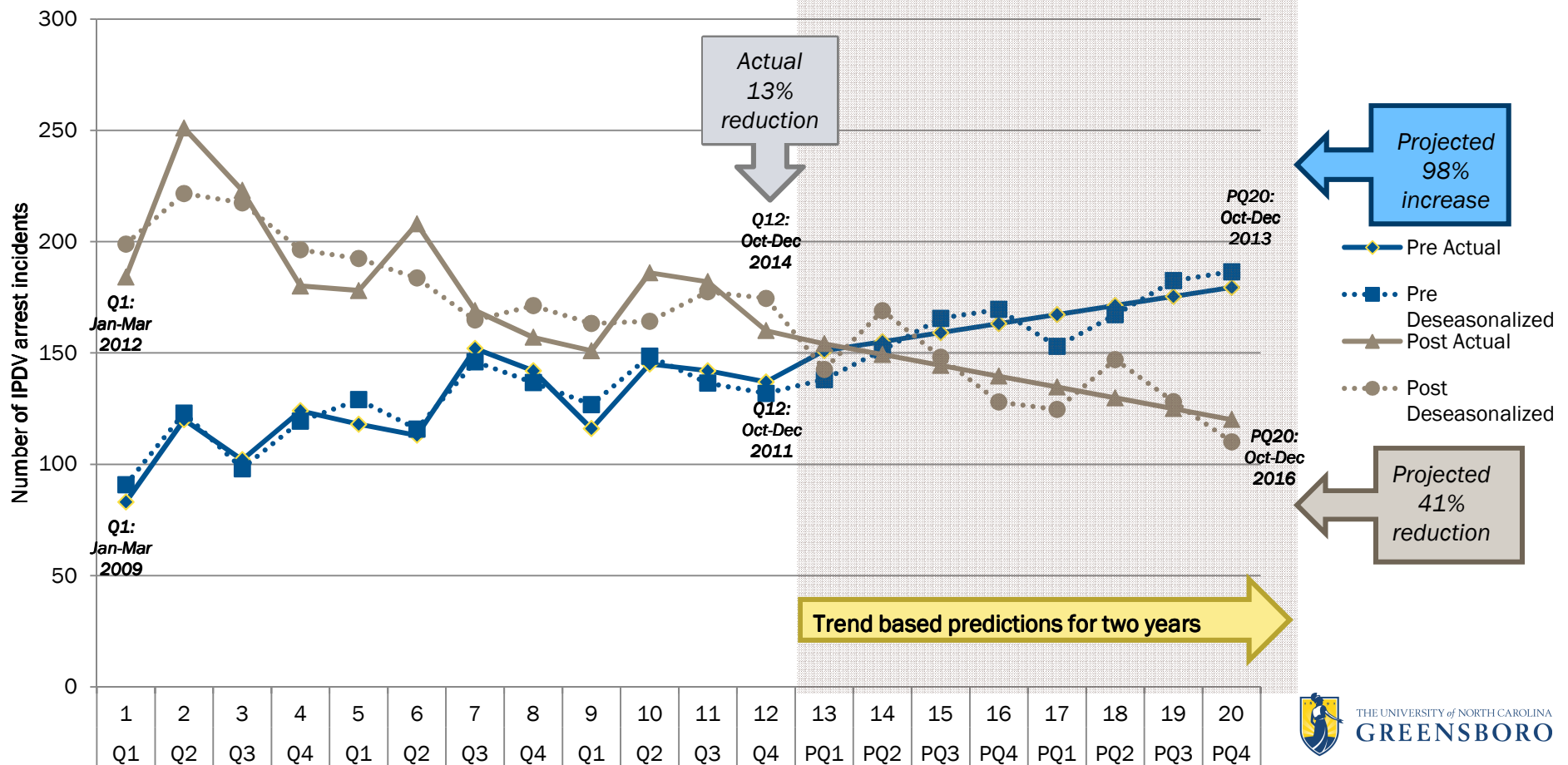
- ✎ Having a DV history prior to notification
- ✎ Being male
- ✎ Younger age at 1<sup>st</sup> DV arrest
- ✎ Younger age at time of D notification
- ✎ Quickly reoffending after D notification
- ✎ The above findings are in line with the NIJ (2009) report about offender characteristics





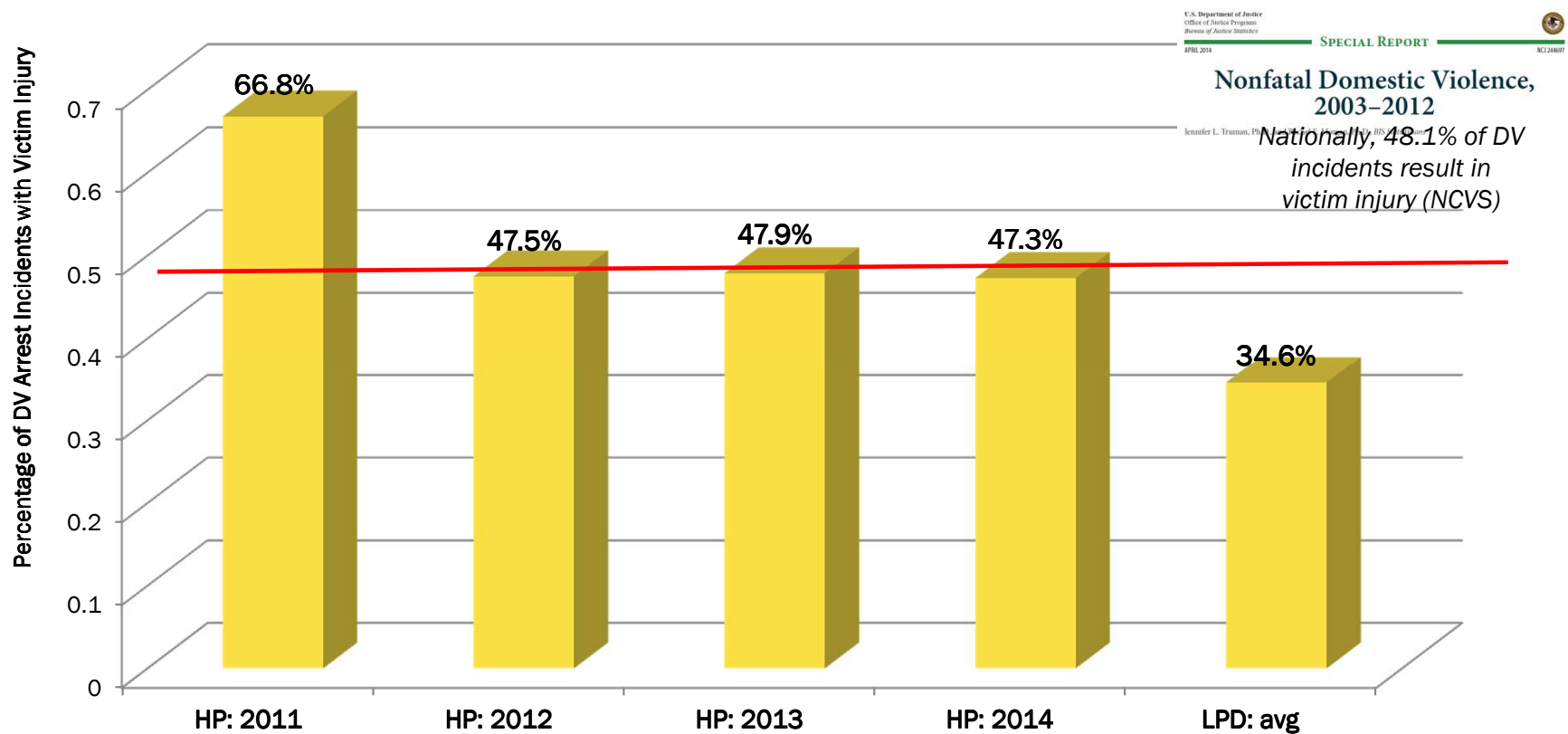
# Is offender behavior changing?

## Pre and Post OFVDI Comparison of Quarterly IPDV Arrest Incidents



# Is victim harm decreasing?

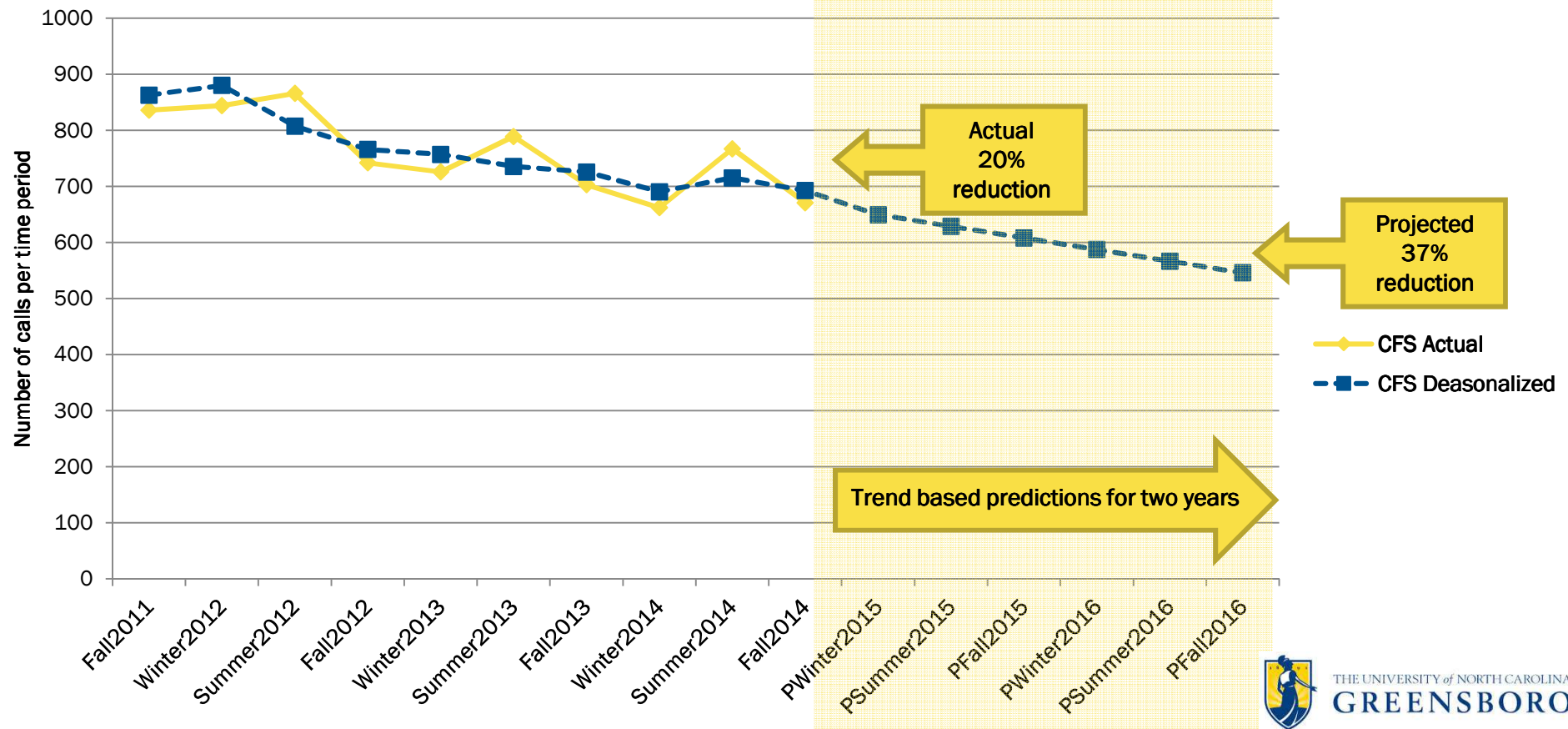
Since the strategy began, the percentage of DV Incidents with Reported Victim Injury in both sites is below the national estimate.



\* The reduction in victim injuries in HP from 2011 to subsequent years is statistically significant,  $p < .0001$ .

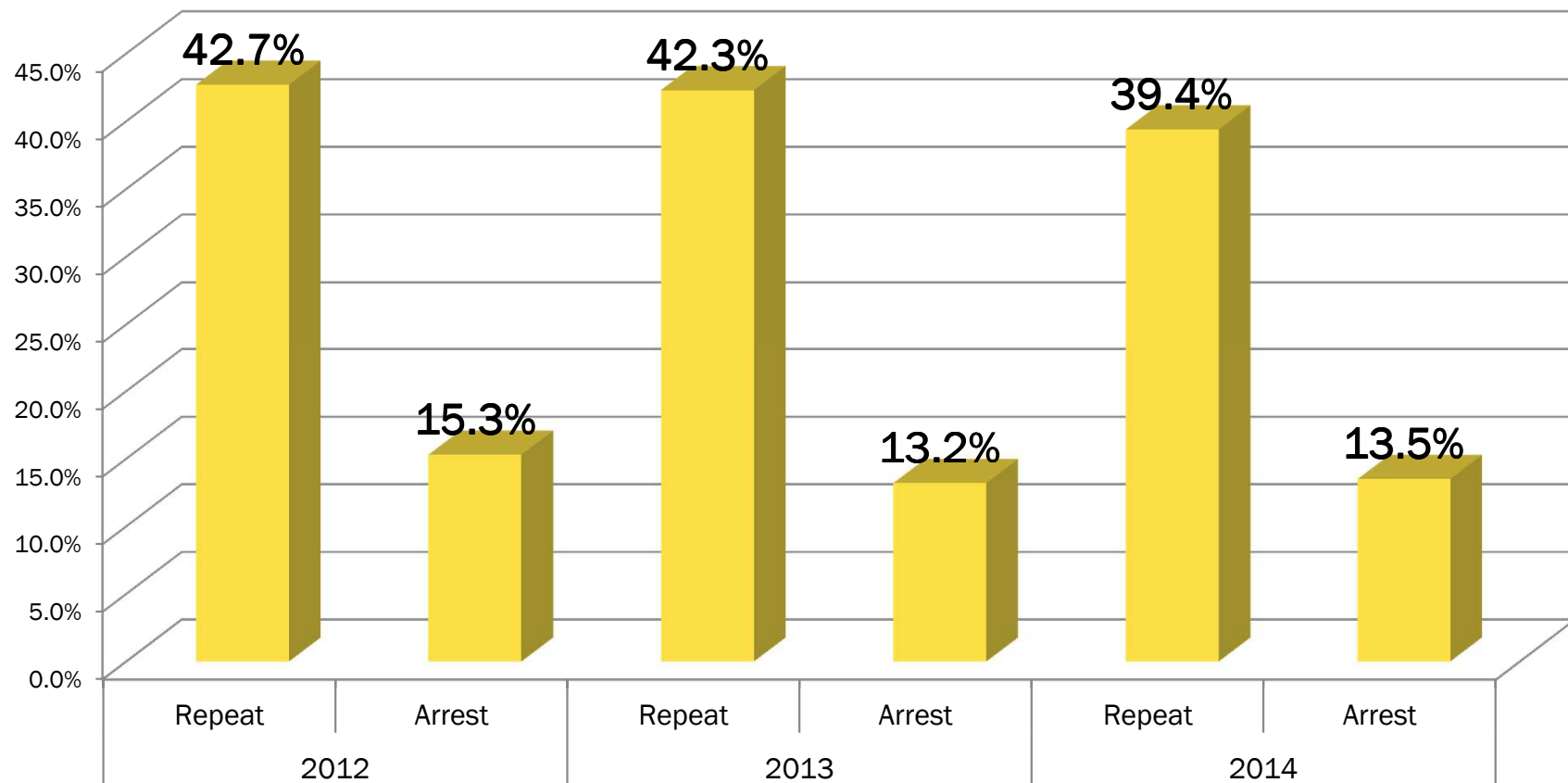
# What is the effect on law enforcement resources?

## IPDV Calls for Service Have Decreased Over Time in High Point



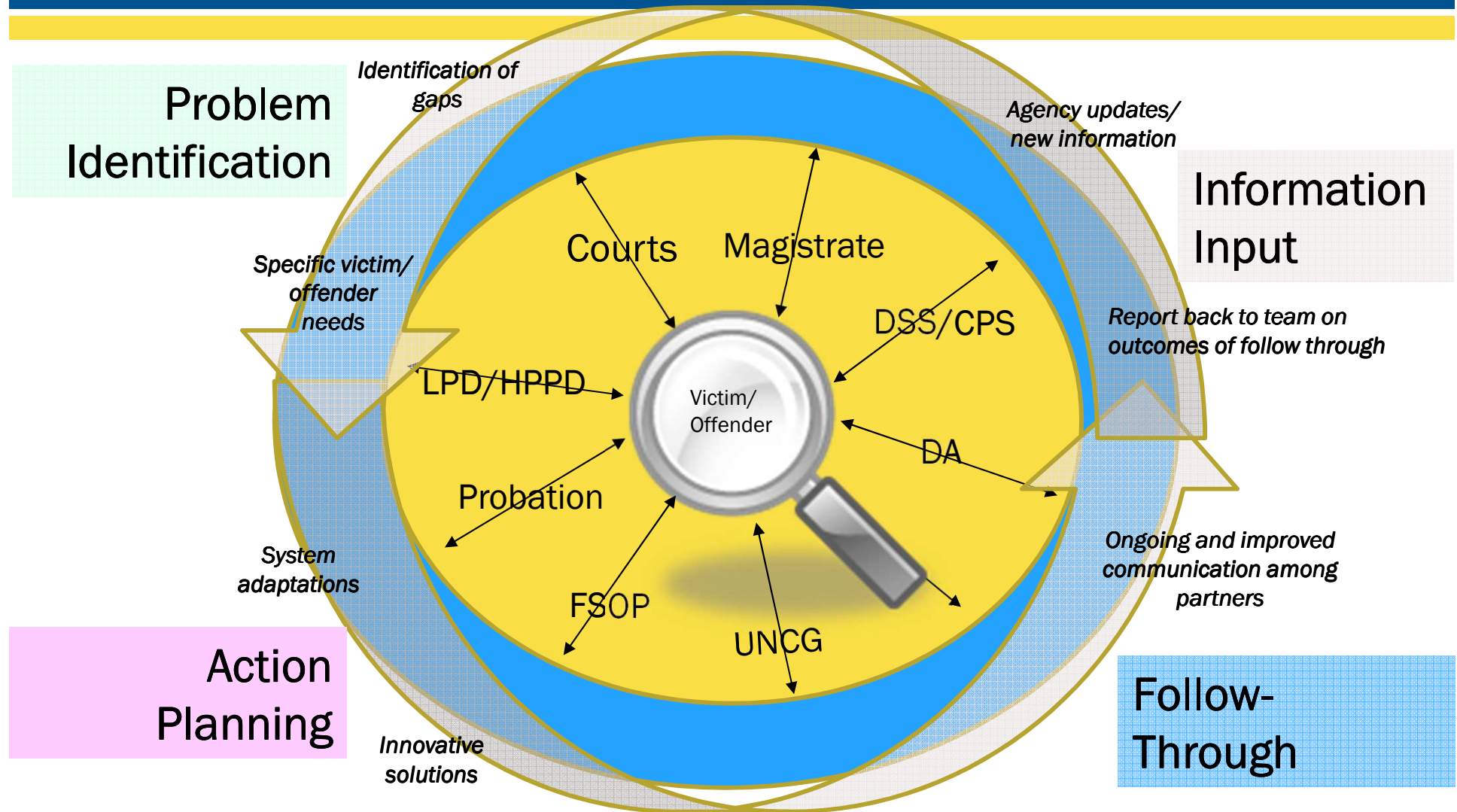
# Repeat CFS Trends

The percentage of repeat calls has decreased slightly along with the percentage of repeat calls resulting in arrest: High Point



*\*\*For repeat calls, commercial locations were removed from analysis to better ensure same offender/victim*

# OFDVI Team Problem Solving Approach



# Process Improvement through Offender Focus = Success

- ✂ Example of an offender arrested for assault on female
  - ✂ Monitoring jail calls
    - Contempt of court for every jail call made to victim violating court order of no-contact; offender has to serve 5 days for every jail call X 15 calls before facing his assault charge
  - ✂ Probation levers
    - Offender on probation for a previous assault so probation arrested him for violation and offender has to serve 80 days prior to facing his assault charge
  - ✂ Prosecutorial scrutiny
    - After viewing assault on store surveillance footage, district attorney indicted offender for kidnapping in addition to the assault charge
  - ✂ Certain, predictable consequences through partner buy-in
    - Nearly every guilty defendant gets 18 months of supervised probation which includes abuser treatment program and conditions not to threaten, harass, or assault the victim + any other conditions such as Alco-Sensor monitoring
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# So What's the Story?

- ∞ Domestic violence offender behavior can be changed by...
    - Stripping their anonymity and putting them on notice
    - Creating swift, certain, and predictable consequences for offending
    - Allowing them to make a rational choice as to whether to reoffend
    - All without any additional harm to victims
  - ∞ Changing offender behavior will decrease victim injuries & deaths and potentially increase victim use of services
  - ∞ Leading to a huge savings in terms of less reliance on...
    - Law enforcement resources
    - Traditional responses to DV offenders (incarceration, treatment programs, anger management, etc.)
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# Contact Information

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