

Introduction

Each year, thousands of individuals in the United States face economic, psychological, and physiological damages, resulting from domestic violence. A question posed by many in the criminal justice field is what a law enforcement officer can do to aid in the support and restoration of a victim of domestic violence. This project focuses on the types of police-victim interactions that may prove beneficial or harmful for the victim.

Objective

- To determine the most beneficial interactions in terms of the short-term and long-term effects on the victim.
- To analyze the effects of negative interactions on the overall well-being of the victim.



Police Interaction with Victims of Domestic Violence

Methods

- Content analysis of three large scale sociological studies on domestic violence issues
- Content analysis included type of police response & outcome for victim

Results

Three types of Police response

- Victim Arrest Response (Response based on police statutes and prejudices)
- Social Support Response (Response based on utilizing referrals and working with community entities to provide resources to victim)
- Victim Empowerment Response (Response based on protecting and informing victim when attempting to leave abusive relationship)

Outcome for Victim

- Social Support and Victim Empowerment responses produced greatest benefits for domestic violence victim and imbued the victim with important knowledge and resources
- Victim arrest response was detrimental to the healing process and created feelings of isolation.

Albany County SAFE Project



Albany County SAFE Project was founded in Laramie in 1980. The mission of SAFE is “to advocate for victims of domestic abuse, sexual assault, rape, and incest, and to create change through education and awareness to eliminate violence”.

Sean Moran with
Dr. Donna Barnes
Sociology

Future Research

Police response is important when the victim is undergoing the restoration process. Future research should evaluate the law enforcement system and create programs/trainings to teach police officers how to support and empower the victim.



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Websites Used:

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