Understanding Repeat Victimization

Saginaw Police Department (SPD) and Saginaw Valley State University

Based on surveys of police officers (n=28; 63% response rate), community partners (n=10; 30% response rate), and repeat victims (n=21):

- 18 out of 21 repeat victim respondents believed the SPD Victim Services Unit (VSU) was respectful or helpful.
- 7 out of 10 community partner respondents said they received more referrals from SPD since the VSU began.
- Some community partner respondents also noted an improvement in officers’ on-scene responses since the creation of the Victim Services Unit.

75% of officer respondents found their work rewarding when they saw victims leave violent relationships and access services. "Follow-through" was a major theme in officers’ responses about repeat victimization. 12 OF 28 officer respondents believed that more information about abuse and services could help repeat victims feel sufficiently supported and ready to pursue legal action or leave violent situations.

Officer, community partner, and repeat victim respondents all wanted officers and victim services staff to:

- continue to communicate with each other about victims’ needs.
- continue to follow up with victims about services and options.

Implications for Policy & Practice

- Hire more officers to enhance services on patrol and allow for more time to help victims.
- Increase training for officers to understand the challenges of working with victim populations.
- Share victim feedback with officers so they know their impact.
- With courts, reach out to victims about hearing dates.
- Improve communication with partnering agencies.

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Sources:
Based on the Saginaw Police Department Final Report. All mini-grant materials funded by the IACP-JRSA partnership are available here: https://www.jrsa.org/projects/levitta.html.