Assessing Crime Victims' Languages to Enhance Victim Services

Brockton Police Department and Curry College

In Brockton, 44.5% of homes speak a language other than English

OBJECTIVES

- Assess the languages spoken in Brockton, with a focus on victims of crime
- Develop framework of promising practice for Brockton Police Department to build language access plan and service provision strategy for BPD’s Victim Assistance Program

Method:

1. Needs Assessment
   - Population and demographics
   - Crime data for Brockton
   - Existing resources for victims
   - Organizational structure and role of VAP

2. Review
   - Scholarly literature
   - Government & nonprofit resources

3. Case Studies
   - Language access plans in police departments
   - Websites and online materials of other agencies

Implications:

- Integrate a language access plan in the Brockton Police Department
- Adjust services based on analysis
- Implement practices that similar jurisdictions have gotten the best results from
- Maximize resources and aid in seeking funding in the VAP

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Sources:
- U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey (ACS) and Puerto Rico Community Survey (PRCS), 5-Year Estimates
- U.S. Census Bureau, Population Estimates Program (PEP), Population and Housing Unit Estimates