

St. Paul Police Department, St. Paul City Attorney's Office, and St. Paul Intervention Project Domestic Violence Response

Chief of Police Axel Henry

Director of Saint Paul Intervention Project Shelley Cline

Commander Eric Skog

Tara Patet, Supervising Attorney, CAO Domestic Violence Prosecution Team

2022 Domestic Homicides

Total Domestic related Homicides: 9

Total victims: 9

Female Victims: 5

Male victims: 4

Female suspects: 3

Male Suspects: 6

Victim race: 3 White females, 1 Black female, 1 Asian female, 4 Black males

Suspect race: 3 Black females, 2 Black males, 3 White males, 1 Asian male

Ten Year Comparison

Year	Domestic Homicides	Total Homicides
2012	2	17
2013	7	15
2014	5	13
2015	6	21
2016	2	21
2017	5	24
2018	5	18
2019	2	32
2020	8	36
2021	9	40
2022	10	38



**SAINT PAUL
POLICE**
Trusted service with respect

SPPD and SPIP partnership

- SPPD provides SPIP with real time information regarding all domestic assault and related incidents
- SPPD has one Investigative Sergeant paid for by a SPIP grant who goes out with a SPIP advocate four days each week
 - The Sergeant and advocate make contact with the victims of the most serious incidents
 - Follow-up information is gathered by the investigator
 - The victim is offered services by SPIP which are crucial and wide ranging
- SPPD is partnering with SPIP and others on the FLARE-UP Domestic Violence Homicide Prevention Team designed specifically to reduce domestic homicides
- SPIP provides consistent training to SPPD regarding domestic assault advocacy, the dynamics of domestic violence, cultural considerations and victim engagement.

SPPD and SPIP partnership

The Blueprint For Safety

foundational principles :

- Adhere to an interagency approach and collective intervention goals
- Bringing attention to the context and severity of abuse into each intervention
- Recognizing that most domestic violence is a patterned crime requiring continuing engagement with victims and offenders
- Ensuring sure and swift consequences for continued abuse
- Using the power of the criminal justice system to send messages of help and accountability
- Acting in ways that reduce unintended consequences and the disparity of impact on victims and offenders



SPIP

Highlights of Acute Intervention and Transitional Services

- Over **6,000** victims and their children receive direct services
- Over **4,700** victims receive crisis legal advocacy and critical support services immediately following a domestic assault
- Over **1,000** First Light Team home-visits/contacts for victims at elevated risk of imminent harm
- Over **3,200** victims receive civil and family court advocacy services and information
- Over **600** victims are assisted in securing Orders for Protections (OFPs)
- Over **8,000** calls for support, information, and referrals on our 24- hour crisis line
- Over **5,800** victims and their children receive critical transitional services in meeting their basic & long-term needs

SPIP



All Services are Confidential and Free of Charge.

- 24-Hour Crisis Line
- 24-Hour Acute Intervention Advocacy Services
- Outreach to Victims Immediately following an Assault
- Legal Advocacy throughout the Criminal Justice System process
- Multi-lingual Victim Support Groups
- Bridges to Safety Victim Service Center
- Community Outreach and Education Programming
- Family Transitional Services
- Civil Legal Attorney Program
- Latinx, new Immigrants & Refugee Services
- Muslim Victims Outreach Program
- Older Victim's Program
- Southeast Asian Victim Services
- Hospital/Clinic Advocacy Program
- System Change Advocacy Program
- St. Paul/National Blueprint for Safety
- Children & Adolescent/Young Adult Services
- In-Circled Groups for highly lethal offenders.

SPIP

Who We Serve



SPIP serves victims and their children, who have suffered isolation, physical and mental abuse, are in danger and live-in genuine fear, and are at imminent risk of homelessness.

- Over 72% are Indigenous, people of color, refugees/immigrants.
- The majority have dependent children, with 64% of those having one to two children; 32% two to four children, and over 6% five or more children.
- Ninety-six percent identified as female and 4% identified as male.
- Participants' Race/Ethnicity = 12% Hispanic/Latinx; 38% African American; 2% American Indian; 16% Asian/SE Asian Pacific Islander; 28% European American; 4% Multi-racial.
- 10% were homeless and over 90% were assisted in sustaining their housing.
- 6% identified as LGBTQIA+, 19% were new immigrants/refugees; 16% had limited English proficiency, and 4% had a physical/mental disability.
- The majority were at or below the poverty level when attempting to be free of the abusive situation.

SPIP



Our Staff

SPIP strives to ensure diverse, multi-lingual and multi-cultural services are delivered by staff who intimately understand the realities of the people we serve.

Staff is comprised of African, Latinx, European and Southeast Asian American ethnic backgrounds, as well as elders, differing abilities, LGBTQIA+, new immigrants, & domestic abuse survivors; in which English, Spanish, Hmong, French and Somali languages are spoken.

Domestic Violence Prosecution at the SPCAO

- Domestic Violence Prosecution Team: 8 prosecutors, 5 Victim Witness staff

Mission of the Victim Witness Team: *to protect the rights of crime victims, assist throughout the criminal justice process, and address individual needs brought on by victimization.*

- Victim Witness Team served **1,828 crime victims** in 2022.

- Approximately 1,000 domestic-related cases each year
- Our work is supported in part by three grants:
 - (1) Office of Justice Programs Crime Victim Services Grant (funds 2 VW staff)
 - (2) Dept of Justice's Innovative Prosecution Solutions for Combatting Violent Crime Grant (funds 1 prosecutor)
 - (3) American Rescue Plan Grant (5 prosecutors, 1 VW staff)

Guiding Principals of SPCAO Domestic Violence Prosecution

- Firmly rooted in the *St. Paul Blueprint for Safety* and its foundational principals
- Collaboration with justice partners and community-based services for crime victims is key component of our domestic violence interventions
- Our work is victim-centered and trauma-informed
- Focus on removing barriers to justice experienced by traditionally marginalized communities (language access, financial barriers, immigration concerns, age-related access)

SPCAO Domestic Violence Initiatives & Collaboratives

- Gone on Arrival Project
- Domestic Violence Early Resolution Program for first-time, lower-risk offenders
- *Blueprint for Safety* Steering Committee
- *Blueprint* Firearms Taskforce
- DV Homicide Case Review
- Domestic Violence Homicide Prevention Team/FLARE-UP
- Second Judicial District Family Violence Coordinating Council
- Ramsey County Elder Abuse Multi-Disciplinary Team
- Training for Law Enforcement (SPPD Academy, Roll Call, RCSD)

Abusers Who Flee the Scene of a Domestic Violence Event: An Innovative Response

- Approximately half of domestic violence offenders flee the scene prior to police arrival, regardless of level of crime or injury
- Offenders who flee are often more dangerous, more likely to reoffend
- Officers often fail to conduct a search or seek a warrant for fleeing offenders
- **These cases are dangerous because the suspect is still a threat**

Common Criminal Justice System's Response

- When offender fled the scene, case treated as lower priority
- Long processing time for investigators and prosecutors
- Slow (or no) victim engagement leads to high incidence of victims who are unwilling or unable to participate in investigation and prosecution
- Low charging and conviction rates
- Negative messages sent to victims, offenders, and responding officers

The GOA Project: Applying Sure and Swift Consequences

- Next-day collaborative review: Prosecution & Law Enforcement
- Direction of the case is immediately determined:
 - > **Charge Now** -> warrant is issued within 24 hours
 - > **Further Investigate** -> Detective gathers needed evidence, guided by prosecution
 - > **Decline** -> case closed. Record of encounter maintained in SPPD and Prosecutor's database
- Taking risk & danger into consideration – prioritize cases
- System and Community advocates assisting victims
- RESULTS. More cases charged. More convictions. Swift interventions
- In 2022, SPCAO reviewed **1,113** Gone on Arrival cases

Our Collaborative Work

The Blueprint for Safety



Blueprint for Safety (BP) - Created a St. Paul and National comprehensive guide for the justice systems response to domestic violence cases from 911 to final case disposition. Outcomes:

- Increased criminal justice system's accessibility, accountability and protections to all domestic abuse victims (and their children).
- Improved response of intervening practitioners to ensure consistency with the level of violence of the crime/incident.
- Monitoring how cases are handled from 911 thru probation.
- Victim Focus Groups providing input on the analysis of and improvements for BP.
- Training Advocates and Justice System Workers locally and nationally.
- Continued Development of Policies to increase victim safety and offender accountability.
- Cross-Discipline-Coordination in case processing and legal advocacy involvement.
- Consequences and the Disparity of Impact ensuring victims and offenders are responded to according to the law- not influenced by implicit or explicit bias.

Our Collaborative Work



Blueprint for Safety Firearms Task Force

There is an alarming correlation between perpetrators who possess firearms and domestic homicides, as well as to other forms of gun violence.

- The BP Steering Committee created a task force to develop a **model for Firearms Prohibition for Perpetrators of Domestic Violence** - to ensure more effective enforcement of existing laws, and the development of protocols and practices in the civil and criminal justice systems to deter and prevent domestic homicides and the use of firearms to intimidate and threaten victims.
- The model has been successfully implemented in Civil Court to close the gap between the number of Orders for Protections issued and the number of firearms surrendered from potentially dangerous perpetrators. The Task force is currently developing a model for Criminal Court.

Firearm Task Force members include members from SPIP, Court Administration, Ramsey County Probation, St. Paul Police, St. Paul City Attorneys, Ramsey County Attorneys, Ramsey County Sheriffs, Public Defenders, Justice Point, Battered Women's Justice, the Bench and the Blueprint for Safety Coordinator.

Our Collaborative Work



The “FLARE-UP” Project – SPPD Investigator and SPIP Advocate Team focuses on highly legal domestic cases and conducts daily home visits to victims. Investigator meets with the victim-putting safety first and further investigating the case. Advocate meets with victim separately-discuss confidentiality, SPIP’s services, victim’s rights, the Justice System process and safety planning. Follow-up services continue through SPIP. Annually review over 1000 reports.

Probation and Police reinstate conducting welfare checks to locate offenders in violation of Protection Orders and meet with victims to build trust.

The Domestic Violence Homicide Prevention Team - Focuses on reducing domestic homicides through a heightened collaboration and concentration on highly lethal offenders and victims at high-risk of imminent harm or murder; creating a monthly mechanism for intensified/ongoing collaboration to ultimately reduce highly lethal domestic crimes.

The Domestic Homicide Review Committee – Reviews all the interactions domestic homicide victims and their perpetrators had with the Justice System to identify potential gaps and/or patterns and recommends and implements changes as needed.

- Members are the St. Paul Police Department, St. Paul City Attorney’s Office, Ramsey County Attorney’s Office, Ramsey County Probation, Ramsey County Sheriff’s Office and SPIP. The Bench was also involved in the Homicide Review Committee.

Our Collaborative Work

The Partnership for Domestic Abuse Services (PDAS)

The Partnership for Domestic Abuse Service collaborates to identify, create and sustain innovative responses that assure a future free of violence.

PDAS Partners include SPIP, Asian Women United of MN, Esperanza United, FamilyWise Services, St. Paul Police Department, Ramsey County Attorney's, Ramsey County Sheriff's Office, St. Paul City Attorney's Office, Second Judicial District Court, Tubman, Women's Advocates, Ramsey County Probation, Southern Minnesota Regional Legal Services, and Women of Nations.

Two examples of PDAS' collaborative successes –

- **Bridges to Safety (BTS) Victim Services Center** - a comprehensive, centrally located, multi-discipline victim service center dedicated to serving victims of domestic violence and their children. BTS offers victims a multitude of critical, culturally diverse, community, and government services under one roof, in a safe, secure location. At the core of those services is access to legal advocates, attorneys, law enforcement, and filing for protective orders.
- **Mental Health Service Delivery Model** - encompasses strategies, resources, education and cross-training to ensure each of our PDAS partners enhances their abilities to effectively respond to victims of domestic abuse experiencing mental health challenges. Model includes developing a network of mental health providers, cultural considerations, materials and effective tools, etc.

Questions?