Reducing Domestic Violence in Chula Vista, CA

28th Annual Problem-Oriented Policing Conference

November 5th, 2018

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267,000 residents

232 sworn officers

Officer to citizen ratio = 0.87
Scanning
Impact on Community

• DV is **#2** type of police call for service (after false alarms)

• Each year, we log more **DV calls (4,000)** than all four of these calls **combined**:
  - Robbery
  - Residential burglary
  - Vehicle theft
  - Vehicle burglary

• **1,200 crimes per year**
Impact on **Officers**

- **8,000+** patrol hours/year spent on DV
- Emotional toll on officers
- DV calls most likely to result in officer fatality
- Difficult call for very young officers
Need More Than Services

• 15+ year partnership with DV advocates (SBCS)

• Heavy investment in victim resources

• 24/7 DV counselors

• Despite this, the # DV incidents had not gone down
Problem Analysis

Types of Analysis Conducted

- CFS, crime, arrest, jail, DA data
- Other police efforts
- Officer surveys
- Input from partner
Stubborn Problem

2007-2014

DV Calls Remained Flat

Rest of Calls Went Down 10%
Prior Police Efforts

High Point, NC - West Yorkshire, UK - Fremont, CA
Officer Survey

• Officers frustrated with repeat DV (87%)

• Skeptical of traditional responses (50+%)
DV Case Flow

10,180

2,771

1,340

657

2.5 Years of data
(1/1/12-6/30/14)

DV CFS

DV Crimes

DV Arrests

Cases Issued

Guilty
Breakdown of DV Call Types

DV Crime: 34%
Verbal Only: 60%
Other: 6%

Data is for CFS from 1/1/12-6/30/14
## Repeat Addresses

### 515 Glover Av – Unit #16

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>DispDateTime</th>
<th>DV CFS Category</th>
<th>Arrested Status</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>02/26/2014 21:35</td>
<td>Verbal Only DV CFS</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>03/09/2014 23:39</td>
<td>DV Crime</td>
<td>Not arrested</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>03/21/2014 17:15</td>
<td>DV Crime</td>
<td>Arrested on Scene</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>03/26/2014 7:33</td>
<td>Verbal Only DV CFS</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>04/05/2014 19:46</td>
<td>Verbal Only DV CFS</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>05/12/2014 0:17</td>
<td>Verbal Only DV CFS</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>05/13/2014 16:42</td>
<td>Verbal Only DV CFS</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>06/10/2014 2:27</td>
<td>Verbal Only DV CFS</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
### Repeat Incidents

It gets harder to prevent repeat incidents with each subsequent incident in Chula Vista.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Number of DV CFS to an Address</th>
<th>% That Repeat</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>26%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>41%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>51%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>58%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>50%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>62%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Data is for 1/1/12-6/30/14
Time Sequence

- High repeat rate
- **86%** of repeats occurred after 3 days
- Bruises fully developed
- Median time in jail < 3 days
Suspects and Victims

Most victims and suspects **under 40**

- Many suspects HBD alcohol (**30%**)
- Most couples had children (**56%**)

...
• Loud arguments affect child’s brain development
Response
One Year Experiment

Domestic Abuse Response Team

• 60+ patrol officers volunteered

• Enabled 24/7 coverage of one test sector (Sector 1)

• DART officers still responded to all regular calls in the sector

• Training and Protocol
Test/Comparison Areas

City of Chula Vista

Sector 1 (test area) about 430 DV crimes per year; 50,000 pop.

Sector 2 (comparison area) about 400 DV crimes per year; 69,000 pop.
### Three Level Approach

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Incident Type</th>
<th>Level</th>
<th>Response</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Verbal-only CFS</td>
<td><strong>Least Serious</strong></td>
<td>Education</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>First DV Crime</td>
<td><strong>More Serious</strong></td>
<td>Warning/Follow-Up</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Repeat CFS/crimes</td>
<td><strong>Chronic</strong></td>
<td>Customized Problem Solving</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
No DV Crime: 60% of CFS

Officer’s Message

• Domestic disturbance is **not** okay
• We take this very seriously
• Police will be checking on you

**Avoid Alcohol and Drugs:** Avoid arguments when either of you have been drinking or are under the influence of drugs. Things can quickly get out of hand!

**Impact of Domestic Abuse on Children**
Just hearing adults yelling is very scary for children of all ages. Babies and young children are affected the most. The fear caused by these arguments is bad for the development of their brains.

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**Domestic Disturbances & Loud Arguments**

The police were called because of a domestic disturbance. Everyone has disagreements, but not ones so intense that the police are called for help. What happened today is not okay.

The Chula Vista Police Department is taking new actions when responding to domestic violence. We will be checking in with you both in the future to make sure everyone is okay. If you ever need immediate help, CALL 911. The safety and well-being of everyone involved is our priority.

**Police take this seriously. So should you.**

**Advice from Police:**

- **Take a Time Out:** If you are upset, step away from the situation and take as much time as you need. Leave the room or home and allow your partner to do the same. Don’t continue a heated conversation!
- **Avoid Alcohol and Drugs:** Avoid arguments when either of you have been drinking or are under the influence of drugs. Things can quickly get out of hand!

**Impact of Domestic Abuse on Children**
Just hearing adults yelling is very scary for children of all ages. Babies and young children are affected the most. The fear caused by these arguments is bad for the development of their brains.

For more information, please watch “First Impressions: Exposure to Violence and a Child’s Developing Brain”

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**Call 911**

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No DV Crime: 60% of CFS

Follow Up Texts

- At 30 to 60 days
- Novel response
- Target audience was young
- Positive reaction

From: Chula Vista Police
Subj: Recent Domestic Disturbance

Hi Nanci. We wanted to check in and make sure you are okay. Please let us know how things are going by clicking here: www.followup.com. (To speak with an officer call 691-5151. If you are in danger, call 911 immediately.) Para español mande un texto con “S”.

Follow Up Texts
- At 30 to 60 days
- Novel response
- Target audience was young
- Positive reaction
First DV Crime

Jail warning to offender

Victim gets copy and services

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**WARNING** to Domestic Violence Offenders

1. We will not tolerate domestic violence. It’s a crime against the family and community.

2. The Chula Vista Police Department, District Attorney’s Office, and Probation Department are working together to prevent domestic violence.

3. Unless you stop abusing your partner, you’ll receive a great deal of attention from the Chula Vista Police Department.

4. You’re now subject to future unannounced police visits.

5. Any future incident involving you will be a priority for us. We’ll track you down if you flee the scene of a crime.

6. We’ll see what else you can be prosecuted for, including old cases that were dismissed.

7. This new approach is being driven by us, the POLICE—not the victim.

8. You have been admonished and warned.

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**ARRESTEE / SUSPECT**

Sign to acknowledge warning:
First DV Crime

Unannounced 3-day follow up by patrol officers

If no one home left “We stopped by” cards
Chronic Couples

- Non-criminal justice system responses
- Custom problem-solving
## Response Volume

### Responses Delivered – 18 Months

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Level</th>
<th># Responses</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Education</td>
<td>450+</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Warning/Follow Up</td>
<td>280+</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Custom Problem Solving</td>
<td>60+</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Assessment
Did it Work?

Impact Measures

• DV Crimes
• DV Calls
• DV victim satisfaction
• DV subjects verbal-only calls
• Officer time
• Project officer views
Crime Impact
Weekly Average # of DV Crimes

Sector 1
- Phase 1: 8.2
- Phase 2: 6.2
- Phase 3: 8.5

Sector 2
- Phase 1: 7.1
- Phase 2: 7.5
- Phase 3: 7.4

Phase 1 = baseline; Phase 2 = after response in place 1 year; Phase 3 = paused experiment
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Sector 1</th>
<th>Sector 2</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>DV Crimes</td>
<td>-24%*</td>
<td>+3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DV Calls</td>
<td>-3%</td>
<td>+10%*</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* Change statistically significant at 99% confidence level
Victims More Satisfied

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Police Response</th>
<th>Sector 1</th>
<th>Sector 2</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Satisfied</td>
<td>97%</td>
<td>81%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dissatisfied</td>
<td>3%</td>
<td>18%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

(Survey conducted by DV advocates)
DV Subjects Positive

• **88%** of domestic disturbance subjects said things have gotten better since the Level 1 or 2 police response

• **81%** said police helped the problem

• Only **8%** said they would not call police again for help
Saved Time

Patrol

• 200 projected hours saved by 24% fewer DV crimes/year in Sector 1*

Investigations

• 120 projected hours saved/year in Sector 1

* Includes extra patrol time spent on follow ups
Project Officer Survey

Project Has Been Effective

- Agree: 77%
- Neutral: 22%
- Disagree: 3%
Project Officers: Go Citywide

Project Should be Expanded

- Agree: 67%
- Neutral: 23%
- Disagree: 10%
Questions?

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