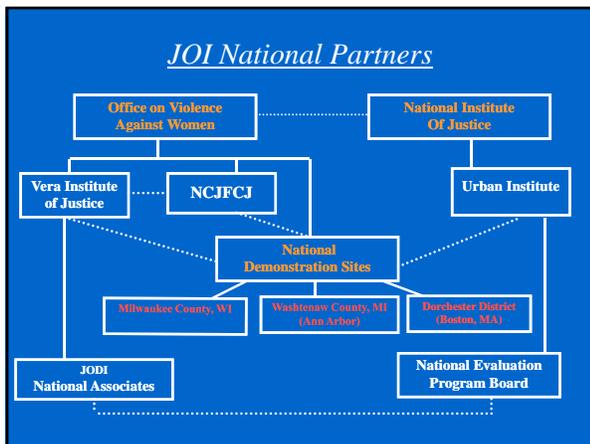




Project Overview

Tests the idea that:

- a strong coordinated community response to domestic violence,
- a focused judicial response, and
- a systematic criminal justice response can improve victim safety and increase offender accountability.





- ### Framework
- Promote uniform and consistent response to DV offenses
 - Coordinate victim services
 - Enhance offender accountability and oversight
 - Rigorous research and evaluation component
 - Work with centralized, technical assistance provider

Offender Accountability and Victim Safety

Success depends largely on effective collaboration

History of Community Collaboration

- 1979 CCR-Milwaukee Commission on Domestic Violence & Sexual Assault
- 1994 First specialized Domestic Violence Court
- 1994 Safe at Home Project to coordinate community nonprofit efforts
- 1997 DA's office Domestic Violence Unit
- 1999 JODI project

DV Incidents in 2005

- 7,553 911 calls for service to MPD
- 5,914 arrests made
- 9,637 cases reviewed by the DA
- 5,184 (54%) cases charged
- 4,453 (46%) cases not charged
- 60% Conviction rate

The Safe At Home Study had two goals:

- Studying Adolescent Attitudes toward violence against women and Studying Battering Behavior and the Stages of Change Model to changing violent behavior.
- The effort was not aimed at coordinating nonprofit victim service efforts but was a collaborative effort aimed at these two goals.
- The public awareness campaign grew out of the batterer's component of the project and focus groups with batterers.

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JOI Enhancements

- Expand prosecution capacity
 - Felony Prosecution of DV Incidents
- Milwaukee Police Department
 - Domestic Violence Liaison
 - Family Violence Unit
- Pretrial supervision of defendants
- Post-conviction review hearings
 - Enhanced Capacity in BIP

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JODI Victim Services

Prior to creating the Victim Advocacy Unit of JOI we studied the DVERT Model and other models teaming LE and Advocates and we studied our own failure related to this type of project which had been attempted in the early 1990's. We came to the conclusion that it would be best to create a separate unit of advocates who could:

- Work in partnership with but separate from LE
- Respond immediately after an incident of DV
- Provide and retain a confidential connection to victims throughout their time of moving through the system
- Since the advocacy unit could not be sustained and we were having significant problems with safety at the scene we decided to ask MPD to host the position in the hopes that the advocate would be able to work in closer partnership with LE responding to incidents. In addition to safety concerns, the unit was too costly to maintain.

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Victim Services

Milwaukee Police Department Domestic Violence Liaison

- Position created by JODI Victim Services Committee and the MPD.

Created to improve:

- law enforcement response to DV cases by providing immediate follow-up to victims
- victim access to the police department, social services, and the court system
- Not a confidential advocate

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Pretrial Monitoring

- Pretrial is a dangerous time for a victim
- Milwaukee had no DV specific pretrial supervision programs
- Time between arrest, charging and trial was identified as the most troubling & confusing for victims in Milwaukee
- CJS has limited legal control over defendant pre-conviction
 - Desperate to keep victim from cooperating with prosecution
 - Try to influence outcome of the case using threats, violence and intimidation

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Pretrial Monitoring Program (PMP)

Pretrial Monitoring Program Goals:

- To increase victim safety by reducing the chance of re-victimization
- To better assure compliance with court ordered conditions of release--including no contact orders

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Pretrial Monitoring

Current Pretrial Monitoring in Milwaukee

- Witness Protection Unit
- Sensitive Crimes Unit

Victim Interview Project

- To determine whether victims served by the Pretrial Monitoring Program (PMP) and MPD Domestic Violence Liaison (DVL) perceived a benefit to their safety and well-being as a result of participation in programs.

PMP Victim Interview Project

- 96.4% of respondents indicated that they were more hopeful as a result of working with PMP.
- All respondents except one said that participating in the PMP decreased their sense of danger or fear of harm from DV.
- 92.9% said they received more information about how to get help in a future incident of abuse.
- 92.9% of respondents indicated that they would recommend using the services of the PMP to a friend in need.

Research Findings: DVL

- 100% of respondents experienced a significant improvement in their sense of safety and well-being.
- 100% of respondents indicated that they would recommend the program to a friend in need.
- 86% indicated that having the DVL available to them helped them to decide to participate in the prosecution.
- 100% of respondents indicated that they were more hopeful as a result of working with DVL
- All but one indicated that working with the DVL decreased their sense of danger or fear of harm from domestic violence

Victim & Witness Waiting Room

- Created to provide a safe and comfortable place for victims and their children to wait until their case is called

Victim Waiting Room



– From 3-35 witnesses subpoenaed to this room on a given day

Improved Restraining Order Process

- Combined Domestic Abuse & Harassment Court
 - Eliminated one step for petitioners
- Filing process in 2005:
 - 3,928 temporary restraining orders granted
 - 1,618 permanent orders granted

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Probation Review Hearings

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Reasons for Implementation

- Late 90's survey found 900-1,000 offenders ordered to complete BIP as condition of probation.
- BIP's logged only 400 intakes
- Where did the other 500-600 go?
- Also found that it took 9 1/2 months from time of sentencing to time of BIP intake.

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Probation Review Hearings

Effort to increase victim safety and offender accountability by:

- enhancing the authority of probation agents
- imposing swift sanctions for offender violations
- rewarding those who are in compliance
- creating checks and balances for the system
- giving victims direct access to the court

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Progress

- 1998
- 845 offenders ordered to complete BIP as probation condition
- 47% attended BIP intake
- 32% completed BIP
- 2003
- 1,302 offenders ordered to complete BIP as probation condition
- 86% attended BIP intake
- 43% completed BIP

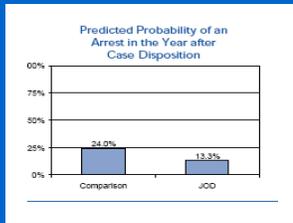
Preliminary Impact Evaluation Results

- Tests hypothesis that probation review hearings reduced subsequent arrests among offenders placed on probation following conviction for intimate partner violence
- Sample: 333 offenders placed on probation during JOI (2001-2002) and subject to probation review compared to 289 offenders placed on probation before introduction of reviews (1997-1999)

Findings

- JOI probationers were 47% less likely to be arrested for domestic violence related crime in the year following case disposition than offenders placed on probation prior to JOI.
- JOI probationers had fewer overall arrests in the year following case disposition than offenders placed on probation prior to JOI.

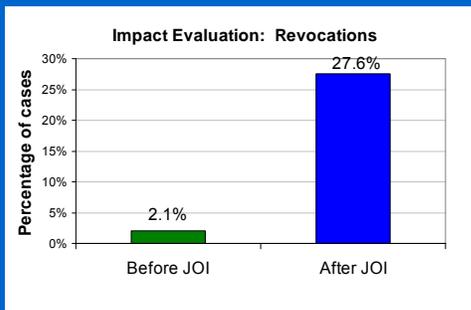
JOI Evaluation Findings



Victim & Offender Protocol

- Department of Community Corrections supported by technical assistance developed a probation protocol and check list to better supervise DV offenders and work with their victims
- All 400 agents in the Milwaukee region will be trained in 2006
- Ongoing protocol training for new agents and those transferring in from out of region occurs biannually.

Probation



Pc:001

Court Processing Committee

- Co-chaired by the presiding DV judge
- Meets monthly
- Brings all systems partners together
- Problem solves

ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- Developed strong relationships between DV judges and system partners
- Client Status Report
- Probation Review Hearings
- DOC funding for batterers treatment
- No Contact Order Modification Protocol

No Contact Order Modification Protocol

- Guiding principles
 - Victim safety
 - Individual victim autonomy
 - No perfect solution
 - The Criminal Justice System

No Contact Order Modification Protocol

- Created by members of Court Processing Committee
- Issued as a directive from presiding judge
- Gave judges factors for consideration when making decisions
 - advocacy
 - evidence of offender change
 - lethality review

NCO Modification

- Look at severity of offense
- Look at severity of other defendant conduct
- Stress factors that trigger DV

- Modification guidelines
 - victim must be present
 - amendments/modification in writing

On the JOI Project

Simply put: "It's about people actively working together to solve problems"

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For More Information

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