

Attachment Two (2)

Committee on Domestic Violence
Training Subcommittee Meeting Agenda
October 24, 2019

Contents: Domestic Violence Court
Overview/Report, Domestic Violence National
Trainings for Justice System Professionals &
Dissemination Guide for Domestic Violence
Researchers and Practitioners

An Overview of Research on Specialized Domestic Violence Courts

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March 30, 2018

The following includes summaries from research evaluations on specialized domestic violence (DV) courts across the country. In what follows, updated research is summarized in the following order:

- 1) The scope of the problem
- 2) Why specialized DV courts were developed
- 3) A general overview of the research on specialized DV courts
- 4) Specific research on a) procedural justice; b) victim satisfaction; c) offender accountability (inclusive of what is known about the impacts of prosecution, conviction, sentencing, and judicial monitoring); d) rates of offender recidivism; and e) case processing.
- 5) Model programs
- 6) Potential criticisms, critiques, and concerns surrounding specialized DV courts
- 7) Summary

I. The Scope of the Problem

National statistics suggest that an average of 20 individuals are physically abused by an intimate partner every minute in the United States.¹ According to recent estimates from the National Intimate Partner and Sexual Violence Survey (NISVS), almost 32% of women and 28% of men in the United States reported experiencing physical violence at the hands of their intimate partner at some point in their lifetime, with many more experiencing other forms of intimate partner violence (IPV) (Breiding et al., 2014). In total, there are millions of victims of DV/IPV throughout the country.

Additionally, the National Coalition Against Domestic Violence (NCADV) reports that, on any given day, domestic violence hotlines across the United States receive over 20,000 calls.² Moreover, DV cases represent a large proportion of incidents that police respond to (e.g., Sherman, 1992), and a large proportion of cases that are processed within the court system. Even still, these cases are highly underreported,³ so those that reach the criminal justice system are only a subset of the actual number of individuals who experience DV/IPV.

The consequences of experiencing a DV/IPV episode are significant and include economic, emotional, physical, and sexual costs. Research also denotes that the presence of a gun during a domestic violence episode also increases the risk of a domestic homicide by at least 500% (Campbell et al., 2003).

Importantly, information is available that suggests that DV is prevalent in the state of Nevada. For example, Nevada consistently ranks in the top 10 – and, in many recent years, first – in the nation for women who are killed by men in single victim/single offender incidents.⁴ Of all of these cases nationwide, the majority involves a victim and offender who are known to each other, and specifically, are current/former intimate partners (Violence Policy Center, 2015).

In reviewing state data from the Nevada Coalition to END Domestic and Sexual Violence (NCEDSV), 2017 end year reports note that there were approximately 47,368 victims documented. From this figure, 37,637 (79%) resided in Clark County, Nevada.⁵ Additionally, the Nevada Network to End Domestic Violence also notes that, in 2017, Nevada DV services were contacted almost 70,000 times.⁶ Lastly, SafeNest – a local Clark County, Nevada resource for

¹ Please see the National Coalition Against Domestic Violence (NCADV) website available at <https://ncadv.org/statistics>

² Please see the National Coalition Against Domestic Violence (NCADV) website available at <https://ncadv.org/statistics>

³ For example, results from Tjaden and Thoennes (2000ab) national study found that more than 73% of women who were physically abused by their intimate partner did not report the incident to law enforcement (see also Dugan, Nagin, & Rosenfeld (2003).

⁴ Please see the Violence Policy Center website available at <http://www.vpc.org/revealing-the-impacts-of-gun-violence/female-homicide-victimization-by-males/>

⁵ Please see the Nevada Coalition to END Domestic and Sexual Violence (NCEDSV) website available at <http://www.ncedsv.org/resources/statistics-and-reports/>

⁶ Please see the Nevada Network to End Domestic Violence online publication (2017): https://drive.google.com/file/d/1oqVDTNvBGeujQaKghS_VRavtR0zojsWL/view

victims of DV – reported that, in 2016, they supported over 43,000 victims through their hotline, counseling services, assistance with obtaining a protection order, victim advocacy, and shelter.⁷

II. Why Specialized DV Courts Were Developed

Domestic violence is not a new social problem either nationally or in the state of Nevada. However, criminal justice responses to DV have seen significant changes since the 1980s. The gravity and scope of this issue and criticisms surrounding historical criminal justice responses to DV sparked the development of specialized DV courts, which began to emerge in and around the 1990s. Overall, specialized DV courts often aim to accomplish a number of goals, including, but not limited to, increasing the focus on victim safety, responding to the needs of victims, better monitoring defendant compliance with court orders, increasing offender accountability, and reducing recidivism (see Keilitz, 2000; Labriola et al., 2009). Specialized DV courts vary from each other in a number of ways including court composition, mission/goal, and type of cases they hear/oversee. Yet, they do share similarities in their focus on a *specialization* processes.⁸

There are noted benefits to specialized DV courts (see Keilitz, 2000). First, development of a specialized DV court “conserves resources” (Gover et al., 2007, p. 605) and involves personnel who are trained in responding specifically to domestic violence cases. Coordinated efforts and collaboration amongst a range of providers/professionals helps to address issues of DV in the community (Epstein, 1999). In addition, specialized personnel are better trained and better able to understand DV victims/survivors including the dynamics inherent in DV cases. Consequently, specialized DV courts may be in a better position to positively address victim safety and offender accountability. Further, and perhaps more symbolically, the incorporation of specialized DV courts within a community sends a message that the criminal justice system will not tolerate DV.

II. General Overview: What Research on Specialized DV Courts Tells Us

A 2009 report identified the existence of just over 200 specialized DV courts across 32 states in the United States. According to the same report, almost half of these courts are located in New York and California (Labriola et al., 2009). In fact, specialized DV courts have been identified as second to drug courts in the prevalence of such specialized courts in the United States (Cissner et al., 2013).

Compared to the number of specialized DV courts in existence, there have been relatively few scientific assessments of these courts. Still, results of those evaluations that have been conducted provide important insights into the potential benefits and drawbacks of these specialized courts. For example, some, albeit not all, evaluations have been conducted in Brooklyn, New York (Newmark et al., 2001), Manhattan, New York (Peterson, 2004), the District of Columbia

⁷ Please see <https://safenest.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/07/2016-Safe-Nest-Annual-Report-FINAL.pdf>

⁸ Please see “Stop Violence Against Women” – a project of The Advocates for Human Rights website available at http://www.stopvaw.org/specialized_domestic_violence_court_systems

(Steketee, Levey, and Kelitiz, 2000), Lexington, South Carolina (Gover et al., 2003), Miami, Florida (Goldkamp et al., 1996), Minneapolis, Minnesota (Eckberg & Podkopacz, 2002; Hennepin County District Court Research Division, 2002ab), San Diego, California (San Diego Superior Court, 2000), and three courts in Connecticut (Lyon, 2002).⁹

It should be noted, however, that some of the evaluations of these specialized DV courts are challenging to compare and contrast. Primarily, this is due to the reality that courts vary in a number of ways, including, but not limited to, the specialization (and training) of judges, level of case adjudication (i.e., whether the DV is a misdemeanor or felony), overall mission and/or goals of the court, and the legal culture/practice of the specialized court (i.e., integrated or separated).

In reviewing these evaluative projects, qualitative data collected in a nationwide survey of DV courts showed that **one of the most important features associated with a “successful” DV specialized court was the full engagement of all court and community partners involved.** This importance was heightened (thus, more impactful and significant) when court and community partners had collaborated since the beginning (Labriola et al., 2009).

Research in many jurisdictions does suggest that specialized DV courts have positive effects across a variety of outcomes of interest. Yet, despite some promising outcomes from evaluations across the country, specialized DV courts are still understudied. Further research and evaluation, on a statewide basis, is greatly needed.

III. Overview of Specific Research

Research on specialized DV courts generally falls into the following five (5) areas: 1) procedural justice; 2) victim satisfaction; 3) offender accountability (i.e., research related to prosecution, conviction, sentencing, and judicial monitoring); 4) repeat offending (recidivism); and 5) case processing. Brief summaries for each of these topics are provided below. It should be noted that, because of the variability across specialized DV courts, results may be impacted by the unique policies and practices implemented in each specialized DV court (see Labriola et al., 2009).

1. Procedural Justice

The basic premise behind procedural justice is that when individuals perceive fairness and respect, they are more likely to comply with criminal justice orders and/or sanctions, regardless if they agree with the outcome.

At least one empirical study of procedural justice in a specialized DV court setting has been conducted. Gover et al.'s (2007) study of a specialized DV court in South Carolina reported that overall, **both victims and defendants had positive views of the court**, felt that they were treated with respect, and that the judge listened to and was concerned about their side of what

⁹ Please see Casey and Rottman (2005) who acknowledge that newer research evaluations are also recently published via the Urban Institute.

happened. The potential impact of this cannot be overstated, as it may be related to overall positive experiences as well as enhanced victim safety.

For example, as noted by Malangone (n.d.), when victims perceive the criminal justice system to be procedurally just, they may be more likely to utilize resources available and less likely to experience additional trauma associated with criminal justice responses. As it pertains to defendants, procedural justice has been hypothesized to be related to compliance with criminal justice orders and sanctions (Tyler, 1990, 2003). At least one study reported that procedurally just law enforcement interactions were associated with lowered recidivism for DV offenders (see Paternoster et al., 1997).¹⁰

2. Victim Satisfaction

Perhaps tangentially related to procedural justice, most research finds that **victims have positive experiences in specialized courts** (see Gover et al., 2007; Hartley & Frohmann, 2003). For example, in an evaluation of a specialized DV court in South Carolina, Gover et al. (2007) reported that most victims felt that their side of the story was listened to and that the judge showed concern for their experiences. In general, there is some evidence to suggest that victims are satisfied with their experiences both in specialized courts and non-specialized courts (Hartley & Frohmann, 2003); however, victims may also report having negative experiences in court settings regardless of the specialization of the court. For example, Davis et al. (2001) found that victims in their study actually had less satisfaction with prosecution; they hypothesized that this finding could be due to an increase in evidence-based prosecutorial strategies that moved away from needing victim participation. Thus, changes in the culture of the specialized court might also impact overall victim satisfaction.

Overall, and based on limited research available, nationally, four out of five evaluations found that victims reported higher levels of satisfaction when their cases were adjudicated in DV courts as opposed to traditional courts (Labriola et al., 2009). There is also some evidence to suggest that, in specialized DV courts, victim services may also be expanded, to include increased advocacy, resources, and services accessed (Newmark et al., 2001). More research is needed on the impacts of victim services and victim advocacy provided in specialized DV courts versus those available to victims in traditional court settings.

3. Offender Accountability

One criticism of the traditional court response to DV was the increased number of case dismissals. In some specialized DV courts, there are dedicated teams of prosecutors that work only on DV prosecutions. There are several advantages to this set-up. First, since there is a consistent “working group” of legal professionals and practitioners (i.e., prosecutors, judges, victim advocates), these individuals are able to ensure consistency in the treatment of all DV cases. Research suggests that such trained “working groups” are sensitive to the needs of victims

¹⁰ See also D. Epstein (2001). Procedural justice: Tempering the state's response to domestic violence. *Wm. & Mary L. Rev.*, 43, 1843.

and are better able to provide additional services and resources at the local level (Clark et al., 1996; Labriola et al., 2009; Maytal, 2008).

Prosecutions. In DV courts, prosecutors work closely with victim advocates who are in direct contact with victims. This often provides prosecutors with more information than they would have otherwise. Thus, prosecutors may be in a better position to direct law enforcement in investigations and in questioning the victim (see Labriola et al., 2009).¹¹ Also, studies have shown that, when DV victims are provided with help in understanding legal procedures, they are more likely to participate in the prosecution of their abusers (Maytal, 2008, p. 204-206). Overall, there is some evidence of **increased prosecution rates** of DV within specialized DV courts (e.g., Eckberg & Podkopacz, 2002; Newmark et al., 2001; but see, Peterson, 2004). **There is variability in reported rates of prosecution (and conviction) for DV cases. More research is needed.**

Convictions. There is **mixed evidence on whether conviction rates increase** in specialized DV courts compared to more traditional court settings. Some studies find an increase in convictions (e.g., Eckberg & Podkopacz, 2002; Harrell et al., 2007; Hartley & Frohmann, 2003). Yet, in some cases, these increased convictions are associated with the increase in the number of defendants taking guilty pleas (Davis et al., 2001). Other studies have found no differences between specialized and non-specialized court conviction rates for defendants overall (e.g., Peterson, 2004; Cissner et al., 2015). Again, **there is variability in reported rates of conviction (and prosecution) for DV cases**, and it may vary depending on characteristics of the defendant (see Cissner et al., 2015). **More research is needed.**

Sentencing. When comparing sentencing practices in specialized DV courts to non-specialized, traditional, and community courts, the **research on sentencing is also mixed.** Some studies found an increased use of more punitive sanctions such as incarceration or probation orders (e.g., Harrell et al., 2007; Hartley & Frohmann, 2003), other studies found a decrease in the use of incarceration sentences (e.g., Davis, 2001; Peterson, 2004), and others found no differences in sentencing practices (e.g., Cissner et al., 2015; Newmark et al., 2001). Again, with only a few evaluations completed (e.g., Berman & Gulick, 2003; Keilitz, 2000; Sack, 2002) findings on the range and impacts of sentencing in DV courts are inconclusive. Some incorporate community service, counseling, and require batterer treatment programs, while others do not (see Labriola, 2009). Perhaps these sentencing differences are related to the specialized DV courts' emphasis/goals of accountability in sentencing.

One popular example of a DV court sentencing scheme is the incorporation of batterer intervention and/or treatment programs. Batterer programs are used primarily due to their capabilities to monitor abusers' future conduct while also promoting accountability (see Sack, 2002, p. 2-3; Casey & Rottman, 2005, p. 40-41). Yet, research on the effectiveness of batterer

¹¹ See also Gwinn, C. G., & O'Dell, A. (1992). Stopping the violence: The role of the police officer and the prosecutor. *W. St. UL Rev.*, 20, 297.

intervention programs is also inconclusive (Bennett & Williams, 2001; Feder & Dugan, 2002; Jackson et al., 2003).

Overall, research on DV court sentencing is mixed. Additionally, very few studies have assessed judicial decisions made during the adjudication process overall (i.e., pretrial release, prosecution, disposition, and sentencing) (see Henning & Feder, 2005). **Research on the use and effectiveness of sentencing is needed.**

Judicial monitoring. To date, some studies have attempted to examine the effectiveness of judicial monitoring in specialized DV courts. There are some studies that indicate that specialized courts are better able to provide **enhanced supervision** to defendants (Barber & Wright, 2010; Klein & Crowe, 2008) and **monitoring may be effective** (e.g., San Diego Superior Court, 2000). Within a specialized DV court, judges and prosecutors and victim advocates who work consistently with DV cases often see repeat victims and repeat offenders; thus, these courtroom actors have a more detailed understanding of the backgrounds of the individuals involved including the intimacies of their cases.

Research suggests that, in DV courts, offenders are more rigorously monitored and subjected to more frequent review hearings when compared to traditional court settings (Harper et al., 2010). Increased supervision and monitoring of offenders is therefore intimately connected to increased levels of victims' safety. For example, in evaluating the specialty DV court in Idaho, Harper and colleagues (2010) found that offenders in DV court had more than three times the amount of judicial contacts (9.67 times contact, or roughly 10) when compared to offenders in traditional court (2.98 times contact, or roughly 3).

Preliminary research findings from the Bronx Misdemeanor DV Court suggests that monitoring did not reduce the probability of an offender's re-arrest, DV re-arrest, as well as DV re-arrest with the same victim. However, after one year, judicial monitoring did reduce the total number of DV re-arrests overall (yet, at the end of 18-months, this effect was diminished) (see Labriola et al., 2005; Rempel, 2008). In sum, **research on judicial monitoring is promising, but more research is needed.**

d. Offender Recidivism (And Victim Safety)

Research findings on DV offender recidivism are also unclear. Research conducted by Gover and colleagues (2003) concluded that there were reductions in DV re-arrests for those offenders processed in the DV specialized court when compared to a sample of offenders processed prior to the establishment of the specialized court. In New York, however, results indicated that many offenders returned to jail for minor infractions. Returning for technical violations were the same in both the traditional and specialized DV court (see Newmark et al., 2001).

Recently, Gutierrez and colleagues (2016) conducted a meta-analysis of 20 studies that examined the impact of specialized DV courts on recidivism (including courts in the United States and Canada). Although they reported that the majority of the studies were methodologically weak, they found some slight reductions in recidivism for defendants processed in specialized DV courts compared to non-specialty courts. However, these findings were impacted by a number of factors (e.g., location of court; length of program existence; including, and notably,

methodological strength of the research evaluation). Moreover, the variation across court(s) may impact results as well.

Additional research on recidivism suggests that community resources available to DV offenders are limited. Resources and services are even more absent for offenders 1) who have committed/reached a felony level DV offense and 2) who also need substance abuse and/or mental health treatment (see Buzawa et al., 2011).

Overall, research on the effectiveness of DV courts to reduce DV offender recidivism is unclear. That said, recent research conducted on “enhanced coordinated community responses” to reduce recidivism shows promising results (see Babcock & Steiner, 1999; Shepard et al., 2002). Future research could include an evaluation of the effectiveness of specialized DV courts engaged in enhanced coordinated community responses to DV.

e. Case Processing

Many DV cases also have concurrent and/or dual civil cases pending. This means that many victims experience both a criminal DV case (via traditional or a specialized DV court) as well as a civil protection order case (via civil justice facility). These dual-involved cases often include supplemental cases for divorce and/or child custody as well. Some courts have integrated systems to deal with these cases collectively/together. Unfortunately, to our knowledge, no studies have evaluated the impact of case processing time and/or case efficiency for dual-involved DV cases. Initial research is needed.

Overall, research suggests that specialized DV courts tend to **reduce case processing time** (Cissner et al., 2015; Davis et al., 2001; Eckberg & Podkopacz, 2002; Harper et al., 2010; but see, Newmark et al., 2001).

Improvement of case processing time could be important for keeping victims/survivors connected to resources and support. For example, according to Hovda (2012), DV court judges may be able to more quickly and efficiently place no-contact orders on defendants. Furthermore, given the sheer number of DV cases that come to the attention of the criminal justice system, addressing case processing time is important for ensuring that cases are effectively and efficiently moved through the system.

V. Model Programs

As mentioned previously, over 200 specialized DV courts are known to exist across the country (Labriola et al., 2009). In 2013, the Office on Violence Against Women chose three (3) “model” DV courts to serve as mentors/resources to specialized courts nationwide.¹²

¹² See <https://www.justice.gov/opa/pr/justice-department-selects-three-domestic-violence-courts-serve-resources-specialized-courts> and <https://www.courtinnovation.org/programs/domestic-violence-court> for more information.

- 1) The Brooklyn Integrated Domestic Violence Court (IDV)
- 2) The Ada County Domestic Violence Court
- 3) County Criminal Court #10 in Dallas.

VI. Criticisms, Critiques, and Concerns Surrounding Specialized DV Courts

Despite the research that exists on the benefits of DV courts, there are some concerns and critiques of these courts that are worth noting.

First, and antithetical to the tenets that specialized DV courts were founded on, is the notion that having a specialized court that only deals with DV (i.e., family) crimes may unintentionally reinforce the myth that these incidents are not *real crimes*, as they must be dealt with separately from other crimes.¹³ Although specialized courts were developed to address the weaknesses of the traditional court system in responding to domestic violence, it is important for developed courts to continue to frame DV as a serious crime with grave implications for the victim, the offender, and overall community.

In addition, potential concerns arise surrounding specialized judges becoming “pro-victim” and “anti-defendant” due to their increased training and understanding of the unique dynamics inherent in domestic violence incidents. Some have raised concerns that the specialized nature of the court could bias proceedings and reduce the likelihood of defendants’ perceptions of neutrality and fairness in judicial proceedings (see Epstein, 1999 for a discussion of this and other potential criticisms); according to Epstein (1999), this concern is anecdotal.

Lastly, burnout is anticipated. Given the highly emotionally charged hearings and difficult decision-making required (Epstein, 1999), specialized judges who hear these cases day in and day out may feel burnout associated with their assignments. Prior research has examined occupational burnout experienced by other personnel responding to DV, including victims’ advocates and social service providers. It stands to reason that this is also a concern experienced by criminal justice personnel working within specialized DV courts.

VII. Summary

Specialized DV courts were developed alongside other problem-solving courts and originated out of an attempt to address the limitations of the “traditional” court system response to DV. Historically, dropped cases were common; victim support was low, and the perception that DV was a private issue prevailed.

Since the 1990s, the number of specialized DV courts across the country has increased, and specialized DV courts are second to drug courts as the most common specialty court in the United States (Cissner et al., 2013). Although scientific studies on specialized DV courts are still relatively scant, the research that does exist suggests that in many areas, specialized courts are innovative improvements in the traditional response to DV. However, additional research is necessary to fully understand the benefits, critiques, and effects of specialized DV courts.

¹³ See a discussion at <http://www.endvawnow.org/en/articles/144-specialized-courts-tribunals-for-violence-against-women.html>

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Specialized Domestic Violence Courts

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Specialized DV Courts Vary In...

- Types of cases
 - Criminal
 - Civil
 - Combination
- Court composition
 - One judge v. rotating judges
 - One prosecutor v. multiple prosecutors
 - Victim advocates
 - Defense attorneys
 - Social service providers
- Goals/Mission
 - Victim safety and needs
 - Defendant monitoring and compliance with court orders
 - Offender accountability
 - Offender rehabilitation
 - Reduce recidivism
 - Reduce case processing time

Convincing Evidence Surrounding Specialized Domestic Violence Courts

- Procedural justice
- Generally higher levels of victim satisfaction
- Generally higher levels of victim services
- Increased prosecution rates (variability)
- Enhanced supervision and monitoring
- Reduced case processing time

Mixed Evidence Surrounding Specialized Domestic Violence Courts

- Conviction rates
- Sentencing practices
- Recidivism (but promising results for *enhanced coordinated community responses*)

Best practices to consider in specialized domestic violence courts...

What works in one setting does not
necessarily work in another

“Best Practices”

- **Coordination** of information and services between courtroom workgroup and all parties
- **Training** for *all* parties
- **Linkage of services** for victims (and children) while participating in judicial process

“Best Practices”

- Ensuring victim safety
 - Court personnel trained in the dynamics of domestic violence
 - Designated spaces for victims and their family to avoid contact with defendant(s) and their families/friends
 - To include arrival and departure protocols
 - Available victim advocates and social service providers
 - Keeping the victim informed of all available options and services available
 - Confidentiality

“Best Practices”

- **Coordination of community partners**
 - Ensures a coordinated response
 - Encourages information sharing and informed decision making
 - Helps to “institutionalize” the coordination of procedures, trainings, and services
 - Focus on DV training and education

“Best Practices”

- **Monitoring** offenders
 - Judge must be able to assess compliance
 - Regular reports to court, regular review hearings (pre- and post-disposition), etc.

- Ensuring **offender compliance** and **accountability**
 - Reporting updates between court, batterer intervention program provider, probation, etc.
 - Sanctions for non-compliance

Issues to Consider

- Procedural justice
- Risk-assessments to assist decision-making
 - *Lethality* assessments (law enforcement records)
- No-contact orders; dual cases
- Coordination with civil protection order court
- Coordination with Southern Nevada Family Justice Center
- Firearm possession and surrender
- Cases involving same-sex partners

Evaluation

Evaluation is the best way to determine if the Court is working the way that the developers' and community members' envisioned...

- Involves:
 - **Collecting data** i.e., prosecution and dismissals, jury and bench trials, sentencing, connections to offender criminal history, rates of recidivism, compliance reviews
 - **SWOT Analysis** – provides a collective understanding of Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities, Threats
 - **Identifying immediate and long-term goals**
 - **Conducting research**
 - **Analyzing research** (monthly, quarterly, bi-yearly, etc.)

Accountability

Ongoing data collection and evaluation are necessary to improve the court's and community's response to DV

- Provides opportunities to solicit and offer feedback
- Provides opportunities to chart/document “successes” as well as “failures”

Best Practices: Ada County Domestic Violence Court (Boise, Idaho)

- **Court composition**

- 2 judges share docket; Rotating every other week;
Trained and educated in DV issues
- Use of Idaho Risk Assessment Tool in collaboration
with law enforcement (i.e., history of DV,
separation, lethality, prior police contact,
substance use/abuse)

Best Practices: Ada County Domestic Violence Court (Boise, Idaho)

- **Goals**
 - **Expedited process:** 45-60 days from time to arrest to disposition
 - **Coordinated Response:** Incorporation of DV services (emergency shelter and counseling services) and utilization of trained victim advocates (i.e., Women’s and Children’s Alliance)
 - **Monitoring:** Frequent and regular reviews with Probation and Parole up to 120 days after disposition; DV group meetings for offenders
 - **Community Involvement:** Sharing resources and maintaining communication with service providers about “what works” and “what’s not working”; Created a triage one-stop-shop with medical, social, educational, and legal services provided.

Best Practices: Dallas County Criminal Court 10 (Dallas, Texas)

- **Court composition**

- 1 judge with 1 designated court; All court employees, marshals, and partners are trained and educated in DV (focus on power and control)

Best Practices: Dallas County Criminal Court 10 (Dallas, Texas)

- **Goals:**

- **Offender Accountability:** Serious “no contact”; mandatory batterer intervention program (24 weeks; 30 weeks for high-risk offenders); consequences if not compliant
- **Monitoring:** All offenders report weekly; Created high-risk DV offender specialized probation and parole unit (trained in issues of DV); Weekly communication with the judge
- **Victim Safety:** Emergency orders of protection; Work closely with victim advocates; Incorporation of community services and emergency shelter (Genesis Women’s Shelter); HeRO (He Respects Others) mentoring and victim support program; Provides separate waiting rooms at court; Weekly follow-up with victims
- **Mandatory Surrender Firearms (2013):** All DV offenders must surrender firearms; Stored by Sheriff's office

Thank you!

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Training in Domestic Violence: Summaries of National Resources Available for Justice System Professionals and Those Working with DV Victims

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1. The National Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges

WEBSITE: <http://www.ncjfcj.org/>

a. EDUCATION

The NCJFCJ is a judicial membership organization that provides education to judicial officers and other justice system professionals (e.g., judges, referees, commissioners, court masters and administrators, social and mental health workers, police, probation officers) on domestic violence (and other related areas), new research, case management strategies, self-care and skill building techniques, and best practices for family and juvenile courts. **This organization is considered a leader in the provision of cutting-edge educational programming to professionals in the juvenile and family court system.** For professionals, working in juvenile, family, and domestic cases, the NCJFCJ provides educational programs, technical assistance, research involving related issues, and degree programs for judges and other professionals (UNR and National Judicial College). The NCJFCJ has several initiatives currently ongoing, some of which deal with domestic violence issues.

b. RESEARCH

The NCJFCJ offers several resources, including nationally respected research to assist juvenile and family courts. They have a non-profit research division based in Pittsburgh, PA. While much of their research is focused on the field of juvenile justice, the website does claim that they conduct research pertaining to family violence and domestic relations, including cases, statutes, and social science. **The NCJFCJ maintains a lending library of books, videos, curricula, bench tools, policy manuals, and other publications highlighting recent research.** Most importantly, the NCJFCJ publishes a quarterly, peer-reviewed *Juvenile and Family Court Journal*, which focuses on several issues pertaining to juvenile and family justice, including domestic violence. The website offers subscriptions to this journal for members and non-members. An annual, online subscription for non-members is \$418. A free copy of this publication is available here:

<https://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/toc/17556988/65/1>

c. CURRENT INITIATIVES

The Greenbook Initiative – Effective intervention in domestic violence and child maltreatment cases: Guidelines for policy and practice available here: <https://rcdvpc.org/resources/resource/effective-intervention-in-domestic-violence-child-maltreatment-cases-guidelines-for-policy-and-pract.html>

The Greenbook sets forth principles and recommendations for improving the policies and practices of child protection services, domestic violence services, and juvenile courts. The five chapters contained in the Greenbook include: Guiding Framework, Foundation Principles and Recommendations, Child Protection System, Domestic Violence Services for Families, and Courts. **The published work helps welfare, domestic violence service providers and family courts work together more effectively to serve families experiencing violence. Contains training curriculum and community assessment tools.**

d. AVAILABLE PUBLICATIONS & WEBINARS

The NCJFCJ website offers several publications pertaining to different areas in the juvenile and family justice fields. A user may search by topic. The domestic violence tab contains a wide array of publications. These include resources and information for court personnel and judges on how to improve the response to domestic violence; general information for victims about family court, child custody, and divorce; reviews of recent research; and legislative updates. Publication access is available here: <http://www.ncjfcj.org/resource-library/publications/domestic-violence?page=1>

Summaries of available publications and webinars (with links):

- 31 Facts for Domestic Violence Awareness Month (Fact Sheet):
https://www.ncjfcj.org/sites/default/files/NCJFCJ_DVAM_FactSheet_2016_Final_1.pdf
- Uniform Child Custody Jurisdiction and Enforcement Act: Guide for Court Personnel and Judges (Guide):
https://www.ncjfcj.org/sites/default/files/UCCJEA_Guide_Court_Personnel_Judges_Final.pdf
 - **A guide for judges and court personnel in dealing with interstate cases involving domestic violence.** This guide helps judges to determine whether their court has jurisdiction to enter or modify a child custody order in these and other interstate cases, as well as to understand their responsibilities to enforce orders from other jurisdictions. **The guide includes four components:** (1) an overview of the Uniform Child Custody Jurisdiction and Enforcement Act (the UCCJEA), a uniform state law that governs decision-making about jurisdiction in interstate custody cases; (2) a practice guide for judicial officers that includes strategies for effective implementation of the UCCJEA in your court; (3) a similar practice guide for non-judicial court personnel; and (4) a copy of the UCCJEA and a chart with citations to state versions of the UCCJEA.
- Family Violence: Improving Court Practice (1990) (Guide):
<https://www.ncjfcj.org/sites/default/files/improvingcourtpractice.pdf>
 - **Sets forth recommendations, which the NCJFCJ adopted as official policy, for improving court practices in family violence cases** and details the policies and procedures necessary to create and maintain an effective court, agency and community response to family violence. In addition to recommendations for criminal and civil courts, there are policy recommendations for court-related agencies, including law enforcement, prosecutors, court administration, probation, advocates, children's protective services, and treatment providers.
- Immigrant Survivors of Domestic Violence and Sexual Violence in Your Courtroom: Introduction to the Immigration System and Status Options (Webinar):
<https://www.ncjfcj.org/immigrant-survivors-domestic-sexual-violence>
 - This webinar for judicial officials will **provide an overview of the immigration system and the status options for victims of domestic and sexual violence** through a discussion of the basic avenues to immigration status and how what happens in court may help or harm survivors' ability to gain safety through secure immigration status.
- Immigrant Survivors of Domestic Violence and Sexual Violence in Your Courtroom: Family Court and Civil Protection Order Cases (Webinar): <https://www.ncjfcj.org/Immigrant-Survivors-Webinar>
 - **This webinar for judicial officials will provide an overview of how immigration issues related to domestic violence interacts with civil proceedings.** This Webinar also helps explain the dynamics of immigration-related abuse; examines how immigration issues may impact judicial proceedings related to DV/SA, including the U visa certification process. Lastly, this webinar assesses how criminal and civil findings intersect with an immigration matter

- Judicial Leadership and Firearms in Domestic Violence Cases (Webinar): <https://www.ncjfcj.org/judicial-leadership-and-firearms-domestic-violence-cases>
 - This webinar informs judges of how they can take a leadership role from the bench and beyond in promoting community safety in domestic violence cases involving firearms. Conversations include how working with community partnerships can enhance victim and community well-being; opportunities for courts and communities to use existing laws to prevent abusers' access to firearms in civil and criminal cases; **effective strategies from jurisdiction around the country; effective use of law, policies, protocols, and forms to improve court practice.**
- Leadership from the Bench: Cyber violence and Tech Abuse in Domestic Violence Cases (Webinar): <https://www.ncjfcj.org/leadership-bench-cyberviolence-and-tech-abuse-domestic-violence-cases>
 - In this webinar, judges learn how to identify the prevalence and impact of cyber stalking and technological abuse. They will learn **best practices to deal with technological abuse cases.**
- Stalking: The Hidden Crime – Part I (Webinar): <https://www.ncjfcj.org/Stalking-Part1-Webinar>
 - The vast amount of research demonstrates a correlation between intimate partner violence and stalking. Part I of this webinar series will explore the importance of recognizing stalking in intimate partner violence cases. It is important that judges who hear intimate partner violence, protection order, and violation of protection order cases **recognize the intersection of stalking with these crimes and identify stalking as a risk factor for increased violence. This recognition can lead to enhanced victim safety and offender accountability** in criminal and protection order cases. Additionally, judges will **learn to identify risk factors that indicate an increase in violence including lethality.** Finally, judges will **learn strategies for hearing these types of cases in their courtroom.**
- Stalking: Technological Misuse in Intimate Partner Violence Cases – Part II (Webinar): <https://www.ncjfcj.org/Stalking-Part2-Webinar>
 - As technology advances, so will a stalker's ability to utilize technology to commit crimes. Therefore, those who hear intimate partner violence and stalking cases need to be familiar with the various ways that technology can be misused against victims. This webinar **explores the ways in which offenders' misuse technology, including smart phones, computers, cameras, global positioning systems (GPS), and many online spaces to harass, abuse, and stalk.** Evidentiary concerns including authentication and potentially fake or falsified evidence is also discussed. It is important for judges to understand what technology exists, how technology can be used against victims, and considerations for admitting the evidence. At the end of this webinar participants will have a **better understanding of how common technology can easily be misused by offenders as well as the evidentiary considerations the technology presents.**
- What Judges Need to Know About Domestic Violence in the Transgender Community (Webinar): <https://www.ncjfcj.org/what-judges-need-know-about-domestic-violence-transgender-community>
 - **Transgender survivors of domestic violence are among the most vulnerable victims a judge can encounter.** The rate of transgender individuals reporting lifetime suicide attempts is four times the national average and can be as high as 65% by transgender

victims who are abused by a family member. Elevated vulnerability factors for trans populations have been measured in nearly every available category, including poverty, barriers to health-care, discrimination, harassment, sexual assault and bias in law enforcement response. In fact, **transgender survivors are almost twice as likely to face threats and intimidation based on their identity when in an abusive relationship.** This webinar addresses judicial response to domestic violence in the transgender community. Judges will **learn about the dynamics of domestic violence in transgender relationships, transgender culture, tactics of control, and effective judicial response to trans survivors.** See also: <https://www.judicialengagementnetwork.org/resources/lgbtq>

- What Judges Need to Know About Domestic Violence in the LGBTQ Community (Webinar): <https://www.ncjfcj.org/what-judges-need-know-about-domestic-violence-lgbtq-community>
 - When judicial responses do not account for the unique dynamics of LGBTQ domestic violence, courts are less effective at helping survivors stay safe. **Recent studies show that LGBTQ survivors face significant challenges accessing the court system.** In one study, more than half (55%) of LGBTQ petitioners were denied protection orders, while nearly 45% were denied admission to a domestic violence shelter entirely. This webinar **explores how LGBTQ survivors face powerful cultural barriers inhibiting disclosure, preventing help seeking, and accessing the court system.** Judges will **analyze the dynamics of LGBTQ partner abuse and learn how to engage LGBTQ communities in collaborative domestic violence efforts.**
- Domestic Violence and Firearms: Part I (Webinar): <https://www.ncjfcj.org/domestic-violence-and-firearms-two-part-webinar-series-part-i>
 - The **presence of firearms in domestic violence cases drastically raises the risk of lethality for female victims of domestic violence.** This webinar explores the many reasons why **knowledge of federal firearms law is critical information for judges.** It will review the structure of federal firearms rules affecting domestic violence offenders and analyze the most current United States Supreme Court cases on this issue. Topics of discussion will include *Henderson v. United States*, *Castleman v. United States*, law enforcement exceptions to federal firearms prohibitions, third party transfers of firearms by convicted offenders, and lethality.
- Domestic Violence and Firearms: Part II (Webinar): <https://www.ncjfcj.org/domestic-violence-and-firearms-part-ii>
 - This webinar **discusses effective ways courts can respond to domestic violence cases involving firearms.** Around the country, courts are struggling with the practicalities of identifying domestic violence cases where firearms are present, verifying legitimate and safe transfers to third parties, and seizing and storing firearms owned by domestic violence offenders. This webinar builds off of Part I and **discuss some effective examples from around the country, work through case scenarios, and field questions from participants.**

e. UPCOMING TRAINING AVAILABLE

The NCJFCJ provides training to justice system professionals to improve the lives of families and children seeking justice. They offer conferences; courses; and hands-on, interactive workshops to train professionals on various topics, including but not limited to domestic violence, evidence-based practices, and psychology and the law. The website includes a section on recorded webcasts/webinars

pertaining to domestic violence (links and summaries above), which are free and available to the public. **For fee-for-service training in one's jurisdiction, the website does not explicitly state a price range.** Rather, they instruct interested parties to email Amy Saathoff at asaathoff@ncjfcj.org to inquire about details and pricing options.

There is also a **calendar that highlights upcoming conferences and workshops**. The ones that include training pertaining to domestic violence are:

- Enhancing Judicial Skills in Domestic Violence Cases Workshop – April 14 to April 17, 2019, in Santa Fe, New Mexico. There is an application to register with no explicit price stated.
- 82nd Annual Conference – July 28 to July 31, 2019, in Orlando, Florida. Standard registration fees are \$745 for existing members and \$940 for non-members. Early bird fees are \$595 for members and \$790 for non-members. Late fees are \$795 for members and \$990 for non-members.

2. Futures Without Violence

Website: <https://www.futureswithoutviolence.org/>

a. EDUCATION

Futures Without Violence (FWV) is a **health and social nonprofit organization** that provides programs, policies, and campaigns that are designed to end violence against women and children. Futures Without Violence provides education to many professionals, including doctors, nurses, judges, and athletic coaches. They also educate advocates, policymakers, and others about the importance of respect and healthy relationships. In addition to the training mentioned below, Futures Without Violence **offers free online educational resources for advocates, health care professionals, and victims.** These resources include best practices for professionals when responding to domestic violence victims as well as posters and information sheets for victims seeking assistance. Futures Without Violence has also launched **two new websites**, IPVHealth.org and IPVHealthPartners.org, which are designed to be digital hubs for establishing partnerships between domestic violence agencies and healthcare settings. Finally, the website offers 28 free educational videos for healthcare providers and advocates. **These videos include information on evidence-based and trauma-informed practices to improve responses to intimate partner violence** and are available here: <http://www.futureswithoutviolence.org/health-training-vignettes/>

Additionally, FWV works with advocates, policy makers, and others to build sustainable community leadership and educate people everywhere about the importance of respect and healthy relationships. Unlike many other organizations, Futures Without Violence shows a particular interest in educating and engaging men in regards to domestic violence. **Education and training is available that targets male youth, young men, and fathers, teaching men and boys about healthy relationships and leading by example.** Specifics about these programs are available here: <https://www.futureswithoutviolence.org/engaging-men/engaging-men-youth-program/> Additionally, FWV is developing programs that target men who use violence with the hopes of changing their abusive behavior. Please see: <https://www.futureswithoutviolence.org/engaging-men/programs-for-men-who-use-violence/>

b. RESEARCH

The website does not appear to offer specific publications discussing research. However, many of their webinars and resources include information on recent research pertaining to domestic violence.

c. AVAILABLE PUBLICATIONS & WEBINARS

The FWV website offers some research reports pertaining to DV facts and figures, sexual violence, issues with housing, guns and other topical areas. Archived recordings of previous webinars are also available. Many of these pertain to domestic violence and how healthcare providers and advocates can improve their responses to victims. Some of these are summarized below. For more information, please see: <https://www.futureswithoutviolence.org/resources-events/webinars/>

Summaries of available research reports and webinars (with links):

- Judicial Roundtable Discussion: Mediation Where Domestic Violence Is an Issue (Report): <https://www.futureswithoutviolence.org/wp-content/uploads/Final-Report-Mediation-Roundtable.pdf>
 - This report provides a **summary of a judicial roundtable discussion on mediation in domestic violence cases.** Research on mediation practices across the country was discussed and potential **mediation alternatives** that provide strong support and safety

to victims of violence. Despite the risks posed by to victims in domestic violence cases, mediation is still a viable alternative if it is voluntary, informed, and includes safeguards, such as educating mediators on domestic violence issues. It is concluded that **mediators would also benefit from training on domestic violence cases.**

- Creating A Domestic Violence Court Guidelines (Guide):
http://www.futureswithoutviolence.org/userfiles/file/Judicial/FinalCourt_Guidelines.pdf
 - These guidelines are **designed to assist jurisdictions considering whether to develop a domestic violence court.** Jurisdictions will be able to assess whether such a court structure would be helpful, and if so, how best to model this structure to address the need of their local communities. The **guidelines represent the views of a National Advisory Committee** comprised of leading representatives from the various disciplines involved in the processing of domestic violence cases throughout the system.
- The Facts on **Domestic, Dating, and Sexual Violence** (Fact Sheet):
<http://www.futureswithoutviolence.org/the-facts-on-domestic-dating-sexual-violence/>
- The Facts on **Housing and Domestic Violence** (Fact Sheet):
http://www.futureswithoutviolence.org/userfiles/file/Children_and_Families/facts_housing_dv.pdf
- The Facts on **Violence Against Native American/Alaska Native Women** (Fact Sheet):
<https://www.futureswithoutviolence.org/wp-content/uploads/AI-AN-Fact-Sheet-2017.pdf>
- The Facts on **Preventing Violence Against Women and Children** (Fact Sheet):
http://www.futureswithoutviolence.org/userfiles/file/Children_and_Families/Prevention.pdf
- The Facts on **Guns and Domestic Violence** (Fact Sheet):
<https://www.futureswithoutviolence.org/wp-content/uploads/Guns-and-Domestic-Violence-fact-sheet.pdf>
- The Facts on **Women, Children, and Gun Violence** (Fact Sheet):
http://www.futureswithoutviolence.org/userfiles/Gun%20Fact%20Sheet_FINAL%2003%2003%2013.pdf
- The Facts on **Immigrant Women** and Domestic Violence (Fact Sheet):
http://www.futureswithoutviolence.org/userfiles/file/Children_and_Families/Immigrant.pdf
- Adult Learning in the Context of Judicial and Law Enforcement Education (Webinar):
<https://www.futureswithoutviolence.org/adultlearning/>
 - This webinar focuses on core concepts that apply to all adult learning environments with a special **emphasis on the unique needs of law enforcement officers and judges when learning about violence against women.** This webinar features expert faculty representing the judiciary and law enforcement community and offers tips on how to design education in a way that will appeal to these specialized professionals. This webinar **helps identify important fundamentals for designing education for**

adult learners. Discusses the unique needs of judges and law enforcement officers as learners in education on violence against women; helps learners apply core concepts of adult education to their instructional design when educating law enforcement officers and judges.

- Effective Adjudication of Domestic Abuse Cases (Online Course):
<http://education.amjudges.org/>
 - **Free online course for judges.** This is a web-based, comprehensive domestic violence education course for judges. Using adult-learning instruction tools and interactive exercises, separate training modules on key issues **allow new and experienced judges to learn at their own pace from leading national experts they might not otherwise have the time, opportunity or funding to see.**

d. UPCOMING TRAINING AVAILABLE

Futures Without Violence offers various forms of training including webinars, resources, training videos, and events. In addition to the online educational resources mentioned above, there is also an upcoming event, **The National Conference on Health and Domestic Violence.** The main purpose of this event is to improve the health care system's response to domestic and sexual violence, bringing together medical, public health, and domestic violence experts from around the United States and the world. This conference will be held in 2020, and the dates and location for the **event will be announced in Spring, 2019.** More information available here:

<https://www.futureswithoutviolence.org/health/national-conference-on-health-and-domestic-violence/>

e. EVALUATION OF TRAININGS

Futures Without Violence has yet to evaluate their own/supported training programs offered. However, a report (Title: “Enhancing Judicial Skills in Domestic Violence Cases: A Process and Outcome Evaluation of a National Judicial Education Program”) provides an evaluation of a national judicial education program. The evaluation reports on **341 judges that completed the program (2006-2010)** and their collective thoughts on their experience. Many judges **reported positive ratings of the program and reported having enhanced their skills in domestic violence related affairs.** Many ensured that the knowledge and skills learned in the program were applied to their respective jobs. Report available here: <https://www.futureswithoutviolence.org/wp-content/uploads/ejs-report-nov-12.pdf>

3. Enhancing Judicial Skills in Domestic Violence Cases Program

WEBSITE: <https://njidv.org/education-opportunities/ejs-dv.html>

a. EDUCATION

The “Enhancing Judicial Skills in Domestic Violence Cases Program” is run out of the National Judicial Institute on Domestic Violence. This program provides interactive, skills-based domestic violence workshops for judges and judicial officers.

b. AVAILABLE PUBLICATIONS & WEBINARS

This organization/website offers a few research reports and white papers. These are listed and summarized below with links for easy access.

Summaries of available research reports and webinars (with links):

- “It’s in Their Culture”: Fairness and Cultural Considerations In Domestic Violence (Paper/Research Report): https://njidv.org/media/com_programs/materials/1/i.-its-in-their-culture.pdf
 - In a diversified society, court personnel must grapple with the reality that they will encounter **individuals from a range of cultures**. This paper **critiques the prevailing thinking on culture and cultural competency within the context of domestic violence**. Current thinking and presentations of culture usually consists of providing court personnel with essentialist pictures of various groups of people with suggestions on how to work with them. These pictures obscure the reality that cultures are often unstable and generalizations that lead to providing more misinformation. The paper provides specific ways in which a more nuanced **understanding of culture is helpful for court personnel** as they learn with how to work with a diverse population.
- Re-examining ‘Battering’: Are All Acts of Violence Against Intimate Partners the Same? (Paper/Research Report): https://njidv.org/media/com_programs/materials/2/a.-reexamining-battering-_8-06.pdf
 - This paper examines interviews conducted over a fifteen-year period with men and women arrested for domestic abuse in Duluth, Minnesota as well as a number of East and West Coast cities and a review of hundreds of police and court documents. Using this information, the authors have attempted to differentiate the various types of violence that occur between intimate partners. Gaining a proper **understanding of the nature of violence and the context in which it occurs is necessary** for the safety of women and children. This knowledge informs the making of appropriate interventions. **Five distinct categories of domestic violence** are listed. 1) Battering; 2) Resistive/Reactive Violence; 3) Situational Violence; 4) Pathological Violence; 5) Anti-Social Violence. Understanding these 5 types of violence is useful for judges and DV practitioners.
- Assessing the Efficacy of Battered Intervention Programs in Context (Paper/Research Report): https://njidv.org/media/com_programs/materials/2/b.-assessing-the-efficacy-of-batterer-intervention-programs-in-context.pdf
 - This paper was prepared to facilitate an informed group discussion about the **efficacy of batter intervention programs (BIPs)**. It is concluded that BIPs should be **viewed as part of a broader systemic response** designed to curb and eliminate

men's use of violence against their female partners. This paper reviews data from studies on the effectiveness of court orders of protection for DV victims, pro-arrest policies, "no-drop" prosecution policies, educational programs for men who batter, and coordinated community response initiatives.

c. UPCOMING TRAINING AVAILABLE

The next educational/training opportunity listed on the website is the Enhancing Judicial Skills in Domestic Violence Cases Workshop. This workshop will address domestic violence topics using hypothetical case problems, role-play exercises, small group discussions, faculty demonstrations, and a working lunch. Additional information available here: <https://njidv.org/education-opportunities/ejs-dv.html>

The next scheduled session is April 14 – 17, in Santa Fe, New Mexico. This workshop is also discussed on the aforementioned NCJFCJ website.

- **Cost: No charge.** Participants must pay for own travel and living expenses. The workshop is **for state, tribal, and territorial judges and judicial officers.** Priority will be given to judges from jurisdictions currently receiving one of the following OVW Grants: (1) Grants to Encourage Arrest, (2) STOP Violence Against Indian Women Grants, (3) Rural Domestic Violence and Child Victimization Enforcement Grant Program, or (4) Court Training and Improvement Program. Priority is also given to OVW funded agencies jurisdictions that send more than one judge.
- **Trainings Offered:** Workshop is to enhance skills in civil and criminal domestic violence cases; Evaluate the impact of violence on adult victims and children who witness violence; Identify the protection and restoration requirements of domestic violence victims; Describe patterns of batterer conduct, assess dangerousness of specific batterers, and impose effective intervention and accountability mechanisms for batterers; Evaluate batterer intervention programming and information regarding appropriate treatment/intervention options; Identify the potential benefits of conducting review hearings (in conjunction w/ probation services) to monitor batterer conduct in DV cases. For more information, please see <https://njidv.org/education-opportunities/ejs-dv.html>
To access materials for workshop: <https://njidv.org/education-opportunities/ejs-dv/materials.html>

The website also mentions an upcoming session (date to be announced), **Continuing Judicial Skills in Domestic Violence Cases Program.** It is designed specifically for judges who have completed the Enhancing Judicial Skills in Domestic Violence Cases Workshop. It addresses judges' specific assignments at a more intensive level and introduces new topics of special interest. Please see: <https://njidv.org/education-opportunities/cjs.html>

4. Legal Momentum, National Judicial Education Program

WEBSITE: <https://www.legalmomentum.org/national-judicial-education-program>

a. EDUCATION

The National Judicial Education Program (NJEP) is a project that pioneered judicial education about gender bias. It was the catalyst for and advisor to over 50 high-level state and federal task forces on gender bias in the courts. The NJEP educates judges, attorneys, and justice system professionals on the ways in which gender bias can undermine fairness in criminal, civil, family, and juvenile law. Its **main focus is on the intersection of sexual assault and domestic violence (intimate partner sexual abuse) and the promotion of fair adjudication of such cases.** Over the past 30 years, the NJEP has brought the topic of gender inequality to the forefront of discussion, providing judicial, public, and legal education to judicial colleges and organizations, bar associations, law schools, and legal and lay organizations across the country. The NJEP **provides education on a wide range of issues, including: domestic violence; sex stereotypes; and the ways in which courtroom treatment of women litigants, witnesses, lawyers, and experts affects women's credibility in court.**

b. RESEARCH

NJEP's 2008 web course/resource, *Intimate Partner Sexual Abuse: Adjudicating this Hidden Dimension of Domestic Violence Cases*, provides a comprehensive and well-documented summary of the law and social research in this area, particularly the prevalence of intimate partner sexual abuse, its **implications for the courts with respect to risk assessment**, and the severe impact this form of domestic violence has on victims. Current interdisciplinary **research from law, medicine, and the social sciences are incorporated** into the web course to ensure that justice professionals are well informed on the prevalence, harm, and implications of intimate partner sexual abuse. This report is available here:

<https://www.legalmomentum.org/sites/default/files/reports/IPSAflyer9%206%2012pdf.pdf>

c. CURRENT INITIATIVES

NJEP provides training on **intimate partner sexual abuse (IPSA)**, an often-overlooked aspect of domestic violence cases with important implications for courts, service providers, and law enforcement. NJEP provides a **free web course on IPSA to anyone who wishes to educate themselves on the topic**, namely judges and justice system professionals. It is available to complete at one's own pace and can be customized to include relevant law and practice from specific states and jurisdictions. Webcourse available here: <http://www.njep-ipsacourse.org/>

- Overview (handout) of the course is available here:

<https://www.legalmomentum.org/sites/default/files/reports/IPSAflyer9%206%2012pdf.pdf>

d. AVAILABLE PUBLICATIONS & WEBINARS

This website offers several reports on research and evaluations. Most of these publications are geared towards judges as audience. Reports and publications are listed and summarized below with links for easy access.

Summaries of available research reports and webinars (with links):

- Intimate Partner Sexual Abuse: The Hidden Dimension of Domestic Violence (Research Article):

[file:///C:/Users/5clar/AppData/Local/Packages/Microsoft.MicrosoftEdge_8wekyb3d8bbwe/TempState/Downloads/risk-assessment-and-ipsa%20\(1\).pdf](file:///C:/Users/5clar/AppData/Local/Packages/Microsoft.MicrosoftEdge_8wekyb3d8bbwe/TempState/Downloads/risk-assessment-and-ipsa%20(1).pdf)

- This publication discusses **intimate partner sexual abuse**, a largely ignored and **potentially lethal form of domestic violence**. This short article details IPISA's hidden nature, prevalence, risk assessment, and negative impact on children. Recommendations for judges are also outlined.
- Domestic Violence, Developing Brains, and the Lifespan: New Knowledge from Neuroscience (Research Article): <https://www.legalmomentum.org/resources/domestic-violence-developing-brains-and-lifespan-new-knowledge-neuroscience-judges-journal>
 - This article discusses current **neuroscience on the impact of exposure to domestic violence on children's developing brains**. This publication is beneficial to judges in that it helps them understand the physical, mental, and emotional consequences of childhood exposure to domestic violence, highlighting the importance of ensuring the safety of children as well as abused spouses they encounter in court.
- Understanding Sexual Violence: The Judicial Response to Stranger and Nonstranger Rape and Sexual Assault (Research Article): <https://www.legalmomentum.org/resources/njep-understanding-sexual-violence%E2%80%94judges-recommendations>
 - This publication outlines **suggestions by judges from over 25 state and tribal jurisdictions** who attended NJEP presentations. Regarding domestic violence, judges highlight the importance of treating nonstranger and marital rape as “real rape” throughout all stages of court proceedings.
- Judges Tell: What I Wish I Had Known Before I Presided in an Adult Victim Sexual Assault Case (Research Report): <http://www.legalmomentum.org/node/205>
 - This guide is meant to inform and assist new judges in adult victim sexual assault cases. In order to assist new judges, NJEP canvassed judges across the country who had attended NJEP programs to ask what these **judges wished they had known before presiding over adult victim sexual assault cases or cases of sexual abuse and domestic violence**. This publication lists twenty-five points, followed by judge commentary and sources, on facts and common misconceptions about domestic violence and sexual abuse. In regards to domestic violence, this publication discusses the prevalence and psychological harm of marital and intimate partner rape.
- Ten Tips for Creating Judicial Education Programs about Adult Victim Sexual Assault (Brief): <https://www.legalmomentum.org/resources/10-tips-creating-judicial-education-programs-about-adult-victim-sexual-assault>
 - This brief publication includes advice for judges and justice professionals on **creating effective education programs about adult victim sexual assault** including the prevalence of sexual assault in domestic violence cases.
- Lawyer’s Manual on Domestic Violence: Representing the Victim (Guide/Manual): <https://www.legalmomentum.org/resources/lawyers-manual-domestic-violence-representing-victim>
 - This manual is **meant to inform lawyers** of the intricacies of domestic violence cases and how to provide proper representation.

- Promoting Fairness by Minimizing Victim Trauma During a Sexual Assault Trial: Suggestions from Judges for Judges (Brief): <https://www.legalmomentum.org/resources/promoting-fairness-minimizing-victim-trauma-during-sexual-assault-trial>
 - This brief publication, much like the “10 Tips” article, includes suggestions from judges about **the importance of treating marital rape as “real rape”** as well as various other **suggestions for preventing the re-traumatization** of victims during trial.

- Raped or “Seduced?” How Language Helps Shape Our Response to Sexual Violence (Webinar): <https://www.legalmomentum.org/resources/raped-or-seduced-how-language-helps-shape-our-response-sexual-violence>
 - This presentation is for prosecutors, lawyers, law enforcement, medical professionals, judges, victim advocates, journalists and communication professionals, and other professionals who interact with victims of sexual assault. This also includes victims of domestic violence. This interactive webinar **explores the language of sexual assault: how we talk about and write about this crime.**

e. UPCOMING TRAINING AVAILABLE

Legal Momentum’s National Judicial Education Program’s expert staff is **available to give presentations on a variety of topics** related to sexual assault and intimate partner violence. NJEP Director Lynn Hecht Schafran, Esq. and NJEP Staff Attorney Jennifer Becker have given presentations at judicial colleges, law schools, and at prestigious national conferences for multidisciplinary audiences across the country.

NJEP is an Office on Violence Against Women (**OVW**) **National Judicial Technical Assistance Provider** on the issues of sexual assault and the intersection of sexual assault and domestic violence. If interested in having NJEP provide training and presentations at upcoming conferences or events, **they must be contacted for more information, including cost:**
<https://www.legalmomentum.org/request-training-njep>

5. National Center on Domestic and Sexual Violence

WEBSITE: http://www.ncdsv.org/ncd_upcomingtrainings.html

a. EDUCATION

One of the general purposes of this organization, as stated by the website, is to educate people about domestic violence so they feel comfortable speaking to someone they suspect may be a victim.

b. RESEARCH

NCDSV informs professionals about current research and best practices on violence against women. Additionally, they participate in peer reviews, help evaluate research in the field of domestic violence, and work with university research programs to develop and implement policies for assisting domestic violence victims.

c. CURRENT INITIATIVES

NCDSV helps evaluate research in the field of domestic violence. Additionally, they help evaluate grants for the Office on Violence Against Women and the National Institute of Justice, among others.

d. AVAILABLE PUBLICATIONS & WEBINARS

The NCDSV website offers an alphabetical list of publications that address domestic violence. However, the list does not contain publications specifically by this organization. Rather, they offer this list of resources for anyone who may need them for public education efforts.

Summaries of available research reports and webinars (with links):

- Use and Integration of Interpreters of Civil Litigation for Victims of Domestic, Sexual & Stalking Violence (Webinar):
https://www.americanbar.org/groups/domestic_violence/Trainings/interpreter_webinar_series/
 - This webinar series **increases the capacity of civil litigators to represent victims of domestic, dating, sexual and stalking violence who are Limited English Proficient (LEP) and/or Deaf or Hard of Hearing from intake to the close of litigation.** Part I – Developing organizational and community partnership strategies; Part II – Identifying and meeting your client’s language needs; Part III – Litigating with interpreters
- The Civil Representation of Victims of Domestic and Sexual Violence with Disabilities, and/or who are D/deaf (Webinar):
https://www.americanbar.org/groups/domestic_violence/Trainings/Past-webinars/the-civil-representation-of-victims-of-domestic-and-sexual-viole/
 - This webinar series brought up important questions about **representing survivors with disabilities and/or who are D/deaf.** Access to legal services has been identified as one of the most effective tools for victims to become safe; however, survivors of domestic violence, dating violence, and sexual assault who have disabilities and/or are D/deaf are frequently unable to access the remedies provided to them by the justice system.

- Uncovering Sexual Assault in Domestic Violence Calls: An Improved Law Enforcement Response to Assess for Sexual Violence, Build an Evidence Based Case and Reduce Gender Bias (Webinar): <http://www.evawintl.org/WebinarDetail.aspx?webinarid=1069>
 - Research tells us that sexual violence is a common component of intimate partner violence, but victims are often far less likely to disclose acts of sexual violence than physical violence, in their contacts with law enforcement. Investigators should therefore make it a standard practice to assess whether sexual violence is also occurring in cases of intimate partner violence. The **purpose of this webinar is to explain how law enforcement can appropriately address intimate partner sexual violence (IPSV) in domestic violence situations with a well-trained response.** With an enhanced understanding of how multidisciplinary teams are formed and used, law enforcement professionals will be better able to provide exemplary responses to victims and vulnerable communities.

e. UPCOMING TRAINING AVAILABLE

NCDSV provides extensive training to professionals who work with victims and perpetrators, including but not limited to: law enforcement; prosecutors; judges; health care professionals; domestic violence advocates and service providers; social workers; employee assistance professionals; human services staff; all branches of the military; local, state and federal agencies; policymakers; educators; researchers; policymakers; elected officials; and community leaders.

NCDSV **offers customized training, webinars, day-long seminars, and multi-day conferences in many areas**, including but not limited to: prosecution, law enforcement, and military responses to domestic violence; community collaboration and coordinated community response; domestic violence in the workplace; dynamics of domestic violence; role of advocates; and challenges of poverty in addressing domestic violence.

- **2019 International Conference on Sexual Assault, Intimate Partner Violence, and Increasing Access. April 22-25, 2019.** Manchester Grand Hyatt: One Market Place, San Diego, CA 92101. Cost: By March 22, 2019 - Registration Fee: \$545; After March 22, 2019 – Late Registration Fee: \$595. Conference website available here: <http://www.cvent.com/events/international-conference-on-sexual-assault-intimate-partner-violence-and-increasing-access/event-summary-3014a410ca1c4646ab3f6ca0ac31a3bb.aspx>
 - This annual conference focuses on sexual assault, intimate partner violence, stalking, human trafficking and elder abuse. This conference brings together law enforcement personnel, prosecutors, victim advocates, judges, parole and probation officers, rape crisis workers, health care professionals, faith community members, educators, researchers and others to discuss and highlight promising practices and emerging issues to effectively respond to these crimes in all of our communities. Conference Brochure available here: <https://custom.cvent.com/6C36DC1FA855423EBEF072E4F0BF9332/files/f297dbf0b791432ab82b063974da6958.pdf>
- **24th International Summit on Violence, Abuse & Trauma Across the Lifespan. September 4 – 8, 2019.** The Hyatt Regency La Jolla at Aventine in San Diego, CA, located at 3777 La Jolla Village Drive, San Diego, CA 92122. Cost: Early Bird: \$530; Advanced: \$575;

On Site: \$625. Conference website available here: <https://www.ivatcenters.org/san-diego-summit>

- This Summit is a unique forum for professionals across all disciplines and philosophies to gather for in-depth exchange of current information on all facets of violence, abuse and trauma prevention, intervention and research. This summit brings together researchers, practitioners, advocates, and front-line workers from all disciplines to share information, discuss controversial issues, and engage in difficult dialogues. The **Summit focuses on linking research, practice, policy and advocacy to promote violence-free living for all**. Attending this summit brings huge opportunities for networking, continuing education, specialty certifications, and more.
- **NCADV's 18th National Conference on Domestic Violence: Voices in Action. September 16th- 18th, 2019.** Washington Marriott Wardman Park, Washington, DC. Cost: Early Bird (Available through 3/31/2019) - \$732; Onsite - \$919. Conference website available here: <https://ncadv.org/conference>
 - Conference focuses on Health and Domestic Violence; Behavioral Health and Domestic Violence; Intersections of "isms" and Domestic Violence; Advocacy (Advanced) Skills; Human Rights and Domestic Violence; Youth and Domestic Violence amongst others...
- **14th Annual Conference on Crimes Against Women. April 8th – 11th, 2019.** Sheraton Down Town Dallas. 400 N. Olive Street Dallas, Texas 75201. Website available here: <https://aequitasresource.org/trainings/>
 - The goal of the Conference on Crimes Against Women is to **provide practical instruction, using current information, the newest ideas and most successful intervention strategies**, to those professionals responsible for combating the many and varied forms of crimes against women. The conference is conducted for the sole purpose of providing training to only those people employed by governmental or non-profit agencies in the fields of law enforcement, prosecution, social work, victim's advocacy, therapy, probation/parole, campus safety and medicine who work directly with victims of crime. This three-day conference is designed to provide the most effective, relevant, and up to training for justice system professionals responding to crimes of sexual assault, intimate partner violence, stalking, and human trafficking.



RESEARCH TO ACTION

A DISSEMINATION GUIDE FOR
DOMESTIC VIOLENCE RESEARCHERS AND PRACTITIONERS

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Submitted in partial fulfillment of the requirements for the degree of
MASTER OF PUBLIC HEALTH
University of Pennsylvania
Perelman School of Medicine
May 8, 2019



RESEARCH TO ACTION:

A Research Dissemination Guide for Domestic Violence Researchers and Practitioners

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Introduction: Who is this Guide For?

Research on domestic violence can provide important insights, statistics, and evidence about the issues faced by survivors and the organizations and systems that serve them. However, presenting research findings in formats that are useful, accessible, and understandable for practitioners, policymakers, and community members can be challenging.

This guide is for domestic violence researchers and practitioners who want to disseminate and/or utilize research about domestic violence. The goal of this toolkit is to provide its users with practical guidance, steps, and templates for disseminating research about domestic violence.

Dissemination can feel intimidating or labor-intensive to those without the experience of doing it. It does not have to be that way!

This guide is designed to help:

Domestic Violence Researchers:

- Think about the process of dissemination as an essential part of research and learn about what practitioners find useful and accessible.
- Become familiar with techniques and formats to make research accessible to broad audiences.
- Practice building capacity with partner organizations to use research in meaningful ways.

Domestic Violence Practitioners:

- Feel empowered to approach research and researchers with questions and suggestions for research use.
- Consider the ways that use of research can strengthen practice, advocacy, or advance policy goals.
- Develop relationships with researchers to reduce the gap between research and practice.

Why dissemination?

Research dissemination is the process of spreading research results to various audiences. This can include traditional routes of publication in academic journals and presentations at scholarly conferences, but can also include presentation to community meetings and through social media, as well as products like policy briefs and infographics. Dissemination is important to research, because it gets the findings to the people who need them and can use them.

Research is frequently conducted by individuals within academic or governmental institutions. Completed studies are typically written up for publication in an academic journal, which may be difficult to access for those without paid subscriptions or access to journal search engines and are often written for an academic – and not practitioner or lay – audience. Historically, research has been a top-down process, in which information is extracted from communities by researchers with relative power and influence, published in hard-to-access journals, and used to advance researchers' careers or applications for further research (Bodison et al., 2015; Goodman et al., 2017). Journal articles tend to be written in a particular style and format that is inaccessible and may be unappealing to those outside of research communities. Across all fields, the gap between production of research findings and implementation of findings into practice can be years or decades long, sometimes reducing the utility and relevancy of research (Westfall, Mold, & Fagnan, 2007).

In the last few decades, there has been increased attention to the issue of unequal relationships in the research process. In response, researchers in many fields have attempted to recognize the role of communities and research subjects through altering research practices to change the paradigm from *research subjects* to *research participants*. Frameworks such as community based participatory research (CBPR), participatory action research (PAR), and knowledge translation (KT) can guide the research process through these aims. For those looking for more guidance on how to conduct equitable and ethical research on domestic violence, *Power Through Partnerships: A CBPR Toolkit for Domestic Violence Researchers* is an excellent introduction.

“The more we’re learning about the research process, the more we are comfortable with it. The domestic violence world is very protective and afraid of research – worried about clients, money... Nobody really understood research and how it could be done. Working with researchers, we can see how research can fit into the world we live in and how it can help us.”

~ DV Practitioner

Though dissemination is largely regarded as an essential component of research, particularly in CBPR, the process of disseminating research back to communities is rarely shared in academic literature so there is limited knowledge about the process of dissemination in academic work (McVay, Stamatakis, Jacobs, Tabak, & Brownson, 2016).

A systematic review of CBPR studies found that while only 48% of publications about the studies reported dissemination beyond academic circles, the corresponding authors of the studies included in the systematic review who responded to a survey (71% response rate) reported high levels of communication to study participants (98%) and to the wider community (84%), although non-academic dissemination may have taken place at a much later date than academic dissemination (Chen, Diaz, Lucas, & Rosenthal, 2010). This survey did not assess for quality or accessibility of non-academic communication, further limiting knowledge of how researchers are communicating results of studies and whether this communication is wanted, appreciated, and appropriate. Some survey respondents also noted that dissemination was limited to their key partners and not their partners' funders or related community organizations due to time and resources, although they would have liked to disseminate further, and that **some dissemination was conducted by their partners with little involvement from the researchers, again limiting researcher knowledge of effective dissemination strategies.**

“We use research a lot, especially for grants. Domestic violence is not a social determinant that has a lot of research about outcomes [for program involvement], so we have to use research in creative ways to back up our programs because the traditional outcomes aren't there.”

~ DV Practitioner

A number of studies have demonstrated that research participants want to receive research results, and some studies have discussed specific strategies for dissemination suggested by participants or examples of participant-researcher collaborative efforts on dissemination (Flicker and Nixon, 2018; Knerr et al., 2016; Purvis et al., 2017; Yuan et al., 2016). Fewer studies have focused specifically on the perspectives of practitioners in direct-service, policy, or other programmatic functions, though the studies that have

focused on practitioners have emphasized the importance of focusing dissemination efforts on practitioners to reduce the research to practice gap in the domestic violence field (Murray & Hall Smith, 2009; Murray, Hall Smith, & Avent, 2010). Whether practitioners have partnered with researchers on a project, or have distinct research dissemination interests, awareness of practitioners' preferences for receiving research can aid the process of planning for research dissemination and making the research useful for practitioners.

Practitioners at DV-service organizations (practitioners) may – or may not – use research to establish and review best practices, advocate for policy changes, or set priorities for services. Dissemination is closely related to funding, both in the ability to disseminate results and in community-based organizations' (CBOs) ability to obtain funding with relevant evidence. Some publications that have focused on dissemination have noted that additional funding was applied for to support dissemination needs (Knerr et. al, 2016) or that researchers were able to help CBOs obtain funding for projects based on the CBOs' access to disseminated evidence (Chen, Diaz, Lucas, & Rosenthal, 2010; Sullivan, Bhuyan, Senturia, Shiu-Thornton, Ciske, 2005; Yuan et. al, 2016). While dissemination may not be the focus of a study itself, it should be prioritized as a capacity-building aspect of research.

“There’s no question that we haven’t always had access to or known how to find other data from other programs or how to effectively analyze data from our own program.”

~ DV Practitioner

On the topic of funding, it seems prudent to acknowledge that **many organizations serving victims/survivors of domestic violence, offering technical assistance on domestic violence issues, targeting prevention efforts, or advocating for policy change may be operating with limited funding.** Domestic violence organizations and programs often have to make difficult decisions regarding staffing or staff compensation, along with how many services and programs that can be offered

due to funding limits, particularly during economic downturns or government budget cuts (Alaggia, Maiter, & Jenney, 2017; Lee & Backes, 2018; Macy, Giattina, Parish, & Crosby, 2019). Additionally, funding priorities may not match communities' needs for services, especially when many funders want organizations to offer innovative services rather than continue funding for existing programs (Macy et al., 2019). Researchers who feel pressure to find new, innovative angles for research questions will likely relate to this struggle! Efforts to improve practitioners' access to research findings can have big impacts in their abilities to communicate information and evaluate their practices and services.

Very little has been published about how practitioners use research. This guide aims to demystify some of practitioners' needs and preferences. While creating this guide, the author spoke with practitioners to find out how they currently interact with research, how they would like to find and use research, and about their frustrations with research. Knowledge of practitioners' preferences for receiving research or uses of research information is important for getting the research to those who need it. The lack of information about this process of dissemination, what works and doesn't work, and how completed research is

used by organizations makes it more difficult to track successful efforts or determine how past actions could apply to other situations.

Research findings should be available and easily accessible to practitioners, governments, policy-makers, and communities so that informed, evidence-based decisions can be made to improve the response to and prevention of domestic violence. **This guide will assist domestic violence researchers and practitioners to plan for and execute activities for dissemination, consider how research can be used in practice, and fill in the information gap on how to disseminate domestic violence research.**

How Domestic Violence Research can be Used

“Research is essential. We need to be able to say, this happens in our community AND here’s the research.”

~ DV Practitioner

Research is often conducted with the hope that findings will provide important insight and knowledge that can be used to improve outcomes and practices. To this end, it is not just research results that should be analyzed, but the methods for distributing that research to the greater public.

Practitioners have broad potential uses for domestic violence research. As one practitioner said, “We’re all trying to help our constituents have the information they need to do their jobs better.” This may look very different depending on the practitioners’ area of expertise, but research can play a critical role in supporting practitioners’ work.

Considerations for Researchers:

- How can research be leveraged to create change? What is the researcher’s role in this?
- Are the participants informed of the results?
- Are research findings accessible to broad audiences?
- How do participants or organizations expect to use the results of research? How can these expectations be built into the research process?
- Is the research focusing on the most important needs of your partners? Do they have the same questions that you have?

Considerations for Practitioners:

- How can research be leveraged to create change? Who needs to learn what you know and how can you get it to them?
- Do research partners know your needs?
- What questions do you want answered by research?
- Do you have the information you need to advocate based on research findings?
- What are the barriers to communicating information about DV to external funders or partners?

Thinking through these questions can help establish some topics for discussion when considering research dissemination. Whether researchers are working on dissemination on their own, collaboratively with practitioners and partners, or if practitioners are working independently, research dissemination should begin with thoughtful reflection on goals, existing resources and resource needs.

“As for access to research... We’re doing as we’ve been trained. We assume that the trainers have access to the research.”

~ DV Practitioner

Planning for Dissemination

“We found a good article but it was not written for us... It had good nuggets, but to think about translating it to be useful for a legal team, even when we find something that we like, it’s time and effort to translate.”

~ DV Practitioner

Once research results are complete and analyzed, figuring out the best way to communicate the research evidence is important. Ideally, communication and dissemination of research should be something that is considered prior to the conclusion of a study, but whether planning for dissemination is something that is done throughout the research process or at its conclusion, thinking through the **who, what, where, and why** of dissemination can help in creating and implementing concrete goals and a plan.

Who needs this research?

Establishing **who** the ideal audience will be is an essential first step to dissemination and establishing strategies for engagement with research findings (Boyko, Wathen, & Kothari, 2017). What is known about the audience’s needs? Do they have some familiarity with this issue or will the research be totally new to them? Knowing the literacy level and familiarity that the audience has with this issue can help set the tone for a document or presentation and provide important parameters for what type of information and strategy is included.

Who needs this research? One practitioner discussed the challenges of communicating research within the court system. In addition to providing the relevant case-level information to help a victim of abuse, they also frequently have to educate judges and attorneys about the dynamics of domestic violence. The practitioner could not expect to give someone working in the court system information without having spent a lot of time translating and interpreting the studies to fit the background and needs of their audience. With limited resources, even reviewing new literature is a challenge for the organization. Finding the time to further tailor the information they find to suit the needs of their partners makes assessing and using new research feel inaccessible to their work.

What needs to be communicated?

The research findings available may be straightforward and easily digested, or the information may be enormous and unwieldy. Either way, decisions must be made about which points are the most important to communicate. One technique to briefly and succinctly communicate information is the Single Overriding Communications Objective (SOCO) for framing an issue (Howard, 2000). The SOCO technique consists of a **key message**, **three facts** that support the key message, and the key message framed as an **action step**. When the SOCO is presented, whether in a press release or in a presentation, the audience members should walk away being able to clearly articulate the key message. Practitioners agreed that identifying the most salient points of research and succinctly presenting them as summaries or bullet points was helpful to their own ability to take in new research. Additionally, figuring out **what** needs to be communicated should help establish **what format** the information should be communicated in.

What needs to be communicated? Several practitioners who were interviewed lamented their lack of time to review research. One program director said, **“Some research is just so long! I wish they came along with a cheat sheet that highlighted the most important parts.”** She felt that a summary of the main points would help convince her or her staff that reading the full article was worth their time. Another practitioner said she found that she rarely had the time to read new literature, and just wanted “five bullet points” to know what to expect from a study. Practitioners also felt that academic research was important and carried weight with funders, but acknowledged the need for more brief summaries of research to improve their access and ability to engage with new information that was relevant to their work. Summaries are not a replacement for full text research, but help highlight the key points and indicate to readers what they should remember from the research findings.

Where will the audience access this information?

The information is only as good as its availability! Being familiar with the intended audience, their needs and preferences, as well as what the intended use of this information is, will help establish the necessary venue or format for dissemination. A conference presentation, a brochure, a flyer, or an infographic on Facebook all have very different potentials for reach. Will the audience have one shot to access this information, such as at a conference presentation, or will it be available online or in a shared drive for a longer period of time? Will the audience be familiar with the platform that the information is on? Will the information be available to just the intended audience or will it be available to other interested groups? Will the information be in a flyer, brief, or brochure format that may be distributed on a regular basis? Will the format of the

information be easy to change if there are updates at a later time? Think about these questions while deciding how and where to disseminate research to ensure that the intended audience will be able to access it.

Where will the audience access this information? *One practitioner described reviewing several related journals' publicly available tables of contents on a regular basis. "My heart sinks when I see something important because it takes seven other steps to get it." Practitioners talked about their back-channels for getting access to research – researchers they know who would send them articles or student interns and staff with continued access to journal databases. Reaching out to get access to something feels frustrating, time consuming, and like an imposition on the person being asked. Practitioners also relied on student interns with access to their universities' libraries to search for academic articles, but noted that the process of accessing and reviewing research was extremely cumbersome, especially when working toward a grant application deadline. Researchers may not be able to determine or impact access to the journals that publish their research, but researchers can take steps to increase access to research by cultivating relationships with practitioners at relevant organizations and sharing information, and putting resources into making research results more accessible.*

Why will the audience care about this?

Ultimately, **why** it matters to disseminate this research is the most important question to answer of all. While it may seem obvious, being able to clearly articulate why this information is important for the intended audience to know helps strengthen the SOCO and ensure that the intended audience is the right audience.

Why will the audience care about this? *Practitioners emphasized the importance of being able to interpret information for their communities, funders, and stakeholders. One practitioner spoke of wanting to "complicate" the perspectives of their funders to broaden the definition of what constituted anti-violence work, while another had similar thoughts on the nuance they needed to add to explain the results of large-scale local or nationally representative studies that may have results that appear to contrast the work of the organization. Practitioners spoke of struggling to interpret results in a way that wouldn't attribute results or causality inappropriately, but also the resonance of having updated statistics and figures to demonstrate points. **Research evidence helps practitioners tell the stories of their clients and why services make a difference to them.***



Dissemination Examples

While academic journals and conferences are researchers' most frequent methods of disseminating research, studies have shown that practitioners from many fields are unlikely to access these methods (Brownson et al., 2018).

Practitioners indicated that **short summaries and briefs with citations or connections to the full research articles** were the most useful way to access research about DV. **One-** or **two-pagers** and **policy briefs** are two brief and adaptable formats for research communication. Practitioners also expressed interest in receiving research information through **social media** and **in-person meetings**.

One-pagers are used in a number of fields to communicate research and facilitate advocacy (Izumi et al, 2010). The purpose is to distill the most important aspects of an issue into a brief summary and communicate it in a straightforward, non-academic manner. **One-pagers**, or **two-pagers**, may be broadly tailored in purpose and design. They should at the very least, provide a summary of the issue and why it matters, a summary of the research results, and a brief analysis of the results in plain language.

Briefs or policy briefs may be 2- 6 pages in length, and contain more supporting information, as well as charts, graphics, or other visual elements to demonstrate the information than a one-pager. **Policy briefs** should clearly articulate an issue that can be addressed by a policy change, and propose the policy action that will address this issue. **Briefs**, though potentially a longer document, should still be written in plain, non-academic language, and statistics and figures should be clear and easy to understand. Depending on the intended audience, more technical language can be used, but the intended audience's knowledge should be carefully considered to ensure that they will find the brief accessible and clear.

Social media posts are usually highly visual representations of information. They can be as brief as a square Instagram post or a much larger and more involved **infographics**. The emphasis on communicating research through visual elements makes research into something that is eye-catching and accessible, as well as something that can be easily shared on social media, emails, or in newsletters.

In-person meetings give researchers the opportunity to explain and interpret results, answer questions, and get feedback from partners or other interested organizations. The chance to put a face to the research process is also a valuable tool for making research findings feel accessible to those might find them useful in their practice.

In the next section, examples of these materials for dissemination will be presented and discussed to aid readers in their own dissemination efforts.

One-Pagers – Example 1

It may not be feasible to have someone read through an entire journal article. Creating a one-pager can be a helpful tool to make that information accessible, or provide along with the full article or after a conference presentation to give the audience a brief summary of the main points. One-pagers can be created as simple word documents with a few bullets, or with more visual elements (the document was created using canva.com with graphics from thenounproject.com). **The most important part is to distill whatever you're trying to communicate down to its most important elements.**

Clear title to draw the audience in, use of graphics also helps to pull a reader in

Brief summary of what will be discussed

This section breaks out the main points of the paper

Headings (i.e. "Conclusions") help the audience know where to look and figure out what they should pay attention to

Since coercive control may be a new term to some, a breakout box to define the term can prevent potential confusion

Citation

NEW INSIGHTS ON COERCIVE CONTROL



Women at two emergency departments in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania who had experienced intimate partner violence (IPV) and heavy drinking in the last three months were screened for experience of IPV victimization, danger, and coercive control. The analysis provides new insights on the nature of coercively controlling relationships.

- 1

INCREASED FREQUENCY OF VIOLENCE

Women who were experiencing coercive control were much more likely to experience physical, psychological, and sexual violence than women not experiencing coercive control.


- 2

INCREASED LEVEL OF DANGER

Experience of coercive control was also associated with greater risk of revictimization.
- 3

INCREASED USE OF VIOLENCE

Women experiencing coercive control were also more likely to report using physical violence against a partner, compared with women not experiencing coercive control.

CONCLUSIONS

COERCIVE CONTROL IS ONE PART

Individuals may still experience high levels of violence and risk of revictimization even if coercive control is not present, although seemingly less so than those who experience coercive control.

BEWARE THE "PURE VICTIM" STEREOTYPE

Although more research is needed to explore how violence is used by victims in coercively controlling relationships, the results of this study show that people who experience coercive control, who may be experiencing severe abuse and high levels of dangerousness, also use violence against their partners. Stereotypes about what a "battered" woman should look like should be avoided.

UNDERSTANDING COERCIVE CONTROL IS IMPORTANT TO UNDERSTANDING THE DYNAMICS OF IPV. WHILE MANY COUPLES MAY EXPERIENCE OR USE TYPES OF VIOLENCE WITHIN A RELATIONSHIP, COERCIVE CONTROL OCCURS WHEN ONE PERSON ESTABLISHES DOMINANCE OVER ANOTHER THROUGH A PATTERN OF BEHAVIORS THAT MAY INCLUDE VIOLENCE AND THREATS, ISOLATION, AND INTIMIDATION.

Dichter, M. E., Thomas, K. A., Crits-Christoph, P., Ogen, S. N., & Rhodes, K. V. (2018, January 11). Coercive Control in Intimate Partner Violence: Relationship With Women's Experience of Violence, Use of Violence, and Danger. *Psychology of Violence*. Advance online publication. <http://dx.doi.org/10.1037/vio0000158>

One Pagers – Example 2

A one-pager can be very simple, consisting of simple elements like a **background, results, and conclusion, or policy recommendations.** The one-pager can include graphics, charts, or other breakout boxes to describe elements of the communication, particularly if using both sides of the paper. The one-pager should briefly communicate the most important elements and **provide citation(s) so that the reader can go to the source if they need or want to.**

New Insights on Coercive Control

How coercive control impacts experience of violence and use of violence for victims of intimate partner violence

Brief by E. Pride, based on: Dichter, M. E., Thomas, K. A., Crits-Christoph, P., Ogden, S. N., & Rhodes, K. V. (2018, January 11). Coercive Control in Intimate Partner Violence: Relationship With Women's Experience of Violence, Use of Violence, and Danger. *Psychology of Violence*. Advance online publication. <http://dx.doi.org/10.1037/vio0000158>

BACKGROUND:

Intimate partner violence (IPV) is a spectrum of behaviors that may include physical, psychological, and sexual violence or threats toward a current or former intimate partner. Researchers are increasingly investigating the role of **coercive control** in IPV, and finding key differences between relationships with IPV where coercive control is used and when it is not. **Coercive control is a systematic pattern of behavior in which one partner establishes dominance over the other through violence or threats, isolation, and intimidation.**

Women at two emergency departments in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania who had experienced IPV and heavy drinking in the last three months were screened for experience of IPV victimization, danger, and coercive control. This study sought to provide more insight into the ways that coercive control impacts the way people experience relationship violence.

RESULTS:

| Increased Frequency of Violence: | Increased Level of Danger: | Increased Use of Violence: |
|---|---|---|
| In comparing women who had experienced coercive control to women who had not, the analysis found that women who had experienced coercive control were much more likely to experience physical, psychological and sexual violence. | Women experiencing coercive control were also much more likely to be at risk of experiencing violence, and high levels of violence, again. While some women who had not experienced coercive control were also ranked as being at high risk of revictimization, the majority (78.2%) were ranked as low risk. | Women experiencing coercive control were also found to be more likely to use physical violence against their partner than women not experiencing coercive control, however there was no significant difference between the two groups' use of psychological or sexual violence against a partner. |

CONCLUSIONS:

This study highlights the complexity of coercive control in IPV. If a women is experiencing coercive control, she is much more likely to experience psychological, physical, and sexual violence from her partner and is much more likely to experience violence again. Screening for experiences of IPV can be a helpful tool for discussing safety options with victims of IPV, and professionals should be mindful that the lack of coercive control does not mean that the relationship is not potentially very dangerous.

The finding that experiencing coercive control was associated with the woman's higher use of physical violence against their partner demonstrates the need for complexity in analyzing IPV dynamics. More research is needed to explore how violence is used by victims in coercively controlling relationships. Importantly, this should help combat the stereotype of the "pure victim" of IPV. People who experience extreme violence and control may also use violence against their partners, and it does not necessarily mean that they are in less danger or at less risk of being injured, and women's use of violence may in fact be a survival strategy. Future research should build off this finding to examine the role of violence in coercively controlling relationships.

Annotations:

- Clear title & subtitle
- Citation
- Brief summary of what will be discussed
- Use of columns helps separate the key points
- Conclusion gives a summary of the analysis and highlights the most important elements for the reader to take away

Social Media Posts - Examples

Social media posts, which tend to be short and highly visual, present unique opportunities to draw in potentially broad audiences. Additionally, this visually striking style could be used in internal communications, for example, with these examples of posts, emphasizing the results of a study on healthcare utilization in an email to staff asking them to read more about the study. Providing a **reference or references** for facts used in posts, and **ideally including a link to the full article**, helps orient readers to the full text and prevent the spread of information without proper citation. (Full source text: Dichter et al., 2018.)

| | | | |
|--|--|---|--|
| Visual representation of statistic } |  |  | } Think about creative ways to include an organization's logo, or the title of learning theme or awareness month |
| | Citation } |  | |
| Limit words used in images to keep it easy to read. Captions can always include more text. } | | | |

Women's Healthcare Use after Screening for Past-Year Intimate Partner Violence at the Veteran's Health Administration (VHA)

8,888

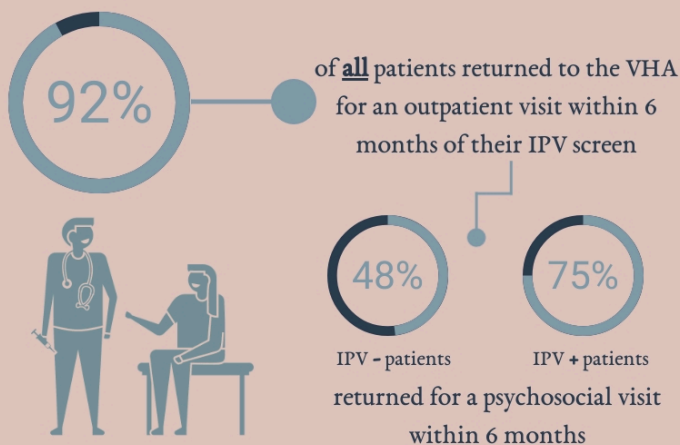
female patients were included in the sample

8.7%

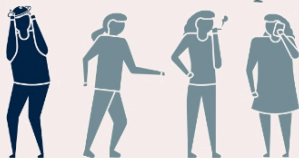
screened positive for past-year intimate partner violence (IPV+) experience

2 years

of VHA healthcare visits, from April 2014 to April 2016 were included in the study



About 1 in 5 IPV - patients and over 1 in 4 IPV+ patients



visited the emergency department within 6 months of their IPV screen

70%

of IPV+ patients returned for a VHA healthcare visit within 2 weeks of screening.

The frequency and timeliness of IPV+ patients' post-screening visits to VHA services indicate that the VHA can implement more targeted intervention and follow-up for patients facing IPV.

Dichter, M.E., Sorrentino, A.E., Haywood, T.N., Bellamy, S.L., Medvedeva, E., Roberts, C.B. Iverson, K.M. (2018). Women's healthcare utilization following routine screening for past-year intimate partner violence in the veteran's health administration. *Journal of General Internal Medicine*, 33(6), 936-941.

Many organizations have social media accounts or listservs where such images could be used to engage followers or solicit action or donations. Previous research on how college students consume and retain information presented on social media found that "the visually dominant platform of Instagram was more effective in terms of information recall than the textually dominant platform of Twitter" (Arceneaux & Dinu, 2018). Though these results may have limited generalizability, the proliferation of social media users, as well as the low-cost associated with posting information on social media accounts should be considered in planning dissemination efforts.

The Facebook page for the National Network to End Domestic Violence (NNEDV) frequently posts engaging visual content branded with the NNEDV logo (<https://www.facebook.com/NNEDV/>).

For researchers and practitioners who lack access to dedicated staff focused on communication, websites like **Canva** (<https://www.canva.com/>), **Piktochart** (<https://piktochart.com/>), and **Visme** (<https://www.visme.co/>) are great options for creating content at no-cost or low-cost (for access to additional templates and features).

The **Infographic** to the left was created using free tools from Visme. Notice the citation at the end!

Briefs – Example (2 pages)

Briefs and policy briefs are ideal formats to use for expressing technical knowledge in more accessible language, and typically shorter formats than a research paper. Previous work has affirmed the collaboration between end-users (like practitioners or participants) and researchers in creating useful **policy briefs** (Arcury et al., 2017). Briefs should include **citations for all information** so that readers can find all the information referenced.

Use descriptive headings to orient the audience to key points

Use of graphics like icons or charts can help break up the brief and add visual interest


Bullet key findings to make them easy to find

Break out important points that need more explanation

SUICIDAL THOUGHTS AND BEHAVIORS AND DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AMONG WOMEN VETERANS

Between 2005 and 2015, suicide rates among women veterans increased by 45.2% [1].

Veterans have an overall higher rate of suicide than nonveterans, and the rate of suicide for women veterans is twice the rate of suicide for women nonveterans. Understanding risk factors associated with suicide for women veterans can help the Veterans Health Administration (VHA) respond and intervene appropriately. A new review has found a relationship between women veterans' experience of domestic violence and suicide risk that may help providers understand how to better meet the needs of women veterans and plan interventions.



Screening can lead to points of intervention for women at risk of suicide.

The VHA is a nationwide, integrated healthcare system that already routinely screens patients for a number of issues, including domestic violence experience and suicide risk. This review analyzed clinical data for women veterans who had been screened for domestic violence experience during their routine care, which included nearly 8500 women from 13 VHA facilities across the nation [2]. The analysis found:

- 8.4% of the sample had screened positively for domestic violence, 3.2% had screened positively for suicidal thoughts or self-harm behaviors, and 28% had reported military sexual trauma (MST).
- Women who screened positively for domestic violence were more likely to have also screened positively for MST than women who screened negatively for domestic violence.
- Women who screened positively for domestic violence were twice as likely to have suicidal thoughts or self-harm behaviors recorded in their clinical notes than women who screened negatively for domestic violence.
- In most cases (60.4% of the time), women with both domestic violence experience and suicidal thoughts or behaviors, the suicide related codes were documented *prior* to the domestic violence screening, most often by 90 days or more.

Type of abuse did not impact risk of suicidal behaviors.

The VHA uses the Extended-Hurt, Insult, Threaten, Scream (E-HITS) screen to assess domestic violence experience. The E-HITS tool categorizes domestic violence into three subtypes - physical abuse, sexual abuse, and psychological abuse. Analysis did not find statistically

Effective briefs should have a clear audience and purpose, even if the intent is to use them in broad contexts. Keeping a brief very focused on a certain topic can help with choosing what should and should not be included. **If a study has a number of useful points, it may make sense to write a few briefs to focus on each of those important findings.**

significant differences between type of abuse experience and suicide-related codes in patients' charts [2].

Considerations for Practice:

1. Most people who consider suicide or engage in self-harming behaviors do not die by suicide [3, 4]. However, expression of suicidal thoughts or self-harm are serious risk factors for suicide and other adverse health outcomes that should be taken seriously.
2. As the analysis demonstrated, social factors, like domestic violence experience, are important factors in suicide risk. The analysis also found that MST was associated with elevated expression of suicidal thoughts or self-harm behaviors, indicating that multiple experiences of traumatic events can impact suicide risk [2]. Providers should be aware that expression of suicidal thoughts or behaviors could also indicate that a patient should be screened for domestic violence or MST.
3. While information was pulled from VHA sites nationwide, this may not be a representative sample of all VHA sites, as not all sites had started using E-HITS during the period of time studied.
4. Future research is needed to examine the relationship between screening and disclosure time of domestic violence experience or suicidal behaviors. However, results indicate that proactive screening provides opportunities to identify risk factors and intervene for patients to improve their long-term wellbeing.

[1] Office of Mental Health and Suicide Prevention. VA national suicide data report, 2005 – 2015. US Department of Veterans Affairs;2018https://www.mentalhealth.va.gov/docs/data-sheets/2015/OMHSP_National_Suicide_Data_Report_2005-2015_06-14-18_508.pdf

[2] Brigone E, Sorrentino AE, Roberts CB, Dichter ME. Suicidal ideation and behaviors among women veterans with recent exposure to intimate partner violence. *Gen Hosp Psychiatry* 2018;55: 60-64

[3] Nock MK, Borges G, Bromet EJ, Cha CB, Kessler RC, Less S. Suicide and suicidal behavior. *Epidemiol Rev* 2008;30(1): 133-54.

[4] Nock MK, Borges G, Bromet EJ et al. Cross-national prevalence and risk factors for suicidal ideation, plans, and attempts. *Br J Psychiatry* 2009;192:98-105.

2

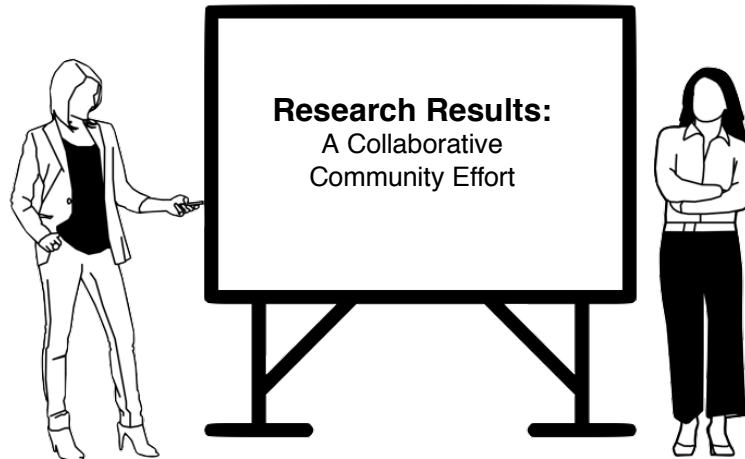
} End with a summary of action items, recommendations or takeaway points

} Sidebars are useful for references or breaking out other key points for the readers

} Notice that there is plenty of white space! Don't crowd the brief with text.

In-person meetings

Practitioners frequently brought up **access to people** as an important factor in their ability to access research. One practitioner, whose organization was currently participating in a research project, said she hoped that researchers would come out to present the results to staff, answer questions, and help interpret the results once the study had concluded.



In-person meetings may not always be feasible, but efforts to have personal connections between researchers and practitioners/organizations can help break down barriers to research utilization in the field (Boyko, Kothari, & Wathen, 2016; Hagan, Schmidt, Ackison, Murphy & Jones, 2017; McShane, Davey, Rouse, Usher, & Sullivan, 2015). Virtual meetings and webinars may also be opportunities for researchers to connect directly to practitioners about research findings.

Some considerations for in-person meetings between researchers and practitioners:

- Staff at organizations that have participated in research may want to hear from researchers in small groups first, but may want to invite funders, partner organizations, community stakeholders, or advisory board members to attend a meeting. **Ask organizations what they would prefer!**
- Researchers may be able to formalize relationships with practitioners by serving as members on research advisory boards or consultants. These connections may benefit organizations serving survivors of domestic violence, but can also benefit researchers who need to demonstrate the impact of their work to their own funders through their connections (Kothari, Sibbald, & Wathen, 2014).
- **When** should meetings occur? After a study has concluded? If there is significant staff turnover? If part of a formal partnership, researchers may want or need to have update meetings throughout the research process to ensure staff feel included and up-to-date.
- **Where** should the meeting occur? Think about the dynamics involved in the meeting and whether asking practitioners to travel to a meeting might impose a burden on them or emphasize power differentials.



Recommendations for Researchers

Practitioners report both wanting and needing research to effectively do their jobs, but become frustrated with many of the traditional methods of dissemination and the time needed search for, review, and engage with new information. Researchers can enrich practitioners' work by making research more accessible and relevant to those who are working on the ground. One practitioner, when asked about her recommendations for how researchers can improve dissemination responded by saying, "So rarely do we get asked." This is not a prescriptive set of instructions, but hopefully a jumping off point for future conversations and work on improving dissemination of domestic violence research.

Consider Research Use

Think about how a practitioner or organization may want to use the research. Are the results written in a way that is accessible? An even more direct way of understanding how research may be used is to *ask practitioners and organizations* if they are interested in or have use for the research. Of course, this may be built into existing research partnerships, but for those working on secondary data sets or outside of participatory research frameworks, establishing relationships with practitioners can benefit both the researchers and practitioners through exchange.

- Practitioners spoke about challenges of communicating information to funders and constituents that was timely and relevant. Some classic studies, that practitioners still found incredibly useful, were 20 or 30 years old! Fundamental texts for practitioners may appear dated to outside groups, like the courts, and research does not revisit old studies to confirm current relevancy very often.
- Practitioners also brought up the limiting factors of research topic availability, particularly for culturally-specific organizations, whose populations may not be represented in most available research.

Be Creative!

Practitioners value the authority of high-quality academic research, but rarely have direct or easy access to it. Like most people, practitioners also have personal preferences for how they want to engage with new information, and what they find to be impactful and memorable. Brief formats in plain language with references are generally helpful and appreciated alternatives to long academic articles. Practitioners also note the potential impact of dissemination through social media, animation, in-person meetings to explain a study's results, and traditional media.

- While discussing the impact of social media in disseminating information, one practitioner said that “**headlines grab my attention and make me remember it.**” She also shared that she often reads comments on posts about domestic violence to see how information is being consumed by community members, which helps her organization plan for programs to meet the needs of their community.
- Another practitioner shared his appreciation of visual media representations of information, citing the documentaries *Tough Guise: Violence, Media & the Crisis in Masculinity* (1999) and *The Mask You Live In* (2015) as great tools for starting conversations about gender norms. The practitioner also noted the impact of shorter videos, like whiteboard animations, made to explain a single topic and formatted to be easily shared on social media as potentially really impactful ways of sharing information about domestic violence if there were available resources to invest in their creation.

Interpretation as an On-Going Process

Practitioners want help in interpreting research results for their uses; having access to the researchers who conducted the work can make that much simpler and more useful. Researchers face limits on their time and abilities as well, but talking to practitioners about interpretation needs for certain audiences like funders or the criminal justice system may reveal to researchers critical gaps in their research discussion. How research is used and can be used can be an open-ended project with practitioners that can enhance a researcher’s perspective and contributions.

- One practitioner fondly recalled working with a researcher who was able to synthesize research for them in a way that was very useful. She shared, “**she knew our take, and she knew what we were trying to say,**” emphasizing the importance of the researcher’s ability to get to the point of view of the organization.
- A researcher’s connection to practitioners may yield feedback on research findings that can inform future projects or directions for research. Researchers should be humble about listening to practitioners, who can provide a lot of expertise on what is useful.
- Practitioners brought up the challenge of communicating relevant information about domestic violence to funders and communities without inappropriately attributing causality. Researchers will be familiar with this challenge! For domestic violence practitioners in particular, where big data sets on financial impacts of domestic violence or long-term health implications may be information they want to communicate to add credibility to the trends they observe within their programs, help interpreting studies can expand practitioners’ abilities to effectively tell the stories of their clients and programs.



Recommendations for Practitioners

This guide cannot, and does not intend to, solve all challenges of access to research findings. However, the following suggestions come from conversations with practitioners who discussed their successes with research access and use.

Participation Facilitates Access

One practitioner, who worked at a direct-service agency also served on the board of a larger coalition. She found that the attitude toward research and researchers between the two organizations was very different, and attributed the coalition's reluctance toward research to their lack of established relationships with researchers, while her workplace had a number of researchers they trusted and was more open to using research for their work. Certainly, practitioners have a duty to their clients and work, to ensure that any potential research partnerships guard the integrity of their clients. However, practitioners and organizations may increase their access to research by participating in research as a consultant or research advisory board member, or if the research is being conducted at the organization. Practitioners reported that working with researchers facilitated their access to research that was useful to their work.

- Practitioners should consider what they have to offer to researchers, especially when looking to formalize relationships and partnerships. Researchers have their own obligations for obtaining funding for their programs and promoting their work. Can practitioners figure out ways that relationships with researchers can offer mutual benefits?

Having the “Right” People Involved

Practitioners also noted the importance of having the right “fit” to a relationship with a researcher. Practitioners who used a lot of research in their work described having a list of trusted researchers whose work they thought was high quality as one way to help vet the work they used. Additionally, practitioners who partnered with researchers or hosted interns in research positions at their agencies noted the importance of having people who “got it.” One practitioner spoke about a researcher who was “great” because “she knew our take, and she knew what we were trying to say.” Just as organizations interview employees and partners to ensure the right fit, researchers and their projects should face the same scrutiny for better relationships.

- One practitioner, whose organization was involved in an on-going research project, observed that the high-level of communication with the researchers (this author included) facilitated the organization's comfort with the project.

Practitioners should feel empowered to ask potential research partners questions

about how often they would receive updates, how much staff time they should expect to devote to the project, how much input the organization could have in shaping the project, and how the anticipated findings might be used by the organization.

Share Resources!

Many practitioners work within coalitions and partnerships with organizations doing similar work, and rely on one another for training. One practitioner noted her organization's reliance on a larger organization for practical training on managing domestic violence cases, and said she hoped that the trainers had the right information. When practitioners find really useful work, or help interpret results for their work, they can share these resources with their partners to expand the reach of the information. Practitioners place a lot of trust in the judgement and work of other practitioners, so practitioners can do a lot to increase the reach of information by sending it to others they work with.

- Organizations, regardless of size, are often offered opportunities to collaborate with other organizations doing similar work. A practitioner from a small, culturally-specific organization mentioned that her involvement in a city-wide collaborative was useful to providing their expertise and perspective of their clients in a larger context *and* was a source of information for the organization that was strategic and helpful.
- Practitioners also described relying on other organizations for their practical expertise on issues when their own organizations lacked that experience or access to specific research. Maintaining open lines of communication with other practitioners was very helpful to obtaining relevant information.



Implications for Future Work

Hopefully this guide has offered some helpful suggestions and examples of ways researchers and practitioners can approach disseminating domestic violence research.

This guide has highlighted a number of the challenges that preclude ideal dissemination, namely limited time and resources, limited accessibility, interpretation concerns, and difficulty breaking out of set patterns of research dissemination. Practitioners recognized the many ways research evidence is and can be useful for their work, while also articulating frustration with current practices of dissemination. Given the limited information available about **how** research evidence is used by practitioners, there is more to discover about mechanisms and practices that promote engagement, such as through listservs, research or community collaboratives, and interdisciplinary relationships. Previous work has elucidated the need to study the impact of domestic violence research, noting the difficulties in measuring the impact of a study through traditional methods like prestige of a journal, as well as through proposed “alternative metrics,” such a number of citations and twitter mentions (Madden et al., 2019).

Though this guide makes several suggestions for dissemination, it was not feasible to pilot test the materials with practitioners. (Note: the author is involved in an on-going CBPR study with a domestic violence agency, and as practicing these suggestions through her work.) Future research may explore the relationships between practitioners and researchers, the creation or co-creation of materials for disseminating research evidence, and how research is used and interpreted by practitioners.

With the ease of information sharing online, it is easy to take for granted the sheer volume of information that is available. **Availability does not necessarily equate with accessibility**, especially when research findings may be stored behind a paywall or in a format that is daunting for non-academic audiences to engage with, so researchers should continue to consider the ways that information can be shared more democratically and used by those who need it most. The research to practice gap in the field of domestic violence will only be solved by teamwork between researchers and practitioners

Appendix A: Author & Acknowledgements

Elizabeth Pride is a Master of Public Health candidate at the University of Pennsylvania expecting to graduate in May 2019. She earned a Bachelor of Arts degree in Anthropology from Temple University in 2012 with minors in Women's Studies and Spanish. She works as the Intake Coordinator at the Women Against Abuse Legal Center in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, where she provides and supervises the delivery of direct services for victims of domestic violence.

Acknowledgements

*There are a number of people and organizations who have contributed directly and indirectly to this work. First, I would like to thank my capstone mentor, **Melissa E. Dichter, PhD, MSW**, Assistant Professor at University of Pennsylvania Perelman School of Medicine, Department of Family Medicine and Community Health and Core Investigator at the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs, Center for Health Equity Research and Promotion. Her mentorship throughout this project has been integral to its creation and direction, and the example she sets in striving to create bridges between researchers, practitioners, and survivors of domestic violence is a constant source of inspiration. I would like to thank the **Lutheran Settlement House Bilingual Domestic Violence Program** and their **Research Advisory Board**, which are made up of some of the most passionate and inquisitive people devoted to helping survivors of domestic violence and thinking through hard questions about how to improve knowledge within the field. I am also grateful to the practitioners from a number of domestic violence organizations who took the time to talk to me about their preferences and thoughts on research dissemination. I hope to have communicated their wants and needs through this guide. I am also so appreciative and grateful for my coworkers at Women Against Abuse, who have been very understanding throughout my graduate studies as well as such amazing advocates for survivors of domestic violence. Finally, I am deeply indebted to the many survivors I've worked with who have inspired me to think not just about their discrete needs but also about advancing knowledge about domestic violence wherever I can to facilitate better access to resources and justice for survivors everywhere.*

Appendix B: Design Resources

Canva (<https://www.canva.com/>) is a graphic-design tool website with resources for web-based and print materials. Canva users may create an account for free, although there is also a paid, premium membership available for additional templates and resources.

Iconfinder (<https://www.iconfinder.com/>) is an icon search engine with tiered subscription packages available for the use of royalty-free icons.

iconmonstr (<https://iconmonstr.com/>) is a free database of icons available in an array of formats (including website design) to fit most design needs.

The Noun Project (<https://thenounproject.com/>) is a catalog of symbols and graphics created by designers around the world. Use of image is free with attribution, but users can pay for membership to access images without attribution and with more customization.

Piktochart (<https://piktochart.com/>) is a infographic application that lets users easily design infographics and other images. It is free to create an account with Piktochart, although there is also a paid, premium membership available for additional templates and resources.

Visme (<https://www.visme.co/>) is a free application for the creation of infographics and other visual charts. It is free to create an account with Visme, although there is also a paid, premium membership available for additional templates and resources.

Appendix C: Easy Templates

[Title]

[Descriptive subtitle]

[Citation information]

BACKGROUND:

[Background text about why this study/information is important and what will be discussed]

RESULTS:

[Important Finding #1] :

[Discussion/description of important finding #1.]

[Important Finding #2] :

[Discussion/description of important finding #2]

[Important Finding #3] :

[Discussion/description of important finding #3]

CONCLUSIONS:

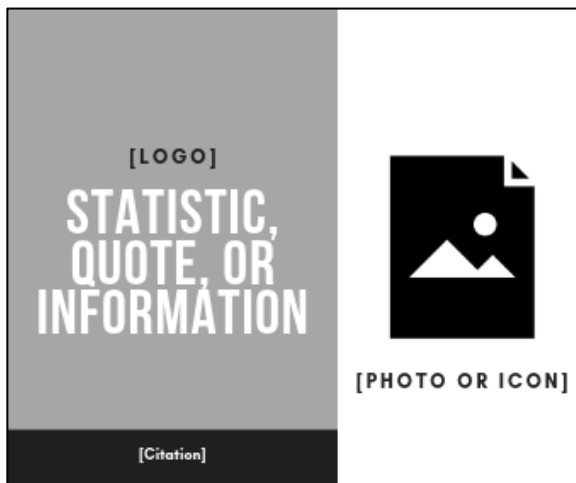
[Summary of the analysis, highlight the most important points again and any implications for practice or future research. Can also end this text with a specific ask if being used for advocacy purposes.]



Social media graphics do not have to be fancy!

It's easy to change colors, font, and layout to match an agency's branding or the topic being communicated.

Generally, avoid over-loading an image with too many elements – for social media posts, it's easy to add a caption with more information or link to additional content.



Each of these examples have been adapted from free templates from Canva (<https://www.canva.com/>).

An easy rule to follow is to center the most important information (the fact or statistic being communicated) and make that information the most prominent and easy-to-read text.



Visual add-ons like color, graphics, photos, or pattern should attract audience attention but not take away from the message that is being conveyed.

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