MISSION

The Saint Paul & Ramsey County Domestic Abuse Intervention Project (SPIP) is a grassroots organization that exists to eliminate violence against victims and their children, and the social and system responses that condone or allow its oppression.
Domestic violence and Sexual Assault impacts our community every hour of every day.

Each year across the U.S., 1 in 3 women are beaten or raped by a partner during adulthood; Over 12 million people are raped physically assaulted, or stalked by a current or former intimate partner.

More than 1 in 3 women and nearly 1 in 4 men will experience sexual violence involving physical contact.

Domestic Violence accounts for 20% of all violent crime victims in MN.

Each year the St. Paul Police Department received an estimated 5,000 initial domestic crime 911-calls;
THE ISSUE

When a victim attempts to leave an abusive situation, they are at a 75% greater risk of being murdered.

During the six months following a violent episode, 32% of battered women are victimized again.

In 2020 at least 28 lives have been lost in Minnesota have due to domestic violence.
SPIP provides a continuum of Advocacy and Support Services.

Annually, we serve over 5,800 victims and their children, and receive 8,000 calls for support and information on our 24-hour crisis line.
VICTIMS SERVED THROUGH SPIP

Total number of victims served in a twelve-month period: 5,800

Participants’ geographic location
Ramsey County: 5,585 (St. Paul: 4,385; Suburban Ramsey County 1,200)
Other counties: 215

Participants’ race/ethnicity
Hispanic/Chicanix/Latinix: 11%
African American: 38%
Indigenous Peoples: 2%
Asian/SE Asian Pacific Islander: 14%
European American: 29%
Multi-racial: 6%
New Immigrants: 19%
As victims of abuse often suffer from isolation, physical/mental abuse, and risk of homelessness – the pandemic increased their levels of danger.

The majority of our participants have dependent children; 11% had limited English proficiency, and 3% had a physical/mental disability.

And virtually all were at or below poverty levels.
When a domestic assault occurs and there is police involvement, our agency is contacted immediately, 24-hours per day, seven days a week.

Upon contact a legal advocate contacts the victim.

The advocate ascertains safety needs and conducts a protection plan, need for emergency medical attention, possible emergency shelter, whether or not all the injuries were documented at the scene, and victim’s crisis needs.
FLARE-UP/DV-CAR

First Light, Accountability, Response & Enforcement United with Prosecution

Reducing domestic homicides, through increased protections and services to victims

Enhancing the investigation and charging of highly lethal domestic cases/repeat chronic offenders

Holding perpetrators accountable for their violent behaviors

Preventing further acts of violence and imminent harm to victims
SPIP provides multiple transitional services to victims to ensure their transition from a violent situation to a stable, safe living environment.

These services include securing emergency shelter, free 9-11 phones, food, clothing, basic needs, supervised visitations, long-term housing, medical services, victim reparations, financial assistance, lock changes, legal representation, childcare, education and employment opportunities, counseling, for victims and her children.
Addressing Racial and Gender Disparities in our Domestic Abuse Work

Our work is not to accommodate domestic violence and oppression, it is to have an active role in ending it.

Racial disparities and domestic abuse effectively silence victims and prevent them from accessing the help they desperately need.

SPIP, like so many DV/SA programs, incorporates a holistic response to address the many roots of domestic violence – how we regard and value women in our culture; the intersection of gender, race and biases that marginalize victims; and the belief in our society that one person has the right to oppress and control another.
The Partnership for Domestic Abuse Services (PDAS)

PDAS is a strong collaboration of over twenty public and private agencies whose work focuses on or includes services to victims of domestic abuse. PDAS acts as a vehicle for St. Paul, Ramsey County government and community-based organizations to join their unique skills and perspectives in creating a system- and community-wide response to ending domestic abuse. Our unified alliance encompasses Advocacy Programs; Civil Legal Services; Counseling Services; Court Services; Law Enforcement; Prosecution; Ramsey County Agencies; and Supervised Visitation Agencies.

All PDAS activities and major decisions are made by the full PDAS collaborative.
Our systems work provided the foundation for the creation of a national model, the *Blueprint for Safety*; which acts as a guide for the criminal justice systems’ response to domestic violence cases, from 911 through final case disposition and beyond.
<table>
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<tr>
<th>Feature</th>
<th>Description</th>
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<tr>
<td>Single, overarching policy</td>
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<td>Supported by research, 30 years of practice</td>
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<td>Identify, document, communicate, and act on risk and danger</td>
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<td>Grounded in experiences of victims - engage with victims</td>
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<td>Intra- and interagency monitoring</td>
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<td>Structure for ongoing problem solving</td>
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Underlying Principles

Interagency approach and collective intervention goals

Reduce unintended consequences and disparity of impact
Attention to context and severity
Domestic violence is a patterned crime requiring continuing engagement
Messages of help and accountability
Sure and swift consequences
Blueprint for Safety Partners

- Advocacy
- 911
- Law Enforcement
- Sheriff
- Prosecution
- Victim Witness
- Probation
- Judiciary

Blueprint Coordinator

Blueprint Advocate
WHY VICTIM ENGAGEMENT MATTERS

Domestic violence is a patterned crime

• Rarely resolved with the 1st intervention

Most interventions focus on single incident

• Usually part of a pattern of coercion, intimidation, use or threat of violence

Interventions look different
A victim trusts that...

- Intervention will counteract the abusive person’s power
- Interveners understand the reality of living with battering
- System partners are working together
- We are there to help no matter how long it takes
The Saint Paul Criminal Justice System
Processing a Domestic Violence Related Case

ADVOCACY (SPIP)

911 (ECC)

Police Response Investigations (SPPD)

Pre-Trial Services (Project Remand)

Charging (SPCAO & RCAO)

Jail (RCSO)

Investigations (SPPD: FVU)

Trial

Probation (RCCC: PSI & DAU)
COMMUNITY-BASED ADVOCACY IS CENTRAL TO THE BLUEPRINT

Victim

Advocacy

Community-based Advocate

Blueprint Coordinator

Exchange of Information to Enhance the Systems’ Response
ADVOCACY

- Advocate Initiated Response: Reaching out to victims
  - Confidential advocacy connection is a protective factor for victims

- Partnership with government agencies

- Individual Experiences and Focus Groups: What are we hearing from victims?
  - Bringing voices of the least powerful people to the most powerful people
Internal Monitoring

Inter-agency Monitoring

Data

Victim’s Experiences
  *Focus Groups
  *Individual

Disparity Subcommittee

Agency Meetings Problem-solving

Agency Trainings

Steering Committee
Do our interventions account for unique nature of battering?

Are we making things better or worse?

Are people safer? people safer?

Are we getting control over most violent offenders?

How do our interventions impact victims/community?
BLUEPRINT MONITORING

- **Internal Monitoring:**
  - Supervisors responsible
    - Monthly, quarterly, annually
  - Policies, protocols and practices
    - Implemented and being followed
  - Share with steering committee

- **Interagency Monitoring:**
  - A mixed group of Blueprint agencies and advocates
  - Planning meetings
  - Specific areas of focus
  - Report to head of agency
  - Share findings with steering committee
MEASURING BLUEPRINT SUCCESS

- Prosecution risk and danger screening brought to courtroom
- Judges have more accurate picture of violence
- Unified, cohesive group of workers with agency support
- Victims are safer

Overall Commitment
  - Transparent approach to interagency collaboration
  - Honest evaluation
  - Knowing shortcomings can lead to strengths
  - Collectively move forward
  - Hold each other accountable