

MISSION

The Saint Paul & Ramsey County Domestic Abuse Intervention Project (SPIP) is a grass-roots organization that exists to eliminate violence against victims and their children, and the social and system responses that condone or allow its oppression.



The Issue

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.

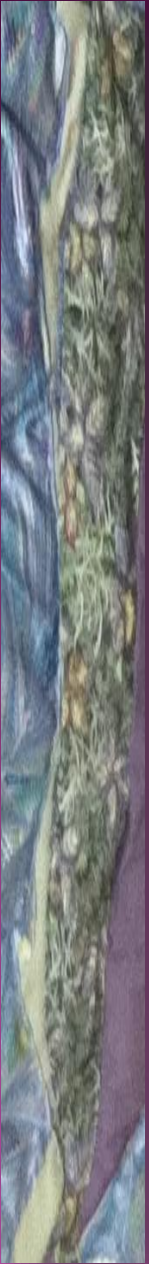
Each year the St. Paul Police Department received an estimated 5,000 initial domestic crime 911-calls;

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.

ACUTE INTERVENTION SERVICES



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

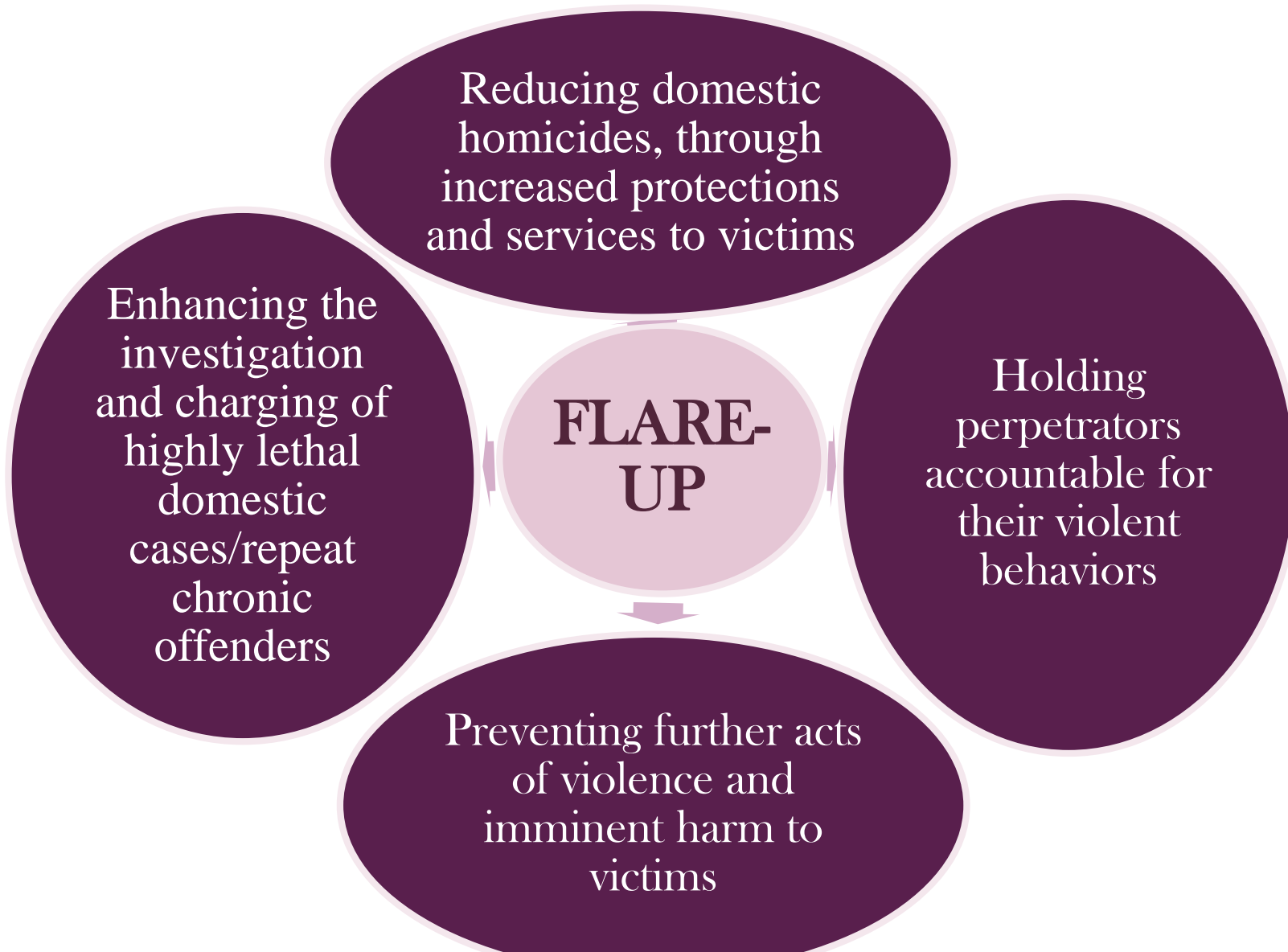


The advocate ascertains safety needs and conducts a protection plan, need for emergency medical attention, possible emergency shelter, whether or not all the injuries were documented at the scene, and victim's crisis needs



FLARE-UP/DV-CAR

First Light, Accountability, Response & Enforcement United with Prosecution



TRANSITIONAL SERVICES

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.

IMPACT

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.



WHAT MAKES THE BLUEPRINT DISTINCT?

Single, overarching policy

Supported by research, 30 years of practice

Identify, document, communicate, and act on risk and danger

Grounded in experiences of victims - engage with victims

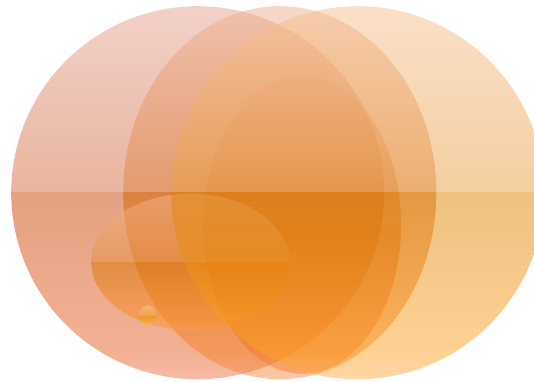
Intra- and interagency monitoring

Structure for ongoing problem solving

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



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

EFFECTIVE ENGAGEMENT

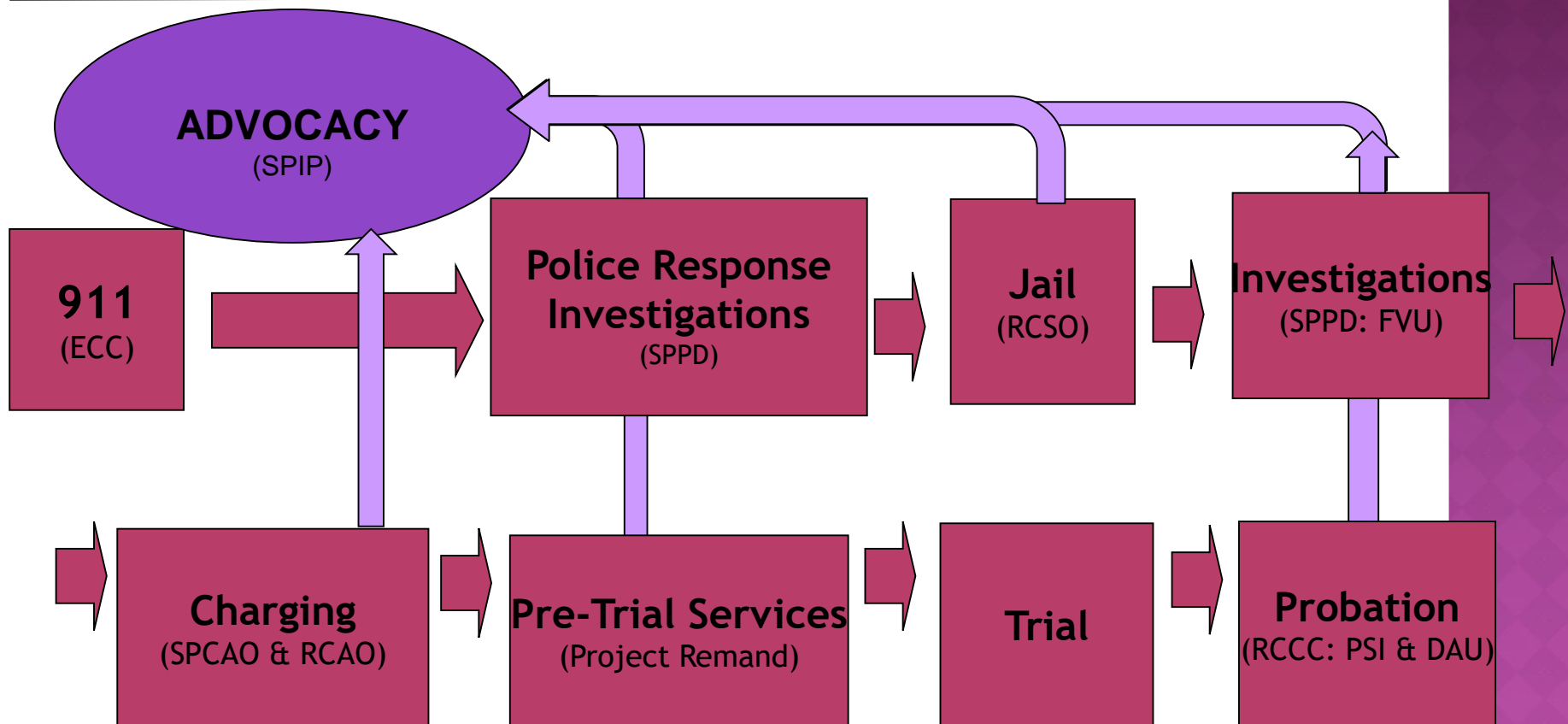
A victim trusts that...

- 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

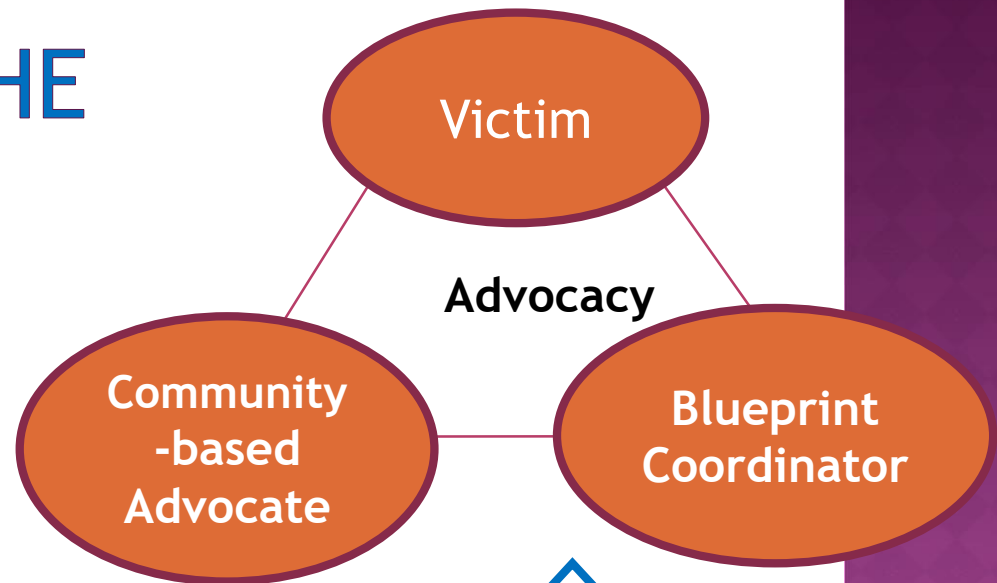
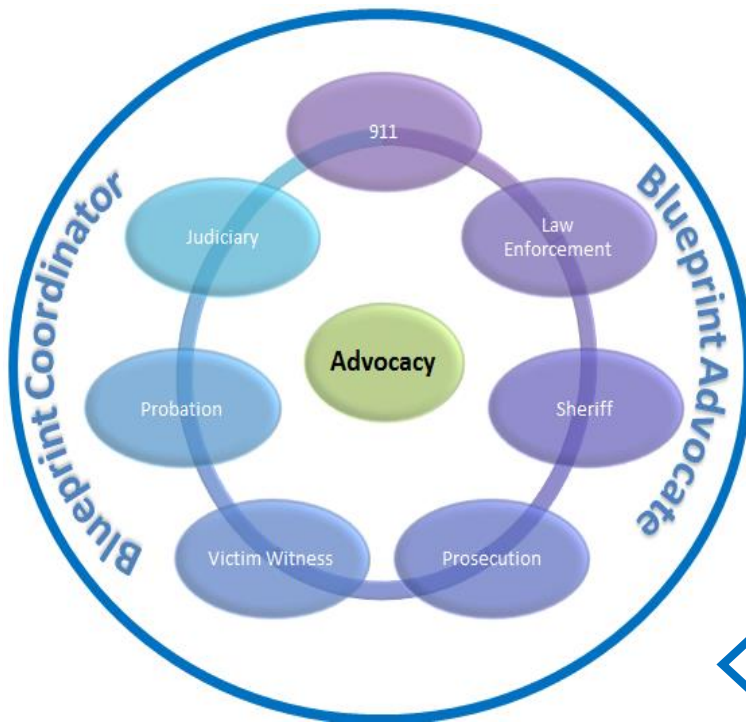


The Saint Paul Criminal Justice System

Processing a Domestic Violence Related Case



COMMUNITY-BASED ADVOCACY IS CENTRAL TO THE BLUEPRINT



**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



SAINT PAUL BLUEPRINT ACTIVITIES

DV FIELD EXPERIENCE

- ◉ 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