JUVENILE DOMESTIC VIOLENCE IN SEATTLE: UNDERSTANDING THE PROBLEM AND HOW BEST TO ADDRESS IT

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JUVENILE DV ARRESTS INCREASED BETWEEN 2008-2012

By 2012, Juvenile DV was the most prevalent SPD arrest for youth violence (38%; n = 181)
87% of the King County Juvenile DV cases involved youth violence toward a family member, often the mother (2013).

45% of the Seattle Juvenile DV police incidents occurred between 4pm – 10pm (2011-2013).
INCIDENT CONCENTRATIONS

Juvenile DV incidents reported to SPD (2011-2013) concentrated in lower income census tracts

31% of incidents occurred in two Police sectors

- South Park/Delridge
- New Holly/Rainier Beach
Juvenile DV accounted for 32% of new offenses booked to detention in King County in 2013.

Research shows that formal processing in the juvenile justice system increases youth delinquency.

In Washington, youth identified as a primary aggressor in a DV issue must be arrested if they are 16 or older.
Limited Interventions for Families

- Intervention services only available after formal prosecution of arrested youth.
- Only one juvenile DV intervention program.
  - **Step-Up**: Building Respectful Family Relationships (King County)
  - Funded to serve 45 families per year County-wide.
  - No Seattle locations.
“Minimal prevention efforts for youth family violence in Seattle” - U.S. Office of Justice Programs Diagnostic Center.

Seattle Youth Violence Prevention Initiative does not address juvenile domestic violence.
WHAT ARE WE DOING?

- **Family Intervention and Restorative Services (FIRS) Pilot Program (King County).**
  - Alternative to detention and prosecution while securing family safety

- **Improved coordination.**
  - Seattle Juvenile Domestic Violence Core Team

- **Research on culturally responsive approach for families in Seattle’s immigrant and minority communities.**
  - Ethnographic research request (U.S. Office of Justice Programs Diagnostic Center technical assistance)
WHAT IS NEEDED?

- Prevention services for families in communities with greatest need.

- Culturally responsive approach to prevention and intervention.

- Continued coordination among City, County and community partners.