

# Crime Victims' Institute



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## Our Mission

The mission of the Crime Victims' Institute is to :

- Conduct research to examine the impact of crime on victims of all ages in order to promote a better understanding of victimization
- Improve services to victims
- Assist victims of crime by giving them a voice
- Inform victim-related policymaking at the state and local levels.



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## October - Domestic Violence Awareness Month

October marks the beginning of Domestic Violence Awareness Month (DVAM). DVAM first began in 1987, with the goals of mourning those who died as a result of domestic violence, celebrating those who have survived, and connecting those who work to end the violence. Every October communities across the nation come together to recognize the month. Last October trainings, Clothesline Projects, walks, and vigils occurred throughout Texas to bring awareness to the topic of domestic violence.

In 1998, the Texas Council on Family Violence (TCFV) began presenting a fatality review of the individuals killed as a result of domestic violence in Texas. From 1990 to 2011, TCFV has identified 2,632 women who were killed as a result of domestic violence in Texas. This

number does not include children or other family members or friends who were also killed during the incident. Most recently, in 2013, 119 women were killed by an intimate partner.

The Crime Victims' Institute (CVI) continues their work to increase understanding of domestic violence victimization and services for victims through research and collaboration with victim service practitioners. This past year, CVI partnered with the Montgomery County District Attorney's Office to evaluate a specialized domestic violence docket. CVI is committed to continuing its partnerships with practitioners in Texas to increase knowledge about victimization issues and responding to victims.

October is Domestic Violence  
Awareness Month

Focus on:

## Angela Collins

CVI Graduate Research Assistant

Angela Collins received her Bachelor of Science degree with a double major in Sociology and Criminology and a Master of Science degree in Criminology from Missouri State University in Springfield, MO. While there, she also earned a graduate certificate in Child Forensic Psychology. Angela also taught at MSU and a local community college, along with doing work in MSU's Center for Social Science and Public Policy Research (CSSPPR). She also spent some time volunteering for a local organization, The Victim Center, responding to calls to the victim's hotline. Angela spent the last year working with CVI on an evaluation of the Montgomery County Expedited Domestic Violence Court.



# Montgomery County Expedited Domestic Violence Court Research Project

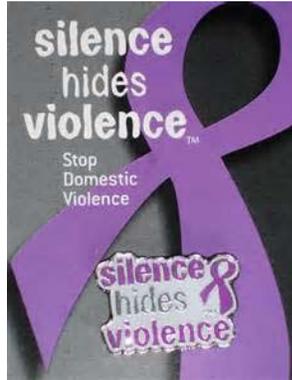
CVI partnered with the Montgomery County District Attorney's Office to conduct a research project evaluating the Montgomery County Expedited Domestic Violence Court (MCEDVC), with funding provided by the Criminal Justice Division of the Texas Office of the Governor.

MCEDVC was established in the fall of 2011 with the goal of increasing conviction rates and improving relationships with the local law enforcement community. This specialized court began as an expedited docket, forcing cases to move through the system quickly with resets not generally granted without extenuating circumstances. The docket currently process all of the Class C assault-family violence cases with a dedicated judge, two prosecutors, and victim advocate.

As part of the evaluation, CVI analyzed recidivism of offenders in 710 cases pro-

cessed by MCEDVC. Findings from this analysis indicate the majority of defendants (70.8%) in the MCEDVC had at least one arrest prior to the filing of the current family violence case. Additionally, 13.0% had at least one prior domestic violence arrest. Following the case filing in the MCEDVC, nearly one-third (32.2%) had at least one subsequent arrest. More than 11% had a subsequent arrest for a family violence related offense (e.g., assault on a family member, terrorizing a family member, violation of protection order). Of those, 23 defendants had at least one subsequent arrest for violating a protection order, and ten defendants had a subsequent arrest for family violence that involve strangulation or impeding breathing.

A report presenting the full results from this evaluation is forthcoming.



Visit <http://www.nrcdv.org/dvam> for more information!

## Domestic Violence Resources IF YOU NEED HELP

For more information or to get help, please call:

**The National Domestic Violence Hotline**

1-800-799-7233

**The National Sexual Assault Hotline**

1-800-656-4673

**The national Teen Dating Abuse Hotline**

1-866-331-9474





## Upcoming Events

### Share your ideas:

We welcome your input. Please send issues or topics you would like to see CVI conduct research on to : [crimevictims@shsu.edu](mailto:crimevictims@shsu.edu)



6th Annual Texas Human Trafficking Summit Dallas, TX	10/21/14
American Society of Criminology San Francisco, CA	11/19-22/14
29th Annual San Diego International Conference Child & Family Maltreatment San Diego, CA	01/26-29/15
29th Annual Conference on the Prevention of Child Abuse Las Colinas, TX	02/23-24/15
33rd Annual TAASA Conference Austin TX	03/01-05/15
10th Annual Conference on Crime Against Women Dallas, TX	03/16-18/15
Annual TVSA Conference South Padre, TX	05/05-08/15

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