

Travis County Sheriff's Office Victim Services Unit



March 2018

Male Domestic Violence Victims

By: Benjamin Garza

Family violence can be described as a pattern of abusive behaviors by one or both partners in an intimate relationship (e.g. marriage, dating, family, friends and cohabitation). Family violence has been increasingly identified as a public health problem because it can lead to an increased risk of poor health, depressive symptoms, substance use and development of a chronic disease such as chronic mental illness and injury. As many of you know by now, family violence can be very dangerous and distressing to the victims. One group that tends to get overlooked is male victims of family violence.

Over time, research dealing with family violence has focused mainly on women as victims and men as perpetrators. Nonetheless, there are signs that women are at least as violent as men and that men experience similar types of physical abuse as women. Also, family violence against men often goes unrecognized since men are probably less likely than women to report such incidents for fear of embarrassment, fear of ridicule and the lack of available support services.

Fortunately, in recent years, there have been more articles that focus on male victims. Articles have found that men are significantly more likely to talk to the police when they have been physically attacked and when they have been assaulted with an object. Psychological violence is not visible and therefore more difficult to prove. This difficulty might be a reason why victims do not report psychological abuse to the police. As time continues to go on and more research is done, hopefully the concept of male victims of domestic violence is more widely accepted and not as stigmatized as it has been in the past. As Victim Services, it is important for us to recognize the signs and dynamics of abusive relationships and provide comprehensive services to all victims who may be at risk.

References

Drijber, B. C., Reijnders, U. J., & Ceelen, M. (2013). Male victims of domestic violence. *Journal of Family Violence*, (2), 173.

Machado, A., Matos, M., Santos, A., & Graham-Kevan, N. (n.d). Exploring Help Seeking Experiences of Male Victims of Female Perpetrators of IPV. *Journal of Family Violence*, 32(5), 513-523.

Muller, H., Desmarais, S., & Hamel, J. (2009). Do judicial responses to restraining order requests discriminate against male victims of domestic violence?. *Journal of Family Violence*, 24(8), 625-637.

**Next
Volunteer
Meeting**

March 14th
Courtney Santana
Survive 2 Thrive

6:30pm to 8:00pm
Sheriff's Office
5555 Airport Blvd.

Stats...What Do All These Numbers Mean?

By: Amy Durall

Statistics are a great source of information. **Experts often use statistics to understand large and complex sets of data.** The collection of data promotes insight and awareness into daily practices and future plans. Within the Victim Services Unit (VSU), we gather a significant amount of data related to the work we do and have taken the position that it's up to us to make a good use of this information.

On a **monthly** basis, data related to victims served—including victimization type, demographics, primary/secondary victim, language access needs, disabilities, types of services provided, location of services, and agency requesting—are gathered from all staff, all interns, and all volunteers. In order for this information to be useful, we depend on the reports of volunteers being submitted in a timely manner.

After compiling all of this information, requested data is then sent to collaborative groups that are utilizing the information to affect policy and practice changes in community agencies. This information is also provided to Administrative personnel for their review.

Also on a **monthly** basis, data related to on-call requests—including date, time of day, North/South, sector, report type, and response mode (phone/in-person)—are gathered for all responses. In case you haven't noticed, this information is included in the monthly newsletter—I hope you all are reading it!!

Because we ask Volunteers to commit to 4 four-hour shifts each month, we also commit to monitoring compliance with this request for each Volunteer. On a **monthly** basis, I compute the number of shifts for each Volunteer—tracking those who did not meet, those who partially met, and those who met and exceeded their commitment. This information is utilized by Heather to maintain effective communication with Volunteers and to maintain program standards.

On a **monthly** basis, I meet with all staff members who are on probationary status and complete a review of all cases assigned to them in the previous month. During that review process, I monitor if victims are being contacted in a timely manner and if all necessary services have been offered. This review process is also completed for all of the Interns on a monthly basis. It's also during this review process that I monitor how many cases are assigned to each staff member to ensure a fair distribution of workload among all personnel.

On a **quarterly** basis, data related to services provided on behalf of the outlying agencies—Bee Cave PD, Jonestown PD, Lago Vista PD, Lakeway PD, Manor PD, Mustang Ridge PD, Rollingwood PD, Sunset Valley PD, West Lake Hills PD—is compiled. This information is available to those agencies upon request, but it's also used to make adjustments in the daily case assignment process.

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On a **quarterly** basis, I meet with tenured staff members who have indicated an interest in this type of assessment and complete a review of all cases assigned to them in the previous quarter. During that review process, I monitor if victims are being contacted in a timely manner and if all necessary services have been offered. It's also during this review process that I monitor how they are progressing with projects that have been assigned to them.

Because TCSO was awarded funding through the DANY solicitation (District Attorney of New York) aimed at Sexual Assault Kit Backlog Elimination, a report is completed on a **quarterly** basis detailing the outcomes on cases connected with sexual assault kits. One of our Interns is completing data entry onto the spreadsheet for 536 cases spanning back to 1991!!

Although TCSO is unable to apply for grant funding currently (due to immigration policies that conflict with policies of the Office of the Governor), data is provided to several other agencies on a **quarterly** (or as requested) basis that helps them in completing their required reports to continue funding.

On an **annual** basis, data compiled throughout the year is utilized to highlight the amazing contributions of our Volunteers at the annual Appreciation Event. After that event, we routinely get feedback that people are amazed by all of your contributions!!

Also on an **annual** basis, data is reviewed for the services we provide on behalf of the outlying agencies. This data is used to make any necessary revisions to the Cooperative Working Agreements that TCSO has with each of the 9 outlying agencies.

On a **biennial** basis, a comprehensive evaluation of the Victim Services Unit is completed. This evaluation involves the periodic process of gathering data and then analyzing it in such a way that the resulting information can be used to determine whether the VSU is effectively carrying out planned activities, and the extent to which it is achieving its stated objectives and anticipated results. The biennial report includes the following information:

- The extent and major types of victimization within Travis County;
- Information and service needs of victims/survivors/witnesses in general;
- Victim assistance and related community services available within Travis County;
- Services provided by VSU personnel;
- Unmet victim/survivor/witness needs; and
- Identification of appropriate needs to be met by TCSO.

A biennial report was recently completed and the data within was utilized as justification for additional personnel (paid staff and interns) and the equipment necessary for those personnel to perform their responsibilities in the upcoming budget process. Keep your fingers crossed!!!

Without question, TCSO data was incredibly helpful to Manor PD when they elected to pursue grant funding to establish their own Victim Services Unit—serving Manor PD, Lago Vista PD, and Jonestown PD. We are so excited to see their program develop!!!

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And just when you think you've read enough about data and statistics, another important component is data gathered nationally that can inform local practices.

The National Crime Victimization Survey has been collecting data on personal and household victimization through an ongoing survey of a nationally-representative sample of residential addresses since 1973. The NCVS was designed with four primary objectives: (1) to develop detailed information about the victims and consequences of crime, (2) to estimate the number and types of crimes not reported to the police, (3) to provide uniform measures of selected types of crimes, and (4) to permit comparisons over time and types of areas. I recently had the pleasure of meeting one of the staff members who worked on the most recent version of this survey—I learned SOOO much about data that's available and more importantly about data that NOT available. This survey is often a source of information for people pursuing funding for services that assist crime victims.

The Uniform Crime Reporting (UCR) Program has been the starting place for law enforcement executives, students of criminal justice, researchers, members of the media, and the public at large seeking information on crime in the nation. The program was conceived in 1929 by the International Association of Chiefs of Police to meet the need for reliable uniform crime statistics for the nation. In 1930, the FBI was tasked with collecting, publishing, and archiving those statistics.

Today, four annual publications, *Crime in the United States*, *National Incident-Based Reporting System*, *Law Enforcement Officers Killed and Assaulted*, and *Hate Crime Statistics* are produced from data received from over 18,000 city, university/college, county, state, tribal, and federal law enforcement agencies voluntarily participating in the program. The crime data are submitted either through a state UCR Program or directly to the FBI's UCR Program. TCSO currently reports UCR information to the Department of Public Safety, who in turn, reports this information to the FBI.

In the near future, all law enforcement agencies throughout Texas will be making the transition from reporting through UCR to reporting through NIBRS. NIBRS is an incident-based reporting system for crimes known to the police. For each crime incident coming to the attention of law enforcement, a variety of data are collected about the incident. These data include the nature and types of specific offenses in the incident, characteristics of the victim(s) and offender(s), types and value of property stolen and recovered, and characteristics of persons arrested in connection with a crime incident.

Bottom line...VSU could not effectively serve victims/witnesses/survivors of crime and crisis circumstances without incorporating data into our daily work. So the next time you are wondering why we're pestering you about accurately completing your report...pull this article back up!! What may seem like minuscule information really does have long-lasting and significant impact.

Resources

<https://ucr.fbi.gov/>

<https://www.icpsr.umich.edu/icpsrweb/NACJD/NIBRS/>

February 2018 Stats—Call Type

ADAM

Assault w/Injury/FV (2)
 Assault by Contact/FV (1)

BAKER

Aggravated Assault w/Deadly Weapon/FV (2)
 Aggravated Assault w/Deadly Weapon/FV-Strangulation (1)
 Aggravated Robbery (1)
 Assault by Contact/FV (1)
 Assault by Threat/FV (1)
 Assault w/Injury/FV (9)
 Assault w/Injury/FV- Strangulation (4)
 Assist EMS (2)
 Attempted Suicide (1)
 Collision (1)
 Criminal Mischief/FV (1)
 Deceased Person (7)
 Harassment (1)
 Murder/FV (1)
 Sexual Assault of a Child (3)
 Sexual Assault (2)
 Sexual Assault/FV (2)
 Stalking/FV (1)
 Structure Fire (1)
 Unlawful Restraint/FV (1)

CHARLIE

Aggravated Assault w/ Deadly Weapon/FV (1)
 Aggravated Robbery w/ Deadly Weapon (1)
 Assault w/ Injury/FV (2)
 Deceased Person (1)
 Sexual Assault of a Child (1)
 Structure Fire (1)

DAVID

Assault w/ Injury/FV (2)
 Family Disturbance (1)
 Deceased Person (5)
 Peace Officer Emergency Detection (1)
 Solicitation of a Child (1)

OTHER AGENCIES

Assist Bee Cave (1)
 Assist Lago Vista (2)
 Assist Manor (1)
 Assist Mustang Ridge (1)
 Assist San Marcos (1)

February 2018 Stats—Day and Time

ADAM

SUN (2) 12p-4p (1)
4p-8p (1)
MON (0)
TUES (2) 12p-4p (1)
8p-12a (1)
WED (0)
THUR (1) 12a-4a (1)
FRI (0)
SAT (0)

CHARLIE

SUN (1) 8a-12p (1)
MON (1) 8a-12p (1)
TUES (1) 12p-4p (1)
WED (0)
THUR (1) 8a-12p (1)
FRI (3) 12p-4p (1)
4p-8p (1)
8p-12a (1)
SAT (1) 8p-12a (1)

BAKER

SUN (9) 4a-8a (1)
8a-12p (2)
12p-4p (2)
4p-8p (1)
8p-12a (3)
MON (5) 12a-4a (1)
4a-8a (2)
4p-8p (1)
8p-12a (1)
TUES (4) 4a-8a (1)
8a-12p (1)
8p-12a (2)
WED (4) 12a-4a (1)
12p-4p (2)
4p-8p (1)
THUR (7) 4a-8a (1)
8a-12p (2)
4p-8p (3)
8p-12a (1)
FRI (6) 12a-4a (1)
8a-12p (1)
12p-4p (2)
8p-12a (2)
SAT (11) 12a-4a (4)
8a-12p (2)
12p-4p (2)
4p-8p (1)
8p-12a (2)

DAVID

SUN (0)
MON (3) 12a-4a (2)
12p-4p (1)
TUES (2) 4a-8a (1)
12p-4p (1)
WED (2) 4a-8a (1)
8a-12p (1)
THUR (1) 8p-12a (1)
FRI (0)
SAT (3) 12p-4p (2)
4p-8p (1)

TCSO VICTIM SERVICES UNIT

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<https://www.tcsheriff.org/victim-services>

Got News?



If you have newsworthy items or announcements for the newsletter please pass them along to

Heather
 Heather I. Dooley
 @traviscountytx.gov

TRAVIS COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE VICTIM SERVICES

MISSION: WHY WE'RE HERE

To enhance the response of law enforcement, Travis County Sheriff's Office Victim Services provides crisis intervention, advocacy, and access to resources that reduce the impact of trauma on individuals and the community.

VISION: WHERE WE'RE HEADED

Travis County Sheriff's Office Victim Services envisions a community in which individuals experience compassionate support of choices, effective utilization of resources, and enhanced outcomes through collaborative services delivered with integrity and respect.

VALUES: WHAT WE BELIEVE IN

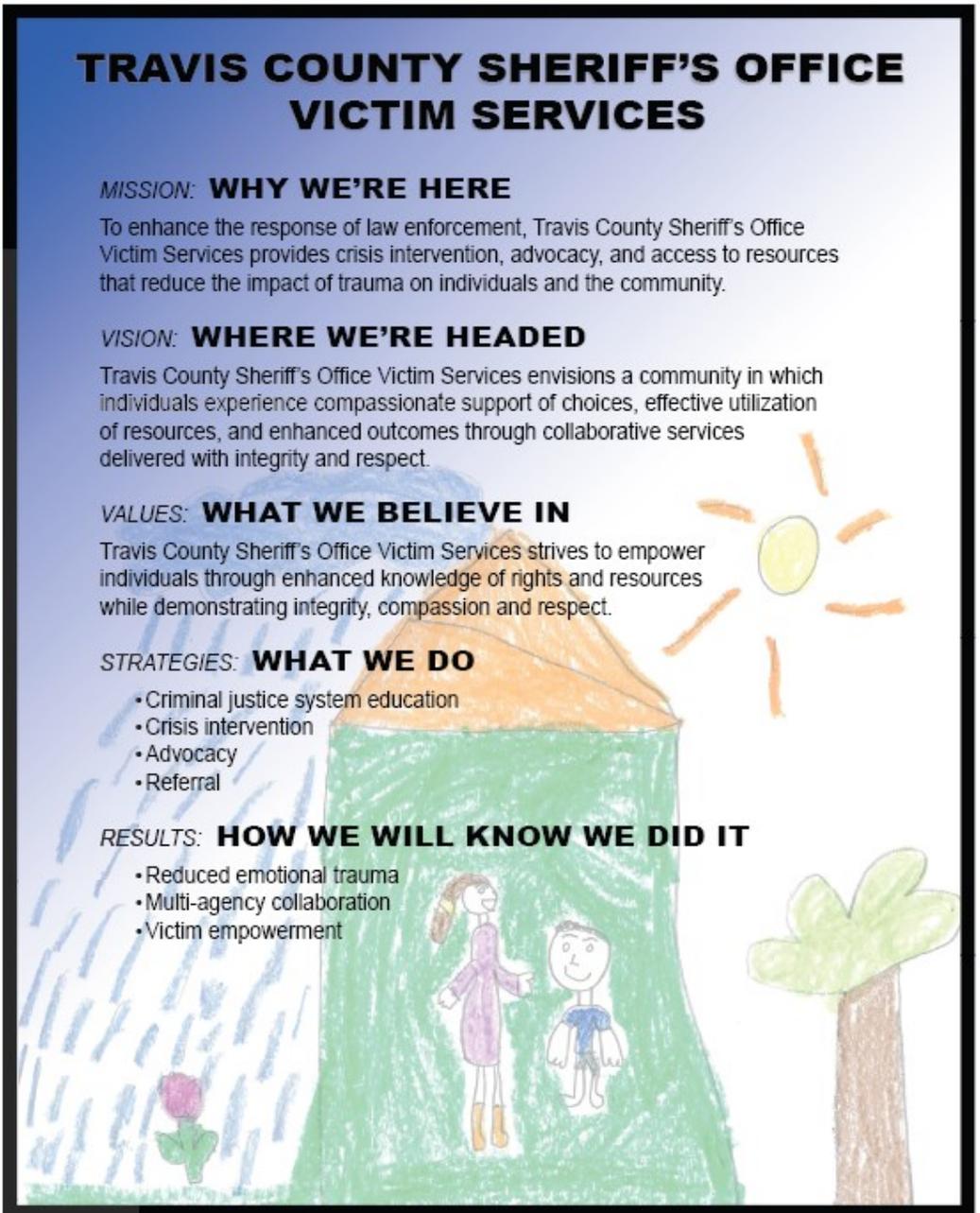
Travis County Sheriff's Office Victim Services strives to empower individuals through enhanced knowledge of rights and resources while demonstrating integrity, compassion and respect.

STRATEGIES: WHAT WE DO

- Criminal justice system education
- Crisis intervention
- Advocacy
- Referral

RESULTS: HOW WE WILL KNOW WE DID IT

- Reduced emotional trauma
- Multi-agency collaboration
- Victim empowerment



*No act of kindness,
 no matter how small,
 is ever wasted.*

~Aesop~