



**State of Connecticut Judicial Branch
Court Support Services Division**

Family Violence – GPS Initiative

November 29, 2012

***Update to the
Criminal Justice Policy Advisory Commission***

Family Violence Data

- **30,000 family violence arrests annually in Connecticut**
- **38% (11,197 in 2011) identified as high risk at arraignment – referred for prosecution/not eligible for pre-trial diversion**
- **Of the cases referred to CSSD for pre-trial supervision/diversion (14,791 in 2011):**
 - **83% Successfully Completed**
 - **12% Re-Arrest Rate**

High Risk Family Violence Offenders

- **High risk offender population (38% previously referenced):**
 - Greater likelihood of recidivism (37% vs. 12%)
 - More frequent violations of orders of protection (22% vs. 6%)
 - Significant non-compliance with court orders (40% vs. 20%)
 - Greater risk of lethality
- **Research demonstrates that for a subset of this high risk/repeat offender population (10%):**
 - Is impervious to treatment
 - Surveillance/monitoring is the most effective intervention that prevents future violence

Family Violence Lethality

- Connecticut averages 16 FV homicide cases per year
- Fatality Review Committee – 21 homicide victims 2011
- Validated risk and lethality tools now in use to detect typology/profile

Primary Indicators:

- Homicides six times more likely to occur with estrangement/recent separation
- 70% displayed prior physically abusive behavior
- 66% violated court orders/demonstrated escalating violence
- Lethality Assessment Pilot: New Haven/New London

Alert Notification/GPS Pilot

- **Targeted high risk family violence offenders that matched lethality profile and charged with violating orders of protection**
- **Introduced utilization of GPS technology combined with alert notification techniques (automated alerts via cell phone, live 24-7 Monitoring Center communication)**
- **Provided real time notification that an offender was in close proximity (stationary and/or mobile zones) so a pre-determined safety plan could be initiated**

Pilot Summary

- **Three pilot locations (*Bridgeport, Danielson, Hartford*)
October 2010 - July 2011**
- **172 defendants court-ordered to participate**
- **Case management/supervision was the crucial component**
- **Timely response reinforced orders of protection:**
 - **Immediate alerts to 24/7 Monitoring Center, Victim, Law Enforcement, and Judicial Branch-Court Support Services Division**
- **Outcomes:**
 - **Enhanced victim safety – no fatalities/ no assaults**
 - **Increased offender accountability – served as a deterrent/changed behavior**

Current Status/Future Needs

- **June 2012 legislation funded Alert Notification/GPS for the three original pilot sites only**
- **Oct 1, 2012 implementation date**
 - **To date, 51 defendants court ordered to participate**
 - ✓ **29 actively placed in program**
 - ✓ **22 ordered, but held on bond**
 - **Victim participation – five carrying mobile device, 24 with stationary zones**