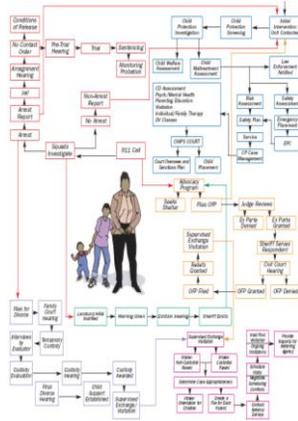






# Institutional Intervention




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## The Question

How Does Documentation of the Initial Police Response to a Domestic Violence Call Aid Subsequent Interveners in Domestic Violence Cases?

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## Multi-disciplinary Team

- Representatives of each of the three police departments
- The sheriff's office
- 911
- Jail
- Prosecution
- Probation
- Community-based advocacy
- In-home family support services
- Child advocacy center
- Marriage and family therapy

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# Methodology and Data Collection

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## Foundation

The team received training on understanding:

- Institutional case processing, or how a victim of battering becomes a **case**
- How response to that case is organized and coordinated within and across interveners
- The complexity of risk and safety for each individual victim

This foundation carried through to the team's work and analysis.

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Initial Police Response to DV Calls  
Figure 1



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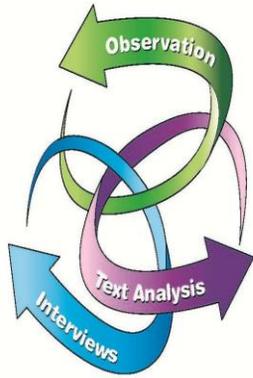
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Data Collection




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To learn about individual experiences and institutional responses, the team conducted:

- Interviews, including victim/survivor focus groups
- Observations of interveners in their real-time-and-place work settings
- Readings/analyses of forms, reports, etc. that organize case processing




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Focus of data collection is on institutional processes rather than individual workers:

- Interviews, observations, and file reviews sampled work process at different points to ensure a range of experiences.
- Interviews and observations were conducted of practitioners well-versed in their jobs.




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# Audit Trails




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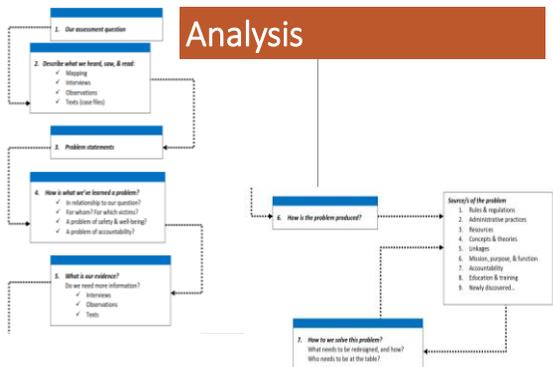
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# Analysis




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# Discovering Gaps

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## Gap 1

Little was documented about the exposure to and impact of domestic violence experienced by **children at the scenes** of domestic violence calls.

Figure 1: Who would be helped by such documentation?




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## Gap 1

Little was documented about the exposure to and impact of domestic violence experienced by **children at the scenes** of domestic violence calls.

***Of the 83 police reports from the three participating departments, 28 indicated minor children were present . . .***

Team members reviewing the reports of officers responding to those calls noted that there often wasn't any identifying information about the children (names, ages, and so on), any detail about children's involvement (whether a witness or not, etc.), or any detail about the physical, emotional, or mental state of the children.

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## From Figure 1 - Who Would Be Helped by Such Documentation?




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## What Contributes to This Gap?

- Lack of training
- Lack of confidence
- Parental concerns about interviewing children

However, children are often “ear” witnesses” - still impacted by violence, with valuable information. An officer recognizing this documented:

*“She was in the bedroom with her younger sister . . . . She heard the victim and suspect arguing, and did not want to go out and see what was happening. She stated that this has happened before. As they continued to yell at each other, she heard and felt a thud on the floor.”*

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## What Will Help Address This Gap?

Training for officers responding to calls where children are present that includes the difference between an on-scene assessment and an interview.

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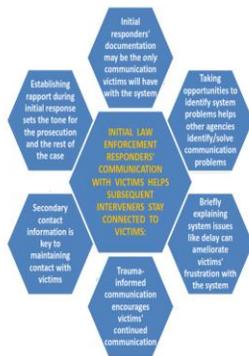
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### Gap 2

There are missed opportunities for *staying connected with victims* after they have made their initial call to 911 to report domestic violence.

Figure 2: Who would be helped by fostering these opportunities?




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## From Figure 2 - Who Would Be Helped by Fostering These Opportunities?




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## What Contributes to This Gap?

A victim who dropped out of the investigative or prosecution process sometimes did so after communication from the suspect's attorney or sometimes after retaining her own attorney, which prevented law enforcement officers, investigators or prosecutors from talking to her.

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## What Will Help Address This Gap?

**Educate victims on areas of special or serious concern.**

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## Funding implementation of recommendations to:

- engage practitioners AND victims in identifying priority areas
- establish a plan of action
- implement the most actionable items first
- share what was learned with the community
- support local coordinator
- support ongoing involvement of national consultant




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## Support for Safety Audits & community assessment

### OVW GRANT SOLICITATIONS

- Rural Grant Program
- Grants to Encourage Arrest Program

### TRAINING & TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE

- Attend the May 12-15, 2015 Community Assessment Institute – Registration is now open!**
- The Praxis Safety and Accountability Audit Toolkit
- Logistics Guide for Coordinators
- Monthly webinars




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## Thank You

For questions, assistance, or more information, please contact:

Maren Woods, Program Manager

Praxis International, Inc.

[maren@praxisinternational.org](mailto:maren@praxisinternational.org)

(651) 699-8000, ext. 10




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