Chula Vista Police Department

Chula Vista Project to Reduce Domestic Violence

International Problem-Oriented Policing Conference

October 2nd and 3rd, 2017

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Chula Vista

265,000 residents

232 sworn officers

United States

Mexico
Why DV?

• DV is **#2** type of police call for service (CFS) in Chula Vista (after false burglary alarms)

• **4,000** DV calls for service (CFS) each year (65,500 citizen CFS)
  - Intimate partner only
  - Includes domestic disturbances (DD)

• **8,000+** patrol hours spent on DV
Overall DV CFS Trend

Chart only includes CFS coded specifically as DV; raw CFS numbers are an undercount, because they do not include DV-related CFS coded as robberies, assault w/deadly weapon, etc.
DV Project

- Grant to try new response to persistent problem
- No officer salaries funded
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.
Four formal partners in police-led project
Problem Analysis

Types of Analysis Conducted

• Literature review – to find prior successful projects

• Survey data

• Crunched internal/external data

  – 10,180 CFS (2.5 years of data)
Prior Approaches

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

• Hold offenders accountable
• Action driven by police, not victim
• Focus resources on repeat suspects and victims
• Protect and support victims
Officer Survey

• **87%** frustrated with verbal-only, non-crime incidents

• **70%** said TROs and batterer treatment not effective

• **48%** of officers said arresting someone on a DV seldom helps prevent future incidents
Verbal-Only Most Common

Breakdown of DV Calls for Service Types

Data is for CFS from 1/1/12-6/30/14
DV Incident Flow

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

10,180

2,771

1,340

657

567

DV CFS

DV Crimes

DV Arrests

Cases Issued

Guilty
## 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.
Residential Repeats

Test Sector 1 - Six Months of CFS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>% of Residential DV Addresses</th>
<th>% of Residential DV CFS</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>6%*</td>
<td>19%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*23 unique residential addresses

Data is for 1/1/14-6/30/14  Non-crime domestic disturbances are included
<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>
Problems with addresses

- 38%* of DV CFS occur at non-residential locations
- People move around; they are not always in their home
- Using residential addresses undercounts repeat incidents

*Data is for July 2014
## Special DV Populations

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Special Populations</th>
<th>% of DV Couples</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Homeless*</td>
<td>17%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Teens*</td>
<td>7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Age 65+*</td>
<td>2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Same Sex Couples</td>
<td>1.5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Female Offenders</td>
<td>25%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Domestic Abuse Response Team

- 60+ patrol officers volunteered
- 24/7 coverage of test sector
- Implementing response protocol in Sector 1 only
- DART officers still respond to all regular calls in the sector
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.
## Chula Vista Approach

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Level</th>
<th>Type of Incident</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Level 1/2</strong></td>
<td>Verbal-only call – no crime</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Level 3</strong></td>
<td>DV Crime</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Level 4</strong></td>
<td>Repeat crime after warning</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Level 5</strong></td>
<td>Emergency</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Chronic</strong></td>
<td>Customized problem solving</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Tested model for **18 months**: Sep. 2015-Feb. 2017*
Officer’s Message

- Domestic disturbance is not okay
- We take this very seriously
- New approach
- Harms you, children, neighbors
- Police will be checking on you
Follow Up Texts

- At 30 to 60 days for Level 1 and 2 subjects, if possible
- Positive response

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”.
Level 3 Protocol

Jail warning to offender

Victim gets copy

WARNING to Domestic Violence Offenders

1. This is your official notice that we are taking a new approach to domestic violence offenders.
2. The Chula Vista Police Department, District Attorney’s Office, and Probation Department have created a special task force to reduce domestic violence. Your specific case will be handled by the Task Force.
3. The Task Force’s mission is to prevent future domestic violence incidents by focusing completely on offenders like you.
4. Domestic violence is wrong and will not be tolerated.
5. Domestic violence is a crime against the family and community. Children and other family members suffer greatly from actions like yours.
6. If you do not stop abusing your partner, you will receive a great deal of attention from the Domestic Violence Task Force. The only way you can avoid this attention is to stop abusing your partner from today forward. This means no more physical attacks of any kind, including pushing/shoving, and no more verbal abuse/domestic disputes.
7. If a future incident involving you will be a priority for us. If you flee the scene of an incident, we will make every effort to track you down. There are 30 police officers on the Task Force, and we will all be working together to focus on offenders who continue to commit acts of domestic violence.
8. We will examine your record to see if you have committed other crimes in the past. We will see what else you can be prosecuted for. If possible, we will reinvestigate old cases that were dismissed.
9. You are now subject to future unannounced police visits.
10. This new approach is being driven by the POLICE, not the victim.
11. You have been admonished and warned.
3-Day Follow-Up Timing

- 3-Day Theory
- 86% of repeats occurred after 3 days
- Bruises fully developed
- Median time in jail <3 days

In-Person Officer Follow Up

We stopped by...
Pasamos a ver...

We stopped by to check on your safety.
Chula Vista Police Officers ______ and ______ were here to check on you at ______ AM / PM.

The Chula Vista Police Department will continue to check on you to make sure you are okay. If you wish to talk to us about a non-emergency, we've included our business cards.

If you need immediate assistance, call 911.

Pasamos a ver que se encuentre bien.
Oficiales de Policía de Chula Vista ______ pasamos a ver a ______ AM / PM.

El Departamento de Policía seguirá visitándolo para asegurarnos que se encuentre bien. Si usted desea hablar con nosotros sobre un asunto que no sea de emergencia, le hemos dejado nuestra tarjeta de presentación.

Si necesita ayuda inmediata, llame al 911.
Level 4 Protocol

- Only if ignored (repeated) after Level 3 Warning
- Prioritize for prosecution with DA
- Customized problem solving for chronic couples
Range of Responses

Level 4/chronic couples

- Criminal justice system responses
- Non-criminal justice system responses
Michael

- 13 incidents in 2 months
- 13 separate patrol officers were involved in these incidents

Electronic monitoring from July-Oct 2016

1 CFS since July - “Info” call
Jennifer

- 6 incidents in 3 months
- 16 separate patrol officers were involved in these incidents

$50,000 bond
1 CFS since July 2016
Pled guilty Nov. 2016
## Response Volume

### Responses Delivered - 18 Months

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Level</th>
<th>Type of Incident</th>
<th># Responses*</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Level 1/2</strong></td>
<td>Verbal-only - flier</td>
<td>435</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Level 3</strong></td>
<td>Crime – warning/3-day FU attempts</td>
<td>287/ 496</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Level 4</strong></td>
<td>Repeat crime after warning - meeting</td>
<td>25+</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Chronic Verbal</strong></td>
<td>Customized problem solving</td>
<td>35+</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*preliminary response counts
Protocol Was Priority

**Reasons**

- Arrest in and of itself does not show impact
- Project was to test alternative responses
  - Tailored educational messages/warnings
  - In-person follow-ups
  - Accountability
Impact Measures

- DV crime
- DV calls
- Victim satisfaction
- Officer views
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time Period</th>
<th>Sector 1</th>
<th>Sector 2</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>After 1 Year</td>
<td>-24%*</td>
<td>+3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>While Suspended</td>
<td>+36%*</td>
<td>-5%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*** Findings were statistically significant at the 99% confidence level and compiled by independent evaluator
Avg. DV Crimes/Week

**Sector 1**
- Pre: 8.20
- Post: 6.27
- Suspend: 8.50

**Sector 2**
- Pre: 7.40
- Post: 7.65
- Suspend: 7.27
Level 1 and 2 Text Surveys

- **88%** of 415DV 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
<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>

*South Bay Community Services (SBCS), a victim service provider, conducted follow surveys with a group of victims*
% of Officers Who Said DART Project Should be Expanded in Patrol

- 53% Had Good Understanding of DART
- 31% Neutral Understanding of DART
- 16% Did Not Have Good Understanding of DART
Fall 2017 – evaluation continues
Which interventions most effective
Prevalence of repeat calls
Time between repeat calls
Severity of repeat calls
Questions/Ideas?

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