

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. CVI will co-sponsor the third annual Clothesline project with the Crime Victims Services Alliance, a student organization at SHSU.

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 2013, 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 murdered during the incident. Most recently, in 2014, 132 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. CVI is committed to continuing its partnerships with practitioners in Texas to increase knowledge about victimization issues and responding to victims.

This Domestic Violence Awareness Month,
we're inviting everyone to

Speak up.

To spark change, we have to talk openly and
acknowledge how domestic abuse affects our
communities, our families and our lives.
We have to be brave. We have to **See DV.**

Amanda Goodson

CVI Graduate Research Assistant

Amanda Goodson began the SHSU Ph.D. program in the Fall of 2015. In 2013, she graduated from Boise State University in Boise, Idaho with a Bachelor of Science degree in Criminal Justice and Psychology, and a minor in Addiction Studies. She continued on her academic path at Boise State University by receiving a Master of Art's degree in Criminal Justice and a Graduate Certificate in Victim Services in 2015. Amanda's primary research interests include gender and crime, violence against women, and interpersonal violence and victimization. Amanda is currently employed as a graduate assistant with the Crime Victims' Institute.



Domestic Violence

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

A Review of Civil Protection Orders

Using the National Intimate Partner and Sexual Violence Survey, the National Center for Injury Prevention and Control (2010) report that 1 in 3 women and 1 in 4 men have been a victim of physical violence, rape, and/or stalking; most of the violence reported by males was physical violence. When examining domestic violence and intimate partner violence, surveys have shown that between 25 and 41 percent of women experience physical assault perpetrated by a spouse or intimate partner (Eastman & Bunch, 2007).

In an effort to combat domestic violence, legislation has been created to try and help victims, including the development of civil protection orders (CPO) (Keilitz, 1994; Logan, Shannon, Walker, & Faragher, 2006). Up to 20% of domestic violence victims seek a protection order against their abuser, making it one of the most utilized services within the criminal justice system (Holt, Kernic, Wolf, & Rivara, 2003). While there are many functions of a civil protection order, the main purpose is to legally prohibit contact between a victim of domestic violence and a perpetrator for a specific length of time (Cattaneo, Grossman, & Chapman, 2015; Finn, 1989; Holt, Kernic, Lumley, Wolf, & Rivara, 2002; Keilitz, 1994; Logan et al., 2006). It is important to note that protection orders are processed through the civil court, but a violation of an order can lead to a criminal charge (Logan et al., 2006).

The civil protection order process is conducted in two different steps (DeJong & Burgess-Proctor, 2006; Eigenberg, McGuffee, Berry, & Hall, 2003; Finn, 1989; Logan et al., 2006). The first step that victims must take is to file a temporary petition, which most statutes limit for up to two weeks. This petition is also largely based on the victim's testimony, and is less stressful for victims because the batterer is not required to be in attendance (DeJong & Burgess-Proctor, 2006; Logan et al., 2006). However, the second phase consists of a full hearing where both the victim and the batterer present information to a judge, who then makes a decision on whether a full CPO will be granted or dismissed (Eigenberg et al., 2003).

There are several goals of civil protection orders. The most important goal of a CPO is to provide safety to victims of domestic violence (Cattaneo et al., 2015). In addition, victims have often reported that they have sought a CPO to end the abuse, the destruction of property, and continuous threats and harassment. Finally, victims may seek out a CPO as a way to leave a relationship and move forward with their life

with the goal of gaining independence from the abuser (Cattaneo et al., 2015; Postmus, 2007).

Civil protection orders are obtained through civil court, which offers some advantages for domestic violence victims. First, the burden of proof in civil court is lower than criminal court, which may make the process of obtaining a CPO less cumbersome (Finn, 1989). Second, CPOs are less costly to the system and the victim (DeJong & Burgess-Proctor, 2006). Third, CPOs often provide a source of empowerment for victims of domestic violence (Cattaneo et al., 2015). Finally, CPOs can be granted case by case, thus allowing for flexibility in the victim's need (Logan & Walker, 2006).

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2015 Crime Victims' Institute Dashboard

The Crime Victims' Institute has initiated a new report designed to consolidate information from across the state to provide a snapshot of victimization and victim services in Texas. The 2015 Dashboard is the first annual report and demonstrates the current state of victimization and service delivery along with trends over the last few years across a number of relevant indicators. We anticipate updating the data included here every year and adding indicators as we are made aware of them.

We hope that you find this report helpful and informative. As always, we encourage you to share your comments and opinions about this report and to provide suggestions for topics or additional indicators and data sources that might contribute to the picture presented with this publication. To view or print the Dashboard report please visit our website at www.crimevictimsinstitute.org under the publications tab.



In the Works....

Look for upcoming publications from the Crime Victims' Institute on:

- **The Diverse Needs of Sex Trafficking Survivors**
- **Campus Response to Sexual Assault, Intimate Partner Violence, and Stalking: A survey of Title IX Coordinators in Texas**
- **Crime Victims' Compensation Fund**
- **Human Trafficking Series**

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Let's discuss it:

September 1, 2015 marked the beginning of important changes to Texas laws, including changes to the Family Code, Penal Code, and Code of Criminal Procedure, which have updated and strengthened protective order and family violence laws. Crimes committed after this date will be prosecuted by these new sets of laws (while crimes committed before September 1 will still be prosecuted using the previous version). As noted in the legislation:

- Senate Bill 817 makes changes to protective order applications and incorporates human trafficking activities in the definition of family violence.
- House Bill 1782 amends the protective order requirements of the family code by creating a presumption of family violence if the respondent has a previous conviction for family violence or received deferred adjudication for family violence.
- Finally, Senate Bill 147 condenses two Penal Code sections dealing with violations of protective orders and allows for such violations to be prosecuted under the harsher penalties, including the possibility of charging violators with a felony for repeat violations rather than separate misdemeanor charges for each violation.

Please contact us at:
crimevictims@shsu.edu
to share your thoughts.



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



Driving Change Conference Boston, MA	11/2-3/15
Prevent Child Abuse Texas Conference Dallas, TX	1/25-26/16
Texas Association Against Sexual Assault Conference Corpus Christi, TX	3/6-10/16
Crimes Against Women Conference Dallas, TX	4/4-6/16
Crime Victim Services Conference Corpus Christi, TX	2/22/24/16

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