



Domestic Violence in the City of Milwaukee

Milwaukee Police Department
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IN SOME JOBS, SUCCESS IS MEASURED
BY WHAT DOESN'T HAPPEN.



BE A FORCE

SEBP

Society of Evidence Based Policing

Presented on May 19, 2014

Introduction

- In the United States, approximately one in four women and one in seven men have experienced some form of serious physical violence by an intimate partner in their lifetime*.
- While substantial progress has been made over the past two decades, thoughtful solutions should incorporate evidence based practices to reduce the prevalence of domestic violence in our communities.

*Source: Black, M.C., Basile, K.C., Breiding, M.J., Smith, S.G., Walters, M.L., Merrick, M.T., Chen, J., & Stevens, M.R. (2011). The National Intimate Partner and Sexual Violence Survey (NISVS): 2010 Summary Report. Atlanta, GA: National Center for Injury Prevention and Control, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

Definition

- Under Wisconsin State Statute, domestic abuse is defined as the intentional infliction of physical pain, physical injury, or illness; the intentional impairment of physical condition, or a physical act which causes a person to reasonably fear imminent engagement of conduct listed above.
- Engaged in by an adult person against his or her spouse or former spouse, against an adult with whom the person resides or formerly resided, or with whom the person has a child in common.

DV Simple Assaults

- In YTD 2014, 71% (1,148) of simple assaults were domestic violence related*.
- While overall simple assaults declined by 3% in 2013 (4,951) from 2012 (5,127), DV related simple assaults increased slightly (2%) in 2013 (3,578) from 2012 (3,492).
- Domestic violence simple assaults declined 13% in 2013 since 2007 (4,121).

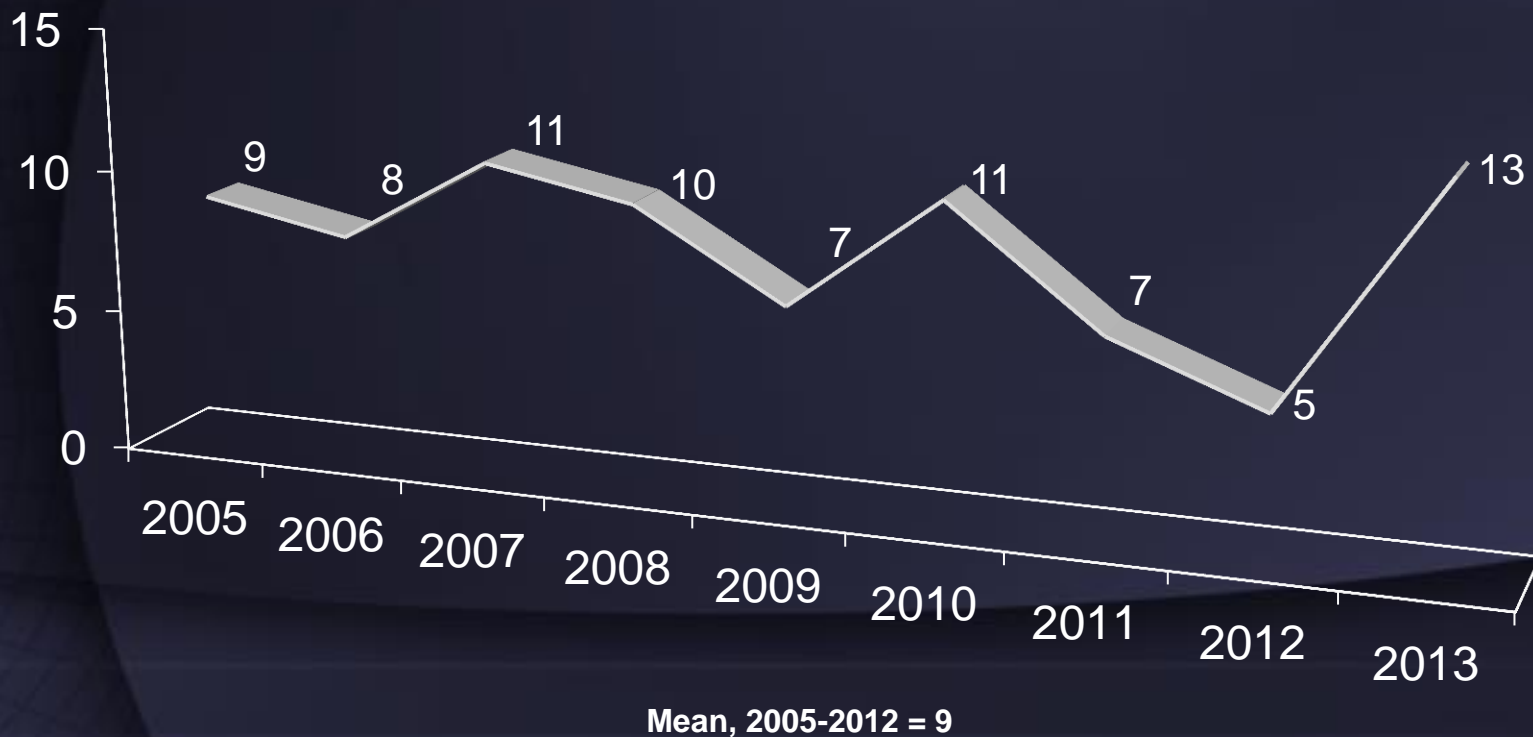
*Data was obtained from the DCS Fact Table (NIBRS) and counts victims of simple assaults (13B); YTD 2014 reflects the time period of January 1 – May 13, 2014.

Homicide

- In 2013, there were 105 homicides, a 15% increase over 2012 (91).
- This was the first year since 2007 that we had more than 100 homicides.
- Consistent with national trends, argument/fights accounted for the largest percentage of homicides where the motive was known.
- Family violence, including domestic violence and child abuse, contributed to the increase in 2013 from 2012.
- As of May 13, 2014, there have been 20 homicides in the City of Milwaukee, the lowest in 10 years.

DV Homicides

There have been no DV homicides to date in 2014.



*Data from 2005 to 2014 based on the primary factor as determined by the Milwaukee Homicide Review Commission; 2013 total updated by the Office of Management, Analysis & Planning.

Victimization in 2013

- In 2013, 12% (13) of all homicides were DV related.
- 62% (8) of DV homicide victims were killed with a firearm last year.
- Over half of the victims had prior arrests by MPD.
- 62% (8) of DV homicide victims were African-American, 23% (3) were Hispanic, and 15% (2) were Caucasian.
- Of the DV homicide victims in 2013, six were male and seven were female.
 - 69% (9) of victims had no prior victimization reported to the Milwaukee Police Department
 - Only one victim had repeated victimization involving battery

DV Homicide Victims, 2005-2013

- From 2005 to 2013, there were 81 DV homicide victims:
 - 75% (61) were African-American
 - 14% (11) were Caucasian
 - 9% (7) were Hispanic; and
 - 2% (2) were Asian
- 59% (48) had at least no history of prior victimization listed with MPD.
- 59% (48) also had prior arrests by MPD.
- 53% (43) were male; 47% (38) were female
 - Less than one quarter (22%) had one or more battery, battery DV, or aggravated batteries reported to MPD.
 - 9% had two or more batteries reported to MPD.

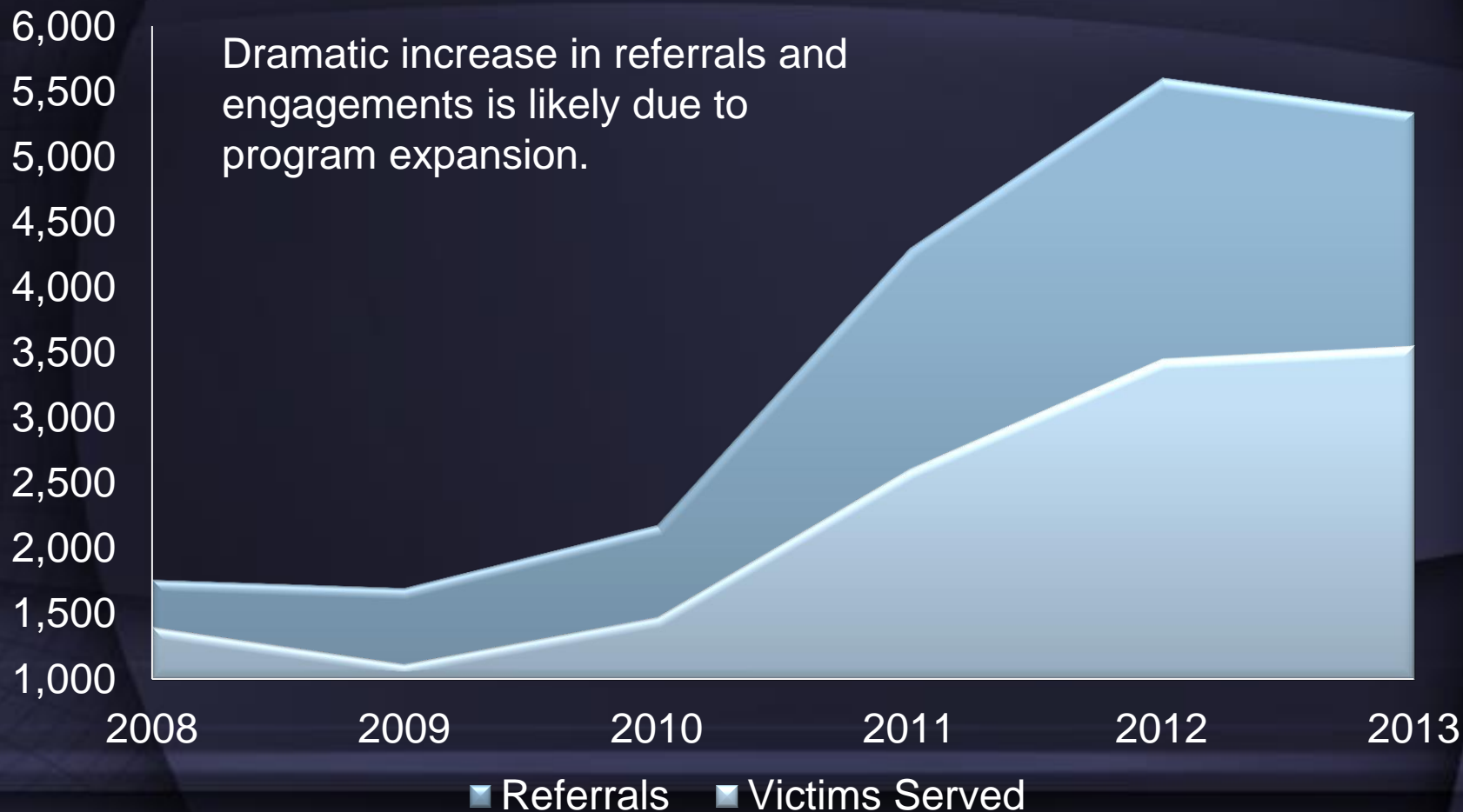
DV Homicide Suspects, 2005-2013

- From 2005 to 2013, there were 81 DV homicide suspects.
- Of those suspects:
 - 77% (62) were African-American
 - 11% (9) were Caucasian
 - 10% (8) were Hispanic; and
 - 2% (2) were Asian
- 74% (60) had at least one prior arrest (before the homicide) by the Milwaukee Police Department.

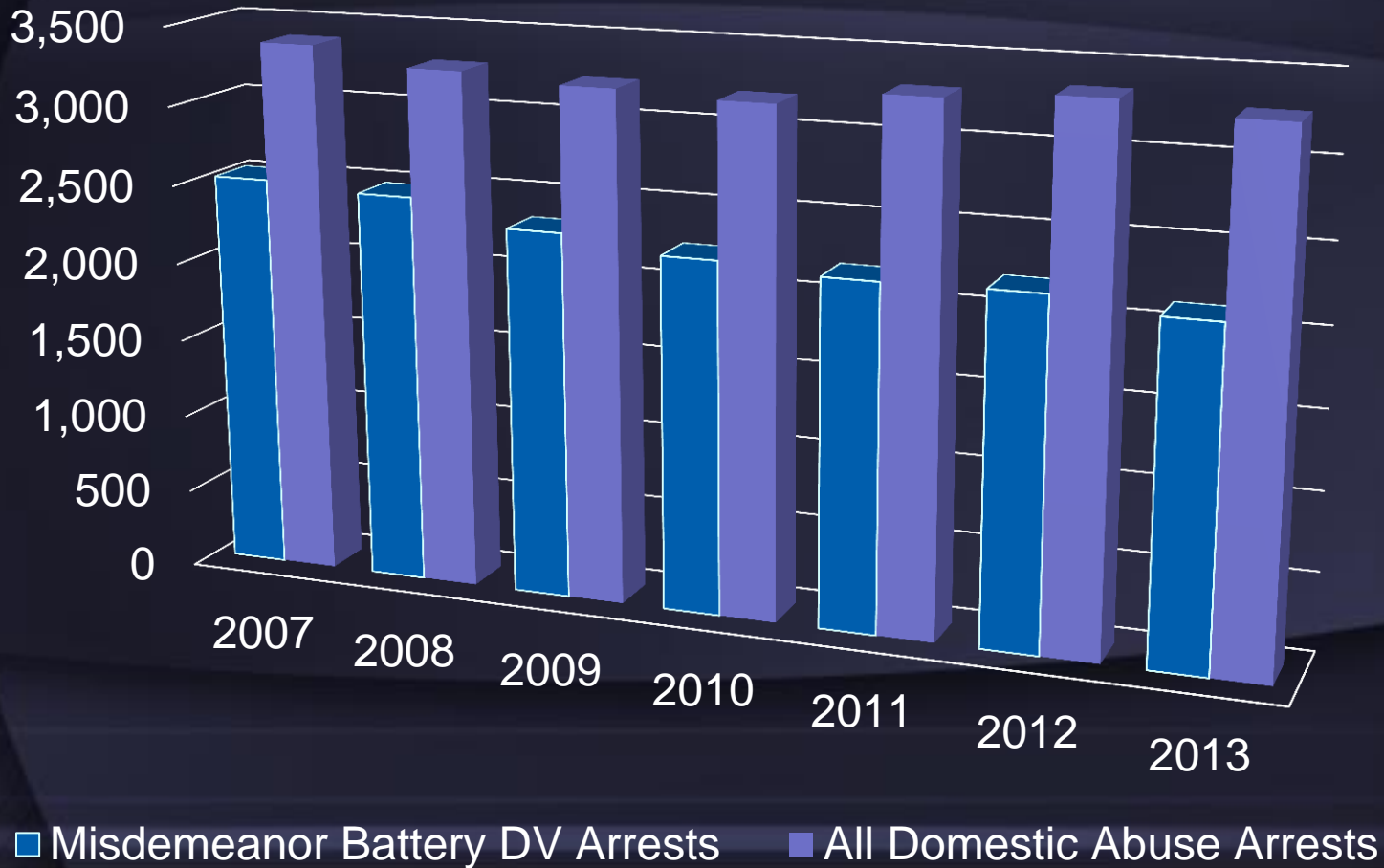
Partnerships

- The Milwaukee Police Department partners with the Milwaukee County District Attorney's Office, the Community Domestic Abuse Advocacy Program (CDAAP), Homicide Review Commission, and Sojourner Family Peace Center to address domestic violence.
- The CDAAP Program began in the summer of 2007, which places DV advocates from Sojourner's in police district stations.
- Advocates respond following police intervention and provide victim and/or abuser services.

Referrals & Engagements



Misdemeanor Battery DV Arrests & All Domestic Abuse Arrests



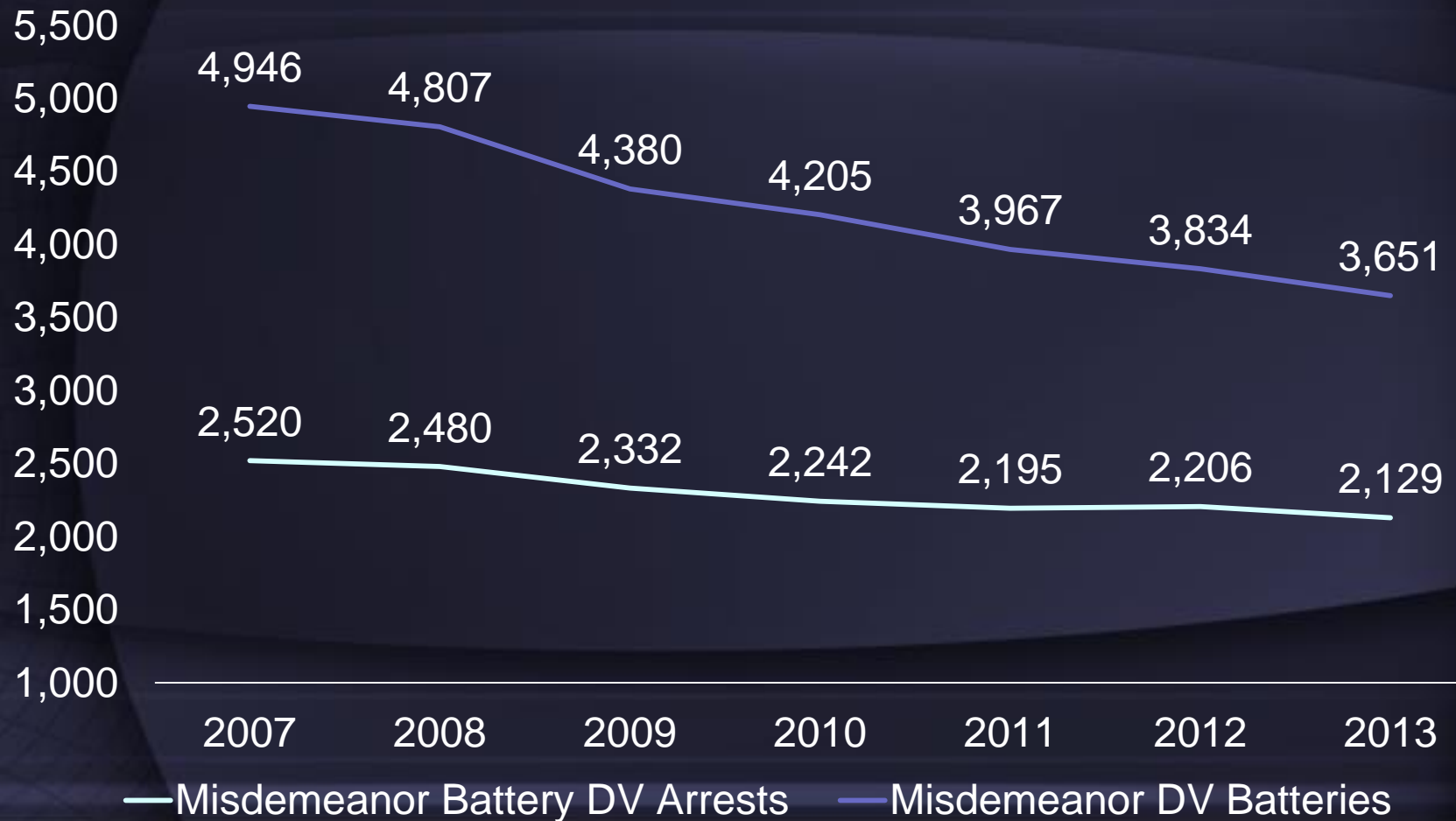
*Data obtained from CMS and counts distinct arrests for misdemeanor battery, 940.19(1) with a penalty enhancer for domestic abuse; all domestic abuse arrests include any arrest with a penalty enhancer of domestic abuse.

All Domestic Abuse Arrests



*Data obtained from CMS and counts and any arrest with a penalty enhancer of domestic abuse.

Misdemeanor Battery DV & Misdemeanor Battery DV Arrests



*Data obtained from CMS and counts distinct arrests for misdemeanor battery, 940.19(1) with a penalty enhancer for domestic abuse; data on misdemeanor battery DV obtained from ARS.

Race by Person Involvement

Domestic Violence- Person Involvement by Race (PERCENT)

Arrestee	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013
Black	73%	75%	74%	76%	75%	75%	77%
White	14%	13%	13%	13%	13%	13%	12%
Hispanic	12%	11%	12%	10%	11%	11%	10%
Other	1%	1%	1%	1%	1%	1%	1%

Suspect	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013
Black	82%	83%	85%	84%	83%	84%	84%
White	9%	9%	9%	9%	9%	8%	9%
Hispanic	8%	8%	5%	7%	7%	6%	7%
Other	1%	1%	1%	1%	1%	1%	1%

Victim	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013
Black	72%	74%	74%	74%	74%	75%	75%
White	16%	15%	15%	15%	15%	14%	15%
Hispanic	10%	10%	10%	10%	10%	10%	9%
Other	1%	1%	1%	1%	1%	1%	1%

The majority of individuals arrested for (75%) and victims of (74%) domestic violence between 2007 and 2013 were black.

*Data obtained from ARS and includes arrestees, suspects and victims of a DV Modifier Statute.

Discussion

- Domestic violence is a complex problem
 - Root causes
 - Substance abuse, mental health issues compound the problem
 - Underreported crime
 - Role of LE, prosecution, community groups, etc.
 - Solution requires variegated measures
- Data is also complex, contains limitations, which presents challenges
- Despite this, arrests for all domestic abuse related offenses shows little variation over time

Discussion

- The trend observed with misdemeanor battery DV and DV misdemeanor battery arrests suggests a positive relationship:
 - That is, the decline in misdemeanor battery DV arrests corresponds with a decline in misdemeanor battery DV
 - Did arrests decline because crime declined?
 - Decline in misdemeanor battery DV likely the result of several factors—difficult to measure
- Further analysis is required

Discussion

- Raises questions regarding the effect arrest for misdemeanor battery has upon overall crime reduction
- Possible, unanticipated negative outcomes associated with arrest
- Having the conversation is an important first step
- Additional research is warranted to fully understand impact

Conclusion

- Questioning long held assumptions is risky.
- In public life, it is usually safer to maintain the status quo than to risk implementing change.
- Failing conventionally is always the safest option.
- A question for practitioners and researchers is whether or not actually reducing the harms associated with DV is worth the risk of questioning assumptions about it.