

# The Victim-Informed Prosecution Project: A Quasi-Experimental Test of a Collaborative Model for Cases of Intimate Partner Violence

Violence Against Women

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## Abstract

The Victim-Informed Prosecution Project (VIP) was designed to amplify the voice of the victim in the prosecution of a battering current or ex-partner through collaboration between the prosecution and victim-centered agencies. This article describes the rationale for and design and implementation of VIP and then explores whether it increased perceived voice. While some VIP services (advocacy and civil protection order representation) were associated with increased perceived voice, the program as a whole was associated with it only in the context of greater contact with prosecutors, when cases were more likely to be felonies. We make specific recommendations for applying this model.

## Keywords

advocacy, criminal justice system, intimate partner violence, program evaluation, service coordination, victim empowerment

The criminal justice system has long been at the heart of efforts to effectively intervene in cases of intimate partner violence (IPV; e.g., Fagan, 1996; Jordan, 2004). Over the past few decades, both law enforcement and prosecutorial responses to domestic violence have undergone substantial reform. Where in the past perpetrators were seldom arrested and even more rarely prosecuted, today the national trend is policy mandating arrest where

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