Law Enforcement Officers’ Perceptions of Crime Victims and the Victim Services Process

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Over half of criminal victimizations are not reported to the police¹

Integration of a Victim Services Specialist in the Auburn Police Department has been found to expand the types of victims who receive services. It also helped bridge gaps between law enforcement and crime victims.

Purpose:
Study the culture of Auburn Police Department and officers’ perceptions of crime victims and their role in victim response

RESEARCH QUESTIONS
What attitudes/beliefs exist among officers in the Auburn Police Department relating to:

- Officers' roles in victim response?
- Crime victims?
- Victim services and Victim Service Specialists?

Methods:
Research and Review
Locate tools and develop questions to assess officers’ perceptions of victim response and victim services

Quantitative Survey Data
Survey a random sample of officers about their perceptions

Individual Interviews
Interview a sample of officers to gain insights about their perceptions

Implications:
- Learn about perceptions of officers
- Consider the impact of perception on interactions with crime victims and victim services/victim service providers
- Enhance the continuation of funding plan
- Identify issues and areas for victim services program improvement