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Sub-Category A-vii: Protection Orders

COMPENDIUM OF RESEARCH ON VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN

1993-2016

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Category A: JUSTICE & RELATED SYSTEMS

vii. Protection Orders

1993-IJ-CX-0035:	Effectiveness of Civil Protection Orders in Deterring Domestic Violence
Amount:	\$204,462
PI:	Susan Keilitz
Program Officer:	Bernard Auchter
Status:	Completed

The National Center for State Courts will conduct a two-year, multi-court study of the effectiveness of civil protection orders in preventing domestic violence and assisting the victims of domestic violence in three courts; Denver County Court, the Family Court of Wilmington, Delaware, and Washington, D.C. The study builds on the pioneering studies of civil protection orders by examining and documenting how protection orders are processed, what types of relief are encompassed by the orders, what ancillary services are available to the victims, the extent of coordination of those services by the court, and how orders are monitored and enforced. Empirical data gathered from 300 case records and interviews with 300 petitioners for protection orders to evaluate whether the particular terms of the orders are more effective than others in preventing further violence, whether particular services provided to the petitioners are associated with greater effectiveness of the orders, and whether particular monitoring and enforcement practices lead to greater success in preventing further violence. Staff also will conduct observations of hearings for protection orders and on-site interviews with judges; court, prosecution and law enforcement personnel; victim advocates; attorneys; representatives of social and mental health services; and others involved in the civil protection order process.

Product: NCJ# 164866/172223

Civil Protection Orders: The Benefits and Limitations for Victims of Domestic Violence (1996) – S. Keilitz, P. Hannaford, H. Efken

This study involved interviews with women who filed protection orders. Through the interviews, researchers concluded that victims' views on the effectiveness of protection orders vary with the courts' accessibility and how well established the links are between public and private services and support resources for victims. In addition, violations of the protection order increase and reported effectiveness decreases as the criminal record of the abuser becomes more serious. In the majority of cases, victims felt that civil protection orders protected them against repeated incidents of physical and psychological abuse and were valuable in helping them regain a sense of well-being. A protection order alone was not as likely to be effective against abusers with a history of violent offenses. The researchers noted that criminal prosecution of these individuals may be required to curb such behavior. The study confirmed previous research showing a strong correlation between the severity and duration of abuse--the longer women experience abuse, the more intense the behavior is likely to become and the more likely women are to be severely injured by their abusers.

1996-IJ-CX-0070:	Locally Initiated Research Partnership: Framingham, MA Police Department and Social Science Research and Evaluation, Inc.
Amount:	\$98,491
PI:	Robert Apsler
Program Officer:	Cynthia Mamalian
Status:	Completed

This project will establish a partnership between police and researchers in Framingham, Massachusetts. The Framingham Police Department's innovative use of cellular phones to assist recipients of restraining orders will be rigorously evaluated. Pairs of victims who took out restraining orders will be matched, and a cellular phone will be assigned randomly to one of the two victims. The effects of the program on victims, police officers, and offenders will be assessed. It is predicted that the distribution of cellular phones will result in: (1) more arrests of offenders; (2) fewer violations of restraining orders; (3) reduced anxiety for victims; (4) faster resolution of calls; (5) reduced officer stress; and (6) greater job satisfaction experienced by officers. At a minimum the partnership will produce three technical and three non-technical reports by the end of the grant period. All reports will include: (1) the issues on which the

report focuses; (2) a literature review; (3) a description of the methods used; (4) results; and (5) conclusions and recommendations. If warranted, each pair of reports will be followed by an article prepared for a professional journal.

Product: NCJ# 187103

Locally Initiated Research Partnership: The Framingham, Massachusetts Police Department and Social Science Research and Evaluation, Inc. (2000) – R. Apsler, S. Carl, M. Cummins

This research on DV included an experimental evaluation of the use of cellular telephones to enforce restraining orders and a study of differences among female victims of DV who come to the attention of the police. Additional research focused on perceptions of the police by victims of DV served by this suburban police agency and the role of social supports for victims of DV. Results revealed that few women fit the stereotypic profile of a severely abused woman desperate to escape her abuser; instead, most victims had experienced less severe abuse. Results also indicated that most victims called for police help themselves, that victims' had positive ratings of the helpfulness of the police, that the presence of helpful social supports was associated with several positive factors, and that social supports were not enough to resolve victims' problems with DV. Other research projects developed by the partnership focused on an officer exchange program planned by the Framingham and Chelsea police agencies, the broken-windows theory applied to highway safety, reducing the impact of non-emergency 911 calls, and organizational stress in police agencies.

Additional NCJ Citations: 197412, 202666

1999-WE-VX-K011/ 2000-WE-VX-K001: Evaluation of Grants to Encourage Arrest Policies in Domestic

	Violence Cases
Amount:	\$70,500
PI:	Roxanne Ryan
Program Officer:	Bernard Auchter
Status:	Completed

The proposed study will compare the results achieved by the Protective Order Enforcement Team (POET), with those achieved by the State's previously established Domestic Assault Response Teams (DART). The primary goals of this evaluation are to: (1) determine the level of effectiveness of POET; (2) assess the effectiveness of DART; (3) compare the levels of effectiveness of POET and DART; (4) make recommendations as to which type of program produces better results with respect to the needs of domestic abuse victims; and (5) develop a quality-of-life subscale that can be used by agencies funded through the Violence Against Women Act. The process evaluation will employ a traditional comparative analysis format. Data from the following three treatments will be analyzed: (1) the POET project; (2) DART projects; and (3) an area of the state that has not received either treatment. The evaluation will measure effectiveness in terms of quantifiable data that typically include arrest rates, protective order violations, and fillings of additional criminal charges related to the primary domestic assault. Quantifiable data generated by means of a quality-of-life survey will also be used and will be assessed from the victim's perspective.

Product: NCJ# 203980

Evaluation of Protection Order Enforcement Team (POET) Evaluation (2003) – R. Ryan, P. Petrzalka

The Protective Order Enforcement Team (POET) used a formal risk assessment instrument to identify those high-risk cases that would require the deployment of extra resources to focus resources on cases that pose a greater risk of death for the victims. The evaluation involved structured interviews with POET members, analysis of POET progress reports, and semi-structured interviews with victims in target cases. The process evaluation found that team members did not work well together, due to several factors, and substantial turnover in staff exacerbated the difficulties. Similarly, team members did not reach any consensus regarding the primacy of victim safety as the guiding principle of team efforts. The use of the risk assessment instrument was not effective due to the reluctance of victims to share information with the team as victims did not trust that the information would be used to help them rather than the abusers. Consequently, victims refused to complete the risk assessment form, and victim advocates refused to share with police or prosecutors the information needed to help assess risk. The operation of the POET project was compared with the operation of other DARTs and showed that a team must be well-established before assuming an additional focus, such as risk assessment. Given the finding that risk assessment cannot be done effectively by a newly formed team with low levels of trust, the report advocates development in the following arenas prior to the launching of team operations: (1) support for the program by the highest level administrators of the agency; (2) the development of communication skills and overall understanding of the dynamics of domestic violence; and (3) team familiarity with effective small group dynamics.

1999-WT-VX-0014:	Protection of Women: Health and Justice Outcomes
Amount:	\$249,870
PI:	Fred Rivara
Program Officer:	Katherine Darke
Status:	Completed

The goal of the project is to conduct a second-year follow-up of victims of domestic violence participating in the Protection of Women (POW): Health and Justice Outcomes Study. The original study included women who obtained a protection order; women who obtained an order but did not have prior police contact, and women with police contact who did not have any sort of order. A follow-up survey will be administered only to those women who entered the original study between October 1997 and December 1998 and who completed the baseline, 3-month, and 9-month interviews in the original study (approximately 359 women). Depending on the participant's preference, a telephone interview, a self-administered mail questionnaire, or an in-person interview will be conducted. Information will be obtained on updated general demographics, current relationship with named abuser and contact with abuser since initial survey, and perception of safety and physical and mental health and well-being, updated legal information, and updated use of community resources. Follow-up data will also be collected to determine outcomes of subsequent episodes of domestic violence reported to police, violation of court orders, additional contact with courts, new injuries requiring emergency or hospital care, and deaths of study subjects.

Product: NCJ# 196566

Civil Protection Orders and Risk of Subsequent Police-Reported Violence (2002) – V. Holt, M. Kernic, T. Lumley, M. Wolf, F. Rivara

The purpose of this study was to assess associations between obtaining a protection order and risk of subsequent police-reported intimate partner violence. This was a retrospective cohort study of 2691 adult female residents of Seattle, Washington with an incident of male intimate partner violence reported to the Seattle Police Department between August 1, 1998 and December 31, 1999 who had not obtained a permanent protection order in the prior 12 months. Using police reports, the study categorized subsequent IPV incidents as those including physical abuse (assault, reckless endangerment, or unlawful imprisonment) and those including psychological abuse (harassment, menacing stalking, threats, disturbance, criminal trespass, custodial interference, interfering with IPV reporting, or property damage). Overall rates of police-reported physical and psychological abuse in the 12 month follow-up were 13.5% and 12.3%, respectively. After controlling for cohabitation at the time of the index incident and index incident offense type, women with temporary protection orders in effect were more likely than women without protection orders to be psychologically abused, and women with permanent protection orders were less likely than those without orders to be physically abused. The study concluded that permanent, not temporary, protection orders are associated with a significant decrease in risk of police-reported violence against women by their male intimate partners.

Additional NCJ Citations: 199722, 200762

2000-WT-VX-0020:	Increasing Victim Safety and System Accountability
Amount:	\$212,384
PI:	Judith McFarlane
Program Officer:	Katherine Darke
Status:	Completed

A 2-year randomized controlled trial will implement and test the efficacy of an advocacy case management intervention for all women qualifying for a protection order against an intimate at a specialized district attorney's office. The theoretically-based intervention is designed to increase safety planning behaviors, improve physical, emotional and social well-being, decrease frequency and severity of abuse, and increase work productivity. A consecutive sample of woman 18 years and older filing for protection orders against an intimate will be invited into the study group until a total of 150 participants is reached. The participants will then be randomly split into two groups: 75 will be assigned to a 15- minute advocacy case management intervention group, and 75 will be assigned to a routine district attorney processing group, which is the control group. Safety, health and work productivity measures will be collected at baseline and at 3, 6, 12 and 18 months, following an initial 15-minute intervention session at the time of application for the protection order, and six 15-minute supportive telephone calls will be made over an 8- week period to the intervention group. This group will receive education on safety planning and the protection order process, crisis management, supportive care, and guided referrals.

Product: NCJ# 201944/201945**Increasing Victim Safety and System Accountability: Evaluating a Collaborative Intervention Between Health Care and Criminal Justice (2003) – Texas Women's University**

The objective for this study was to find more safety-seeking behaviors, lower experienced violence, higher physical and emotional functioning, and less employment harassment among women that qualify for a protection order and receive the Advocacy-Case Management intervention as compared to women in a placebo group. Using random assignment, researchers used a two-group experimental design with an intervention, and placed women in a control group (usual District Attorney procedures) or experimental group (Advocacy Case Management Intervention), with measurement at 3, 6, 12, and 18 months. The sample consisted of all women, 18 years or older, applying and qualifying for a protection order against a sexual intimate. The results show that adoption of safety behaviors significantly increased over time for women in the intervention group. The effect of the intervention was large at 3 months, substantial at 6 months, and then stabilized and remained consistent at 12 and 18 months. The intervention group that received the advocacy case-management and assistance with their protection order processing received no more protection orders and in no shorter time than the control group that received standard processing. There were significant differences in relationship status at intake between the women that subsequently received or dropped the protection order.

Additional Publications: McFarlane, J., Malecha, A., Gist, J., Watson, K., Batten, E., Hall, I., Smith, S. (2002). Intimate partner violence against immigrant women: Measuring the effectiveness of protection orders. *American Journal of Family Law*, 16, 244-252.

McFarlane, J., Malecha, A., Gist, J., Watson, K., Batten, E., Hall, I., Smith, S. (2004). Protection orders and intimate partner violence: An 18-month study of 150 Black, Hispanic, and White women. *American Journal of Public Health*, 94, 613-618.

2003-WG-BX-1004:	Use and Outcomes of Protection Orders by Battered Immigrant Women
Amount:	\$249,993
PI:	Mary Ann Dutton
Program Officer:	Nicole Gaskin-Laniyan
Status:	Completed

This study will investigate how battered immigrant women use civil protection orders as a means of protecting themselves and their children from intimate partner violence. Among the issues of special interest to the researchers are the barriers that immigrant women encounter in applying for and obtaining protection orders, the decision-making factors involved in seeking these orders, and the accessibility and effectiveness of these orders for immigrant women subjected to IPV. Participants will be drawn from an estimated pool of 740 battered immigrant women from Asian, Latino, Middle Eastern, and European communities who are seeking help for IPV from one of five agencies in the Metropolitan Atlanta area that offer legal advocacy services. Data will be collected primarily through face-to-face interviews with the female victims at the agency locations. The interviews will be conducted by a trained study interviewer using both quantitative and qualitative methods. At 3 and 6 months following the initial interview, the participants will be contacted for a follow-up interview at the same location as the initial interview. Hypotheses will be tested using multivariate logistic regression and analysis of variance methods.

Product: NCJ# 218255**Use and Outcomes of Protection Orders by Battered Immigrant Women (2006) – M.A. Dutton, N. Ammar, L. Orloff, D. Terrell**

Findings show that the sample of immigrant women ($n = 153$) who sought services related to intimate partner violence (IPV) experienced a high level of violence. Most women reported being worried about their own or their children's safety. Before seeking help from the agency from which the women were recruited, 60.9 percent had no prior knowledge of protection orders. After receiving services from an advocacy agency, 68 percent of the women filed a protection order against their abusive partner. Most women who had filed for a protection order reported them to be "helpful" (22.7 percent) or "very helpful" (65.2 percent). A substantial proportion of the women (36.8 percent) indicated they believed the protection order would increase their danger. A significant proportion of participants reported experiencing symptoms of posttraumatic stress disorder, a condition associated with exposure to traumatic events of experiences. Women in the sample reported high levels of exposure to violence in addition to IPV, with an average of three prior trauma exposures. The findings suggest that protection orders are effective in reducing those acts that would constitute violations of

protection orders. These include not only violent and abusive behavior but also other types of violations. The 153 women came from predominately low-income households and were 21-46 years old. They were recruited from 14 partner organizations that offer advocacy services to battered immigrant women. The immigration status of most participants was undocumented (43.85 percent). The COSMOS Study Questionnaire was used in face-to-face structured interviews. The interviews assessed specific domains of demographic information, acculturation, intimate partner violence, protection order, depression, and posttraumatic stress disorder.

2004-WG-BX-0007:	The Impact of Proactive Enforcement of No-Contact Orders on Victim Safety and Repeat Victimization
Amount:	\$446,542
PI:	Robert Brame
Program Officer:	Bernie Auchter
Status:	Completed

This research will examine the impact of intensive enforcement of court imposed no-contact orders (NCOs) on offender and victim behavior. Eight hundred cases of misdemeanor criminal domestic violence in which NCOs are imposed as a bond condition will be randomly assigned to either routine enforcement or to intensive enforcement, which will include proactive contacts and surveillance by officers while the orders are in place. Interviews will be conducted 6 weeks and 6 months following imposition of the NCO; 300 victims were sampled at random from the 800 cases. The interviews will obtain information on compliance with the NCO, new victimization, police and justice systems responses to reports of victimization, and feelings of safety and well-being. These and official records data will be used to develop models that examine both the prevalence and frequency of outcomes. This research will determine whether intensive enforcement reduces NCO violations and re-offending, and increases victim safety and well-being. This is a 33-month study. The first 6 months will involve planning and pretesting the instrument. Victim interviews will occur during the first 2 years of the project.

Product: NCJ# 228003

Impact of Proactive Enforcement of No-Contact Orders on Victim Safety and Repeat Victimization (2009) – R. Brame, C. Kaukinen, A.R. Gover, P. Lattimore

The study found that the proactive enforcement of NCOs had no significant effects when compared with similar cases that did not involve proactive NCO enforcement. Although there were some reductions in arrests for subsequent domestic violence, these reductions were modest to the point of being statistically insignificant. This report recommends the implementation of a wider array of interventions that use both law enforcement and social service interventions. The study involved a prospective experiment in which 466 cases of misdemeanor criminal domestic violence were randomly assigned to either systematic, proactive enforcement or to routine, reactive enforcement of the court-ordered non-contact conditions. Law enforcement contacts targeted victims in the treatment group whose abusers had been arrested for domestic violence and then released on bond, with the restriction that the offenders have no contact with their victims. Dedicated officer contacts were divided into two types. Those contacts prior to first appearance were designed to inform victims about NCOs, provide them information on criminal domestic violence and NCOs, instruct them in how to document offender contact, and conduct offender surveillance. These contacts included an initial mail contact and in-person or phone contacts. The second set of attempted contacts by officers occurred after the offender's first appearance. The goal of these contacts was continued risk assessment, visits to check on victims, and offender surveillance. The assessment of the effectiveness of the proactive enforcement involved analyses of official criminal records and victim survey data.

2005-WG-BX-0008:	A Rural and Urban Multiple Perspective Study of Protective Order Violation Consequences, Responses, and Costs
Amount:	\$650,033
PI:	T.K. Logan
Program Officer:	Bernard Auchter
Status:	Completed

This study addressed two critical gaps in the research literature on civil protective orders (POs) by identifying the factors associated with effectiveness of PO enforcement, and by assessing justice system costs associated with partner violence, protective orders and differential responses to PO violations. This study triangulates the sources of information (using victim self-reports, key informant interviews and court data on offenders) in order to address the

major questions for this study. Specifically, this study aimed to: (1) follow 105 rural and 105 urban women at baseline, 3 months and 6 months after receiving a PO, to examine partner violence 6 months prior to obtaining a PO as well as violations, consequences of violations, the justice system responses, and outcomes of justice system responses 6 months after obtaining a PO; (2) describe the civil and criminal system histories and responses to PO violations, using official records on PO respondents in the cases corresponding to the rural ($n = 105$) and urban ($n = 105$) women who participate in the study; (3) examine key informant ($n = 140$) perceptions of decision factors associated with responses to PO violations from four main perspectives: individual victim, police, prosecution and judges, using bounded rational theory to guide interviews; (4) identify the primary case, incident, and community characteristics influencing civil and criminal justice system responses to PO violations in two rural and one urban jurisdictions; and (5) examine personal and social costs of ongoing partner violence, including justice system costs, 6 months before and 6 months after a PO is obtained for 210 rural and urban women, to better understand the full spectrum of costs associated with partner violence as well as costs associated with differential justice system responses to PO violations.

Product: NCJ# 228350

The Kentucky Civil Protective Order Study: A Rural and Urban Multiple Perspective Study of Protective Order Violation Consequences, Responses, & Costs (2009) – T.K. Logan, Robert Walker, William Hoyt, Teri Faragher

This study addresses several gaps in the research literature on civil protective orders by examining protective order (PO) effectiveness, enforcement, and cost effectiveness. A selected rural area and a selected urban area were compared to better understand subtle jurisdictional differences. This study used multiple data sources, including victim self-reports, key informant interviews and court data on offenders in order to address three major questions: (1) *Rural versus urban similarities and differences: Do community contextual factors matter?* This question was answered by examining official data and the current literature on rural versus urban differences and by examining rural and urban key informant ($n = 188$) perceptions of factors associated with responses to PO violations to better understand community contextual factors in addressing partner violence. (2) *Civil protective orders: Justice or just a piece of paper?* This question was answered by following 106 rural and 107 urban women at baseline, at 3 months and at 6 months after receiving a PO, to examine partner violence prior to obtaining a PO and after obtaining a PO as well as the PO process, PO violations, and victim decisions regarding whether or not to report the violations, and justice system responses to reported violations (99 percent follow-up rate, $n = 210$). Also, civil and criminal system histories and justice system responses to PO violations were examined using official court records on PO respondents in the cases involving the rural and urban women who participated in the study. (3) *Costs of protective orders versus partner violence: Is it really worth it?* This question was answered by examining personal and societal costs of ongoing partner violence, including costs to the justice system and to victim quality of life, 6 months before and 6 months after a protective order was obtained, to better understand the full spectrum of costs associated with partner violence and the economic impact of POs on partner violence and abuse. Results showed that half (50 percent) of the study participants indicated that the protective order had been violated, whereas half did not during the 6 months after receiving the PO. Even for those who experienced PO violations, the abuse was significantly reduced over time. However, results also suggest that community contextual factors do matter in the PO process and in the enforcement of protective orders. For example, more urban than rural PO violators had PO violation charges during the 6-month follow-up period. Furthermore, stalking the 6 months prior to obtaining the PO was significantly associated with PO violations, even after controlling for a number of relevant variables. Finally, a wide range of costs was examined for each participant, including medical, mental health, criminal justice, legal, lost earnings, property losses, and time lost for family and civic responsibilities as well as an index of quality of life 6 months before the PO and 6 months after the protective order was issued. Overall, including changes in quality of life, POs saved the state \$85 million in a single year, a moderate estimate of cost savings. When the quality of life index is excluded from the cost analysis, study results show that victim safety is positively impacted POs at very little cost, except in cases of stalking. This study advances knowledge about PO effectiveness, enforcement and costs, and provides information on policies and practice to increase the effectiveness of POs and, ultimately, the safety of women threatened by partner violence in different jurisdictions.

Additional Publications: Logan, T., & Walker, R. (2010). Civil protective order effectiveness: Justice or just a piece of paper? *Violence and Victims*, 25(3), 332-348.

Logan, T., & Walker, R. (2010). Toward a deeper understanding of the harms caused by partner stalking. *Violence and Victims*, 25(4), 440-455.

Logan, T., & Walker, R. (2011). *Civil Protective Order Effectiveness in Rural and Urban Areas: The Role of Place in the Justice System Response to Partner Violence*. Carsey Policy Paper.
<http://www.carseyinstitute.unh.edu>

Logan, T., & Cole, J. (in press). The intersection of partner stalking and sexual abuse. *Violence Against Women*.

2012-IJ-CX-0045:	Criminal Protection Orders as a Critical Strategy to Reduce Domestic Violence: The Impact of Orders on Victims' Well-Being, Offenders' Behavior, and Children's Contact With Offending Fathers
Grant Amount:	\$753,081
PI:	Tami Sullivan
Program Officer:	Amy Leffler
Status:	Ongoing

To ensure the safety and well-being of victims and their children, there is a critical need for research on criminal protective orders to better understand how criminal orders impact domestic violence reduction and impact victims, offenders, and children's contact with the offending parent. The following are the goals and objectives of this study:

Goal 1, Victims: To increase knowledge about how criminal orders affect victims' safety and well-being. Objectives aim to (a) provide descriptive information about victims' well-being subsequent to their partner's arraignment and (b) compare well-being among victims grouped on two dimensions of orders: (1) the extent to which orders are issued at a more restrictive level than was requested by victims and (2) the extent to which orders affect daily living, and (c) determine whether offender and victim characteristics moderate the differences. **Goal 2, Offenders:** To increase knowledge about how criminal orders, in combination with offender programming, affect offender behavior in order to (a) identify the level of criminal orders and types of programming associated with the lowest rates of revictimization and recidivism, and (b) whether offender and victim characteristics moderate the differences. **Goal 3, Children:** To increase knowledge about how criminal orders affect children's contact in cases where offenders are the fathers of the victims' children. Objectives aim to (a) identify the proportion of victims who seek civil orders to protect their children and whether differences exist at the level of criminal order requested or issued, and (b) for residential stay-away or full no-contact orders, to gather information about contact with the offending father.

A mixed-methods design will be used to gather quantitative and qualitative data from 300 women recruited from the State's Office of the Victim Advocate and the community. Stratified random sampling procedures will be used to secure a diverse sample from the Office of the Victim Advocate files. Participants will be victims in a DV case and the male partner is arraigned months prior to study entry. Self-report and state criminal justice system data will be collected. Descriptive statistical analyses will be used to elucidate the phenomenon of criminal orders and inferential statistics (e.g., linear and nonlinear regression) will examine the study objectives.

2014-IJ-CX-0028:	An Evaluation of Court System Best Practices for Domestic Violence Protection Orders
Amount:	\$491,154
PI:	Kathryn (Beth) Moracco
Program Officer:	Amy Leffler
Status:	Ongoing

Due to the widespread use and established effectiveness of domestic violence protection orders (DVPOs) for secondary prevention of intimate partner violence (IPV), many states have established DVPO best practices, or recommended policies and procedures for court systems. However, there remains substantial heterogeneity within and among states in DVPO issuing rates, court processes and DVPO provisions. To date, there has been no research examining implementation fidelity of these best practices or evaluating whether fidelity to best practices results in higher DVPO granting rates or higher quality DVPOs. Our 24-month study triangulates primary and archival data in order to (1) describe variations in DVPO hearing processes and provisions contained in the resulting orders; (2) quantify the level of adherence to DVPO best practices, and the extent to which adherence varies among judicial districts; and (3) determine whether, after controlling for other factors, judicial districts that adhere more closely to DVPO best practices (a) have higher rates of granting DVPOs and (b) issue higher quality DVPOs. We will collect and analyze data from

three sources: (1) structured court observations of DVPO hearings in all 40 judicial districts in North Carolina ($n = 500$); (2) data abstraction from the DVPO case files for those observations ($n = 500$); and (3) a survey of all 277 district court judges, using self-administered questionnaires collected via the internet. Data from sources (1) through (3) will be combined to create continuously measured DVPO best-practices fidelity scores for court procedures and DVPO conditions. We will analyze hierarchical linear models with DVPO cases/hearings (L1) nested within judicial district (L2)—and will use a generalized estimating equation (GEE) approach to accommodate the non-independence of outcomes within judicial district—to assess whether higher fidelity scores predict higher rates of DVPO issuance and better DVPOs. In addition to manuscripts for peer reviewed journals, and written and web-based products for lay and professional audiences, this research will produce (1) a validated court observation instrument for DVPO hearings, including a quantifiable measure of fidelity to best practices; and (2) a validated index of tools to improve DVPOs' quality—which are currently lacking—that could be used to monitor DVPO hearings, assess adherence to best practices, and evaluation of processes and outcomes of interventions that address intimate partner violence and increase safety for survivors and their families.

2015-IJ-CX-0013:	Investigating the Impacts of Institutional and Contextual Factors on Protection Order Decision-Making
Amount:	\$369,928
PI:	Alesha Durfee
Program Officer:	Amy Leffler
Status:	Ongoing

This project identifies and analyzes institutional and contextual factors that influence (1) the decision of victims to file for protection orders (POs) and (2) whether POs are then issued by the courts. As Arizona allows victims to file for POs at any court, this project also examines whether the waiver of residency requirements impacts patterns of PO filings. Preliminary research indicates that there are statistically significant differences across courts in the population-adjusted rates of PO filings and in the likelihood that a PO will be granted. This mixed-methods project will be conducted in three phases. In phase I, data will be collected from PO filings in six municipal courts ($n = 1,200$) and merged with data from Law Enforcement Management and Administrative Statistics, American Community Survey, and state administrative data. In addition, spatial data will be created to better understand the impact of geography on patterns of PO filings. In phase II, 80 interviews will be conducted with judges, court clerks, police officers, advocates, and victims to better understand the dynamics behind the quantitative results. Analytic techniques include logistic and multinomial logistic regression, spatial analysis, narrative analysis, and content analysis. In phase III, the findings will be integrated and court performance measures will be created. This mixed-methods project is a collaborative partnership between Arizona State University (ASU), the Mesa Municipal Court (Arizona), and the National Center for State Courts (NCSC). The project will result in the creation of interim and final reports (with executive summary, PowerPoint presentation, fact sheet, and policy recommendations), court performance measures, a judicial training module, academic presentations, and peer-reviewed journal publications. It is anticipated that the development of court performance measures will lead to subsequent projects in which these measures can be piloted, tested, and refined, with the goals of improving access to POs, increasing procedural satisfaction, and providing greater victim safety.

For an index of all grants, go to <https://www.ncjrs.gov/pdffiles1/nij/223572/223572-grants-index.pdf>.