

24 Hour Contact DV Initiative

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'09 Domestic Violence Counts National Summary

On September 15, 2009, 1,648 out of 1,980, or 83%, of identified local domestic violence programs in the United States and territories participated in the 2009 National Census of Domestic Violence Services. The following figures represent the information provided by the 1,648 participating programs about services provided during the 24-hour survey period.

65,321 Victims Served in One Day

32,524 domestic violence victims found refuge in emergency shelters or transitional housing provided by local domestic violence programs.

9,280 Unmet Requests for Services

Many programs reported a critical shortage of funds and staff to assist victims in need of services, such as emergency shelter, housing, transportation, childcare, and legal representation. Of these unmet requests, 5,537 (60%) were from victims seeking emergency shelter or transitional housing.

23,045 Hotline Calls Answered

Domestic violence hotlines are a lifeline for victims in danger, providing support, information, safety planning, and resources. In the 24-hour survey period, domestic violence programs answered more than 960 hotline calls every hour.

A light blue map of Texas is visible in the background of the top section.

'09 Domestic Violence Counts Texas Summary

5,431 Victims Served in One Day

3,183 domestic violence victims found refuge in emergency shelters or transitional housing provided by local domestic violence programs.

784 Unmet Requests for Services

Many programs reported a critical shortage of funds and staff to assist victims in need of services, such as emergency shelter, housing, transportation, childcare, and legal representation. Of these unmet requests, 438 (56%) were from victims seeking emergency shelter or transitional housing.

1,992 Hotline Calls Answered

Domestic violence hotlines are a lifeline for victims in danger, providing support, information, safety planning, and resources. In the 24-hour survey period, domestic violence programs answered approximately 83 hotline calls every hour.

2010 El Paso Domestic Violence

n All DV Dispatched Calls- 33,348

n UCR Reported DV cases- 5680

n Total Assaults 11,801

n DV Arrests-

– Males – 2035

– Females- 645

– Dual Arrests- 56

n Total Protective Orders- 1856

n Protective Orders Arrest- 161

n DV Murders- None

2011 El Paso Domestic Violence

n Dispatch DV calls- 24,330

n DV cases- 4002

n Total Assaults- 8,661

n DV Arrest-

n Male -1693

n Female- 617

n Dual arrests- 22

n Protective Orders Arrests-

n Males -111

n Female - 5

n DV Murders- 4

WHY DOES SHE STAY?

n **FEAR**

n **GUILT**

n **SOCIETY**

n **IMMIGRATION**

n **ISOLATION**

n **FRIENDS**

n **MISPLACED COMPASSION**

JUST LEAVE HIM!!

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE POLICE RESPONSE

n PREHISTORIC TIMES

- ∅ Separate for the night
- ∅ Who gets arrested
- ∅ What happens to the kids
- ∅ What happens to the case

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE POLICE RESPONSE

- n Moving forward
- ∅ Zero Tolerance- arrest made
- ∅ What happens to the kids
- ∅ What happens to the case

Lost Victims of Domestic Violence

- n Cycle of violence
- n Felony charges when kids try to save their parents
- n Child witnesses to family violence
- n Breaking the cycle
(aggressive/submissive)

Identifying the Challenges: Domestic Violence Prosecution in Texas

- ž The dynamics of the crime are different.
 - ž Defendant and victim often live together even after the crime.
 - ž Defendant and victim often have children.
 - ž The couple's finances are intertwined.
 - ž Love.
- ž The defendant and the victim already have a *relationship*.

Identifying the Challenges: Domestic Violence Prosecution in Texas

n Collecting the evidence becomes the key.

- *Crawford* and *Davis* and *Hammond*
- Building evidence re forfeiture by wrongdoing
- 911 Recordings
- Photographs – defendant, victim, etc.
- Medical records
- Witnesses
- Phone records
- Texts
- Emails
- Jail recordings

**Addressing the
Challenges:
The 24 Hour Contact
DV Initiative**

MISSION

- n Victim contacted within 24 hours to ensure her/his safety
- n Victim educated on community resources
- n Defendant aware of the District Attorney Office's importance and involvement in the case

24 Hour Contact Team

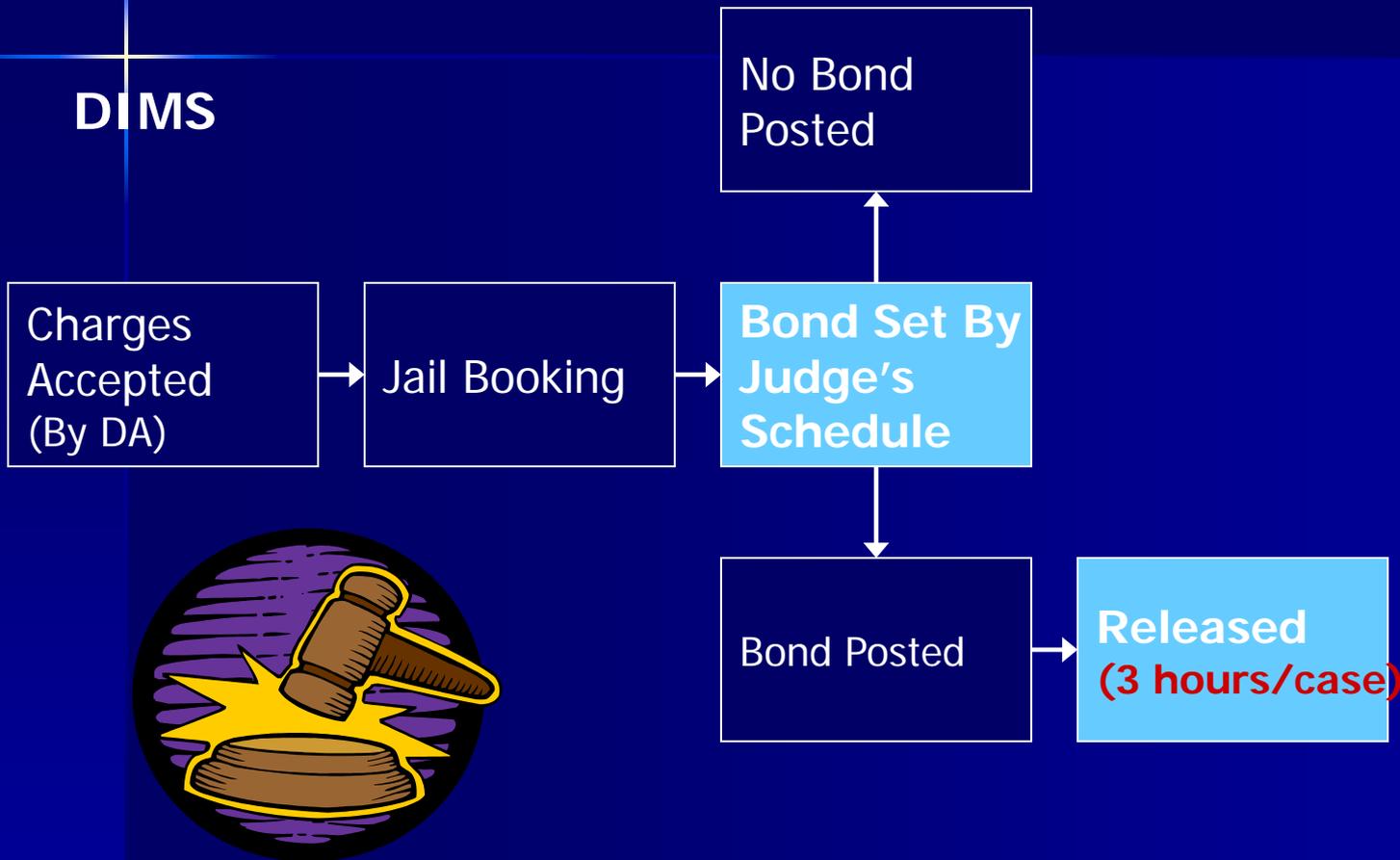
- n District Attorney Jaime Esparza
- n Chief of the DV Unit Patricia Baca
- n 2 Clerk
- n 2 Secretaries
- n 3 Victim Advocates
- n 2 Investigators

Weekly Guests

- n Commander from El Paso Police Dept
- n Victim Advocate from EPPD
- n Representative from CAFV
- n Representative from MHMR

DIMS

DIMS- Victim Contact Information



- Ø Bond schedule approved by judges expedites bond and improves consistency.
- Ø Defendants preferring bond set at magistration will see the judge within 24 hours of arrest.

CLERKS

n Clerk (DIMS)

- Arrives at 7:00a.m. everyday (including weekends/holidays)
- Runs the DIMS list
- Inputs all the data
- Prints cases
- Request judgments/pen packets
- **Requests all photos**
- Runs criminal histories

n Clerk (Warrant Cases)

- Arrives at 7:00a.m.
- Runs Jail Rooster List
- Inputs all the data
- Prints cases
- Runs Criminal histories
- Request Judgments/pen packets
- Go to the 911 Call Center
- **Download all 911 calls**

INVESTIGATORS

Investigator-

- n Goes to home visits
- n Safety of the victim advocate
- n Order medical records
- n Works on Weekend

n Investigator-

- n Goes to home visits
- n Safety of the victim advocate
- n Downloads the jail recordings

VICTIM ADVOCATES

- n There are 3 assigned to this unit
- n Rotate their schedules to fit the weekend work
- n Advise victims of services such as VAWA, CAFV, and protective orders
- n Take photos of injuries
- n Have victims sign medical release forms
- n Enter their notes into the system (netpads)

DISTRICT ATTORNEY

- n Attends every meeting
- n Makes a recommendation for each case (red writing or blood cases)
- n Cannot deviate from that recommendation without prior approval of either himself or Chief of the DV.

CHIEF OF THE DV UNIT

- n Attends every meeting
- n Makes recommendation when DA is not present
- n Notifies probation or parole of new arrest
- n Notifies military of arrests involving Soldiers
- n Notifies prosecutors of repeated offenders (Devon Hunt)
- n Discusses cases with prosecutors or defense attorneys in reference to recommendations

SECRETARIES

Secretary-Recs

- n Writes all recommendations "red writing" on the files
- n Inputs all recommendations into Case Portal (paperless)

Secretary-database

- n Inputs all cases that come through our 24 hour contact unit into the database

EPPD COMMANDER

- n Attends the Monday meetings
- n Ensures all photos/videos are downloaded
- n Helps with any follow up investigation
- n Builds a strong collaboration between EPPD and the DA's office

CENTER AGAINST FAMILY VIOLENCE (CAFV)

- n Provides services to victims
- n Help us move victims to the shelter when in danger
- n Provide assistance with VAWA

Home Visits

- n 2 teams- victim advocate/investigator
- n Clerk informs them if defendant is still in custody
- n Make contact with all victims!
- n Homes, work, friends, 911 caller, hospitals, shelter, UBMC, homeless, and Mexico
- n Since the Inception of this program we have reviewed 6758 cases!

24 Hour Contact Meetings

- n Every Weekday
- n Every Monday the meeting starts at 10:30 since weekend cases from 7:00am on Friday to 7:00a.m. on Monday will be covered
- n Tuesday-Friday the meeting will depend on when the home visits have been completed

What Happens at the Meetings

- n We ensure that all photos are on the server
- n We download all 911 calls
- n Order medical records
- n Jail recordings
- n Gather additional evidence
- n Discuss all Victim communications
- n Identify the repeat offenders
- n Discuss the best outcome for that case
- n Accept/decline the case

Goals

- nVictim Advocate
- nLaw Enforcement
- nProsecutors
- nCulture

Victim Advocates

- n Safety of the Victim
- n Empower the Victim with Services
- n Establish a Rapport with the victim
- n Let her/him know someone cares about them (email from Victim)

Law Enforcement

- n Collection of Evidence downloaded properly
- n Tagged evidence
- n Better case preparation
- n Hold offender accountable
- n Keep the victim safe

Prosecutors

- n Safety of the Victim
- n Hold Offender Accountable
- n Case ready to go to trial the next day
- n More evidence: photos, 24 hour contact photos, medical records, jail recordings, notes from VA reference conversations with the victim

Cont'd

- n Stronger Cases

- n Recommendation by DA

Comprehensive DV Unit

n Prosecutors trained on problems / challenges / issues

- Victim's varied responses
- Victim's non-prosecution statements/ recantations
- Evidentiary Issues (*Crawford*, forfeiture by wrong doing)
- Trial issues (recantations)

n *Daily* emphasis/ Importance

DV Videos

- n Goals
- n Commander Austin- pilot program
- n Grant for server/cameras/case

QUESTIONS



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