

**Sub-Category A-iv:
Courts & the Criminal Justice System**

COMPENDIUM OF RESEARCH ON VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN

1993-2020

Table of Contents

Category A: JUSTICE & RELATED SYSTEMS 1A-iv

iv. Courts & the Criminal Justice System..... 1A-iv

1995-IJ-CX-0027: Understanding, Preventing, and Controlling Domestic Violence Incidents 1A-iv

1995-WT-NX-0003: Prosecution Strategies in Domestic Violence..... 1A-iv

1995-WT-NX-0006: Models of Community Coordination in Response to Partner Violence..... 2A-iv

1997-WT-VX-0005: King’s County Felony Domestic Violence Court Research Partnership: Exploring Implementation and Early Impacts 2A-iv

1998-WT-VX-0002: Domestic Violence Courts: Jurisdiction, Organization, Performance Goals and Measures 3A-iv

1998-WT-VX-0024: A Longitudinal Study of Battered Women in the System: The Victims and Decision Makers..... 3A-iv

1999-WT-VX-0008: Effects of Prosecutorial Policies on Victim Empowerment & Outcomes..... 4A-iv

2000-WT-VX-0003: The Cook County Court Target Abuser Call (TAC): An Evaluation of a Specialized Domestic Violence Court 5A-iv

2000-WT-VX-0015: Lexington County Domestic Violence Court..... 5A-iv

2000-WT-VX-0019: Criminal Justice Intervention in Domestic Violence: Victim Preferences, Victim Satisfaction and Factors Impacting on Revictimization..... 6A-iv

2002-WG-BX-0011: Impact Evaluation of the Rhode Island Probation Specialized Domestic Violence Supervision Unit..... 7A-iv

2003-IJ-CX-1031: Juvenile Domestic and Family Violence: The Effects of Court-Based Intervention Programs on Recidivism 7A-iv

2007-M-07032: Practical Implications of Current Domestic Violence Research Part 3: Judges 8A-iv

2007-WG-BX-0012: Adolescent Sexual Assault Victim’s Experiences With SANE-SARTs and the Criminal Justice System 8A-iv

2008-WG-BX-0001: Do Domestic Violence Courts Reduce Recidivism? A Statewide Impact Evaluation in New York..... 9A-iv

2010-WG-BX-0010: Sexual Assault Response Team (SART) Implementation and Collaborative Process: What Works Best for the Criminal Justice System? 10A-iv

2012-IJ-CX-0052: Decision-Making in Sexual Assault Cases: Multi-site Replication Research on Sexual Violence Case Attrition in the U.S. 10A-iv

2019-75-CX-0013: Tribal Justice, Tribal Court: Strengthening Tribal Justice Systems Using Restorative Approaches..... 11A-iv

Category A: JUSTICE & RELATED SYSTEMS

iv. Courts & the Criminal Justice System

1995-IJ-CX-0027:	Understanding, Preventing, and Controlling Domestic Violence Incidents
Amount:	\$151,593
PI:	Eve Buzawa
Status:	Completed

The study examines the effects of judicial intervention upon approximately 400 batterers sentenced in Quincy, Massachusetts District Court. Data is collected through official records and in-depth interviews with batterers and victims. The Quincy Court Domestic Violence Program has been lauded as a national model for batterer treatment and was recently named a winner of the Ford Foundation's "Innovations in State and Local Government Award". The study will provide an evaluation of this program, focusing specifically on the measurement of re-abuse by perpetrators and the perceptions of both victims and batterers upon the process. This study provides critical information about batterer's perceptions and interpretations of informal (social) and formal (legal) sanctions, while also providing similar information about the perceptions of victims regarding the effectiveness of these sanctions. Utilizing structured interviewing techniques, offenders and victims are being interviewed at two points in time (at sentencing/ dismissal and one year later). This data enables a comparison of the initial perceptions of both the offenders and the victims about their particular case to the reality of what these sanctions actually entailed. By collecting data on both perceptions and behavior, a clearer picture of the relative importance of formal and informal deterrence mechanisms is expected to emerge.

Product: NCJ# 181427/181428

Response to Domestic Violence in a Pro-Active Court Setting (1999) – E. Buzawa, G. Hotaling, A. Klein, J. Byrne

This study examined the characteristics of 353 domestic violence offenses, offenders and victims in the Quincy, Massachusetts District Court. The majority of cases did not involve alcohol or drugs; 71% involved the use of violence, and 10% of victims experienced serious injury. The majority of offenders had prior contact with the criminal justice system and 59% had prior "crimes against persons" charges. Three quarters of the victims had called the police on a prior occasion. Offenders with an active restraining order were twice as likely to offend against the same victim within a year of follow-up. Those with previous restraining orders were 13 times more likely to offend against another victim. Most victims were satisfied with the police response; 65% of victims were satisfied with the prosecutor's response, and 34% were dissatisfied. Victim advocates were appreciated; victims had more ambivalence toward the courts than police or prosecutors; and victims were largely capable of assessing their danger. The only significant predictors of re-offending were prior criminal history and age at first offense. Offenders who were placed on probation were more likely to re-offend during the study period compared with those who were prosecuted without subsequent court supervision, or who were not prosecuted. Completion of batterer treatment had no impact on re-offending behavior.

Additional NCJ Citations: 202564

1995-WT-NX-0003:	Prosecution Strategies in Domestic Violence
Amount:	\$98,452
PI:	Carolyn Hartley
Status:	Completed

This study is a collaborative effort between the University of Iowa School of Social Work and Iowa Prosecutors. The purpose of this study is to examine the prosecution strategies of domestic violence related cases, to identify those strategies associated with a successful outcome of conviction on the original charge. Strategies of prosecution will be identified by examining the trial transcripts of a sample of domestic violence related felonious assaults, homicide and attempted homicides in the state of Iowa. To assess the success of strategies, cases where convictions on the original charge were won are being compared with cases of convictions on lesser charges, to see if there are differences in the prosecution strategies employed. In particular, cases are being examined to determine the extent to which prosecutors were able to present evidence of the context of the abusive relationship and history of prior violence, in helping the fact finders understand the current charge. The analytic procedures employed are qualitative, content analysis.

Product: NCJ# 194074/194075

Prosecution Strategies in Domestic Violence Felonies: Telling the Story of Domestic Violence: Anticipating and Meeting Defense Claims (1998) – C. Hartley, R. Ryan

Trial transcripts were used to identify the prosecution strategies used in the 40 trials, which involved both fatal and nonfatal DV felonies. The trial transcripts suggested that prosecutors were generally aware of the likely defense to be used, and they structured their prosecution strategies to anticipate these defenses which included self-defense or provocation, attempting to downgrade the offense to a lesser charge, diminished responsibility, and the raising of reasonable doubt whether the defendant committed the offense. Various defense strategies included attempting to manipulate common public misconceptions and myths about DV. In countering such defense efforts to build on jurors' conditioned misconceptions of the dynamics of DV, prosecutors must assist jurors in understanding the dynamics of DV by “telling the story” of DV. In DV cases, the incident by itself is not an adequate unit of information for jurors. Context information about the relationship or prior abuse completes the story and can dispel some myths about DV. The use of expert testimony would be the most direct method for “educating” jurors about the dynamics of DV. The testimony of experts who have researched the phenomenon of DV can help the jury to understand the context of the larger abusive relationship and the rationale behind the victim’s actions.

Additional NCJ Citations: 188129, 194064, 200134, 202564

1995-WT-NX-0006:	Models of Community Coordination in Response to Partner Violence
Amount:	\$104,289
PI:	Alissa Worden
Status:	Completed

Building on data collected from statewide surveys of local criminal justice practitioners and domestic violence organizations, and site visits to five criminal justice agencies, this 18-month study is: (1) developing a typology of community coordination models; (2) assessing the role of leadership, conflict, and resources in the growth of different types of coordination models; and (3) assessing the impact of alternative coordination approaches on victims' safety, perceptions of system effectiveness, re-victimization, and satisfaction with responses. The project complements an ongoing analysis of the impact of legislated reforms in family violence cases in New York State. The research includes intensive interviews with community leaders and samples of victims (approximately 30), observation, focus groups, and information gathering about case processing through coordination networks.

Product: NCJ# 187351

Models of Community Coordination in Partner Violence: A Multi-Site Comparative Analysis (2001) – A. Worden

The study found that, despite strong policy interest in arrest and numerous reforms at the State and local levels in the direction of less discretionary arrest policies, the mandatory or discretionary nature of the arrest decision was only one dimension of law enforcement practice in domestic violence cases. Other dimensions included prosecutorial policies and victim involvement. The research included intensive interviews with community leaders and samples of victims (approximately thirty), observation, focus groups, and information gathered about case processing through coordination networks. Findings from this study indicate that the most actively engaged, collaborative communities detected, apprehended, and processed offenders at higher rates, and kept better records about the process; police practices remain critical in establishing the upper limits of a community’s accountability net; judges’ attitudes determine the outcome of a case as the effects of their personal philosophies are felt backwards throughout the system; and regardless of the intensity of coordination efforts, or the details of policies or practices in effect, the overwhelming majority of incidents slip through the system before conviction or sentencing.

Additional NCJ Citations: 202564

1997-WT-VX-0005:	King’s County Felony Domestic Violence Court Research Partnership: Exploring Implementation and Early Impacts
Amount:	\$179,961
PI:	Michele Sviridoff
Status:	Completed

This researcher-practitioner partnership will provide for an evaluation of the King’s County Felony Domestic Violence Court. The court, which opened in June 1996, has a guiding principle of continuous judicial supervision. This principle includes rigorous monitoring of defendants and continual updates on the delivery of assistance to victims. The research

includes: (1) a collaborative research planning effort; (2) a process evaluation; and (3) an impact evaluation. A mix of quantitative and qualitative methods will be used, including practitioner interviews, court observations, documentation of victims’ services providers, and of defendant compliance with court orders, case file review, and a pre-post analysis of case outcomes, violations of protection and recidivism for a sample of 400 defendants indicted on felony domestic violence charges.

Product: NCJ# 191861

Specialized Felony Domestic Violence Courts: Lessons on Implementation and Impacts From the Kings County Experience (2001) – L. Newmark, M. Rempel, K. Diffily, K. Kane

This researcher-practitioner partnership provided an evaluation of the King’s County Felony Domestic Violence Court. The study found that the use of the court model resulted in changes in several areas. The District Attorney’s Office was more likely to indict less serious cases in order to bring enhanced resources and victim services to these cases. New state laws resulted in many protection order violations being prosecuted as felonies rather than misdemeanors. Conviction rates did not change, but guilty pleas were more common and trials less common. Probation violations did not appear to change under the new court model, being reported among one third of probationers. Sentencing practices did not become more punitive, probably due to the broader mix of cases. The Court itself produced a higher rate of disposition by guilty plea, which saves the system time and money. Interpretations of recidivism findings are severely constrained by limitations in the recidivism data and the pre/post design. Criminal history, especially criminal contempt of court orders, predicted how well defendants performed pre- and post-disposition.

Additional NCJ Citations: 199701, 199723, 202564

1998-WT-VX-0002:	Domestic Violence Courts: Jurisdiction, Organization, Performance Goals and Measures
Amount:	\$124,170
PI:	Susan Keilitz
Status:	Completed

This project will build a common understanding of the goals and operations of the various models of domestic violence courts, and it will develop measures that these courts and others can use to assess their performance. The project will create the first comprehensive catalogue of domestic violence courts in the United States and it will develop a set of performance goals and related measures with the advice of practitioners and domestic violence professionals. The catalogue will be developed through a mail survey and follow-up telephone interviews of identified domestic violence courts. The goals and measures will be generated through a Delphi study involving thirty diverse panel members selected from practitioners in domestic violence courts and experts in domestic violence issues. A committee of individuals who have experience in implementing and managing domestic violence courts and domestic violence professionals with expertise in understanding the needs of domestic violence victims will guide the project

Product: NCJ# 186192

Specialization of Domestic Violence Case Management in the Courts: A National Survey (2000) – S. Keilitz

The information in this report derives from three sources: the responses of 103 courts to a written questionnaire; telephone interviews with representatives of 82 of these courts; and a modified Delphi study with a panel of 27 professionals, including judges and court managers in courts that use specialized processes for managing and adjudicating domestic violence cases as well as other noted DV experts and practitioners. The findings indicate that court specialization for DV caseloads is in its initial stages of development. Although the concept of specializing court structures and operations for DV courts is gaining momentum, the court community has yet to develop and test models based on a shared vision about the goals of DV courts. The most common reasons courts cite for implementing specialized processes for DV cases are improved assistance to victims, enhanced victim safety, and increased batterer accountability. In the majority of courts, however, these goals are not supported by the key services and practices needed for survivor safety and batterer accountability. Nevertheless, knowledge of the variation and prevalence of different structures and practices can inform judgments about future program implementation and provide a foundation for future comparative evaluation.

Additional NCJ Citations: 177403, 181033, 199701, 199724

1998-WT-VX-0024:	A Longitudinal Study of Battered Women in the System: The Victims and Decision Makers
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Amount:	\$416,921
PI:	Joanne Belknap
Status:	Completed

This is a longitudinal, multi-site study of approximately 300 battered women (100 at each site), who will be interviewed three times after their final court disposition. The three sites are: Boulder, and Denver, Colorado, and Lansing, Michigan. The victims will be interviewed after their final disposition, and at 6 months and 12 months post disposition. Prosecutors and district attorneys at the three sites will also be interviewed. Victims and prosecutors will be interviewed about their perceptions of the problem, and what influences their decisions. The objectives of the study are to determine factors that influence victim's choices to pursue or not to pursue actions against their batterers; factors that significantly influence judicial decision-making in women battering cases; the relationship between victim and prosecutor reports regarding factors influencing case disposition; and the factors influencing women's subsequent need for use of the justice system over time.

Product: NCJ# 202946

Longitudinal Study of Battered Women in the System: The Victims' and Decision-Makers' Perception (2002) – J. Belknap, C. Sullivan

The study was conducted between March 1999 and December 2000. The women were interviewed at three points in time: shortly after their final court dispositions, 6 months after the court dispositions, and 1 year after disposition. The types of variables measured in the survivor interviews were indicators of the violence and resulting injuries; indicators of the context of women's lives (race, relationship with the assailant, and economic dependence); indicators of survivors' experiences with the legal system's processes and outcome; and survivors' perceived control over and satisfaction with the various aspects of the criminal legal system. The interviews with the prosecutors focused on their perceptions of victims, defendants, how domestic-violence cases differ from other cases, and how the system could be improved. The study found that women who were in the "Somewhat Satisfied" cluster felt they had more control over the court process than did women in the other clusters. Control also mediated the site differences in satisfaction with the outcome. Contrary to expectations, the effects of incident characteristics on women's satisfaction with the system were weak. Overall, the study determined that prior experiences with the criminal justice system did influence future intentions to use the legal system. Women who were treated with respect by the police and prosecutors during the incident at issue were more likely to indicate they would use the legal system again. This suggests the importance of police and prosecutor behavior in gaining the cooperation of domestic assault victims.

Additional NCJ Citations: 193612, 210258

1999-WT-VX-0008:	Effects of Prosecutorial Policies on Victim Empowerment & Outcomes	
Amount:	\$230,945	
PI:	Mary Finn	Status: Completed

The proposed project will examine the effects of no-drop prosecutorial strategies on victim empowerment and self-efficacy, case outcomes, and the reoccurrence of violence after case disposition. The objectives of the project are to address the effects of no-drop prosecutorial strategies on: (1) court outcomes and their deterrence to prosecuted batterers; (2) victim empowerment and self-efficacy, and subsequent court outcomes and re-occurrences of domestic violence victimizations; and (3) acts of batterer retaliation and reductions in rates of victims reporting domestic violence incidents to the police. The proposed project will employ a quasi-experimental, longitudinal design that compares the effects of the three prosecutorial strategies. Data will be collected from official court records and interviews conducted with a fixed panel sample of 600 adult female victims of domestic violence recruited from two solicitor offices in large suburban counties. Victims will be interviewed at three points: (1) screening, (2) disposition, and (3) six months after case disposition. Interview data will be used to identify prosecutorial strategies, measure victim empowerment and self-efficacy, and document the reoccurrence of violence. Data on court outcomes will be collected from official court records.

Product: NCJ# 202983

Effects of Victims' Experiences With Prosecutors on Victim Empowerment and Re-Occurrence of Intimate Partner Violence (2003) – M. Finn

Results of the study indicate that the presence of a no-drop policy did not result in more coercive strategies being used. Coercive strategies were just as likely to occur regardless of whether the solicitor's office had a no-drop policy or not. Giving the victim the choice to withdraw the complaint, regardless of the prosecution's decision to continue, was more

prevalent in the office that did not have a no-drop policy. Overall, coercive actions were used in a relatively small number of cases: 12% of respondents were subpoenaed to testify because they were unwilling to do so and 11% were threatened with arrest if they refused to testify or withdrew the complaint. Personal empowerment and self-efficacy are highly related concepts and appeared to be influenced by the same factors. Actions taken by prosecutors did not affect victims’ level of self-efficacy or personal empowerment, but did influence their level of court empowerment, the expectation to be afforded fair and equitable treatment by the court. Levels of court empowerment declined for all victims from the initial interview to the initial disposition of the case, with the exception of those allowed to withdraw their complaint. The greatest declines in court empowerment were for those with minimal contact with the prosecutors’ offices or those coerced into participating in the process. Incompatible goals between the prosecution and the victim were not related to changes in court or personal empowerment. Lastly, the relationship between victims’ levels of empowerment and the re-occurrence of abuse and violence was examined and none of the effects reached statistical significance at the .05 level. Findings suggest that prosecutors should re-assess whether coercing victims is worth the costs. Use of coercive actions has the effect of lowering victims’ empowerment, and this should not be an acceptable outcome for prosecutors.

2000-WT-VX-0003:	The Cook County Court Target Abuser Call (TAC): An Evaluation of a Specialized Domestic Violence Court
Amount:	\$379,665
PI:	Carolyn Hartley
Status:	Completed

The goal of the project is evaluate the TAC (Cook County Target Abuser Call) program, with regard to conviction rates, satisfaction and sense of empowerment. This evaluation will compare three court system responses to domestic violence, which vary in the amount of outreach and resources provided to victims and in the coordination of court call. The study will recruit about 300 intimate partner domestic violence cases from each of the three court programs for a nine-month period. Data sources will include in-depth interviews assessing victims’ experiences with the prosecution process, courthouse victim surveys, court and services provider records, case tracking, and observation of courtroom interactions. Each victim will be surveyed when she comes to the courthouse for her assigned court date and will be followed for 6 to 12 months. In addition, a sub-sample of 50 victims will be selected to participate in an in-depth life history interview. The study team will also observe criminal justice personnel interactions with victims in all three prosecution groups.

Product: NCJ# 202944/202945
Cook County Target Abuser Call (TAC): An Evaluation of a Specialized Domestic Violence Court (2003) – C. Hartley, L. Frohmann

The primary objective of the TAC program is to increase women’s engagement in the prosecution process. The cases selected for TAC must have a prior history of domestic violence based on convictions, dismissals, arrests, and unreported history, injury to the woman, use of weapons with threats, and include domestic battery accompanied by threats. The study compared randomly selected TAC prosecuted cases with randomly selected cases from the general court. The evaluation examined traditional prosecution outcomes as well as differences in offender and victim characteristics, women’s experiences prior to and while at court, women’s sense of empowerment with the criminal justice system, and advocacy and service delivery outcomes, among other things. The study found that the victim appearance rate for the TAC program was 73%, compared to an appearance rate of 40% for the general court. The offenders processed under the TAC program were more likely to have a prior history of DV charges and other violent crimes than the defendants in the general court. The women victims in the general court cases were more likely to want charges dropped. The women in the TAC program had substantially more contact with court personnel and were more likely to be fairly satisfied with these contacts.

2000-WT-VX-0015:	Lexington County Domestic Violence Court
Amount:	\$212,743
PI:	Geoffrey P. Alpert
Status:	Completed

The University of South Carolina College of Criminal Justice and the Lexington County Sheriff’s Department will assess the process through which the Criminal Domestic Violence Court (CDVC) has been implemented, and evaluate the impact of the court on domestic violence incidents in Lexington County. The evaluation will address multiple

research questions on case outcomes, system processing and outcomes, communication and collaboration among the key stakeholders, and will allow the CDVCs to monitor their own performance. This research will help increase the understanding of the role that domestic violence courts can have in enhancing victim safety, holding offenders more accountable, and improving the accountability of the system in its response to domestic violence. The results from the project will include a sustained partnership between the Lexington County Sheriff's Department and the University of South Carolina College of Criminal Justice, and the possible creation and utilization of Criminal Domestic Violence Courts in Lexington County and the surrounding area.

Product: NCJ# 204023

Lexington County Domestic Violence Court: A Partnership and Evaluation (2003) – A. Gover, J. MacDonald, G. Alpert, I. Geary

The Criminal Domestic Violence Court (CDVC) combines the efforts of law enforcement, judges, prosecutors, mental health professionals, and victim advocates to improve the safety of domestic violence victims and hold offenders accountable. A process and outcome evaluation was undertaken to measure the extent to which the CDVC was successful in implementing its goals of establishing an effective court that enhances victim safety and provides a model of therapeutic jurisprudence. Results from the process evaluation indicate that an effective courtroom workgroup emerged and that important systemic changes occurred in the manner in which DV cases were processed. The court had changed the focus of DV prosecution from a traditional passive approach to an active approach that emphasized victim safety, offender accountability, and batterer treatment. Results from the outcome evaluation suggest that DV can be affected by increasing the coordinated attention of representatives from the criminal justice system. Recidivism for DV offenders was significantly reduced during a period when the overall number of arrests increased.

Additional NCJ Citations: 203428

2000-WT-VX-0019:	Criminal Justice Intervention in Domestic Violence: Victim Preferences, Victim Satisfaction and Factors Impacting on Revictimization
Amount:	\$50,000
PI:	Gerald Hotaling
Status:	Completed

The proposed study will analyze data collected in a previous study on the processing of domestic violence cases in the Quincy (Massachusetts) District Court. This research will utilize information collected on a sample of 353 men charged with domestic violence in the Quincy District Court, their victims, the nature of the incidents, and the processing of offenders by the criminal justice system. The project's objectives are as follows: (1) to determine the feasibility of identifying both high-risk victims of domestic violence and high-risk offenders; (2) to identify the characteristics of victims whose preference is for no arrest or no prosecution of offenders and the implications of those preferences for the criminal justice system; and (3) to uncover the characteristics of victims, offenders, incidents of violence, and criminal justice processing that predict victim dissatisfaction with the course of justice. The goal is to develop new information that may help criminal justice policymakers and practitioners utilize their limited resources more effectively in serving the needs of victims.

Product: NCJ# 195668

Victim Satisfaction with Criminal Justice Case Processing in a Model Court Setting (2003) – G. Hotaling, E. Buzawa

This study analyzed data collected in a previous study on the processing of domestic violence (DV) cases in the Quincy District Court (1995-IJ-CX-0027). The study examined how victim satisfaction with criminal justice intervention in a DV case was related to five variables: (1) demographic characteristics of the victim; (2) specifics of the case; (3) history of offending and victimization; (4) outcomes of the criminal justice system response; and (5) differences between victim preferences and criminal justice action. The study utilized information collected on a sample of 353 men charged with DV, their victims, the nature of the incidents, and the processing of offenders by the criminal justice system. The study found that actions taken by the criminal justice system did not predict levels of victims' satisfaction. Variables most predictive of satisfaction were: victim injury, offender's use of weapons, offender's criminal history, whether the prosecutor made the victim feel in control, whether the threat of prosecution scared the victim, whether the threat of prosecution scared the offender, whether the victim's arrest preferences were ignored, whether the victim and the prosecutor disagreed about the criminal charges. The study concluded that control over the criminal justice system interventions is of paramount victim concern.

Additional NCJ Citations: 195667, 212261, 212265

2002-WG-BX-0011:	Impact Evaluation of the Rhode Island Probation Specialized Domestic Violence Supervision Unit
Amount:	\$300,000
PI:	Andrew Klein
Status:	Completed

This study will examine a replication of the Quincy, Massachusetts model domestic violence probation program in Rhode Island and will determine whether it results in more accountable offenders and less domestic abuse in the State. The Domestic Violence Unit (DVU) of the Rhode Island Department of Corrections (DOC) administers the specialized probation program in five catchment areas in the northern half of the State. In contrast to other probation officers in the State, this program's probation counselors have received special domestic violence training and manage only cases involving domestic violence offenders. In addition, this program holds offenders with two or more domestic violence convictions to higher probation standards. The goal of the study is to conduct a quasi-experimental evaluation (considering re-offending and abuse rates) of the specialized adult probation program implemented by the Rhode Island DVU and to provide information on the administration and content of effective probation standards.

Product: NCJ# 222912

Evaluation of the Rhode Island Probation Specialized Domestic Violence Supervision Unit (2005) – A.R. Klein, D. Wilson, A.H. Crowe, M. DeMichele

The evaluation found that under the supervision of the Rhode Island domestic violence probation supervision unit (DVU) offenders had significantly lower rates of reoffending and arrest-free periods, almost twice as long as those for domestic-violence offenders under traditional probation supervision. DVU probation officers tended to hold offenders more accountable, as evidenced by 44 percent of the DVU caseload being charged with a technical violation, compared to 25 percent of those under traditional supervision. These findings provide important preliminary guidance for the community supervision of domestic-violence offenders that could be implemented and evaluated in other locations. The DVU was distinguished from traditional probation in that DVU cases were seen more often by probation officers, DVU victims were more likely to be contacted by their abusers' probation officers, and DVU probation officers were more likely to return probationers to court for technical violations. In all the sample included 552 male misdemeanor domestic-violence offenders on probation (370 DVU and 182 traditional) and were monitored from January 1, 2003, through January 1, 2004 in order to measure recidivism that was indicated by a new arrest, a victim report, or a police report. Offender characteristics and behavior were assessed in order to identify differences between the supervision strategies. A sample of victims was interviewed about how probation officers affected victims' experience related to probation supervision.

2003-IJ-CX-1031:	Juvenile Domestic and Family Violence: The Effects of Court-Based Intervention Programs on Recidivism
Amount:	\$275,060
PI:	Brenda Uekert
Status:	Completed

The proposed study's goals are to: (1) identify components of specialized programs for juvenile domestic and family violence offenders that could be adopted nationwide; (2) determine socio-demographic variances among juvenile domestic violence and family violence offenders; (3) assess treatment effectiveness by comparing juvenile offenders completing the treatment with those who do not; and (4) determine the intervention's effect on recidivism rates and post-adjudication behaviors. Researchers will compare two court systems with specialized interventions to a court system that has none. This quasi-experimental study will expand on an ongoing study of the Santa Clara County, California Juvenile Domestic and Family Violence Court. Issues addressed include: (1) availability of local services, (2) interagency coordination, (3) training for court personnel, and (4) court, probation, and treatment abilities to address language and cultural factors.

Product: NCJ# 216614

Juvenile Domestic and Family Violence: The Effects of Court-Based Intervention Programs on Recidivism (2006) – B. Uekert, I. Sagatun-Edwards, A. Crowe, T. Peters, F. Cheesman, D. Kameda

The results of this evaluative study showed that the interventions were most beneficial for younger and first-time

offenders. However, it is important to initiate programs with age appropriate services and graduated sanctions. Highlights of the findings include: (1) the specialized intervention programs in both counties had a deterrent effect on first-time offenders; (2) recidivism rates for offenders with prior records were remarkably consistent across sites; and (3) the greatest determinant of the probability of recidivism was background characteristics of the offender. In California, the Santa Clara County Superior Court (1999) and the San Francisco Superior Court (2001) created unique approaches to address both juvenile domestic and family violence. Both the Santa Clara County and the San Francisco County specialized juvenile domestic and family violence courts have proven to be innovative programs addressing a serious social issue. It has been demonstrated that many of the offenders assigned to these courts come from families with a history of parental domestic violence, child abuse, criminal behaviors, and substance abuse. These court-based programs have some similar features: (1) an intake process that includes assessment for domestic and family violence, (2) specialized prosecution and defense, (3) a dedicated docket, (4) intensive supervision, (5) offender programs, and (6) victim services. What distinguishes the two programs from each other are operational differences, such as the use of formal probation and a law enforcement protocol. In 2003, the National Center for State Courts, along with the American Probation and Parole Association received a grant from the U.S. Department of Justice, National Institute of Justice to study the effectiveness of Santa Clara County and San Francisco County’s court-based intervention programs. The methodology utilized involved two separate phases: contextual analysis and program evaluation. In addition, juvenile and adult recidivism information was collected, which included 304 closed cases.

2007-M-07032:	Practical Implications of Current Domestic Violence Research Part 3: Judges
Amount:	\$16,200
PI:	Andrew R. Klein
Status:	Completed

The purpose of this work is to describe to judges what current research tells us about domestic violence, with a focus on perpetrators and victims, and the impact of current judicial responses to domestic violence and, the implications of research for day to day real world responses to domestic violence by the bench.

Product: NCJ# 222321

Practical Implications of Current Domestic Violence Research Part 3: Judges

The research findings reviewed pertain to the prevalence of domestic violence, what percentage of domestic violence cases reach courts, whether arrest should be encouraged, characteristics of perpetrators and victims, the recidivism rate, the characteristics of recidivists, characteristics of abusers at highest risk for killing their partners, whether prosecution and sentencing of offenders deters recidivism, whether aggressive prosecution and sentencing increases the demand for trials, and appropriate sentences for convicted batterers. Other research reviewed pertains to whether batterer intervention programs prevent reabuse, the effectiveness of civil protective orders, and whether specialized domestic violence courts are effective. Regarding research on the prevalence and adverse impact of domestic violence on its victims, this study recommends that judges commit sufficient resources and attention to ensure that domestic violence cases are handled efficiently and effectively. It further advises judges to identify stalking behavior and recognize the importance of affording victims maximum protection against these potentially lethal abusers. Also, judges' decisions in domestic violence cases must give priority to the protection of victims, their children, other family members, responding police officers, as well as abusers at risk for suicide. In this regard, judges must insist they receive sufficient information on any pattern of systemic, abusive behaviors that place victims at high risk. In deciding on remedies and sentences upon conviction, judges should assume that the behavior at issue is not unique to the single case. Judges should also be aware that reducing assault charges to nonassault charges allows convicted abusers to retain firearms otherwise prohibited under Federal law. Pretrial and sentencing decisions should consider victim protection, such that abusers are controlled through incarceration or intensive supervision in the community.

2007-WG-BX-0012:	Adolescent Sexual Assault Victim’s Experiences With SANE-SARTs and the Criminal Justice System
Amount:	\$319,921
PI:	Rebecca Campbell
Status:	Completed

The study used two approaches to answer three questions related to adolescents and Sexual Assault Nurse Examiners (SANE) and Sexual Assault Response Teams (SART). The first was a quantitative, quasi-experimental design that examined 8 years of reporting and prosecution data in two counties that differ in terms of how their SANE programs

function within multidisciplinary SART teams. The second study involved qualitative interviews with adolescent victims who received SANE-SART services to learn how these experiences influenced their participation in prosecution. The overarching research questions studied: (1) Which cases make it through the system, and why? (2) What role do SANE-SARTs play in encouraging victims to participate in prosecution? (3) What are teen victims' concerns about seeking formal help in the first place? This study assists in filling a gap in the literature because, although research has shown that SANE-SART programs can be helpful throughout reporting and prosecution, this topic has not previously been studied with adolescents.

Product: NCJ# 234466

Adolescent Sexual Assault Victims' Experiences with SANE-SARTs and the Criminal Justice System (2011) – Rebecca Campbell, Megan Greeson, Deborah I. Bybee, Angie Kennedy, Debra Patterson

This project had two main objectives. First, qualitative interviews with adolescent sexual assault victims were conducted regarding their initial post-assault disclosures and their pathways to seeking help from the medical and legal systems. It is important to understand how and why teen survivors decide to seek help from these programs in the first place. Although SANE-SART interventions have the potential to be useful resources to teen victims, they are only useful insofar as they are utilized by survivors. The second objective was to conduct a quantitative analysis to determine what factors predict successful prosecution of adolescent sexual assault cases. Once teen victims are “in the system,” what factors determine whether a case will be prosecuted? Criminal justice prosecution is a multi-step process, from reporting to referral, arrest, prosecution (which itself has many steps), and final case outcome. Rather than focusing on any one stage, we assessed progress through this system as an ordinal variable to capture incremental change. We examined how differences between the two SANE-SART models—and the evolution of these models over time—predicted prosecution outcomes relative to the predictive utility of victim characteristics, assault characteristics, and medical forensic evidence findings.

Additional NCJ Citations: 245771, 246448, 249456

2008-WG-BX-0001:	Do Domestic Violence Courts Reduce Recidivism? A Statewide Impact Evaluation in New York
Amount:	\$278,824
PI:	Melissa Labriola
Status:	Completed

There are currently more than 300 specialized domestic violence courts in the United States. These courts all seek to improve the criminal justice response to domestic violence, but with little nationwide coordination and information exchange among them, today’s domestic violence courts reflect a considerable diversity of goals, policies, and practices. Although not uniformly embraced, many consider the reduction of offender recidivism to be an important goal. Yet, only a limited number of studies have been conducted. This study involves a statewide evaluation of 25 domestic violence courts across New York. Not only will this evaluation bring new clarity to the fundamental question of whether these courts reduce recidivism, it will also illuminate under what contextual conditions, and for which categories of defendants, domestic violence courts do and do not have positive effects. Secondarily, it will examine the impact of domestic violence courts on case processing speed, conviction rates, and sentencing practices as well. Two-year defendant samples will be drawn from 25 New York State domestic violence courts, encompassing large urban, suburban, small city, and rural jurisdictions. Each court’s defendants will be matched to a quasi-experimental comparison group from the same jurisdiction. Data collection will include community-level characteristics, court-level policies and practices, and defendant data on criminal history, charges, demographics, and rearrests.

Product: NCJ# 242583

Testing the Effects of New York's Domestic Violence Courts: A Statewide Impact Evaluation (2013) – Amanda B. Cissner, Melissa Labriola, Michael Rempel

This study on the impact of domestic violence courts in New York State found that the domestic violence courts did not reduce re-arrest rates for offenders overall but, for convicted offenders, re-arrest rates on any charge dropped from 49 percent to 46 percent, while re-arrest rates on domestic violence charges dropped from 32 percent to 29 percent. In addition, domestic violence courts that focused on deterrence significantly reduced re-arrest rates, compared to courts with less emphasis on deterrence. Other findings from the study include: (1) domestic violence courts significantly reduced the average case-processing time, from 260 days to 197 days; (2) domestic violence courts moderately increased the conviction rate compared to regular courts (65 percent compared to 61 percent); (3) domestic violence courts increased the percentage of sentences that involved jail or prison time, compared to regular courts; and (4)

domestic violence courts significantly increased the conviction rates for male defendants. These findings suggest that domestic violence courts in New York State have a modest impact on the re-arrest rates for convicted offenders, but their impact on conviction rates and incarceration rates was moderate. Data for the report were obtained by comparing the outcomes of 24 cases processed through the domestic violence courts with 24 cases processed through conventional courts. The purpose of the study was to determine the impact that domestic violence court policies and procedures had on case outcomes and whether this impact was more significant when compared to case outcomes in conventional courts. The domestic violence courts in New York State were selected for the study because the state is home to almost one-third of the country’s domestic violence courts.

2010-WG-BX-0010:	Sexual Assault Response Team (SART) Implementation and Collaborative Process: What Works Best for the Criminal Justice System?
Amount:	\$278,713
PI:	Rebecca Campbell
Status:	Completed

This project will conduct two studies examining how differences in SARTs’ structure and functioning impact their ability to increase reporting and prosecution rates, how the heterogeneity in SARTs’ structure and functioning relate to features of their collaborative process and, in turn, how these process factors relate to SARTs’ effectiveness at increasing reporting and prosecution rates. Findings from this study can be used to develop recommendations for SARTs’ practice and inform the efforts of national, state and local organizations that provide technical assistance to SARTs. In the first study, a national-scale study of SARTs will be conducted to identify patterns of SART structure and functioning and examine how these patterns relate to perceived effectiveness of increasing reporting and prosecution rates. Study 1 will utilize random sampling to obtain a national sample of SARTs. Key informants (i.e., SART leaders) will be asked to report on their SARTs’ membership, goals, structure and activities, and its effectiveness with respect to reporting and prosecution. Next, empirically based patterns of SART implementation will be derived (i.e., different combinations of membership, goals, structure and activities) using cluster analysis and will examine which patterns are more or less effective. The second study will examine how different patterns of SART structure and functioning relate to differences in the collaborative process, and how the collaborative process relates to perceived effectiveness in increasing reporting and prosecution rates. Study 2 examines two key features of the collaborative process: collaborative climate (i.e., inclusivity of diverse perspectives) and patterns of relationships among participating SART organizations (e.g., pattern of trusting relationships among stakeholders). To capture the diverse perspectives of SART members, all members of selected SARTs will be interviewed to examine these collaborative processes in detail. Because full member data collection is labor intensive, a subsample of SARTs that participated in Study 1 will be systematically selected to explore how structure/functioning patterns relate to collaborative processes, and how collaborative processes relate to perceived effectiveness.

Product: NCJ# 243829

Sexual Assault Response Team (SART) Implementation and Collaborative Process: What Works Best for the Criminal Justice System? (2013) – R. Campbell, M. Greeson, D. Bybee, J. W. Neal

A nationally representative sample of 172 SARTs were examined in order to determine the structure and functioning of SARTs that were most effective in improving victim and legal outcomes in sexual assault cases. The findings suggest that formalization, regular collaborative processes, and broad active membership from diverse stakeholder groups are key components of successful SARTs. Formalization contributed to the greater institutionalization of multidisciplinary training and policy/protocol review. A commitment to evaluation of the operation and impact of SART operations was also an important component of effective SARTs. The second study used social network analysis in examining the structure of inter-organization relationships within model SARTs. The findings of the second study revealed a high degree of connection among organizations both within and across sectors (legal, medical and mental health systems and rape crisis centers). Organizational representatives felt valued by other SART organizations and perceived one another as important resources in assisting victims and contributing to successful legal outcomes; however, there was a core group of organizations that drove relationships and a peripheral (less involved) group of organizations that tended to associate with the core groups, but not with one another. Frequency of communication across organizations tended to evolve as mutual benefits for case management developed.

2012-IJ-CX-0052:	Decision-Making in Sexual Assault Cases: Multi-site Replication Research on Sexual Violence Case Attrition in the U.S.
Amount:	\$1,688,108

PI:	Linda Williams
Status:	Completed

The attrition of sexual assault cases from the criminal justice system has been a concern to victims, practitioners, and researchers for the past 40 years. A growing body of research suggests that there is still much that can be done to support victims and to assure that the role of extra-legal factors in case attrition is minimized; however, gaps remain in our knowledge of the processing of these cases. Spohn and Tellis (2012) made a significant contribution to our understanding of the factors that explain sexual violence (SV) case attrition at the policing and prosecutorial stages. Because these findings were specific to agencies in Los Angeles County, there is a need to examine case processing in other jurisdictions to understand more about factors predictive of attrition. A multi-site replication will permit consideration of individual, agency, and community characteristics; victim advocacy; and police and prosecutorial innovations. The proposed research is a replication of Spohn and Tellis's work in a diverse sample of 6-8 agencies selected using a multi-stage purposive sampling framework focused not only on urban, suburban, and rural jurisdictions but also informed by key police organizational factors, populations served, geographic proximity, and quality of prosecution and police records management systems. This research will rely on a mixed methods approach using quantitative and qualitative data to uncover and interpret patterns in the attrition of sexual assault cases. The research team will closely adhere to the methods and analytic strategies used by Spohn and Tellis and will monitor this adherence closely. The research and analytic strategy will also involve careful attention to the detection of additional factors not examined in the original study which may be significant predictors of case attrition in the new jurisdictions. In each jurisdiction the research team will track rape and attempted rape cases and document the flow of reports through each stage; analyze detailed case records on a sample of SV cases to understand the dynamics including victim, offender, and case characteristics associated with attrition; and conduct interviews and focus groups with key personnel, victim service providers, and victims themselves. The study should contribute to the scientific understanding of sexual violence case attrition by providing a reliable replication of the Spohn and Tellis study across multiple sites. With the goal of increasing access to justice for sexual assault victims, the team will attempt to identify best practices within police departments and in cross agency collaborations between police, prosecutors, and victims assistance groups.

Product: NCJRS# 252689

Decision Making in Sexual Assault Cases: Replication Research on Sexual Violence Case Attrition in the U.S. (2019) – Melissa S. Morabito, Linda M. Williams, April Pattavina

In the six jurisdictions of the current study, a mixed-methods approach was used to obtain quantitative and qualitative data needed to identify and interpret patterns in the processing of sexual assault cases. Researchers tracked police reports of rape and attempted rape cases and documented the flow of reports on these cases through each stage of processing. Case records were analyzed in detail in order to determine the dynamics of the characteristics of victims, offenders, and cases associated with discontinued processing. Interviews and focus groups were conducted with police, prosecutors, and victim service providers. Multivariate analyses predicting an arrest indicated that legal or evidentiary factors were significant predictors of an arrest in a case and that the effects of case characteristics were independent of jurisdiction type. A cooperative victim was the strongest predictor of arrest across all jurisdictions. Results from medium and large jurisdictions showed that issues related to victim credibility reduced the likelihood of arrest. Race was a significant predictor only for small sites with higher odds of arrest for incidents that involved black victims. Extra-legal factors were significant in predicting arrest and were often related to issues in victim credibility. Indicators of victim resistance were predictive of arrest for all victim-offender types of relationships. Differences and similarities between the findings of this study and the Los Angeles County study are noted.

2019-75-CX-0013:	Tribal Justice, Tribal Court: Strengthening Tribal Justice Systems Using Restorative Approaches
Amount:	\$99,969
PI:	Lorinda Riley
Status:	Open

This project proposes a new tribal-researcher partnership involving faculty from the University of Hawai'i and the Sisseton-Wahpeton Oyate Tribal Court. Tribal courts have an immense responsibility to ensure the safety and continued welfare of tribal citizens. There is great variety of legal systems that tribal nations have developed. Some tribal nations have separate peacemaking branches that rely on traditional dispute resolution while others follow a justice model that mirrors the U.S. judicial system. This research explores the question of when and how judges at the

Sisseton-Wahpeton Oyate Tribal Court incorporate restorative justice elements in their sentencing decisions, diversionary orders, and other legal orders in the criminal law context. The results of this research can be used to inform tribal policymakers in the criminal justice environment and also support tribal resource allocation decisions. The applicant proposes to describe best practices to be shared with the larger tribal justice community. Research results may also apply to the surrounding state legal system by highlighting ways to incorporate restorative justice into their decisions and furthering intergovernmental cooperation in the shared administration of justice, especially in Public Law 280 states.

For an index of all grants, go to ojp.gov/sites/g/files/xyckuh241/files/archives/ncjrs/223572-grants-index.pdf.