



Chula Vista Police Department

Reducing Domestic Violence in Chula Vista, CA

28th Annual Problem-Oriented
Policing Conference

November 5th, 2018



This project was supported by Grant No. 2013-DB-BX-0033 awarded by the Bureau of Justice Assistance. The Bureau of Justice Assistance is a component of the Office of Justice Programs, which also includes the Bureau of Justice Statistics, the National Institute of Justice, the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention, and the Office for Victims of Crime. Points of view or opinions in this document are those of the author and do not necessarily represent the official position or policies of the U.S. Department of Justice.

Chula Vista



267,000
residents

232
sworn
officers



Officer to citizen ratio = 0.87

SARA



Scanning

Impact on Community



- DV is **#2** type of police call for service (after false alarms)
- Each year, we log more **DV** calls (**4,000**) than all four of these calls combined:
 - **Robbery**
 - **Residential burglary**
 - **Vehicle theft**
 - **Vehicle burglary**
- **1,200 crimes per year**

Impact on Officers



- **8,000+** patrol hours/year spent on DV
- Emotional toll on officers
- DV calls most likely to result in officer fatality
- Difficult call for very young officers

Need More Than Services



- 15+ year partnership with DV advocates (SBCS)
- Heavy investment in victim resources
- 24/7 DV counselors
- **Despite this, the # DV incidents had not gone down**



SARA



Analysis

Problem Analysis



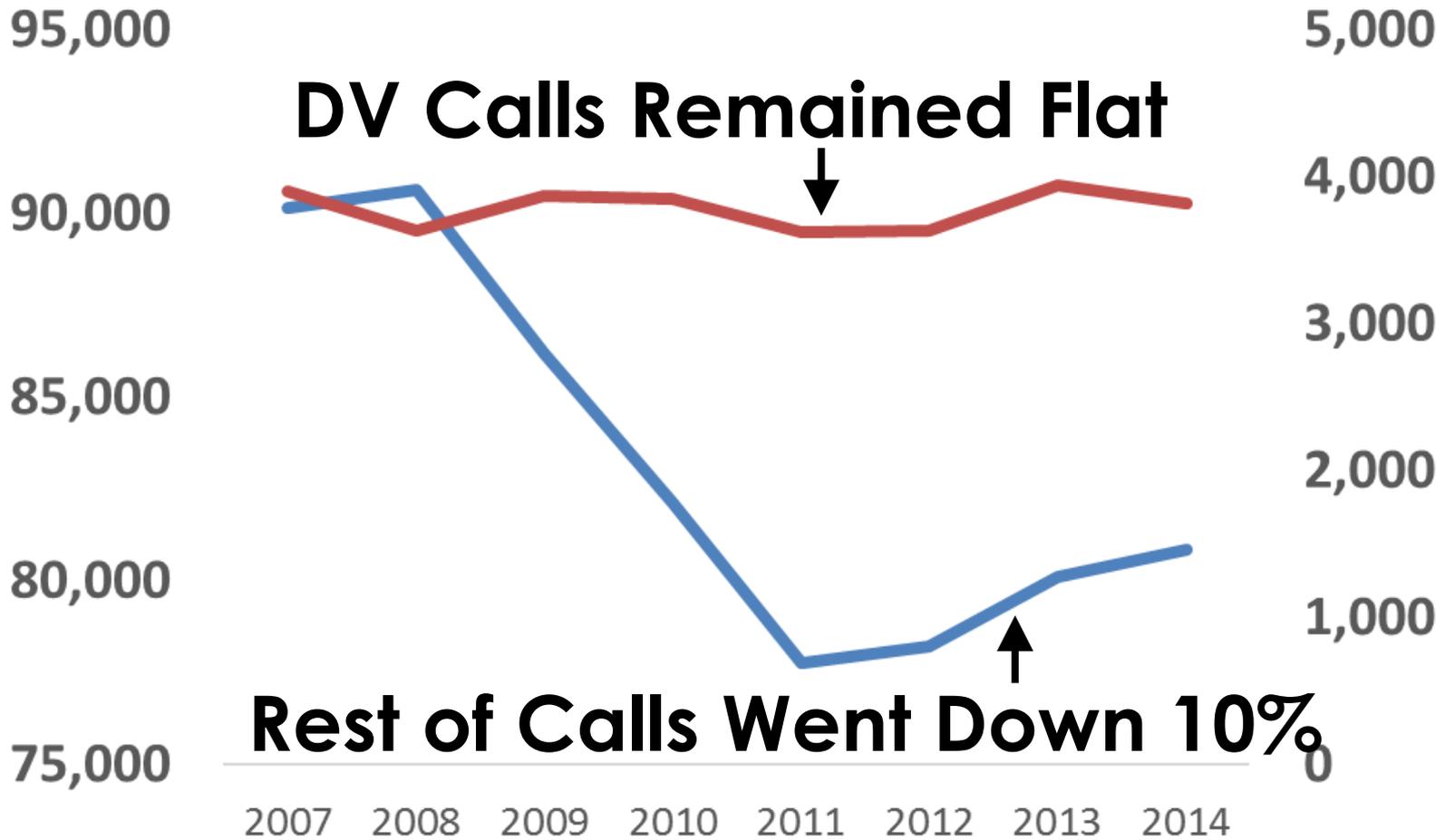
Types of Analysis Conducted

- CFS, crime, arrest, jail, DA data
- Other police efforts
- Officer surveys
- Input from partner

Stubborn Problem



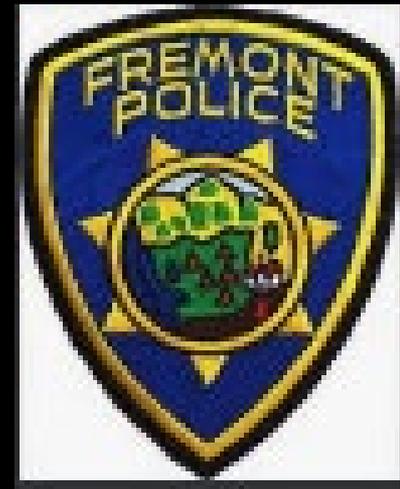
2007-2014



Prior Police Efforts



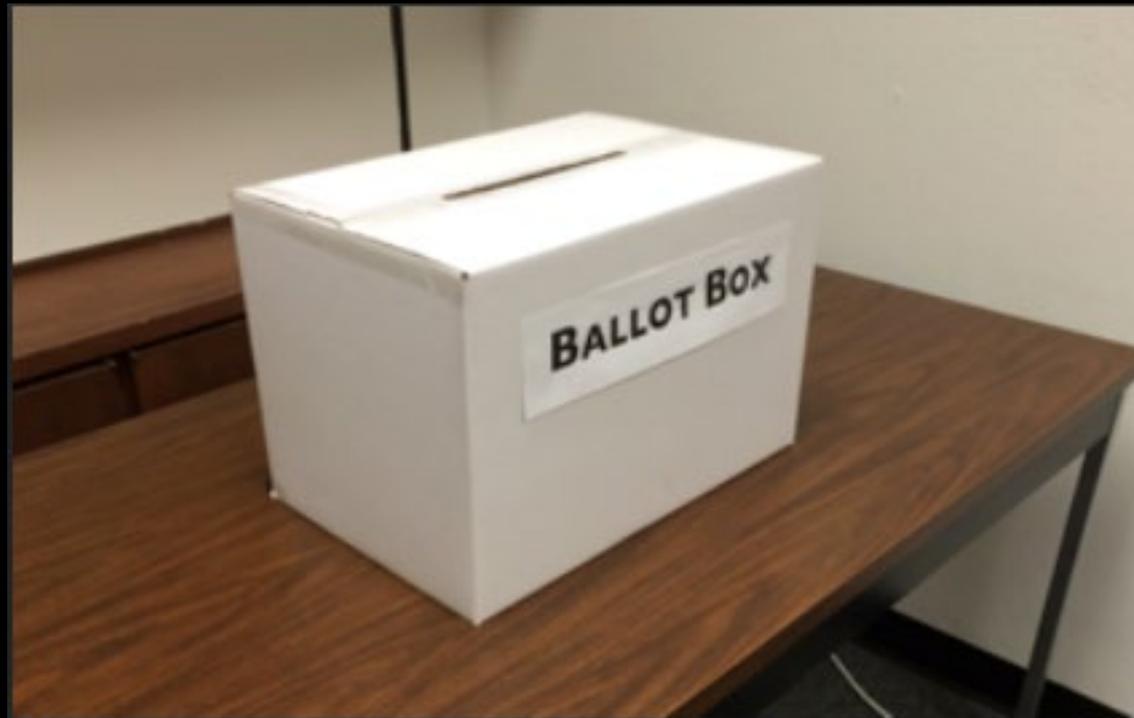
High Point, NC - West Yorkshire, UK - Fremont, CA



Officer Survey



- Officers frustrated with repeat DV **(87%)**



- Skeptical of traditional responses **(50+%)**

DV Case Flow



10,180

DV CFS

2,771

DV Crimes

1,340

DV Arrests

657

Cases Issued

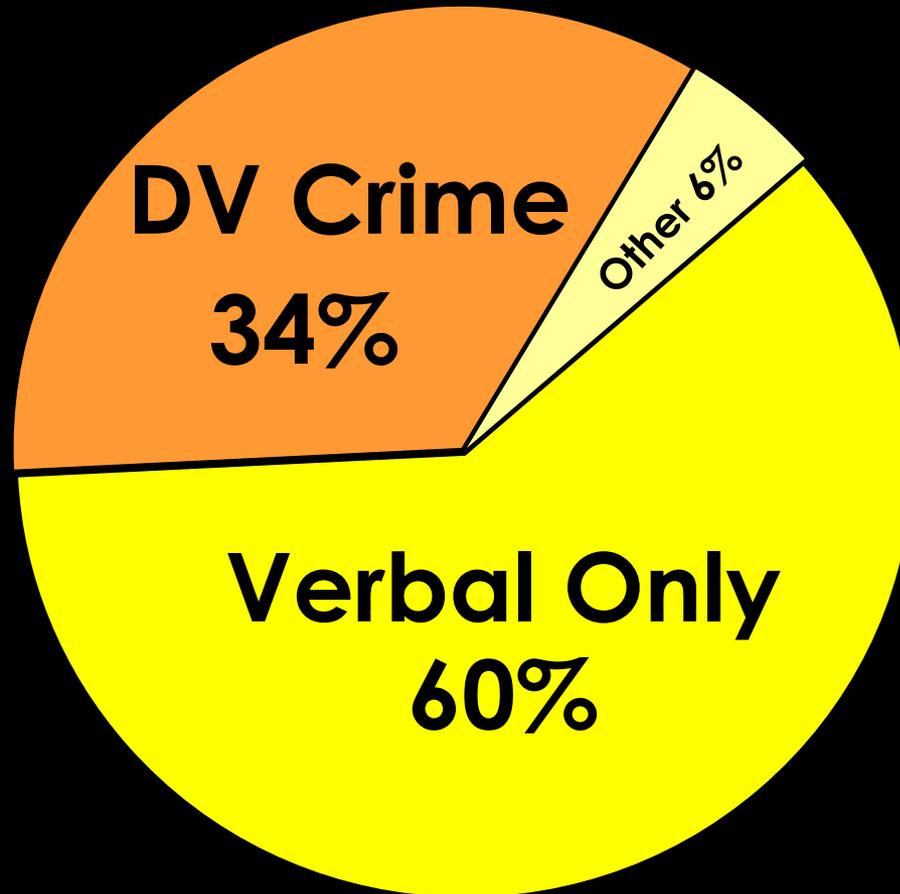
567

Guilty

**2.5 Years of data
(1/1/12-6/30/14)**



Breakdown of DV Call Types



Repeat Addresses



515 Glover Av – Unit #16

DispDateTime	DV CFS Category	Arrested Status
02/26/2014 21:35	Verbal Only DV CFS	←
03/09/2014 23:39	DV Crime	Not arrested
03/21/2014 17:15	DV Crime	Arrested on Scene
03/26/2014 7:33	Verbal Only DV CFS	
04/05/2014 19:46	Verbal Only DV CFS	
05/12/2014 0:17	Verbal Only DV CFS	
05/13/2014 16:42	Verbal Only DV CFS	
06/10/2014 2:27	Verbal Only DV CFS	

Repeat Incidents



It gets harder to prevent repeat incidents with each subsequent incident in Chula Vista

Number of DV CFS to an Address	% That Repeat
1	26%
2	41%
3	51%
4	58%
5	50%
6	62%

Data is for 1/1/12-6/30/14

Time Sequence



- High repeat rate
- **86%** of repeats occurred after 3 days
- Bruises fully developed
- Median time in jail < 3 days



Suspects and Victims



Most victims and suspects **under 40**



- Many suspects HBD alcohol **(30%)**
- Most couples had children **(56%)**

Input from **Child Welfare**



- Loud arguments affect child's brain development



SARA



Response

One Year Experiment



Domestic Abuse Response Team

- 60+ patrol officers volunteered
- Enabled 24/7 coverage of one test sector (Sector 1)
- **DART officers still responded to all regular calls in the sector**
- Training and Protocol

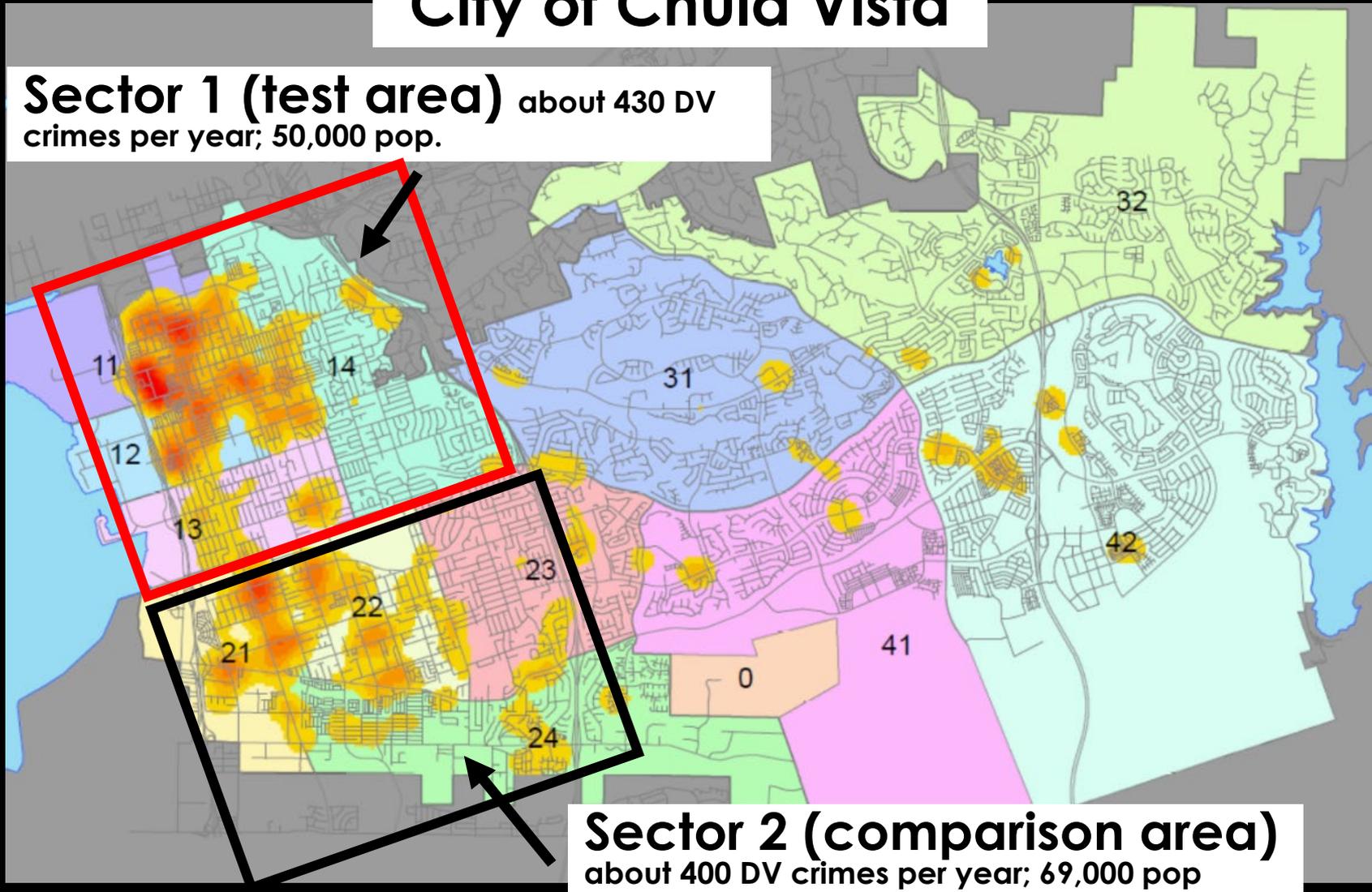


Test/Comparison Areas



City of Chula Vista

Sector 1 (test area) about 430 DV crimes per year; 50,000 pop.



Sector 2 (comparison area)
about 400 DV crimes per year; 69,000 pop

Police Response



Three Level Approach

Incident Type	Level	Response
Verbal-only CFS	Least Serious	Education
First DV Crime	More Serious	Warning/Follow-Up
Repeat CFS/crimes	Chronic	Customized Problem Solving

No DV Crime: 60% of CFS



Officer's Message

- Domestic disturbance is not okay
- We take this very seriously
- Police will be checking on you

Avoid Alcohol and Drugs: Avoid arguments when either of you have been drinking or are under the influence of drugs. Things can quickly get out of hand!

Impact of Domestic Abuse on Children

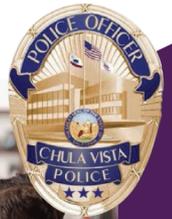
Just hearing adults yelling is very scary for children of all ages. Babies and young children are affected the most. The fear caused by these arguments is bad for the development of their brains.

Domestic Disturbances & Loud Arguments

The police were called because of a domestic disturbance. Everyone has disagreements, but not ones so intense that the police are called for help. What happened today is not okay.

The Chula Vista Police Department is taking new actions when responding to domestic violence. We will be checking in with you both in the future to make sure everyone is okay. If you ever need immediate help, CALL 911. The safety and well-being of everyone involved is our priority.

**Police take this seriously.
So should you.**



Advice from Police:

Take a Time Out: If you are upset, step away from the situation and take as much time as you need. Leave the room or home and allow your partner to do the same. Don't continue a heated conversation!

Avoid Alcohol and Drugs: Avoid arguments when either of you have been drinking or are under the influence of drugs. Things can quickly get out of hand!

Impact of Domestic Abuse on Children

Just hearing adults yelling is very scary for children of all ages. Babies and young children are affected the most. The fear caused by these arguments is bad for the development of their brains.

For more information, please watch "First Impressions: Exposure to Violence and a Child's Developing Brain."



English:
[www.youtube.com/
watch?v=brVOYtNMmKk](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=brVOYtNMmKk)



Español:
[www.youtube.com/
watch?v=C23ysdsh4E#t=82](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=C23ysdsh4E#t=82)

Police Department
315 Fourth Avenue
Chula Vista, CA 91910
www.chulavistapd.org



Need immediate help?
Call 911

No DV Crime: 60% of CFS



Follow Up Texts

- At 30 to 60 days
- Novel response
- Target audience was young
- Positive reaction

**From: Chula Vista Police
Subj: Recent Domestic
Disturbance**

Hi Nanci. We wanted to check in and make sure you are okay. Please let us know how things are going by clicking here:

www.followup.com. (To speak with an officer call 691-5151. If you are in danger, call 911 immediately.) Para español mande un texto con "S".

First DV Crime



Jail warning to offender

Victim gets copy and services



WARNING to Domestic Violence Offenders



1. We will not tolerate domestic violence. It's a crime against the family and community.
2. The Chula Vista Police Department, District Attorney's Office, and Probation Department are working together to prevent domestic violence.
3. Unless you stop abusing your partner, you'll receive a great deal of attention from the Chula Vista Police Department.
4. You're now subject to future unannounced police visits.
5. Any future incident involving you will be a priority for us. We'll track you down if you flee the scene of a crime.
6. We'll see what else you can be prosecuted for, including old cases that were dismissed.
7. This new approach is being driven by us, the POLICE—not the victim.
8. You have been admonished and warned.

ARRESTEE / SUSPECT

Sign to acknowledge warning:

First DV Crime



Unannounced 3-day follow up by patrol officers



If no one home left
“We stopped by”
cards



**We stopped by
to check on your safety.**

Chula Vista Police Officers _____
and _____ were here to check on
you at _____ AM / PM on _____.

The Chula Vista Police Department will continue to check on you to make sure you are okay. If you wish to talk to us about a non-emergency, we've included our business cards.

If you need immediate assistance, call 911.

**Pasamos a
ver que se encuentre bien.**

Oficiales de Policía de Chula Vista
_____ y _____
pasamos a verlo a _____ AM / PM el _____.

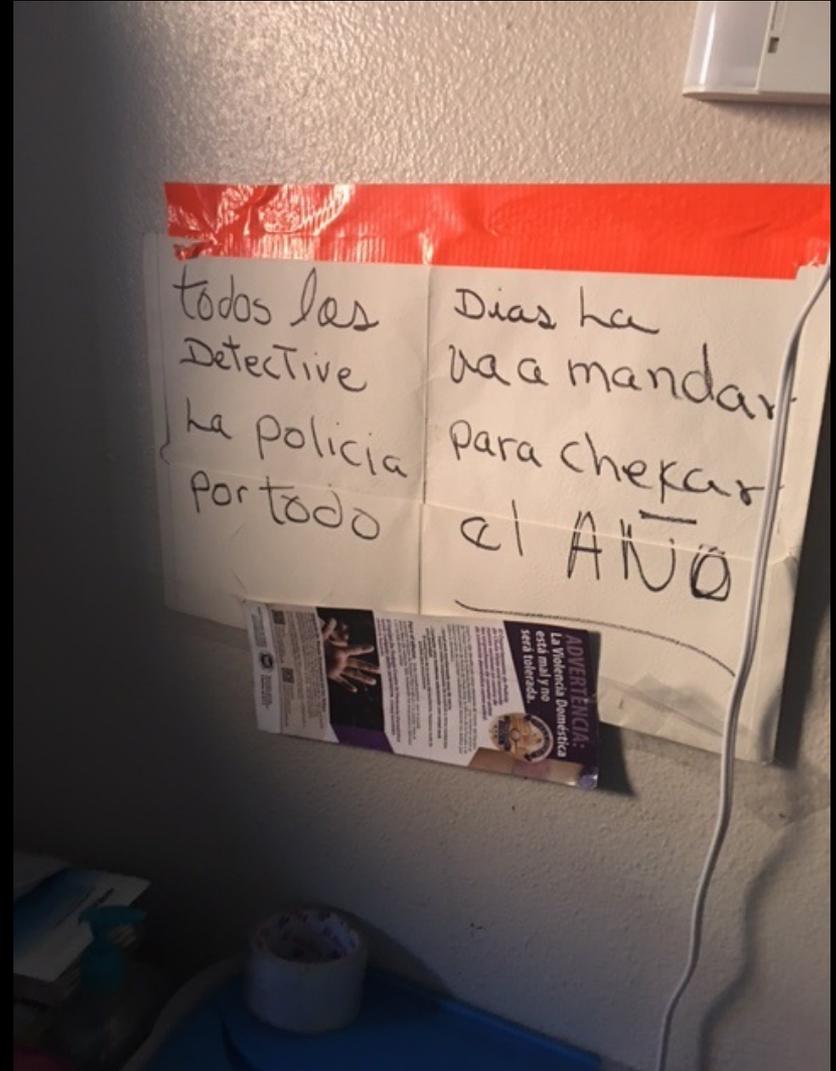
El Departamento de Policía seguirá visitándolo para asegurarnos que se encuentre bien. Si usted desea hablar con nosotros sobre un asunto que no sea de emergencia, le hemos dejado nuestra tarjeta de presentación.

Si necesita ayuda inmediata, llame al 911.

Chronic Couples



- Non-criminal justice system responses
- Custom problem-solving



Response Volume



Responses Delivered – 18 Months

Level	# Responses
Education	450+
Warning/Follow Up	280+
Custom Problem Solving	60+

SARA



Assessment

Did it Work?

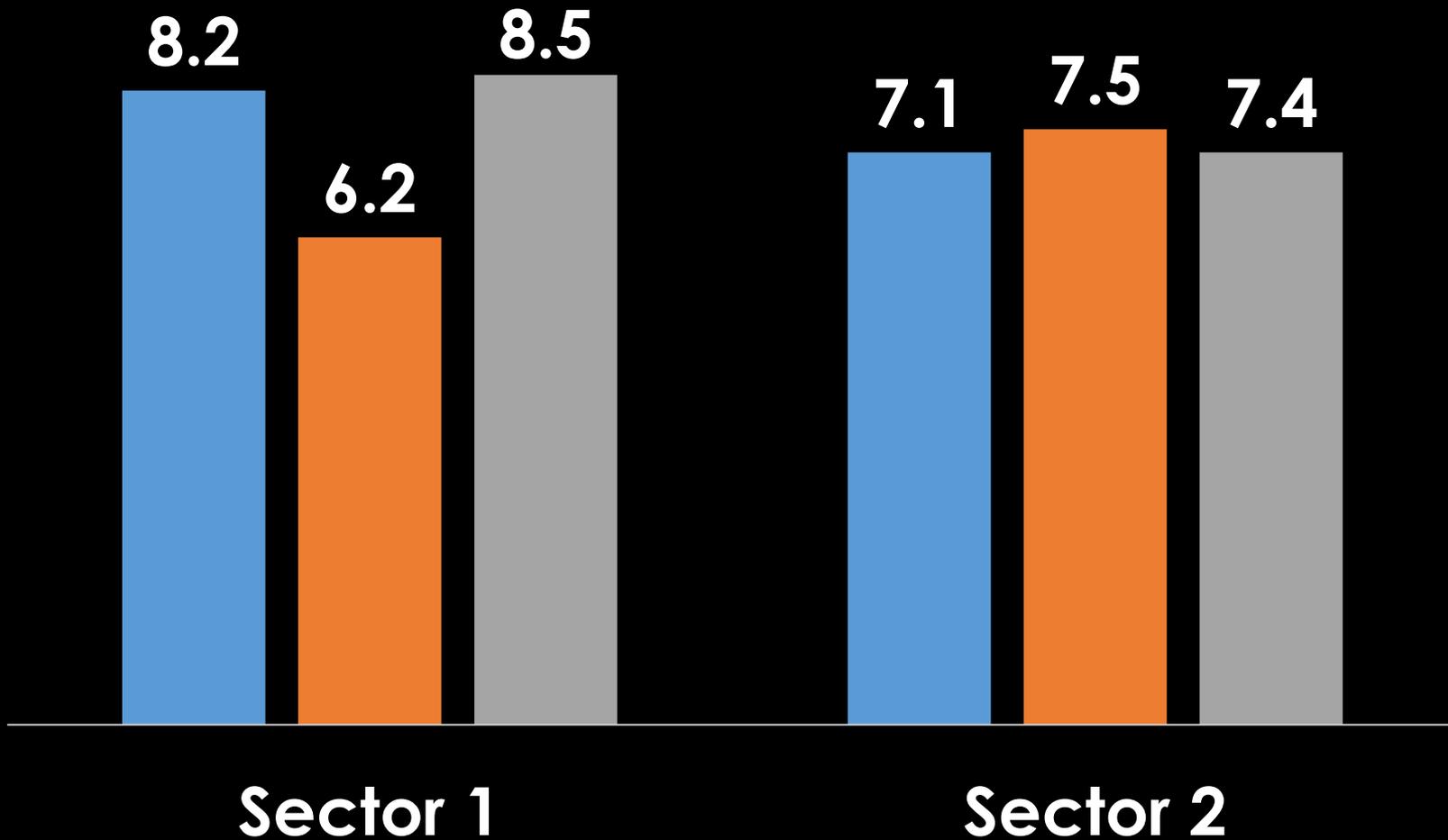


Impact Measures

- DV Crimes
- DV Calls
- DV victim satisfaction
- DV subjects verbal-only calls
- Officer time
- Project officer views

Crime Impact

Weekly Average # of DV Crimes



Phase 1 = baseline; Phase 2 = after response in place 1 year; Phase 3 = paused experiment

Impact Crimes/Calls



Change (after program in place for 1 year)

	Sector 1	Sector 2
DV Crimes	-24%*	+3%
DV Calls	-3%	+10%*

* Change statistically significant at 99% confidence level

Victims More Satisfied



Police Response	Sector 1	Sector 2
Satisfied	97%	81%
Dissatisfied	3%	18%

(Survey conducted by DV advocates)



DV Subjects Positive



- **88%** of domestic disturbance subjects said things have gotten better since the Level 1 or 2 police response
- **81%** said police helped the problem
- Only **8%** said they would not call police again for help

Saved Time



Patrol

- 200 projected hours saved by 24% fewer DV crimes/year in Sector 1*

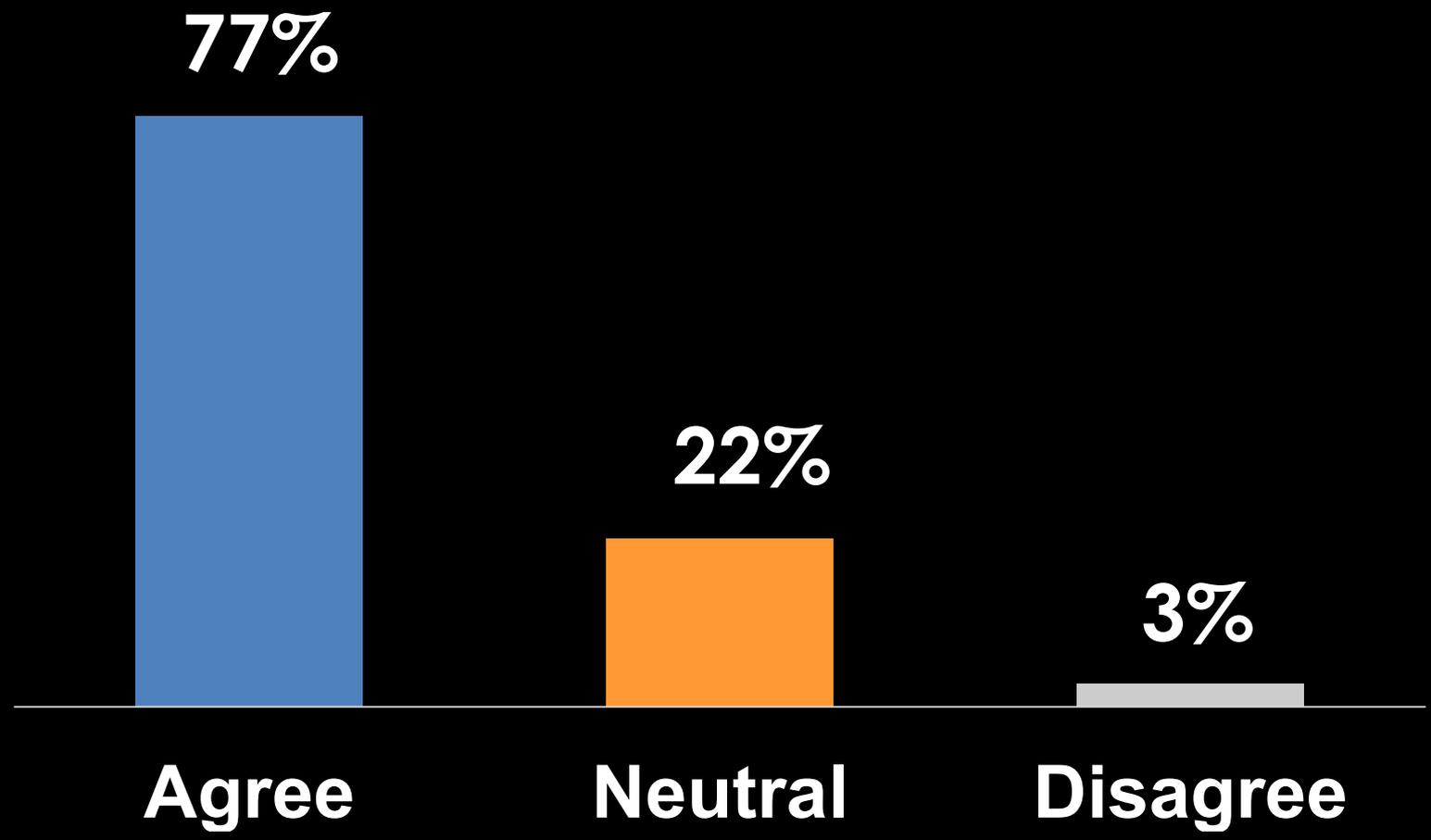
Investigations

- 120 projected hours saved/year in Sector 1

* Includes extra patrol time spent on follow ups



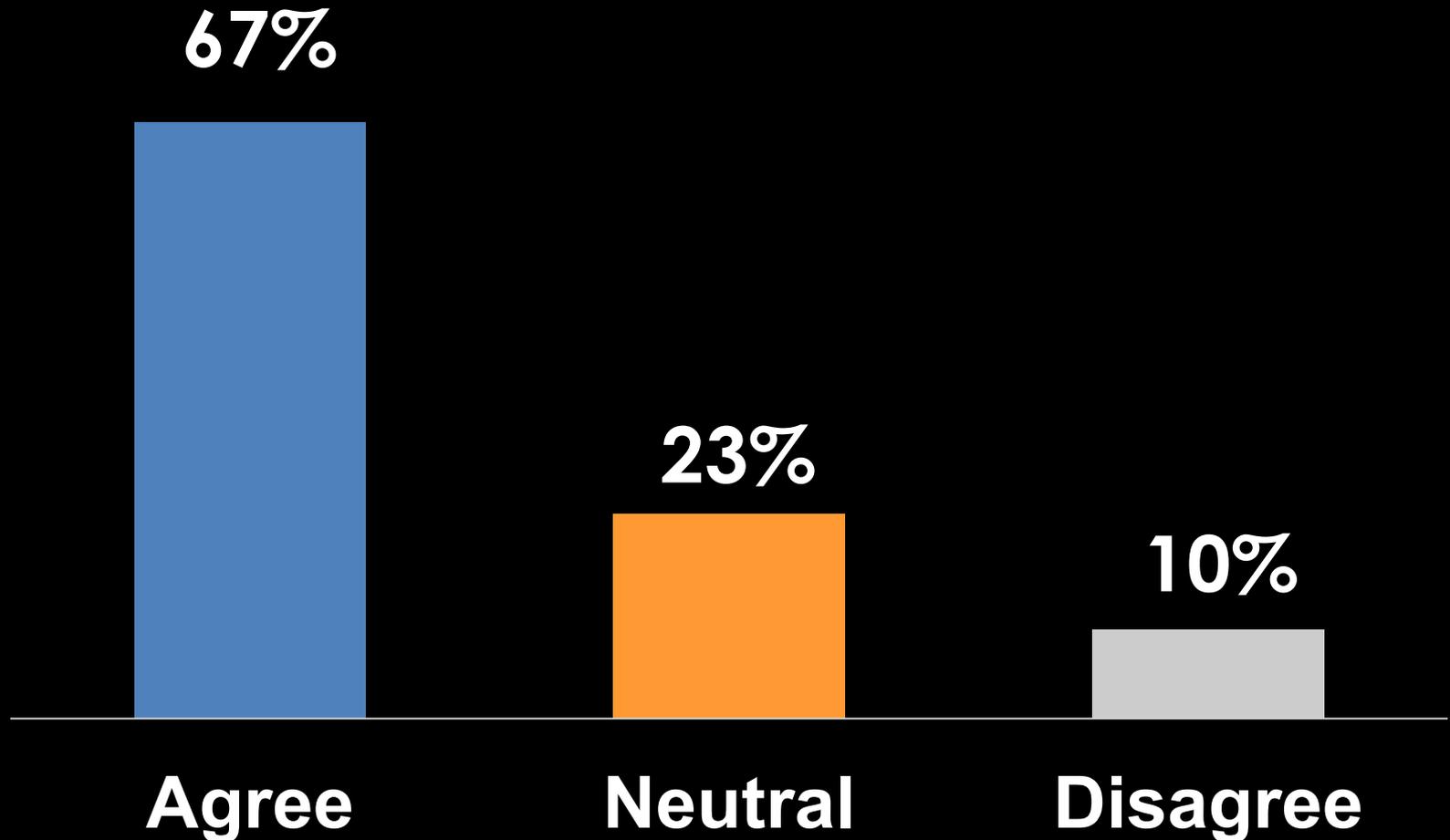
Project Has Been Effective



Project Officers: Go Citywide



Project Should be Expanded



Questions?



Chief Roxana Kennedy, 619-691-5150
rkennedy@chulavistapd.org

Sergeant Donte Kendricks, 619-585-5775
dkendricks@chulavistapd.org

Agent Xanthe Rosario, 619-476-2410
xrosario@chulavistapd.org

Karin Schmerler, 619-884-8175
Karin.Schmerler@sdcca.org

Dropbox: <https://tinyurl.com/y7erx35n>