



Offender Focused Domestic Violence Initiative in High Point, NC: Application of the Focused Deterrence Strategy to Combat Domestic Violence

Stacy Sechrist & John Weil, *North Carolina Network for Safe Communities*

Panel Discussion: *The Latest in Research and Practice on Criminal Justice Responses to Domestic and Sexual Violence*
Innovations in Domestic and Sexual Violence Research and Practice Conference: Promising Practices for a Peaceful North Carolina

Feb. 6 & 7, 2014

Evolution of OFDVI Strategy

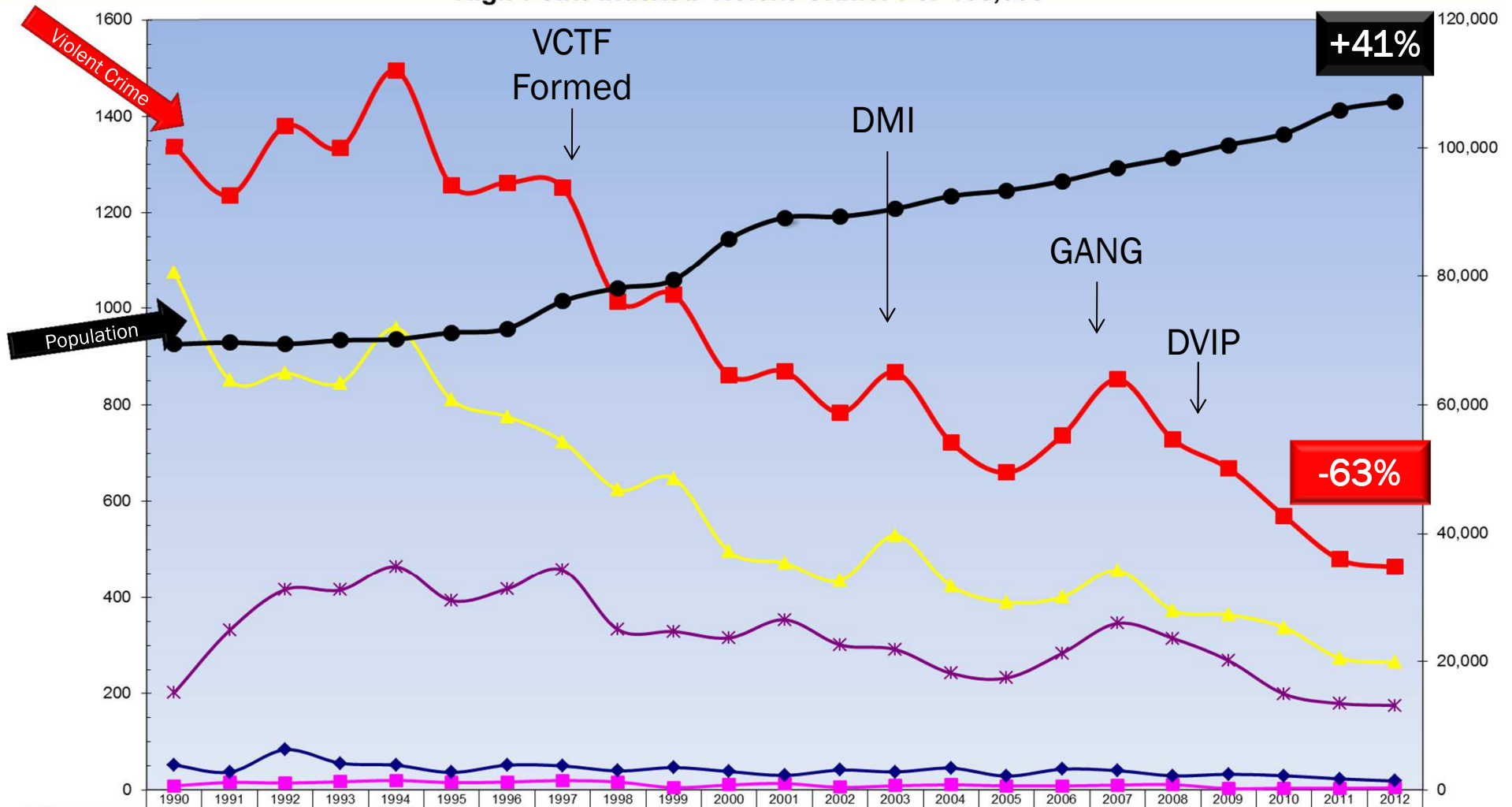


Theory Driving the Strategy: What's New?

- ∞ 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
 - Puts offenders on notice that their behavior will no longer be tolerated
 - Strips offenders' anonymity
 - Provides certain, swift, and severe consequences for continued DV
 - 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

Long-term Violent Crime Index in High Point

High Point Indexed Violent Crime: Per 100,000



Source: Chief Martv Sumner, High Point Police Department

Implementation



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>

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>

Source: Chief Marty Sumner, High Point Police Department

Why does focused deterrence work: Offender Profile — Chronic Offenders



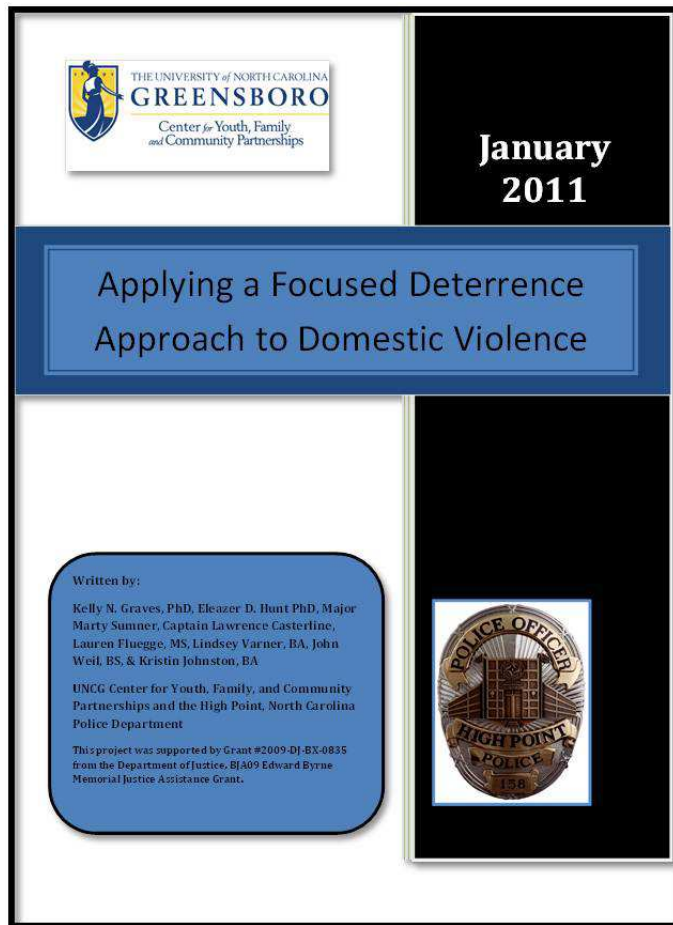
- ☞ *Lots of legal exposures or levers to pull*
- ☞ 8 HPPD Assault Arrests
- ☞ Simple to Assault on Female to Felony
- ☞ Drug, Disorderly, Felony Property, Weapon violations
- ☞ Gang Affiliations
- ☞ Unsatisfactory termination 3/06, previous absconder
- ☞ Currently Not Supervised
- ☞ 2004 and 2006 Assault 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

Offender Profile — Chronic Offenders



- ∞ 8 DV Arrests
- ∞ 7 Other Assaults, Robbery
- ∞ VCTF List
- ∞ Driving, Threats, Disorderly
- ∞ 6 Violations of DV Act

Original Research into High Point Domestic Violence Offenders



- Between 2000 and 2010 there were 1,033 people charged with a DV-related offense
- For a total of 10,328 different charges amongst them
- The average DV offender had 10 other charges
- Included both domestic and non-domestic related violence

B Level Call-in Message from Law Enforcement

(Delivered with RESPECT as spoken to a rational adult)

- ∞ It is not just domestic violence; it is VIOLENCE
- ∞ It will no longer be tolerated by community or law enforcement
- ∞ Clearly define what domestic violence/state prohibited behaviors
- ∞ From now on action will be driven by LEO, Not the victim
- ∞ Cases will be handled differently
- ∞ Explain exactly how the rules have been changed
- ∞ All information will be considered
- ∞ Each person receives ***a custom legal notification letter***
- ∞ *Any and all legal levers will be used to prosecute an offender if he or she chooses to commit a new DV offense*

B Level Call-in Message from Community

(Delivered with RESPECT as spoken to a rational adult)

- ∞ Domestic Violence is wrong
- ∞ This community is saying NO
- ∞ There is no excuse for domestic violence
- ∞ If you think nobody knows, nobody cares, that is not true, we do
- ∞ No more secrecy
- ∞ There is a serious cost to the community, family and children
- ∞ We care about you
- ∞ We support LEO in prosecuting you if you do not stop
- ∞ We are sharing information and working with the community to increase reporting

What Do the Victims Say?

- ∞ Offenders heard the message, understood it, and victims reported no post-notification violence
 - “Keep doing it [notification]”
 - ∞ Victims appreciate the message that they are not driving the strategy
 - ∞ Statement from the victim of a B-list offender who was prosecuted: “I know that at the dial of a phone number he [offender] could be arrested... He’ll be lingering, but the police’ll be waiting to catch him for stupidity.”
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Evaluation



Preliminary Findings/Trends

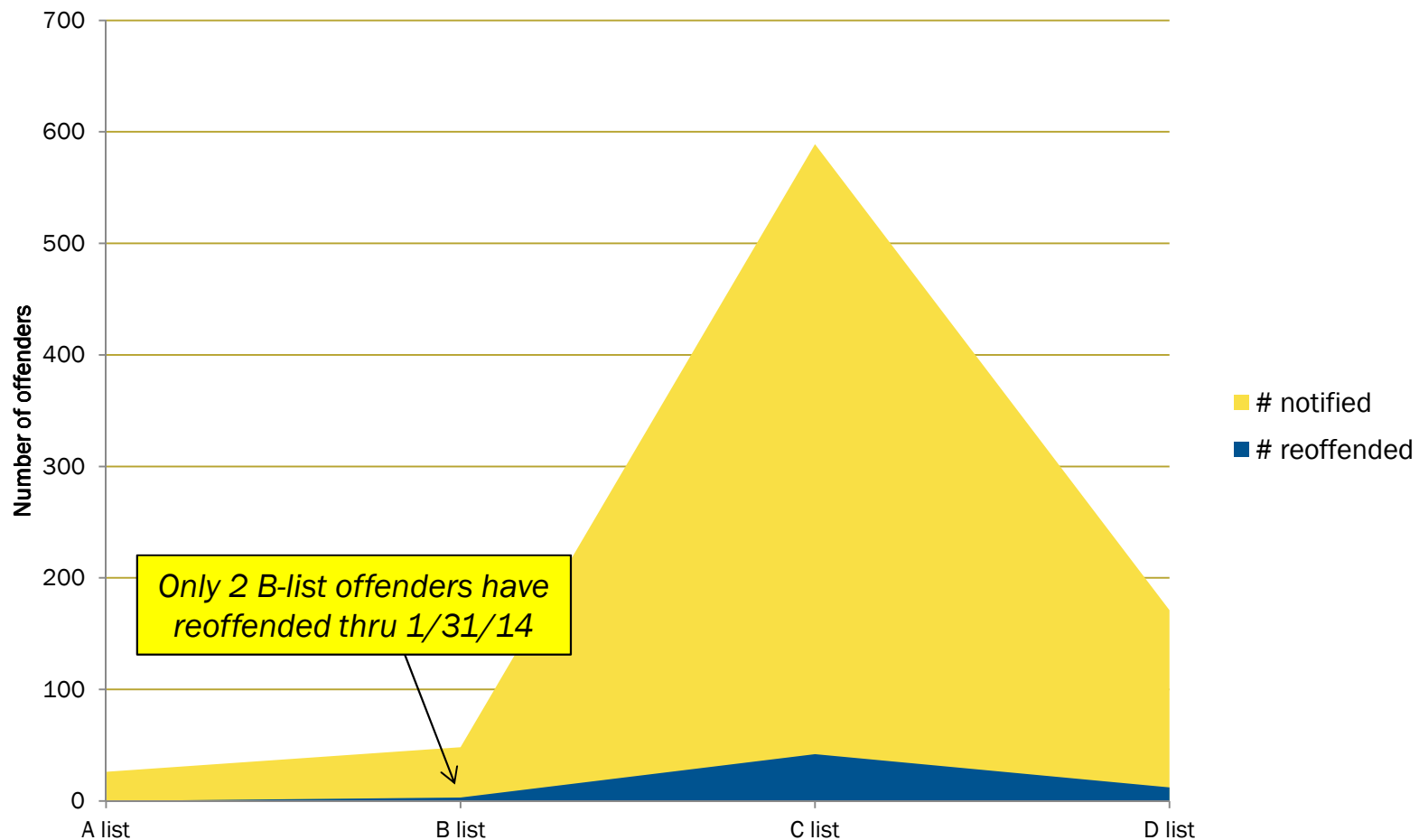
Defining Success of the Strategy: Research Questions & Operational Definitions

- ∞ Is offender behavior changing?
 - According to DV victim interviews, they stated, “I just want the violence to stop.”
 - Offender recidivism = subsequent DV-related arrest
 - ∞ Is victim harm decreasing?
 - Harm = reported injuries from DV arrest reports & homicides
 - ∞ What will the effect of the strategy be on law enforcement resources?
 - More of an exploratory question that will be important for replication
 - Resources = calls for service & DV-related arrests
 - ∞ Impact
 - Changes over time: pre- vs post-implementation
-

Is offender behavior changing?

Domestic Violence Offender Recidivism

As of May 2013, only 7% of offenders across notification lists have reoffended ($n = 834$)



Review of Offender Based Treatment & Other Approaches

Thomas P. George, Ph.D.

Washington State Center for Court Research

Administrative Office of the Courts

Olympia, WA

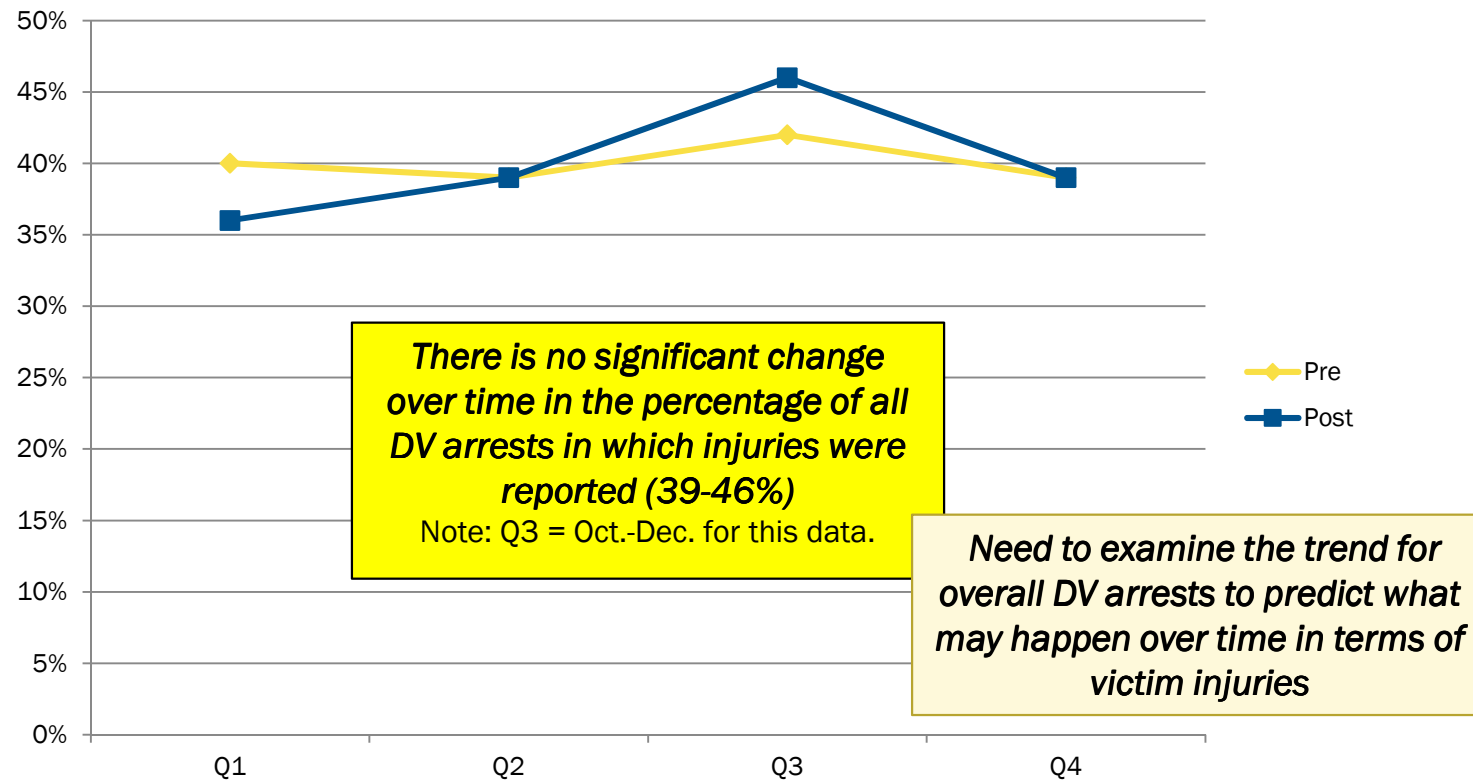
2012 study

	<u>Any Domestic Violence Offense:</u>		
	Misd	Felony	Misd or Felony
<i>Study Group:</i>	%	%	%
Fines/proscriptions only:	24	4	26
Treatment:			
Anger management:	19	2	21
Domestic violence	28	5	29
Victim-oriented	10	3	12
Probation:	13	2	14
Jail:	51	17	55
Any treatment & probation:	17	3	18
Any treatment & jail:	43	11	47
Jail & probation:	39	11	42
Jail, probation, and any treatment:	36	11	10
<i>All study groups: (n = 14,113)</i>	44	14	47
<i>All sentenced DV offenders: (n = 27,218)</i>	41	12	45

~7% of offenders notified through the OFDVI strategy have reoffended with a DV arrest... without additional costs associated with more traditional offender treatment options

Is victim harm decreasing?

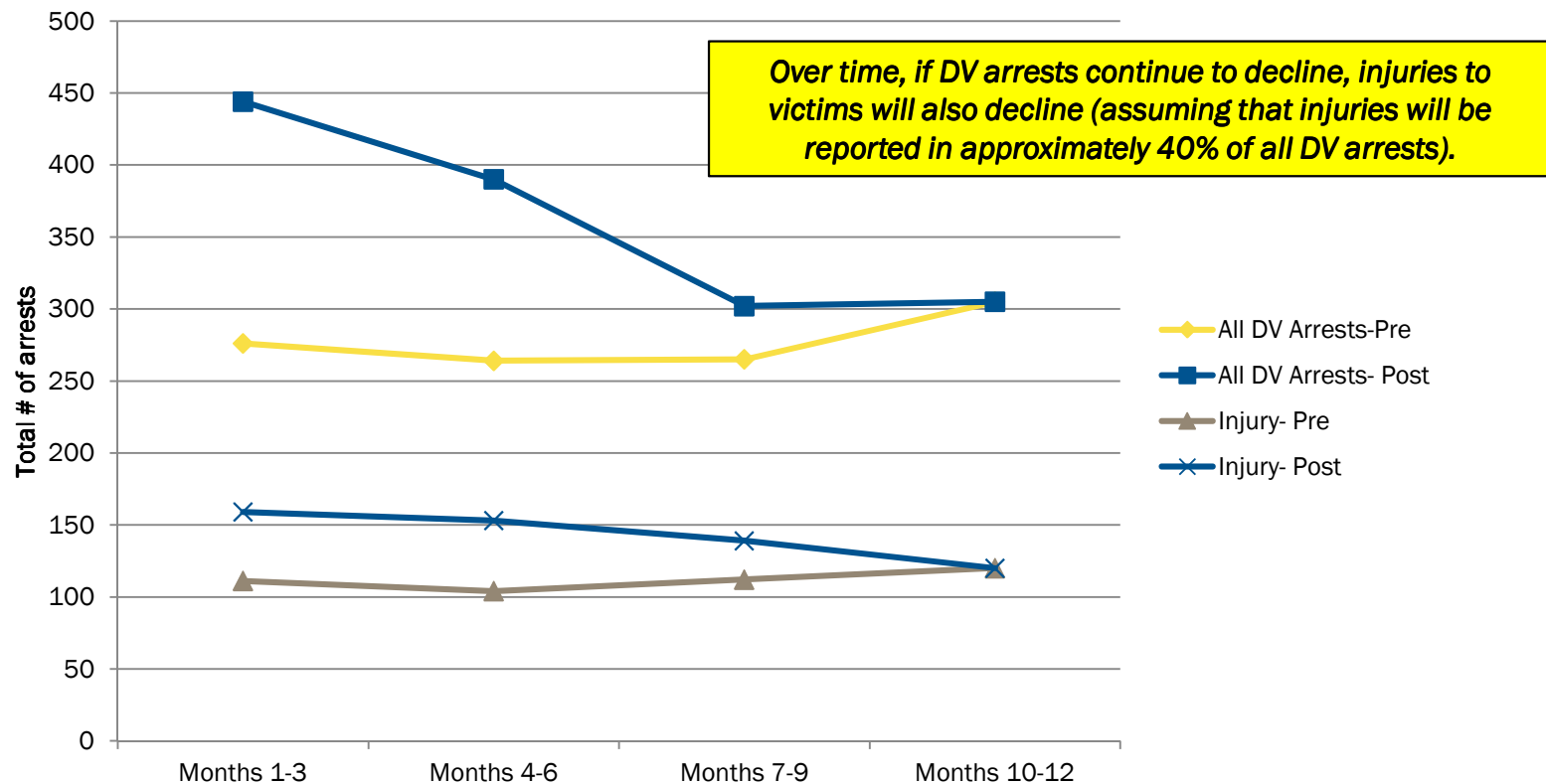
Percentage of Total DV Assault Arrests with Reported Injuries: Pre vs Post Strategy Implementation



Is victim harm decreasing?

Domestic Related Assaults with Injuries In High Point

DV Arrest/Injury Trends: Pre vs Post Implementation



Is victim harm decreasing?

Domestic Related Homicides In High Point

According to US DOJ stats, nationally 16.3% of all homicides involved intimate partners

- ▶ 2004 – 3 of 11 DV related (27%)
- ▶ 2005 – 5 of 9 (56%)
- ▶ 2006 – 4 of 10 (40%)
- ▶ 2007 – 1 of 10 (10%)
- ▶ 2008 – 4 of 12 (33%)

- ∞ 2009 – 0 of 3
- ∞ 2010 – 0 of 4
- ∞ 2011 – 0 of 4
- ∞ 2012 – 0 of 3
- ∞ 2013 – 1 of 2

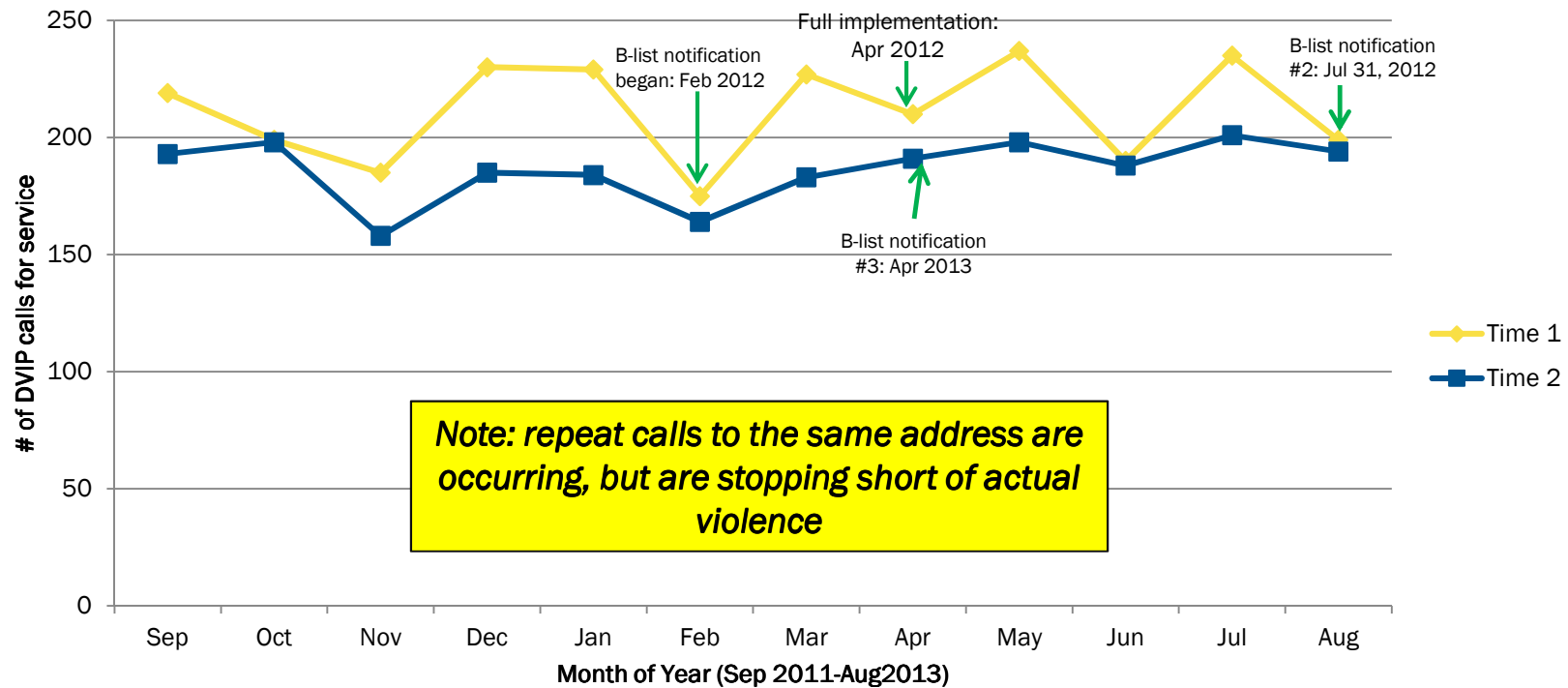
Guilford County has experienced 7 of 18 (39%) and NC has experienced 49 DV-related homicides up to Oct 2013 for the year (NCCDAV, 2013)

Family recently moved to HP from Ethiopia, no calls to residence, no DSS calls, no ER calls

What is the effect on law enforcement resources?

Calls for Service:

DVIP coded calls have decreased significantly over time since strategy implementation



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 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

Dr. Stacy Sechrist & John Weil

smsechri@uncg.edu

jdweil@uncg.edu

North Carolina Network for Safe Communities

Website: ncnsc.uncg.edu
