Examining the Impact of a Victim Specialist Program Within a Police Department in Central New York

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Since Victim Specialist began providing services in February 2020, 143 victims have been provided with 2,035 support services.

- 78% experienced domestic violence
- 58% were victims of stalking
- 46% experienced multiple victimizations
- 13% were victims of sexual assault
- 8% were victims of violent crime
- 78% experienced domestic violence
- 58% were victims of stalking

Purpose:
Learn more about crime victims in Cayuga County in order to better understand:
- Who is coming into contact with police
- Who is coming into contact with victim services
- Who is missed
- What services are received
- How justice looks
- How victim specialists and police can improve responses to crime victims in the future

What does criminal victimization in Cayuga County look like pre- and post-implementation of the Law Enforcement Based Victim Specialist Program in the Auburn Police Department? What attitudes/beliefs exist among officers in the Auburn Police Department relating to their role in victim response?

Research Methods:
- Analyzing official, and other agency, statistical data for information related to crime victims in the county.
- Creating interview questions for APD officers and developing a plan to study the perceptions of the APD’s victim response.

Implications:
- Inform practices and give a basis for future areas of program improvement
- Provide evidence for this type of service in Cayuga County
- Identify gaps and areas for improvement to focus and work on
- Improve the service delivery to victims

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