



# Chula Vista Police Department

## Chula Vista Project to Reduce Domestic Violence

International Problem-Oriented Policing Conference

October 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2017



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# Chula Vista



265,000  
residents

232  
sworn  
officers



# Why DV?



- DV is **#2** type of police call for service (CFS) in Chula Vista (after false burglary alarms)
- **4,000** DV calls for service (CFS) each year (65,500 citizen CFS)
  - Intimate partner only
  - Includes domestic disturbances (DD)
- **8,000+** patrol hours spent on DV

# Overall DV CFS Trend



## Total Domestic Violence and Disturbance CFS: 2007-2014

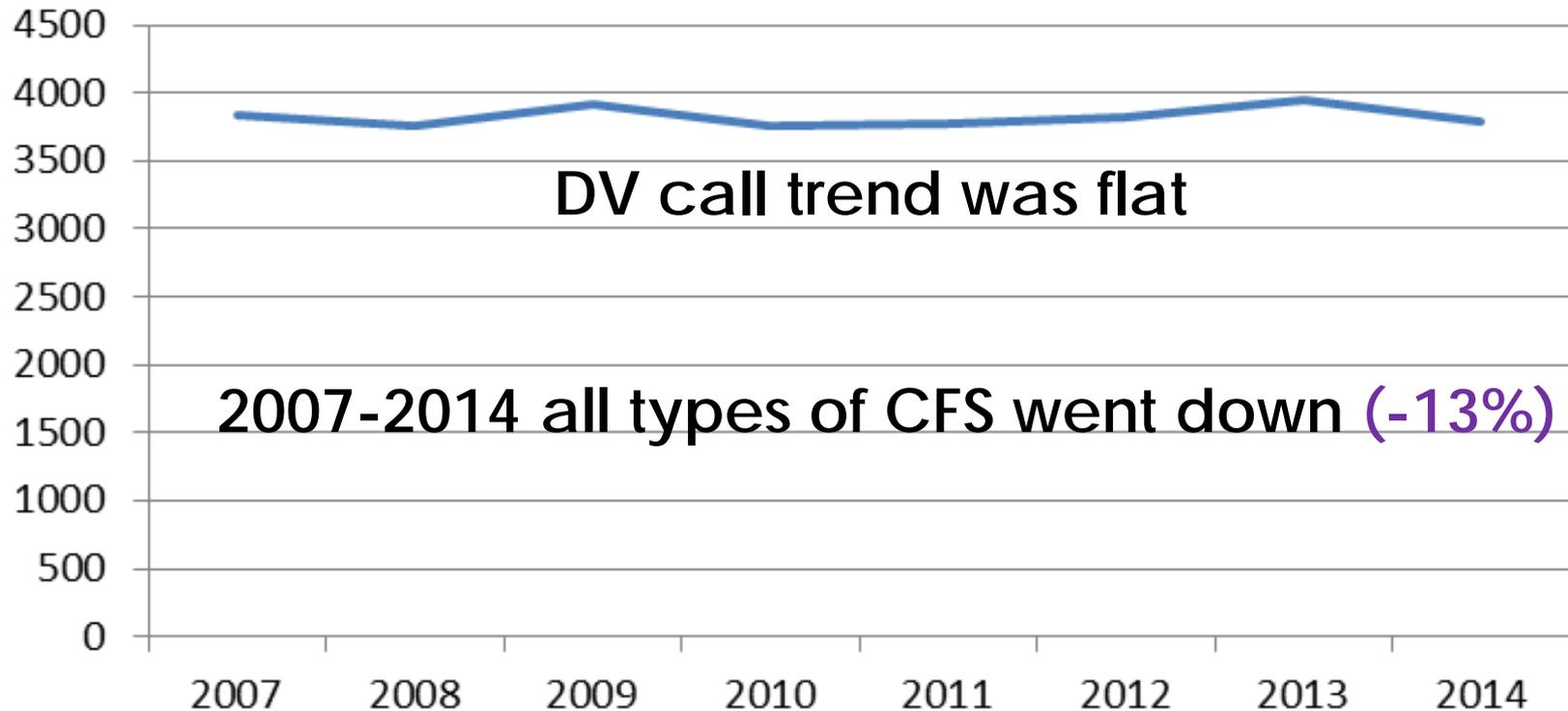


Chart **only includes** CFS coded specifically as DV; raw CFS numbers are an undercount, because they **do not** include DV-related CFS coded as robberies, assault w/deadly weapon, etc.

# DV Project



- Grant to try new response to persistent problem
- No officer salaries funded

**SMART**  
POLICING  
Data. Analysis. Solutions.



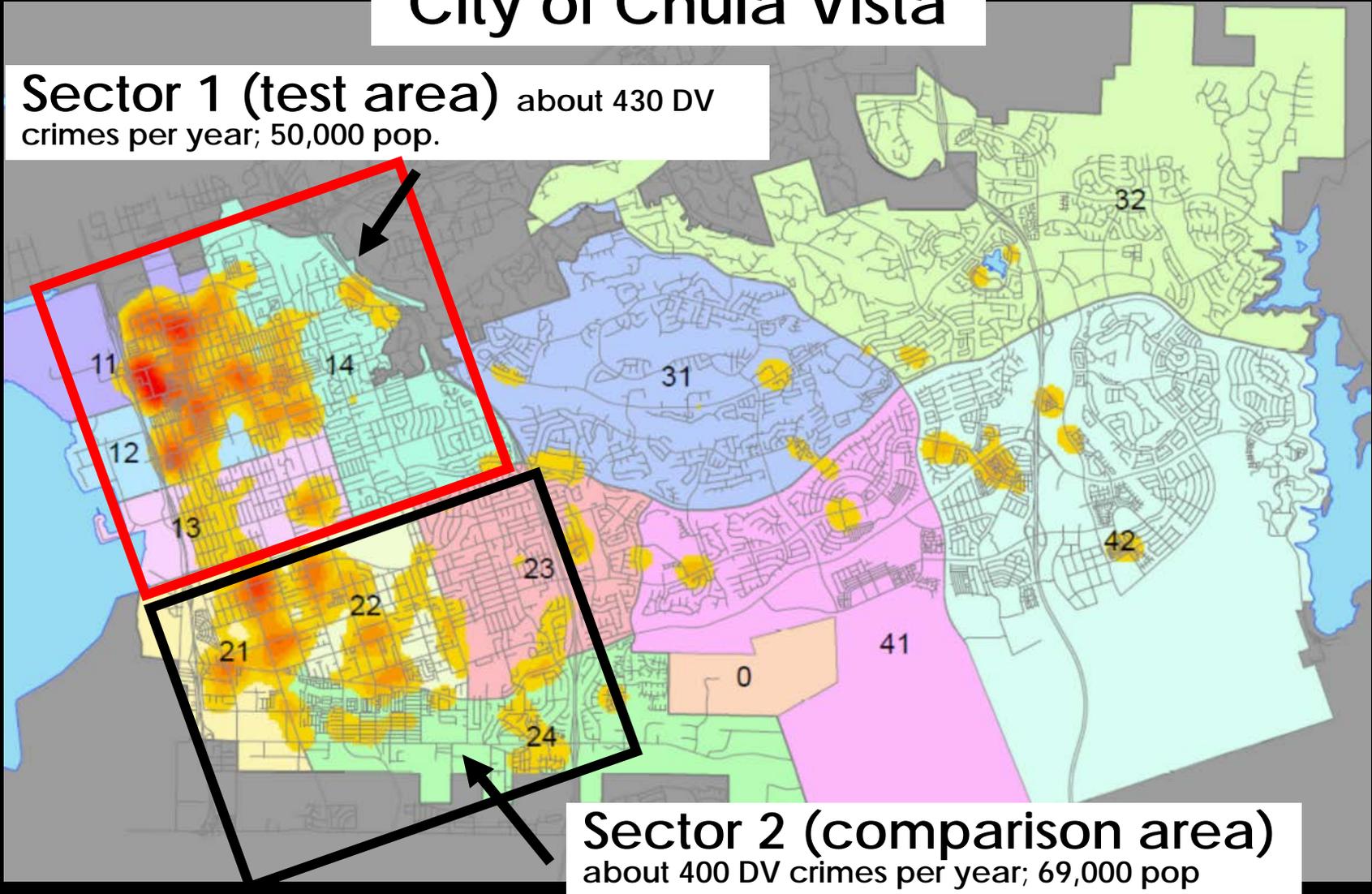
**BJA**  
Bureau of Justice Assistance  
U.S. Department of Justice

# 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

# Project Partners



SBCS

Four formal partners  
in police-led project



District Attorney



Child Welfare



Probation

# Problem Analysis



## Types of Analysis Conducted

- Literature review – to find prior successful projects
- Survey data
- Crunched internal/external data
  - 10,180 CFS (2.5 years of data)

# Prior Approaches



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

- Hold offenders accountable
- Action driven by police, not victim
- Focus resources on repeat suspects and victims
- Protect and support victims

# Officer Survey

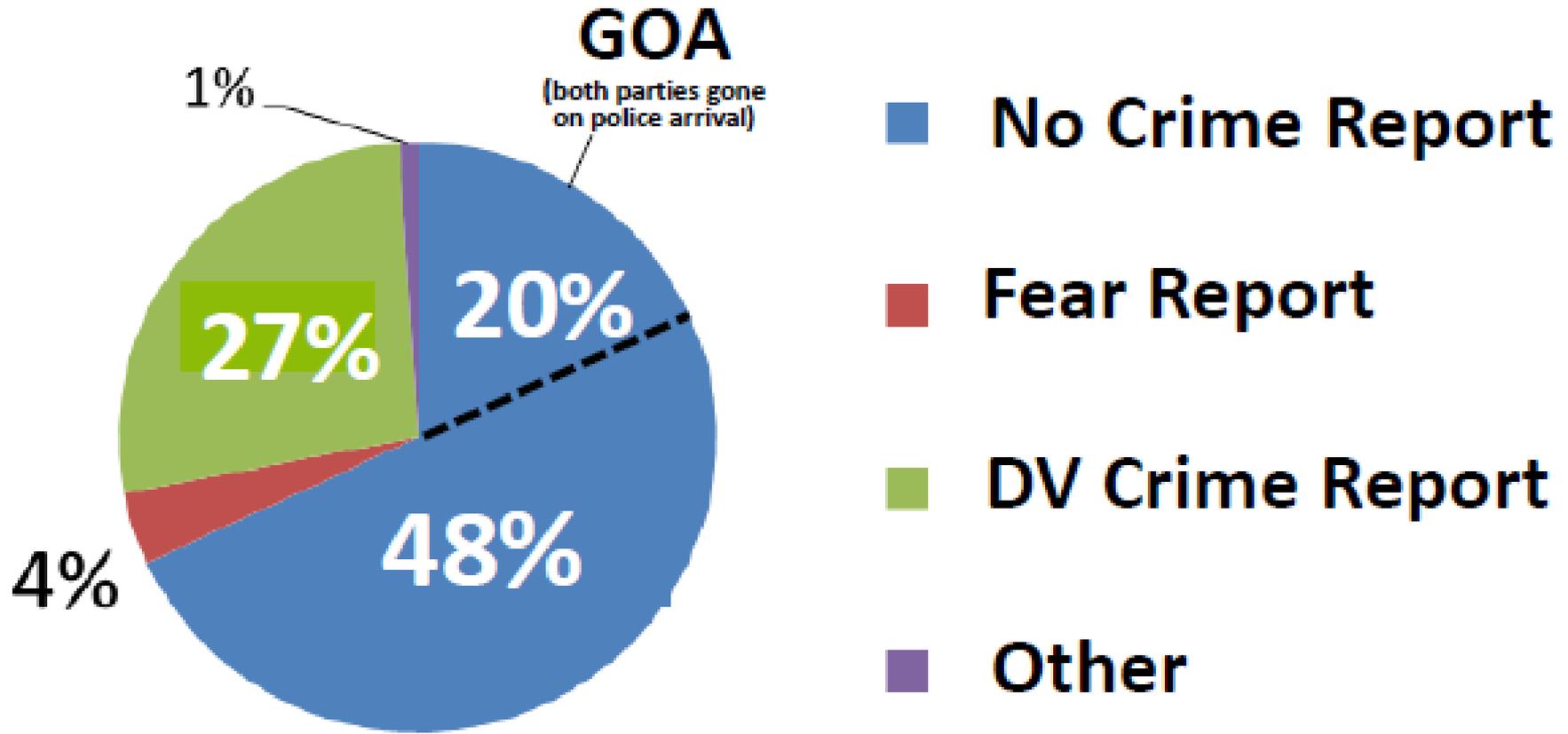


- **87%** frustrated with verbal-only, non-crime incidents
- **70%** said TROs and batterer treatment not effective
- **48%** of officers said arresting someone on a DV seldom helps prevent future incidents

# Verbal-Only Most Common



## Breakdown of DV Calls for Service Types



# DV Incident 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)**

# 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%

# Residential Repeats



## Test Sector 1 – Six Months of CFS

% of Residential DV Addresses	% of Residential DV CFS
6%*	19%

\*23 unique residential addresses

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

Non-crime domestic disturbances are included

# Key Intervention Point



## 515 Glover Av – Unit xx

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	

# Problems w/addresses



- **38%\*** of DV CFS occur at non-residential locations
- People move around; they are not always in their home
- Using residential addresses undercounts repeat incidents

\*Data is for July 2014

# Special DV Populations



Special Populations	% of DV Couples
Homeless*	17%
Teens*	7%
Age 65+*	2%
Same Sex Couples	1.5%
Female Offenders	25%

# DART Team



## Domestic Abuse Response Team

- 60+ patrol officers volunteered
- 24/7 coverage of test sector
- Implementing response protocol in Sector 1 only
- **DART officers still respond to all regular calls in the sector**

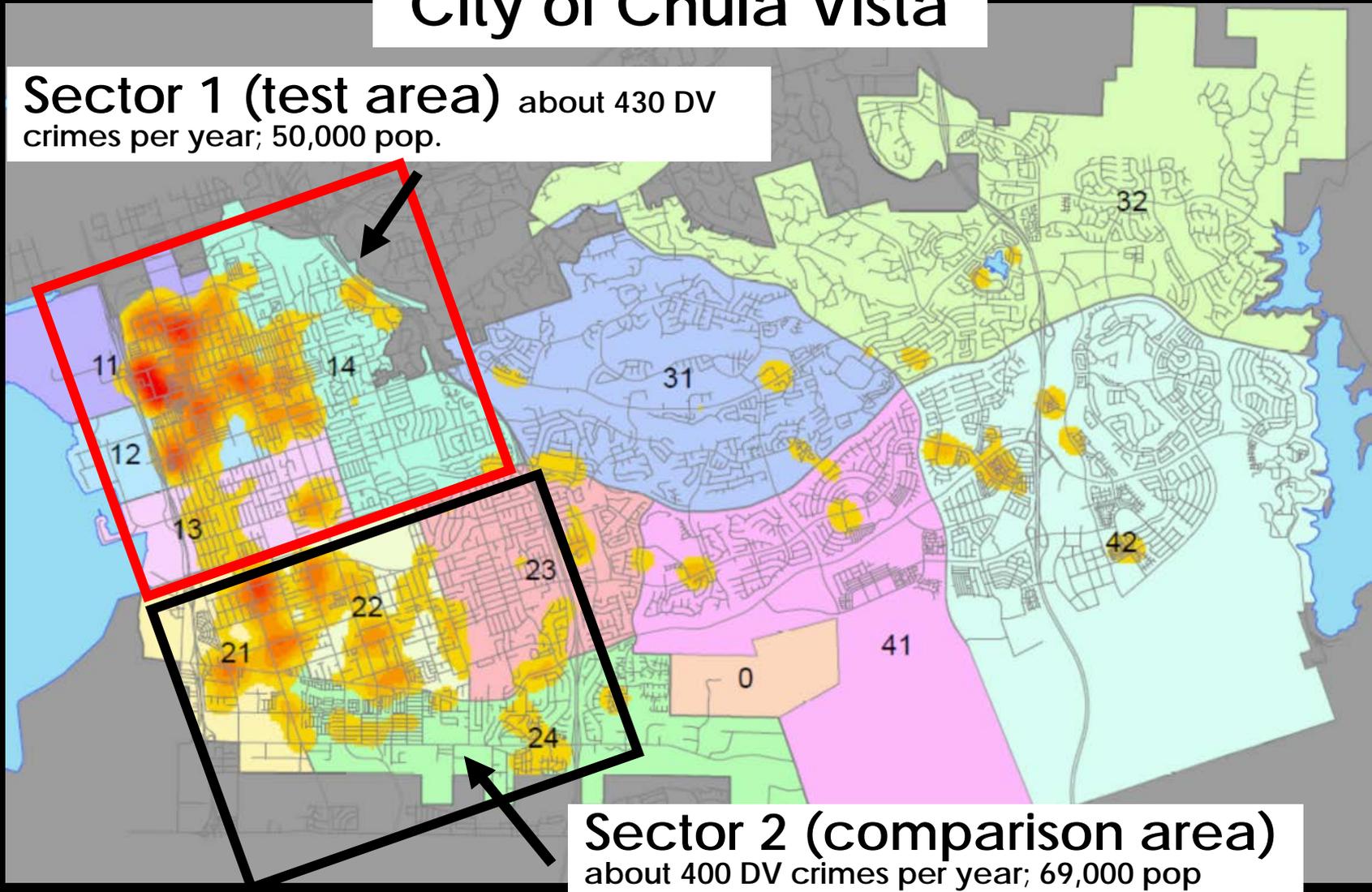


# Test/Comparison Areas



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# Chula Vista Approach



Level	Type of Incident
Level 1/2	Verbal-only call – no crime
Level 3	DV Crime
Level 4	Repeat crime after warning
Level 5	Emergency

Chronic	Customized problem solving
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Tested model for 18 months: Sep. 2015-Feb. 2017

# Level 1 and 2 Protocol



## Officer's Message

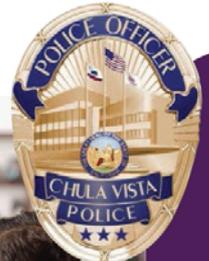
- Domestic disturbance is not okay
- We take this very seriously
- New approach
- Harms you, children, neighbors
- Police will be checking on you

## 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

# Follow Up Texts



- At 30 to 60 days for Level 1 and 2 subjects, if possible
- Positive response

**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](http://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".**

# Level 3 Protocol



## Jail warning to offender

## Victim gets copy

### **WARNING to Domestic Violence Offenders**



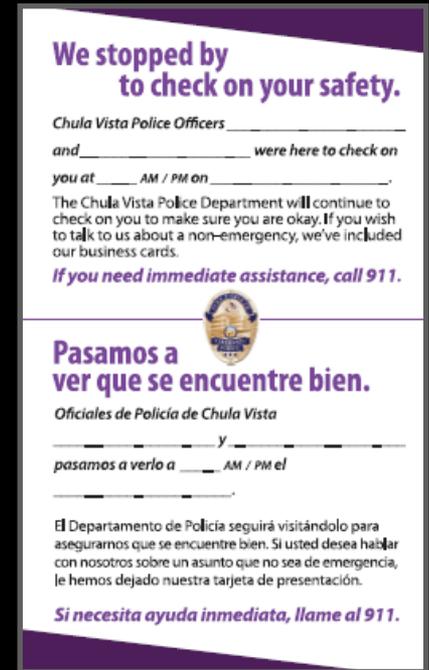
- 1.** This is your official notice that we are taking a new approach to domestic violence offenders.
- 2.** The Chula Vista Police Department, District Attorney's Office, and Probation Department have created a special task force to reduce domestic violence. Your specific case will be handled by the Task Force.
- 3.** The Task Force's mission is to prevent future domestic violence incidents by focusing completely on offenders like you.
- 4.** Domestic violence is wrong and will not be tolerated.
- 5.** Domestic violence is a crime against the family and community. Children and other family members suffer greatly from actions like yours.
- 6.** If you do not stop abusing your partner, you will receive a great deal of attention from the Domestic Violence Task Force. The only way you can avoid this attention is to stop abusing your partner from today forward. This means no more physical attacks of any kind, including pushing/shoving, and no more verbal abuse/domestic disputes.
- 7.** Any future incident involving you will be a priority for us. If you flee the scene of an incident, we will make every effort to track you down. There are 30 police officers on the Task Force, and we will all be working together to focus on offenders who continue to commit acts of domestic violence.
- 8.** We will examine your record to see if you have committed other crimes in the past. We will see what else you can be prosecuted for. If possible, we will reinvestigate old cases that were dismissed.
- 9.** You are now subject to future unannounced police visits.
- 10.** This new approach is being driven by the POLICE, not the victim.
- 11.** You have been admonished and warned.

# 3-Day Follow-Up Timing



- 3-Day Theory
- 86% of repeats occurred after 3 days
- Bruises fully developed
- Median time in jail < 3 days

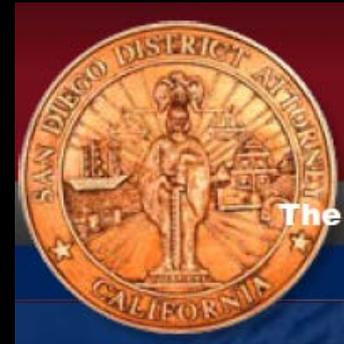
## In-Person Officer Follow Up



# Level 4 Protocol



- Only if ignored (repeated) after Level 3 Warning
- Prioritize for prosecution with DA
- Customized problem solving for chronic couples



District Attorney  
(formal partner)



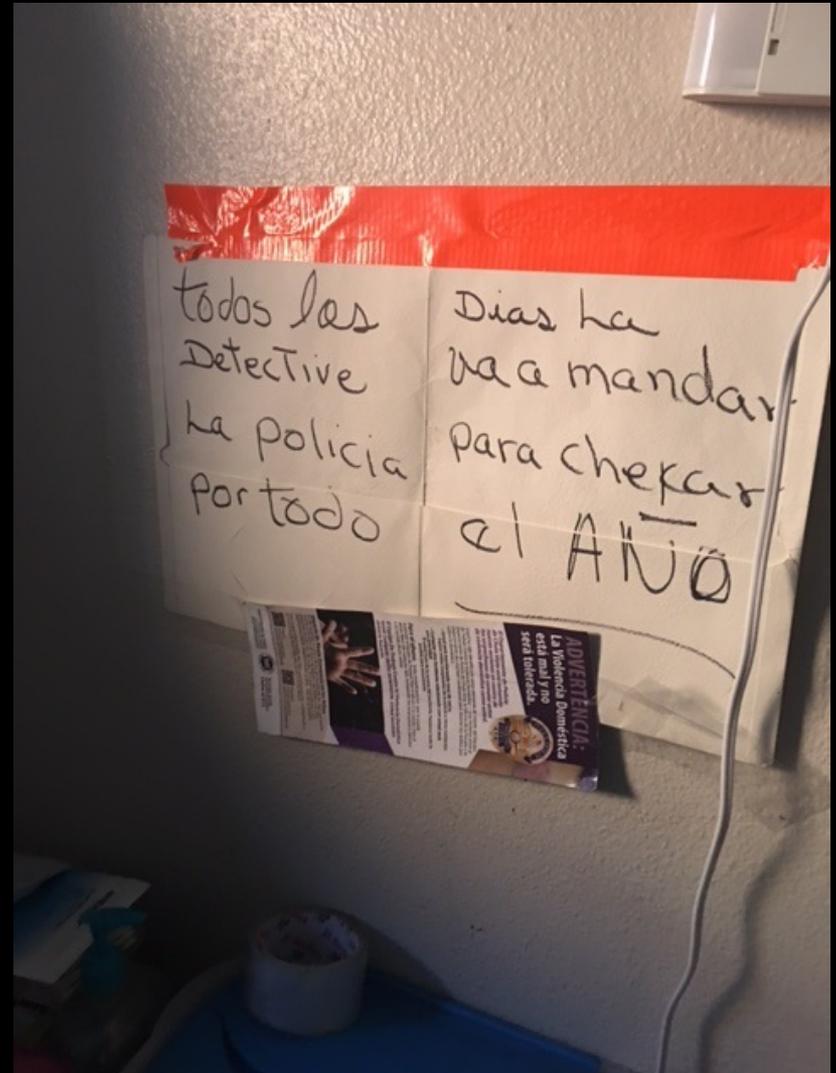
Child Welfare  
(formal partner)

# Range of Responses



## Level 4/chronic couples

- Criminal justice system responses
- Non-criminal justice system responses



# Level 4 Offender



## Michael

- 13 incidents in 2 months
- 13 separate patrol officers were involved in these incidents



**Electronic monitoring from July-Oct 2016**

**1 CFS since July – “Info” call**

# Level 4 Offender



## Jennifer

- 6 incidents in 3 months
- 16 separate patrol officers were involved in these incidents



**\$50,000 bond**

**1 CFS since July 2016**

**Pled guilty Nov. 2016**

# Response Volume



## Responses Delivered – 18 Months

Level	Type of Incident	# Responses*
<b>Level 1/2</b>	Verbal-only - flier	<b>435</b>
<b>Level 3</b>	Crime – warning/ 3-day FU attempts	<b>287/496</b>
<b>Level 4</b>	Repeat crime after warning - meeting	<b>25+</b>
<b>Chronic Verbal</b>	Customized problem solving	<b>35+</b>

\*preliminary response counts

# Protocol Was Priority



## Reasons

- Arrest in and of itself does not show impact
- Project was to test alternative responses
  - Tailored educational messages/warnings
  - In-person follow-ups
  - Accountability

# Impact Measures



- DV crime
- DV calls
- Victim satisfaction
- Officer views

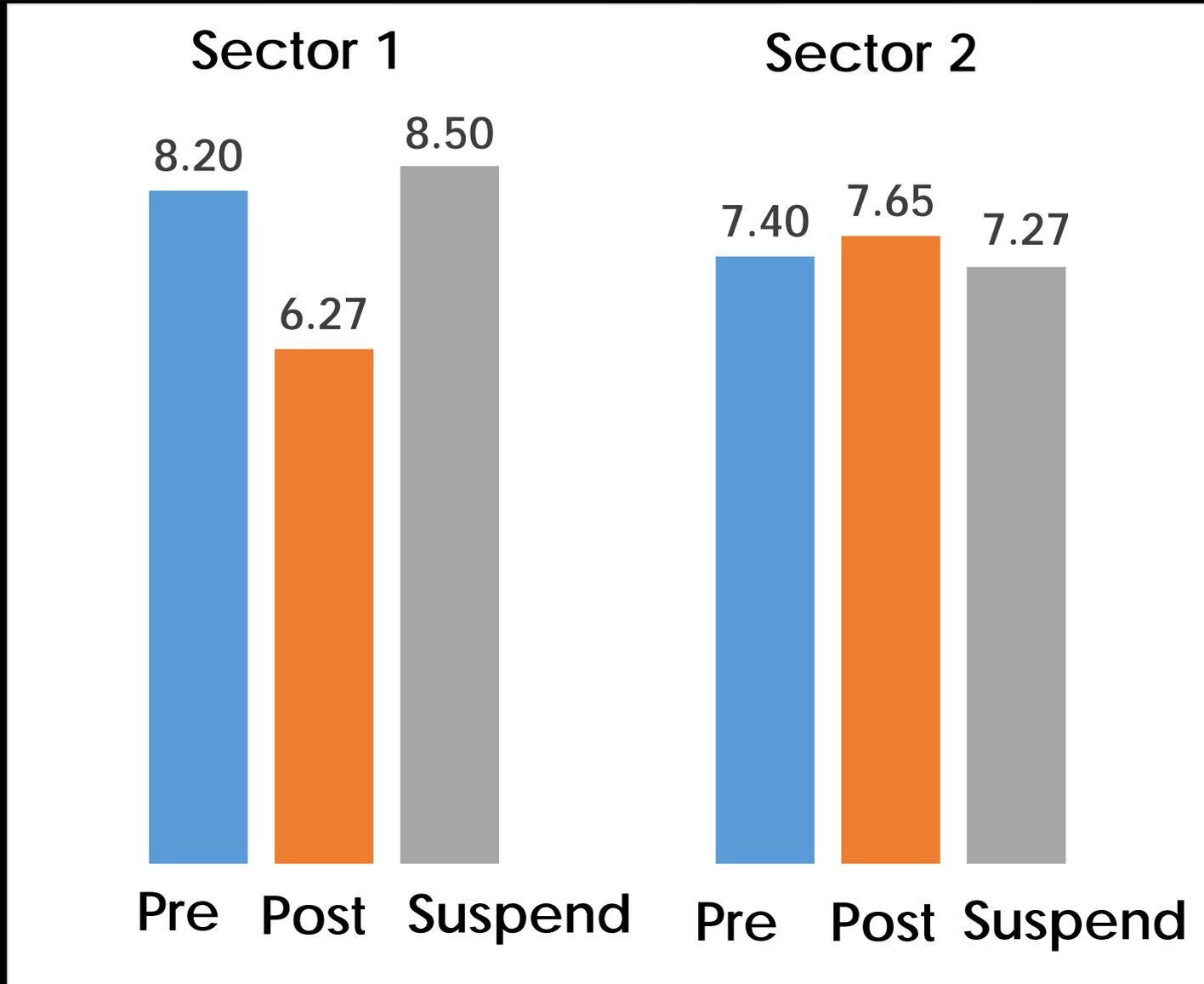
# DV Crimes



Time Period	Sector 1	Sector 2
After 1 Year	-24%*	+3%
While Suspended	+36%*	-5%

\*\*\* Findings were statistically significant at the 99% confidence level and compiled by independent evaluator

# Avg. DV Crimes/Week



# Level 1 and 2 Text Surveys



- **88%** of 415DV 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

# Level 3 Victim Surveys – SBCS\*



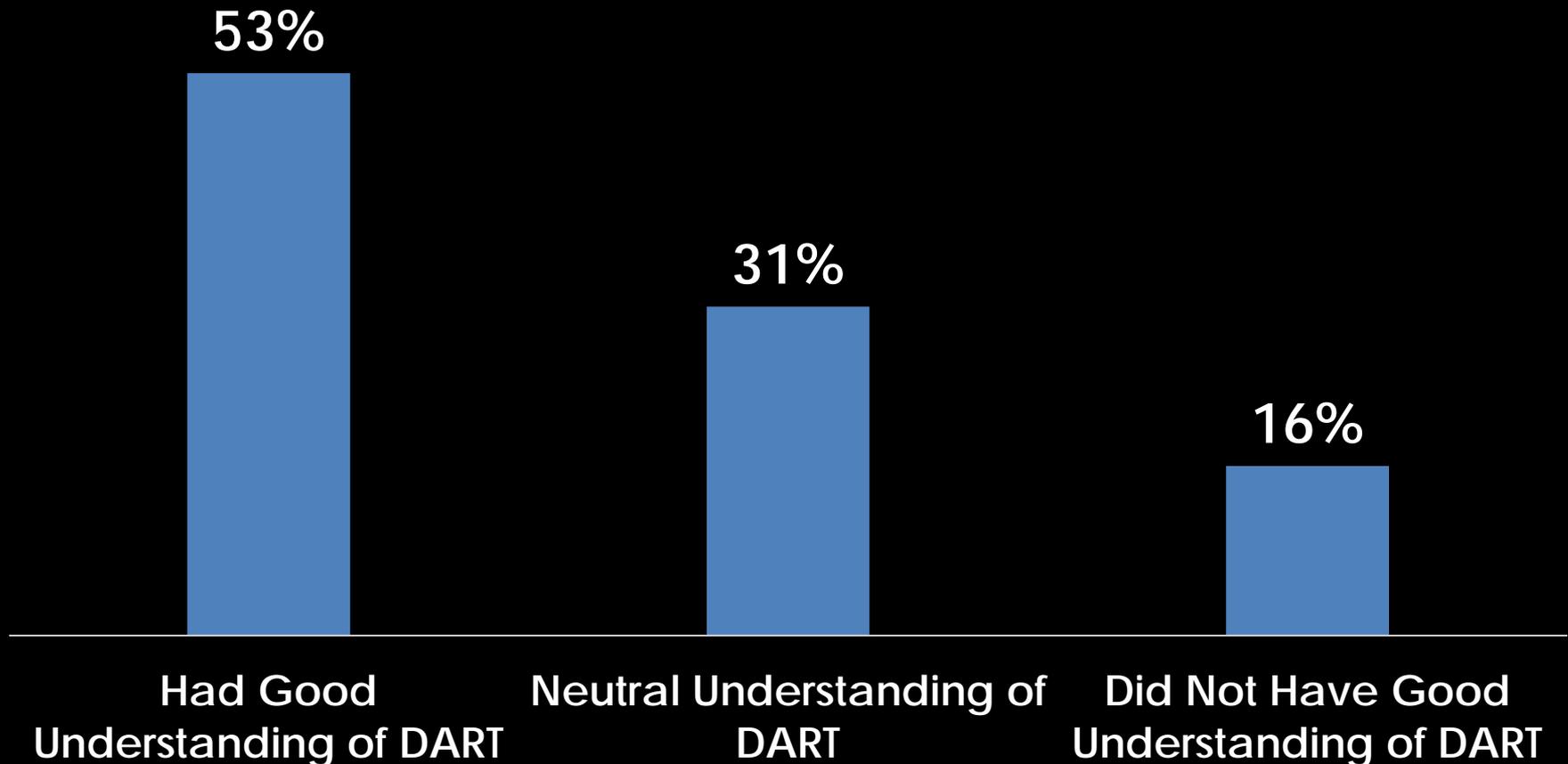
<b>Police Response</b>	<b>Sector 1</b>	<b>Sector 2</b>
<b>Satisfied</b>	<b>97%</b>	<b>81%</b>
<b>Dissatisfied</b>	<b>3%</b>	<b>18%</b>

\*South Bay Community Services (SBCS), a victim service provider, conducted follow surveys with a group of victims

# Officer Views



## % of Officers Who Said DART Project Should be Expanded in Patrol



# Full Evaluation



- Fall 2017 – evaluation continues
- Which interventions most effective
- Prevalence of repeat calls
- Time between repeat calls
- Severity of repeat calls

# Questions/Ideas?



Agent Norene Andersen, 619-691-5192  
[nandersen@chulavistapd.org](mailto:nandersen@chulavistapd.org)

Analyst Karin Schmerler, 619-409-5410  
[kschmerler@chulavistapd.org](mailto:kschmerler@chulavistapd.org)

Research Partner Deborah Weisel, 919-530-6474  
[dweisel@nccu.edu](mailto:dweisel@nccu.edu)

**Dropbox link for additional information:**

<https://tinyurl.com/yavfu58c>