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Lexington's Offender Focused Domestic Violence Initiative: 1-Year Updates

July 2015

Overview



Background

- ✎ Lexington was selected as the replication site for High Point Police Department's *Offender Focused Domestic Violence Initiative*, which is based on focused deterrence theory
 - Community Oriented Policing Services (COPS) Office funded UNCG to evaluate both sites
- ✎ Lexington 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
 - Strategies in place to deal with DV situations and investigations
 - Strong commitment from the Chief and buy-in from other partners (i.e., District Attorney's Office, probation, victim service providers)

Theory Driving the Strategy

- ∞ A certain number of domestic violence offenders are known to law enforcement
- ∞ Focuses on changing offender behavior; a shift from traditional focus on the victim
 - Law enforcement “owns the problem of domestic violence”
- ∞ Adaptation of an evidence-based approach to dealing with criminal behavior
 - Focused deterrence or “pulling levers”
 - Puts offenders on notice that their behavior will no longer be tolerated
 - Strips offenders’ anonymity
 - Provides certain, swift, and severe consequences for continued DV through any means or levers that exist
 - Offenders make a rational choice as to whether to continue violent behavior based on the information they receive
- ∞ Takes advantage of all potential contacts with DV offenders even those at lower levels

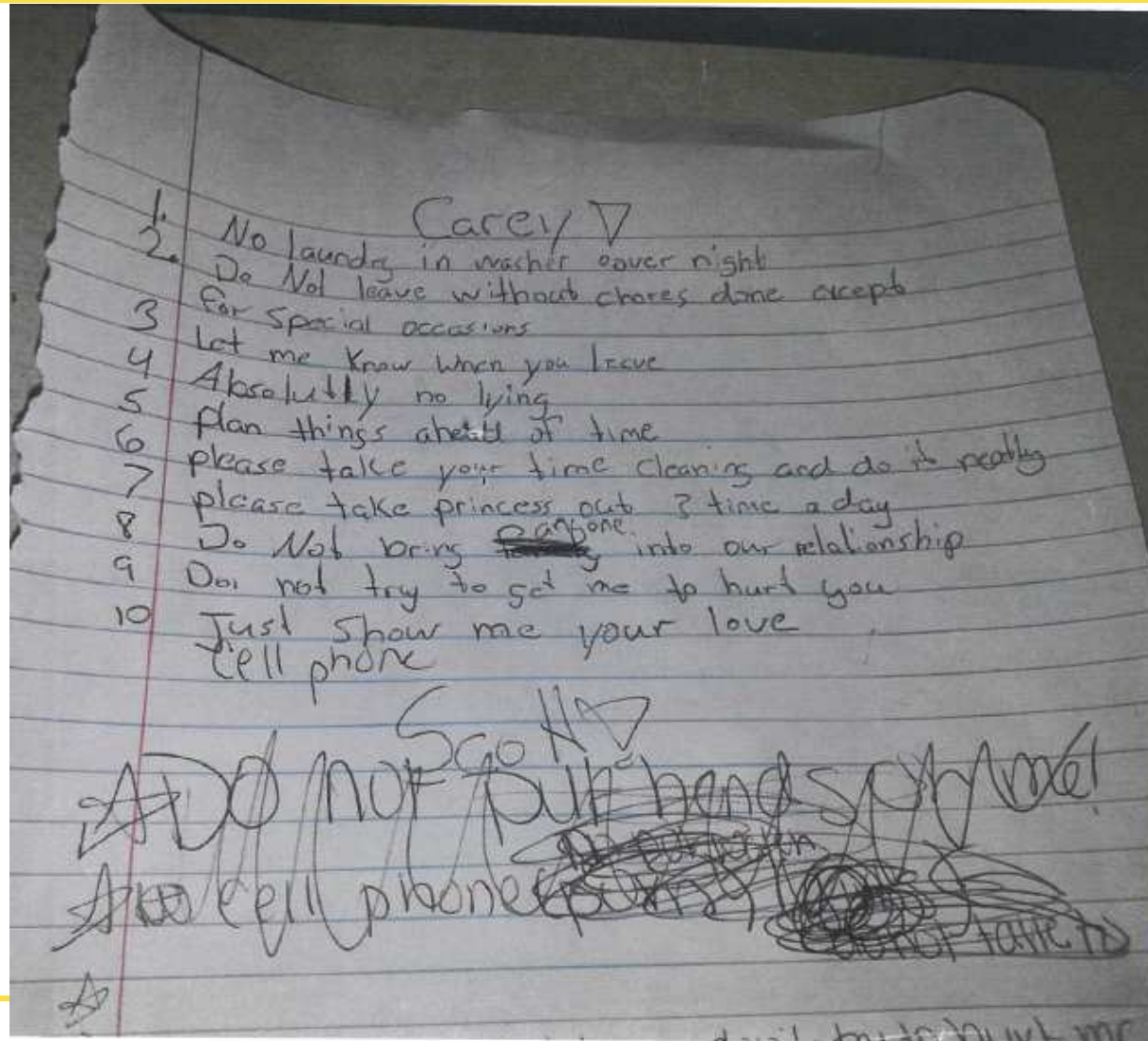
Why does focused deterrence work?

Offender Profile — Chronic Offenders



- ☞ *Lots of legal exposures or levers to pull*
- ☞ 8 HPPD Assault Arrests
- ☞ Simple to Assault on Female to Felony
- ☞ Drug, Disorderly, Felony Property, Weapon violations
- ☞ Gang Affiliations
- ☞ Unsatisfactory termination 3/06, previous absconder
- ☞ Currently Not Supervised
- ☞ 2004 and 2006 Assault on Females dismissed by DA
- ☞ In prison 10/03 for 4 Felony B&E/Larceny and one Misdemeanor AISI, Out 2/04
- ☞ 12/06 Assault on Female pending Court

Power and Control



- Control over her behavior, activities, & whereabouts
- Jealousy
- Victim blaming/denial of own accountability
- Monitoring and surveillance
- Negating her needs (notice that her “rules” are marked through)

Operations



Criteria For Levels

(Commit prohibited behavior or new charge moves up a level)



D List	C List	B List	A List
<p>No previous charges for DV</p> <p>Responding officer can identify an aggressor but no arrest can be made</p> <p>Officer believes the potential exists for violence</p> <p>Validated intimate partner relationship</p>	<p>1st charge for DV related offense</p>	<p>2nd charge of DV related offense</p> <p>or</p> <p>Violation of prohibited behavior for which offender received notice as C list offender (violating pretrial conditions, contacting victim, etc.)</p>	<p>3rd or more DV charges</p> <p>Offender has violent record including DV</p> <p>Violation of 50B protective order</p> <p>Used weapon in DV</p> <p>Convicted felon</p>

LPD has not yet started B-list notifications

Types of Notification

D List	C List	B List	A List
<p>Receives letter from Police putting him on official notice and their name is added to the watch list</p> <p>Delivered by a trained patrol officer during a follow up visit within 48 hours of the call</p>	<p>Face-to-face deterrent message from Violent Crime Detective</p> <p>Often while offender is still in jail and just before going before judge for bond hearing</p>	<p>Law enforcement and community message face-to-face</p> <p>Offenders called to a notification perhaps quarterly or more frequent</p>	<p>At time of arrest or indictment</p>

Graphic Source: Chief Marty Sumner, High Point Police Department

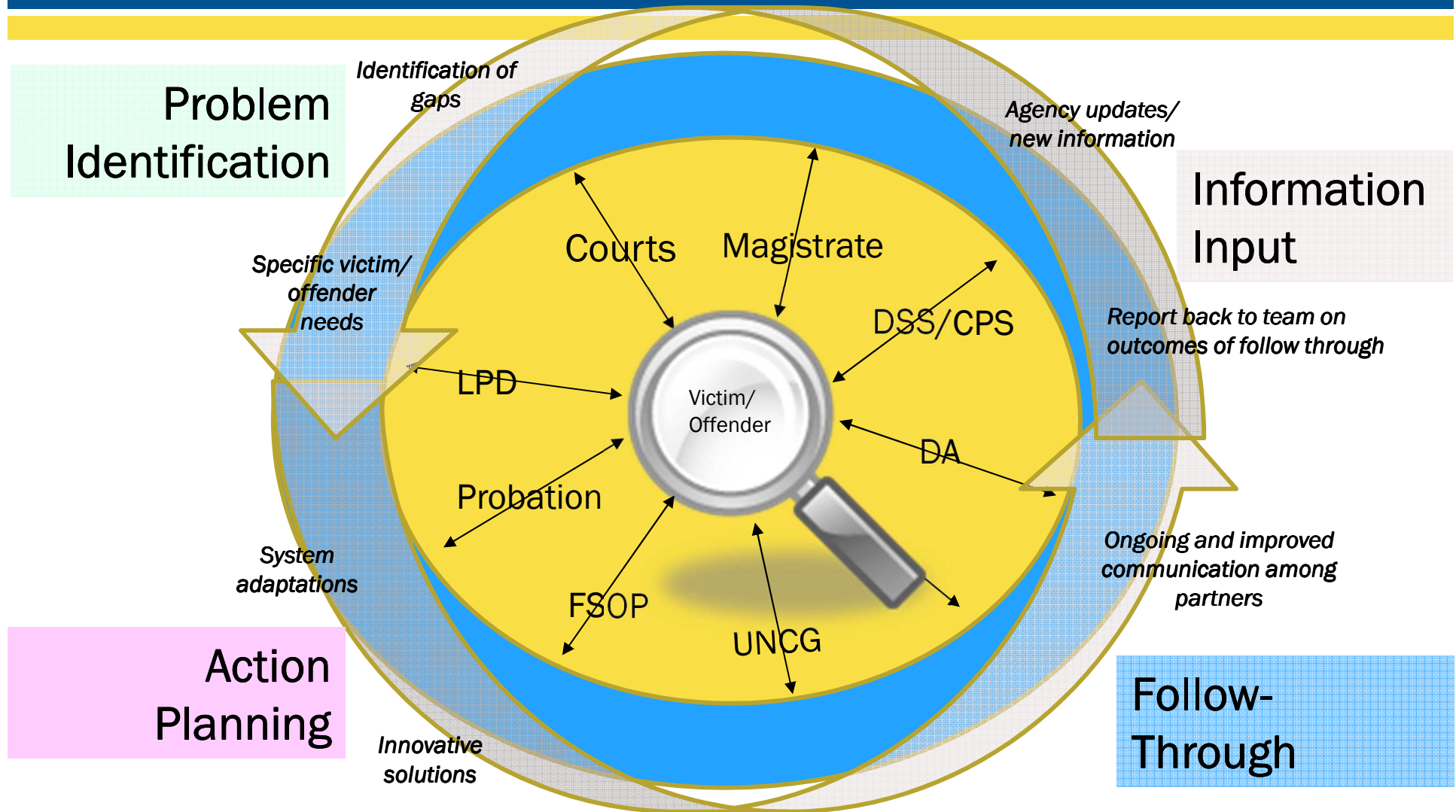
Processes



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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Team Problem Solving Approach



REMEMBER:

Some of the strategy's greatest success will not be quantified in the data!!!!

Impact



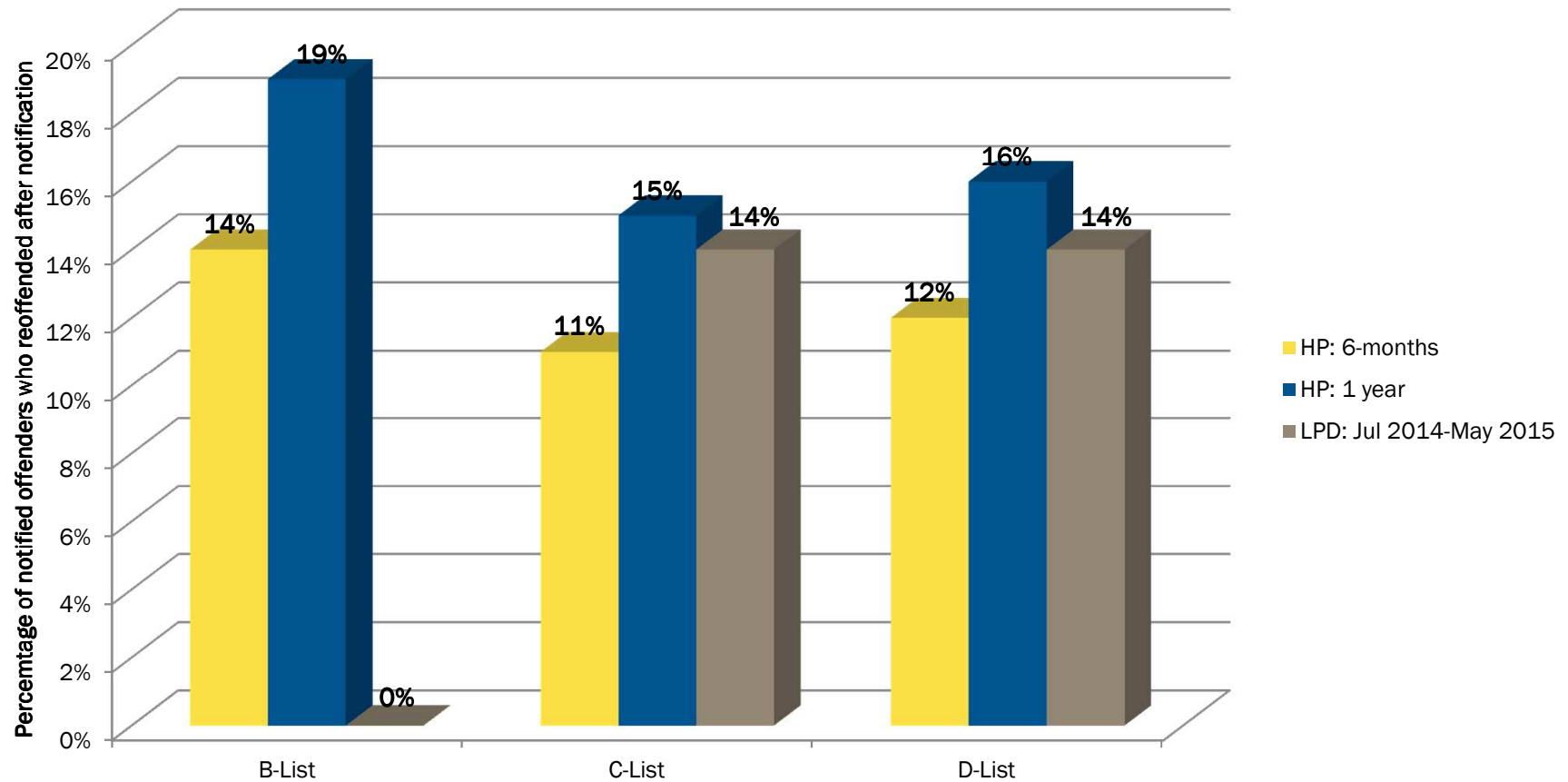
Who has been notified?

Characteristics of Notified Offenders

	Total #	Sex	Average Age	DV History
C List	170	79% male	34 years	79% had <i>only the one DV</i> arrest for which they were C-notified; 21% had at least one DV arrest <i>prior to their C-level arrest</i> with some having as many as 4 prior DV arrests
D List	214	77% male	34.8 years	83% had no prior DV arrests; 17% had at least one prior DV arrest

Is offender behavior changing?

Recidivism Rates for Notified Offenders in High Point & Lexington

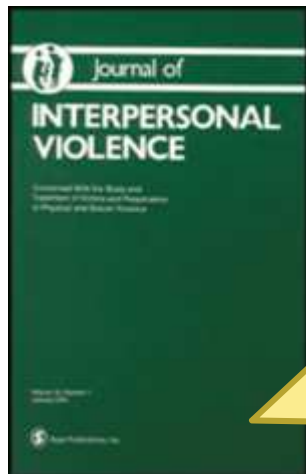


Notified Offender Recidivism Rates in Perspective

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

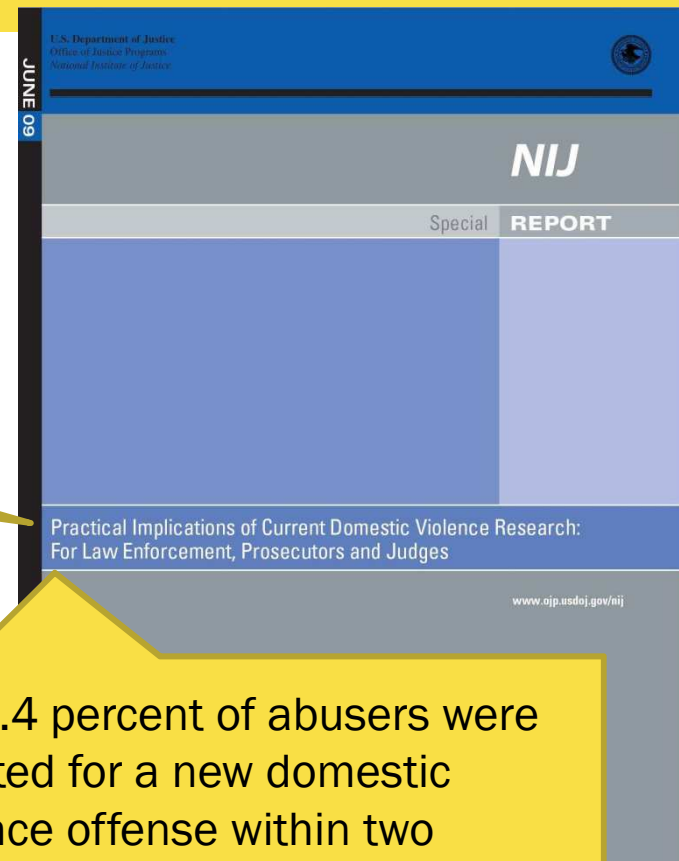
“Depending on how reabuse is measured, over what period of time...a hard core of approximately 1/3 of abusers will reabuse in the short run, and more will reabuse in the long run.”

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

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

The percentage of victim injuries in arrest incidents in Lexington since the strategy has begun are below the national rate.

Percentage of Arrests Resulting in Victim Injury

Nationally, 48.1% of DV incidents result in victim injury (NCVS)

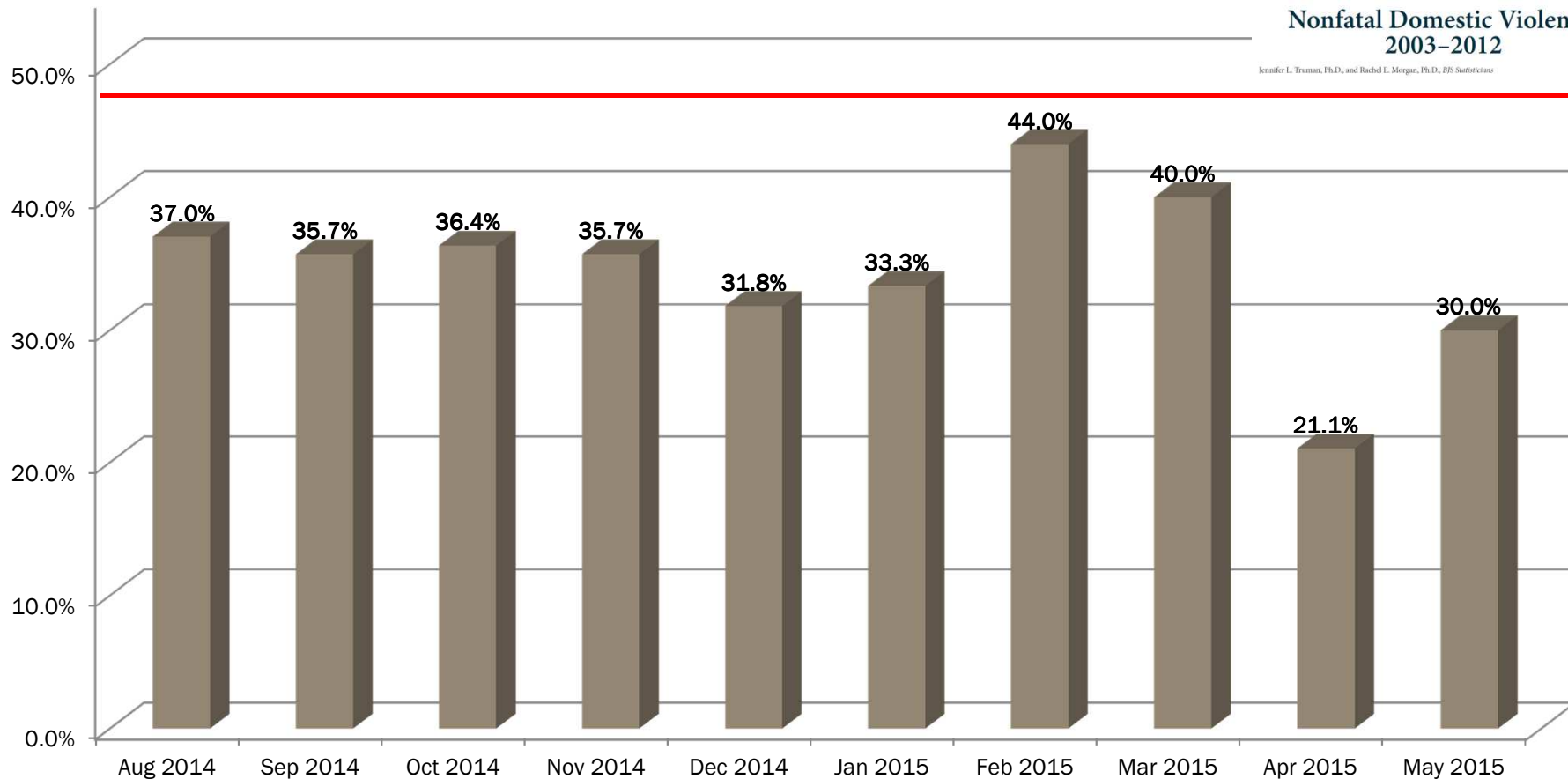
U.S. Department of Justice
Office of Justice Programs
Bureau of Justice Statistics
APRIL 2014

SPECIAL REPORT



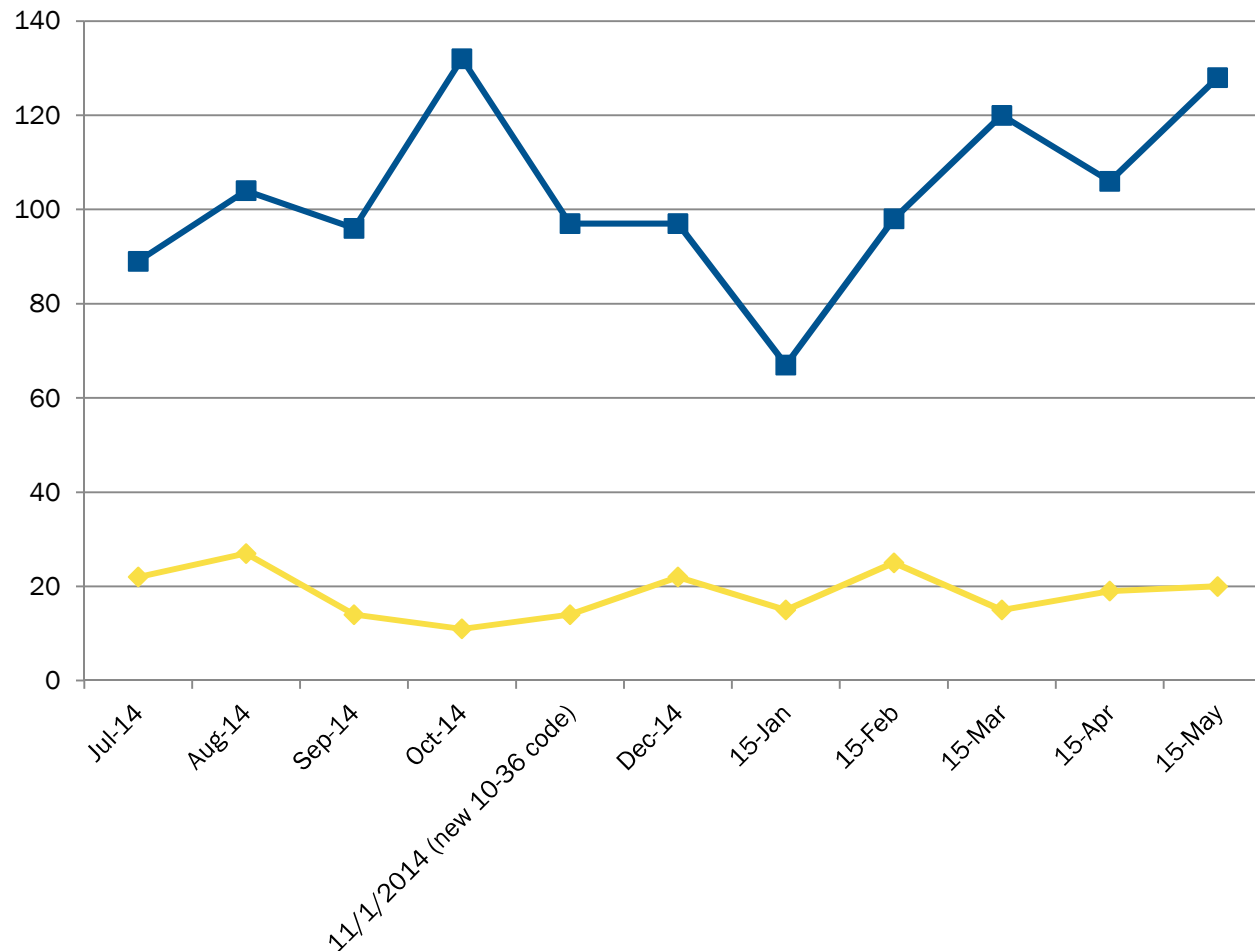
Nonfatal Domestic Violence, 2003–2012

Jennifer L. Truman, Ph.D., and Rachel E. Morgan, Ph.D., BJS Statisticians



There has been variation in the numbers of arrests and calls for service over the course of the strategy.

Monthly Tracking of DV Arrests and IP DV CFS



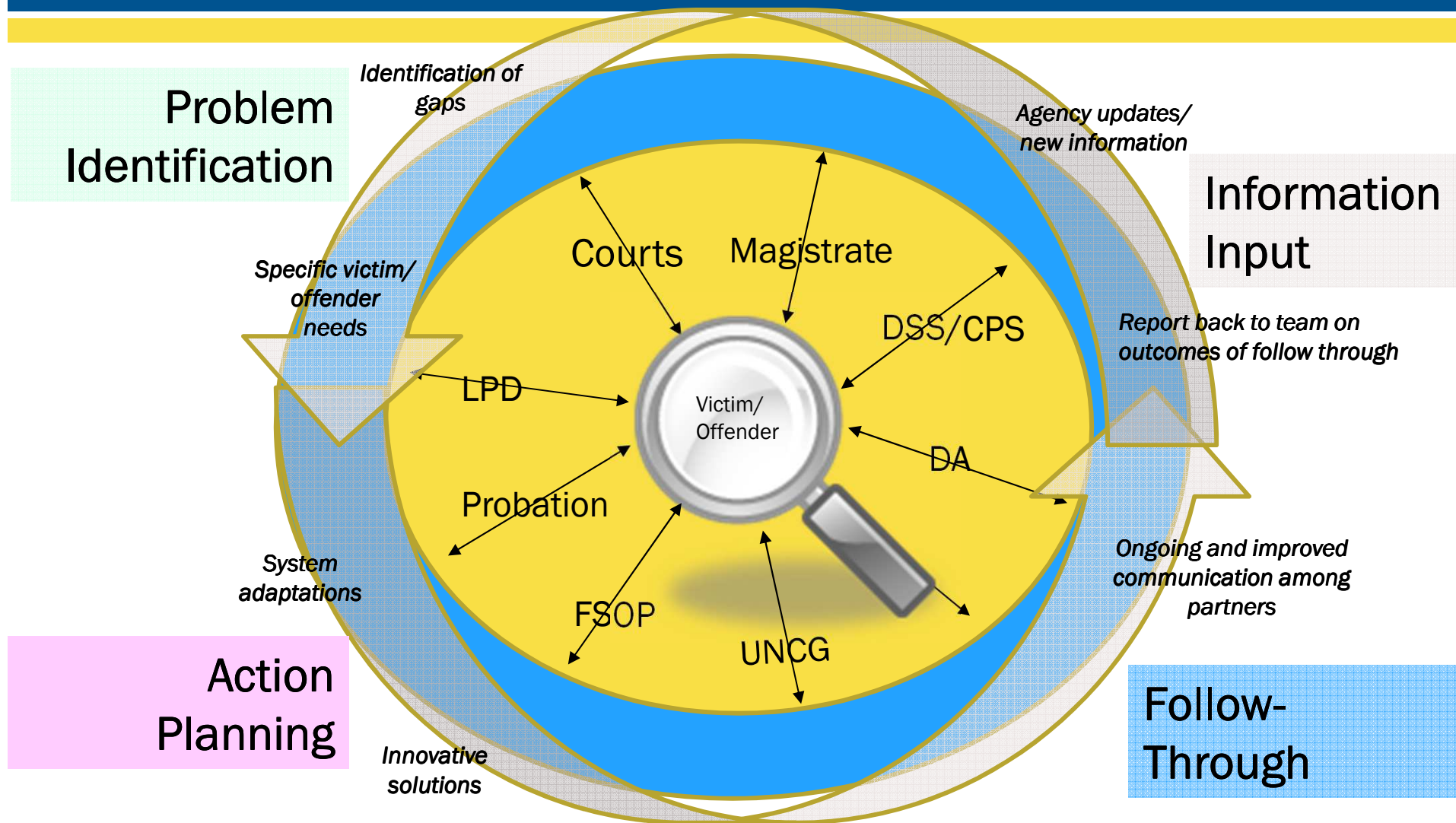
HP has seen a 20% decrease in CFS & projected 37% decrease over next 2 years

Reductions in CFS and arrests are expected over time. When the strategy is new, we may expect calls and arrests to actually increase before they decrease.

◆ Total DV Offenders Arrested
■ Total IP DV CFS

HP has seen a 13% decrease in arrests & projected 41% decrease over next 2 years

Team Problem Solving Approach



Closing

- ☞ Thank you to all of the partners who have collaborated to make this initiative a success in Lexington!!!!
 - ☞ Next meeting will be August 5 at 2pm at the Lexington Police Department
 - ☞ We hope to see you all there!
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