



BACKGROUND

DVHVI Home Visit Outreach:

An unannounced home-visit is conducted by a police officer-domestic violence advocate team within 72 hours of a domestic incident that was reported to the police department.

Goals of the Visit:

- Monitor victim safety
- Provide information
 - Police/court processes
 - Children's responses to DV
- Build relationships between victims and neighborhood patrol
- Improve enforcement of court orders
- Non-crisis setting for offering social services

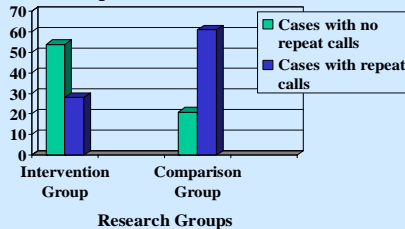
DVHVI Home Visit Outreach

- Services Provided
 - Safety Planning
 - Court Information
 - Police-related info and enhanced enforcement
 - Child-related info/referral
 - Adult mental health assessments (locks, bldg. repair, 911 cell phones)
 - Alternate Housing
 - Basic Needs
 - Legal Assistance
 - Emergency Shelter
 - CPS Info/assistance

Pilot Study

- Matched Comparison (4 districts vs. 6 districts)
- 102 women received follow-up police/advocate intervention
- 102 women received standard 911 police response
- Police record review for 12 months following target DV

Comparison of Recidivism



- Intervention & comparison groups matched across several variables
 - Time
 - Charges
 - misdemeanor
 - misdemeanor assault
 - felony
 - Previous DV History
 - Jail time for perpetrator
 - Age
 - Ethnicity
 - Relationship type

Pilot Results

- The pilot indicated a 57% reduction in recidivism for the intervention group
- Despite these promising results the data raised more questions:
 - Why the reductions?
 - Given that the data used police records only we can say nothing about the reason for the reduction. Did women stop calling the police because they did not like the intervention etc.
 - Given these questions, a pilot involving direct interviews with women was initiated.

CURRENT STUDY

Goals

- Determine effectiveness of the DVHVI in reducing incidents of repeat violence and increasing women's engagement in services
- Evaluate which aspects of the intervention women find helpful and what other community resources they use
- Gain insight into how women and children view police intervention in DV families
- Assess adjustment of children following DV incidents specifically with regard to trauma symptoms

Measures-Administered within 6 weeks of the domestic, 6 and 12 months later

- Conflict Tactics Scale 2
- Resource Utilization Questionnaire
- Police Satisfaction Questionnaire
- UCLA PTSD Interview
- Posttraumatic Checklist (PCL)
- Danger Assessment Scale
- Child Behavior Checklist
- Traumatic Events Screening Inventory-Parent and Self Reports
- Brief Symptom Inventory

Child Interviews

- Women with children aged 5-19 were asked to allow their children to be interviewed for the study
- 34 women had children under the age of 5, 4 women had no children, and 1 woman was pregnant with her first child at the time of the interview
- Of the 65 eligible women, 23 agreed to have their children interviewed as part of the study. The remaining 42 refused most stating that they did not want their children interviewed about the domestic incident or anything related to the topic.

Sample Demographics: Baseline Data (completed 10/05): 105 interviews: 50 Intervention and 55 Control

Age

- Victims range in age from 17-63 (mean=30, SD=8.65)
- Male Perps range in age from 17-74 (mean=33, SD=10.65)

Ethnicity for the entire sample

- 13.2% Caucasian
- 52.8% African American
- 28.3% Latina
- 5.7% Other
- There were significant differences between the intervention and control groups for ethnicity with more African Americans in the Control group (34.9% vs. 17.9%) and more Latinas in the Intervention group (22.6% vs. 5.7%)

Education

- 23.9% less than high school
- 37.1% high school degree
- 33.3% some college
- 2.9% bachelors degree

Income

- 89.4% <20,000
- 7.8% 20-30,000
- 2.9% 30-50,000
- 56.6% unemployed

Employment

- 56.6% unemployed
- 21.7% part-time
- 17.9% full-time
- 3.8% students

Relationship Type-Length of relationship ranged from 2 months to 25 years (mean=56months, mode=36 months)

- 14.2% of the couples were married
- 12.3% were live-in partners who were not married
- 43.4% were ex-partners
- 34% were intimate partners not living together

Range of Violence reported on the CTS at Baseline

- Groups were not significantly different in terms of violence levels
- The majority of women reported low level of overall violence in all CTS2 categories (CTS2 scores range from 0-1)
- Mean injury score=.09
- Mean physical abuse score=.11
- Mean psychological scores=.33
- Mean sexual abuse scores=.06

BASELINE POLICE SATISFACTION RESULTS

Women's Reports of Police Satisfaction

- Women rated their satisfaction with police services at the time of the incident in the following domains (rated on 5 point likert scale):
 - Own and children's feelings of safety
 - How helpful were the police
 - How respected they felt by the police
 - Overall interaction with police

ANOVA Results:

- Women in the intervention group significantly felt:
 - More respected by the police ($f=4.90, p<.05$)
 - Their overall interaction with the police was more positive ($f=4.87, p<.05$)
- Women in the intervention group also reported a trend of feeling the police were more helpful than the control group ($f=3.018, p<.10$)
- Main effect for ethnicity on reactions to police was non significant

Intervention Feedback:

- 63.6% of victims felt safer after the intervention

Victim ratings of Officers and Advocates

- 80% felt the officers did an average or above average job
- 92% felt the advocates did an average or above average job
- 91% said they would call the police again
- 84% said they would call the advocate in the future if they needed help

SATISFACTION RESULTS cont'd

What made Intervention Group feel safer:

- The advocate was nice and helpful
- Now my partner knows they are checking on me
- I felt there was a stronger support system
- My husband can't come back to my house
- Somebody cares and are available if I need them
- They explained everything that I wanted to know
- They took time to make sure I was ok
- They came to look after me and my children

What victims said they wanted help with:

- Childcare
- Relocation
- DV Court
- Warrant status
- Financial support
- Help for children
- Getting the perpetrator arrested
- Help for their partners
- Alternative housing

Baseline Child Interviews

Children's feelings about the police:

- 14 intervention children and 8 controls
- The majority of children felt the police helped their families and felt safer after the intervention
- Children in the intervention group found it easier to talk to the police officers than children in the control group ($f=6.5, p<.05$)

PRELIMINARY 6 MONTH FOLLOW-UP RESULTS

Impact of DVHVI on Increasing Service Engagement:

- Women who received the DVHVI were more likely to engage in treatment for their children and sustain treatment than women in the control group over the 6 month follow-up period. ($f=3.9, p<.05$)

Impact of DVHVI on Relationship Violence

- At 6 month follow-up there were no differences between the groups on incidents of violence reported on the CTS2 Police record data is currently being gathered and analyzed.

CURRENT CONCLUSIONS AND STATUS OF THE EVALUATION

Conclusions:

- Women who receive the DVHVI feel more respected by the police and report feeling safer following the intervention. The majority are satisfied with the intervention and would contact the officer and/or advocate in the future if they needed assistance.
- Women who received the DVHVI are more likely to initiate mental health treatment for their children than those in the control group in the 6 months following the initial DV incident.

Status of Longitudinal Evaluation:

- 95% of 6 month follow-ups are complete
- Data analysis of 6 month data is underway
- 12 month follow-ups interviews will be finished in 10/06