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RESEARCHERS EXAMINE IMPACT OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE INTERVENTION

TALLAHASSEE, FLA—In a recent study published in *Criminology & Public Policy* (CPP) [Volume 12, Issue 3], researchers found that domestic violence prosecutorial policies have an impact on revictimization and the reoccurrence of violence and aggression.

Professor Mary Finn of Georgia State University found that domestic violence victims were significantly more likely to report instances of repeat physical violence and psychological aggression in jurisdictions where prosecutorial policies mandate certain, swift and severe punishments for domestic violence offenders. Repeat violence and aggression were reported much less frequently in jurisdictions that allow victims to interact with court officials and provide input into the court's actions. The results suggest that victim-centered prosecutorial policies yield better outcomes for victims of domestic violence.

Policy essay authors Eve Buzawa of the University of Massachusetts, Lowell and Aaron Buzawa of the United States Air Force highlighted the importance of reduced domestic violence incidents for cases processed in a victim-centered jurisdiction and found that the cost of prosecution is likely to be less in victim-centered jurisdictions. Further, policy essay author Richard Peterson of the New York City Criminal Justice Agency stressed the importance of taking a broad approach to victim engagement as a means to improve victim outcomes. Specifically, Peterson advocates for the use of programs that help victims with their emotional, financial, child care and housing needs after a domestic violence incident. The final policy essay author for this segment, Krista Flannigan of Florida State University, urges researchers to evaluate the effectiveness and outcomes of various domestic violence prosecutorial policies and programs.

Senior Editor for this segment, Jill Messing of Arizona State University notes that although the criminal justice system has become the primary intervention mechanism for domestic violence crimes, it is not equipped to manage the relational and ongoing nature of intimate partner violence. Messing argues that resources that support the empowerment of victims within and outside of the criminal justice system are necessary to combat intimate partner violence.