

Minneapolis Violent Crime Hot Spots – Domestic Violence Pilot Follow-up Home Visit Project

A partnership of the Minneapolis City Attorney's Office, Police Department and Health Department, the Domestic Abuse Project and Hennepin County Community Corrections & Rehabilitation

Developing new, innovative approaches to addressing domestic violence is part of the City of Minneapolis's plan to address and reduce domestic violence occurring within the City. While domestic violence is a crime that impacts all geographic areas and all economic and racial groups, as part of the City's efforts to more effectively address and prevent violent crime, data shows that the number one citizen initiated request for police service (911 calls) in violent crime hot spots in the City were related to domestic violence.

As the City conducted additional analysis of 911 call data from these hot spots, we learned that many involved repeated calls for service relating to domestic violence issues at the same addresses, but only 20-25% of those domestic violence related calls resulted in a police report being made. With no police report, there was no follow up intervention by the criminal justice system or community based domestic violence advocates in 75-80% of the domestic violence related 911 calls.

Hoping to increase follow up assistance to the callers in these situations, the City Attorney's Office, Police Department, and Health Department partnered with the Domestic Abuse Project (DAP) to conduct a pilot project in the violent crime hot spots located in North Minneapolis. A "hot spot team" consisting of a uniformed police officer from the 3rd, 4th or 5th Precinct and a family therapist from DAP began making follow-up home visits to addresses in identified hot spots where domestic violence related 911 calls had been made, but no police reports had been generated.

During the home visits, the team offers services, provides resources, and collects data about the family in an effort to improve community resources. Goals of the pilot project are to:

1. Increase Engagement between Victims/Offenders & uniformed police officers
2. Increase Engagement between Victims/Offenders & therapists/DV service provider(s)
3. Increase Awareness of DV related services for victims, children & offenders
4. Offer Services to Victims/Offenders/Children for DV related issues
5. Utilize victim/family input to improve system's response to DV

The home visits conducted during 2015 and 2016 identified a lack of awareness among the families at these addresses of the services available in the community for mental health concerns and other basic needs. It is apparent that placing the burden on the people who may be in crisis to seek out the information, has left gaps where services are available but individuals do not know about them or lack the resources/ capacity to research them and seek them out. The face to face contact appears to serve as an important link in connecting the individuals to needed services. We have now engaged Hennepin County Human Services and other service providers in the community as part of our steering committee and are working on methods to proactively improve access of the individuals to needed services.

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The Project which began in North Minneapolis in April 2015, was continued in North Minneapolis in 2016, and expanded into South Minneapolis in March 2016.

North & South Minneapolis Domestic Violence Hot Spots Pilot Project Data Reporting¹

- 858 Home visits Made
- 668 Separate Address visited
- 70% success rate in making successful contact at home visits
- Over 480 persons spoken with at home visits
- Increased awareness of over 68 persons with how to locate resources to better address issues occurring in their homes
- Over 56% of persons at homes accepted a resource handout during the home visit

Data about the 911 calls & caller

- The Victim or a family member is the 911 caller in over 90% of the 911 calls
- Only between 50-55% of the 911 calls involve an incident between intimate partners
- Only between 28.9-36.9% of the 911 calls involve a physical assault based on information given by the 911 caller to the 911 operator
- Between 11.8-16.3% of the 911 calls involve a caller telling the 911 operator that they want someone to leave who is refusing to do so

In the Caller's Own Words

- Between 18.8-24% of the persons spoken to at the home visit indicate that one of the reasons that they called 911 was because of a physical assault
- Majority of the persons spoken to at the home visit indicate that one of the reasons that they believe a police report wasn't filed was because they didn't want to get the suspect in trouble

Why Hot Spots Home Visits Make a Difference

- “Thanks for caring enough to check in on us.” - Quote from a North Minneapolis Hot Spots home visit on 4/13/16

¹ For South Minneapolis, Data was collected for 911 calls from 2/22/16 to 6/10/16 with Home Visits Conducted from 3/7/16 to 7/19/16.

For North Minneapolis 2016, Data was collected for 911 calls from 11/14/15 to 6/18/16 with Home Visits Conducted from 1/5/16 to 7/7/16

For North Minneapolis 2015, Data was collected for 911 calls from 4/13/15 to 11/7/15 with Home Visits Conducted from 4/21/15 to 11/12/15.