Partners in Crime
Who We Are

Vermont Center for Crime Victim Services

- www.ccvs.vermont.gov
- STOP, SASP, FVPSA, and Rural grants, as well as state grant funds
- Victims Compensation
- Restitution Unit (enforcement and victims’ special fund)
- State Victim Assistance Training Academy

Crime Research Group

- www.crgvt.org
- Statistical Analysis Center for the State of Vermont
- Research, program evaluation, and consultation throughout criminal justice system
Our Work Together

- Data Requests
- Vermont Victims Compensation Program: A Needs Assessment for People with Disabilities - Final Report
  - Focus groups, surveys of service providers & surveys of Victims Compensation Program Applicants
- Human Trafficking in Vermont (grant pending)
  - Collaboration, Data Collection & Analysis, Identifying Types of Victims
- JRSA-VOCA Collaboration Grant
- 2018 BJS - Victimization of and CJ Response to Vulnerable Adults & the Elderly
Data Request: misdemeanor domestic violence disposition times (2013-2017):
1) How many cases are disposed of in 90 days, 120 days, etc. and
2) How are the cases being disposed: convicted, pled down, or dismissed
CRG/SAC - VOCA/CCVS Grant
Domestic Violence in Vermont:
Trends in System Utilization and
Victim-Offender Relationship

GOAL
Use data to better meet survivors where they are (criminal court or family court), when criminal victimization occurs, with services and resources tailored to the type of victim-offender relationship
What We Already Know

- Domestic violence is a leading cause of homicide in Vermont, comprising roughly half of all homicides since 1995.

- Vermont’s state court system reports a 47% increase in criminal DV felony filings in the past ten years; protection order (“relief from abuse”) filings in family court have decreased by 10% in five years.

- Domestic violence crimes use a “household member” definition that doesn’t differentiate victim-offender relationship in the charge code.

- State court data systems do not readily support tracking cases as they move between family court and criminal court.
Research Questions

1) Who is experiencing domestic assault in Vermont? Where do they go for help?

2) What is the relationship between the civil and criminal dockets? What is the overlap between protection order filings and criminal case filings?

3) Are there patterns that suggest victims may prefer to use one system more than another?

4) When a protection order is granted, how many cases result in a criminal violation of abuse protection order charge?

5) Which categories of victims tend to access the state victims compensation fund?
Applications

- Develop best practices for referrals to services related to specific victim-offender relationship (i.e. intimate partner, same-sex partner, elder abuse, adult child/parent, child abuse)

- Estimate the financial impact of allowing plaintiffs who are granted abuse protection orders access to the victims compensation state funds, regardless of law enforcement involvement

- Better inform prosecution and law enforcement practices around victim engagement and referral to services (e.g. lethality assessment protocol and/or legal advocacy for protection order proceedings)
Early Results

- Data quality issues within the protection order docket
  - No record entered (“null”) in large percentage of cases in many counties for both temporary and final protective orders
  - Adult dating relationship placed in “other” category

- Non-intimate partner relationships are involved in large portions of both temporary and final protection order cases across all counties

- In some counties, final orders are almost twice as likely to be denied or dismissed as granted