



Focusing on Highly Vulnerable Populations Track

Exploring the Intersections of Sexual Assault, Domestic Violence, and Homelessness

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Intersectional Relationship Between Domestic Violence and Homelessness

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Connecticut Coalition Against Domestic Violence

Connecticut Member Organization Service Statistics

7/1/16-6/30/17



38,404 victims per year



32,774 received court based services



32,744 crisis calls



**30,907 individuals received
counseling and support services**



**2,179 victims and their children were
housed**



12-16 fatalities annually

What is Intimate Partner Violence?

Intimate partner violence is a **pattern** of abusive behavior in an intimate relationship where one partner tries to **control** and dominate the other. The behavior may be verbally, psychologically, physically or sexually abusive with the victim left feeling scared, confused, dependent and insecure.

Assaulting, threatening or stalking an intimate partner is a crime in the state of Connecticut.

What is Intimate Partner Violence?

Intimate partner violence is fluid. It is a **pattern** of behaviors, **not a single event** or an isolated incident. Events include both positive and negative behaviors.

Intimate partner violence will **escalate** over time. Abuse can happen at a very slow pace. **Little by little**, a relationship goes from **healthy-unhealthy-abusive** before it is recognized by the victim .

Demographics

Typically male on female BUT not always:

- 1 out of 4 women, 1 out of 7 men
- Similar rates for same sex relationships

Prevalence cuts across all demographics:

- Impacts all racial, ethnic, economic, religious, educational, professional backgrounds, any age and sexual orientation
- Look at behaviors not demographics

Complexities of Domestic Violence

- Domestic violence is fluid
- It is not one isolated incident
- It is series of events along a continuum
- Events include positive and negative behavior

Complexities of Control



Complexities of Domestic Violence

- Substance use/abuse
- Behavioral health
- The presence of weapons increases the ongoing threat of violence
- Victim unlike most other crimes
- Offenders unlike many others
 - Masterful manipulators (even with police)
 - Offender's status may add further complications

Complexities of Domestic Violence

Trauma

- Victims of domestic violence experience trauma leaving them to cope with the loss of their sense of safety and security
- Trauma exposure increases the likelihood of a range of vulnerabilities such as PTSD, depression, anxiety and other mental health conditions
- Trauma effects the way victims approach potentially helpful relationships
- Victims are often reluctant to engage in any type of human services which compounds their issues of isolation

Warning Signs

People who are being abused may:

- Seem afraid or anxious to please their partner.
- Go along with everything their partner says and does.
- Check in often with their partner to report where they are and what they're doing.
- Receive frequent, harassing phone calls from their partner.
- Talk about their partner's temper, jealousy, or possessiveness.

Warning Signs

- Have frequent injuries, with the excuse of “accidents.”
- Frequently miss work, school, or social occasions, without explanation.
- Dress in clothing designed to hide bruises or scars (e.g. wearing long sleeves in the summer or sunglasses indoors).
- Difficulty making decisions. May show poor self-confidence.
- Be restricted from seeing family and friends.
- Rarely go out in public without their partner.

Barriers to Leaving

- Victim convinces themselves that “it’s not that bad...”
- The victim feels at fault
- Lack of knowledge about community resources
- Shame
- Lack of support from family and friends

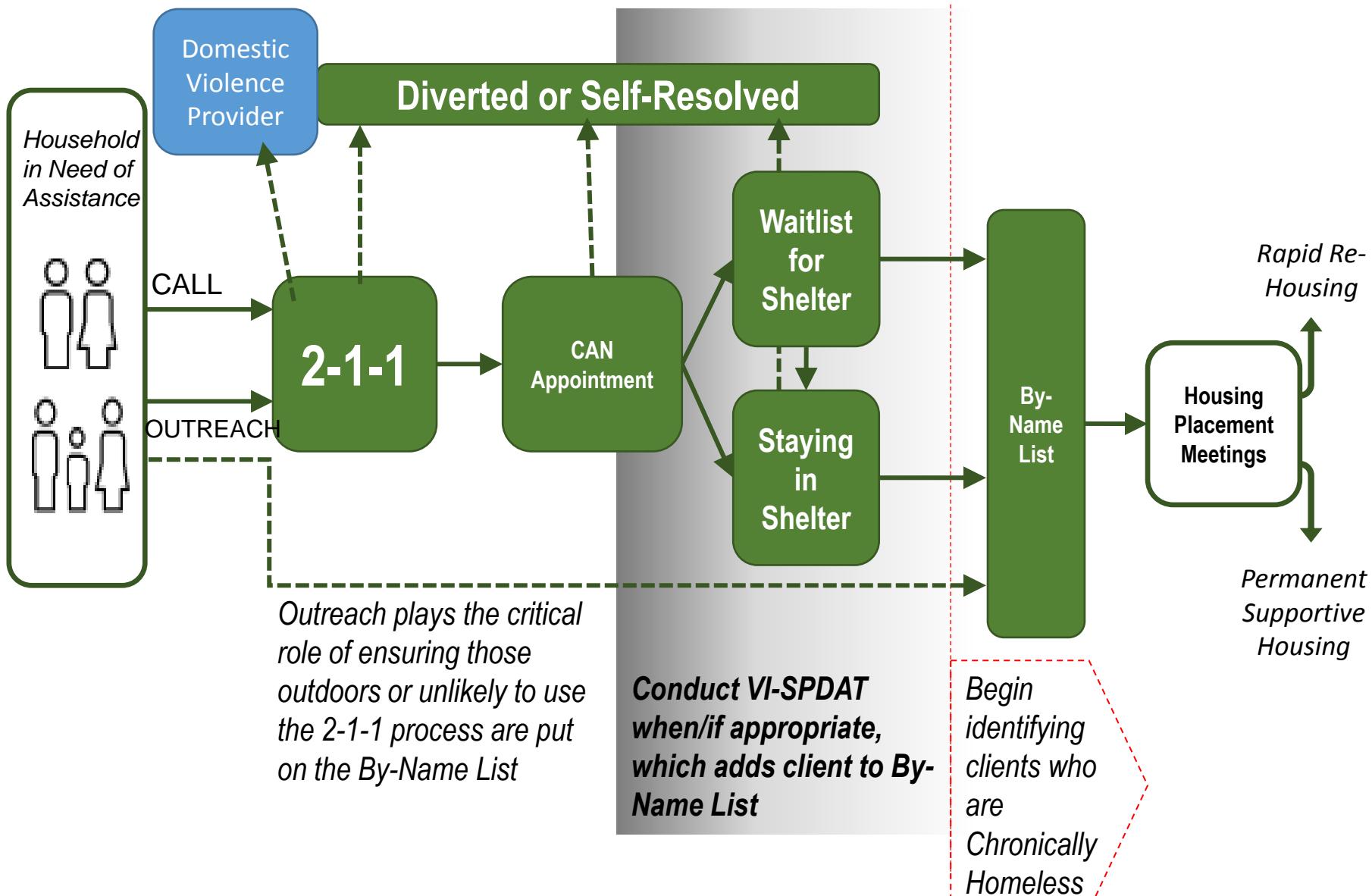
Barriers to Leaving

- Concern for the welfare of the children
- Lack of employment or employment skills
- Inability to afford legal assistance with divorce, custody or orders of protection
- Fear of court system
- Belief that they are responsible for the abuse

**Most victims do not want the
relationship to end-rather,
they want the violence to stop.**

CAN System Overview

A high-level diagram of the coordinated access process from entry to exit



From Domestic Violence to Homelessness

- Survivors of domestic violence may turn to homeless service programs seeking a safe temporary place to stay after fleeing an abusive relationship.
- Homeless service programs primarily because they lack the economic resources to secure or maintain housing after leaving an abusive relationship.
- Some survivors are evicted from housing due to a batterer's destructive or criminal behavior

Coordinated Access and DV Survivors

We continue to build our Coordinated Access System (HUD sometimes refer to this as “Coordinated Entry”). We need to serve all populations eligible for housing assistance. This is a federal mandate that CT state agencies have adopted, as well.

“If the CoC’s coordinated entry process uses separate access points for people fleeing domestic violence, CoCs should take care to ensure that people who use the DV coordinated entry process can access homeless assistance resources available from the non-DV portion of the coordinated entry process and vice versa.”

HUD coordinated Entry Policy Brief

<https://www.hudexchange.info/resources/documents/Coordinated-Entry-Policy-Brief.pdf>

Serving Housing Needs through Data While Adhering to VAWA

CT's Coordinated Access system relies on the best practice of using housing registries, administered through HMIS. We need to incorporate DV clients seeking housing assistance into those registries in a fair way, while protecting confidentiality – a critical matter of safety for DV survivors.

"CoCs must work with domestic violence programs in their communities to ensure ... a process for providing confidential referrals, and a data collection process consistent with the Violence Against Women Act."

HUD coordinated Entry Policy Brief

<https://www.hudexchange.info/resources/documents/Coordinated-Entry-Policy-Brief.pdf>

Assessing the needs of DV Clients

CCADV serves as the single POC for DV survivors who are appropriate for/seeking homeless housing assistance.

- DV providers across the state identify DV survivors in their programs who are seeking this assistance. Then, these providers will:
 - Identify the CAN in which the DV client seeks housing placement
 - Administer the VI-SPDAT (the state's single housing needs assessment tool) to each of these clients
 - Assess what size of unit is needed (number of rooms)
 - Verify whether a client is chronically homeless (according to the HUD definition) and document this status to the HUD standard.

HMIS Referral and Data



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HMIS Data Entry for Domestic Violence Victims Referral

- 1. Referral Date:**
- 2. CAN which client is seeking placement:**
- 3. VI-SPDAT Score:**
- 4. Household Type (#of Rooms):**
- 5. Chronically Homeless:** Yes No
- 6. High Risk Priority:** Yes No

The items below will be filled out by CCADV and returned to the member agency

Point of Contact at CCADV:

Email:

Phone:

Unique Client ID#:

CCADV does not have access to any client information or housing status.



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Risk Assessment

DV providers also provide to CCADV the following information for the client housing record:

- High risk priority, per response on lethality screen (Y/N)
- Domestic violence providers may obtain risk detail and interpret lethality using one or multiple resources:
 - Lethality Assessment Program (LAP)
 - Danger Assessment
 - Criminal Justice System
 - Safety Plan

Protection for DV Survivors

- The **Violence Against Women Act (VAWA)** prohibits discrimination against women and men who are survivors of domestic violence in publicly assisted housing and makes it easier for women to break a lease in public housing and move to a new unit when necessary for safety.
- Advocates have used the **Fair Housing Act's** prohibition of discrimination based on sex to ensure that survivors of domestic violence are not denied access to or evicted from housing

Housing Data

For calendar year 2017, domestic violence providers have referred to the homeless system for housing resources 73 households, including 31 single adults and 42 families.

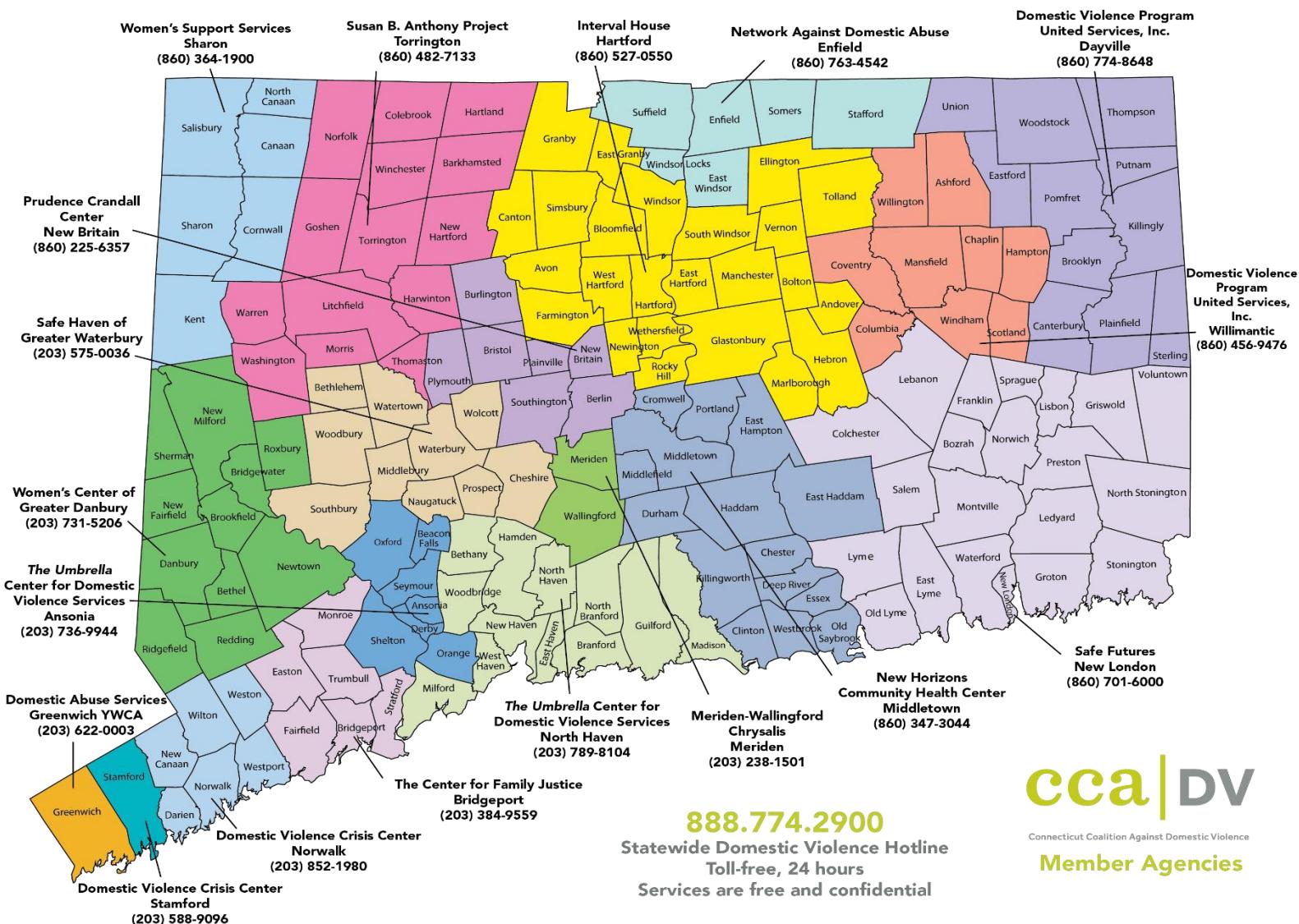
From those referrals, 29 households, including 8 single adults and 21 families, have been housed or matched to a housing resource (and in the process of securing housing).

Intimate Partner Violence Resources

- Hotline
- Safety Planning
- Support Groups
- Children's Programs
- Counseling Services
- Shelter and Safe Housing
- Court Advocacy and Support
- Information and Referrals

All services are free and confidential.

Intimate Partner Violence Services



888.774.2900
Statewide Domestic Violence Hotline
Toll-free, 24 hours
Services are free and confidential

cca|DV

Connecticut Coalition Against Domestic Violence

Member Agencies

Intimate Partner Violence Services

STATEWIDE DOMESTIC VIOLENCE HOTLINE
888.774.2900

SPANISH HOTLINE
844.831.9200



Questions?

Visit: www.cceh.org or contact
training@cceh.org

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