RESEARCH QUESTIONS

What additional data could the Victim Services Division (VSD) capture to demonstrate community impact and promote sustainability?

How is the victim services program being perceived by the staff of community partners to which victims are referred?

Are Victim Services Division and Domestic Abuse Response Team (DART) staff adequately managing vicarious trauma and/or is additional intervention needed to maintain staff mental health and job satisfaction?

Methods:

Data Inventory
- Review data currently collected by the VSD
- Hold two workshops using a facilitated discussion to help VSD management and department leadership recognize patterns of service delivery

Referral Process Review
Hold two focus group sessions with community partners to identify possible areas for process improvement

LEV/DART Team Check-in
- Hold two focus group sessions with LEV/DART staff and their sworn counterparts
- Discuss training, how they perceive their role in serving victims, and how they manage their trauma exposure

Implications:
- Identify opportunities to improve services for crime victims
- Strengthen the case for sustainment or expansion funding
- Share experiences with creating and maintaining victim services with other victim services programs

In 2021 in Houston, domestic violence-related homicides were up 50% compared to the same period in 2020.

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