

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE - COORDINATED COMMUNITY RESPONSE

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The presentation now focuses on coordinated community response, or CCR, as a comprehensive response to domestic violence. A number of jurisdictions have created what has been called coordinated community responses. This type of response is composed of multiple criminal justice and social service agencies working together to respond to domestic violence.

Coordinated community responses have been increasingly emphasized as a necessary approach to address domestic violence. Although coordinated community response models vary, coordination typically involves various entities working to implement policies that lead to uniform responses to domestic violence cases. These agencies and entities often include the police, the prosecutors, the probation officers, victim advocates, counselors, and the judges.

Interestingly, the core of the Duluth model focuses on institutional change to effectively coordinate community responses to domestic violence. As such, the philosophy is that communities, rather than individuals, must be responsible for holding abusers accountable for their violence, and for ensuring the safety of victims. Over all, there are six core components of coordinated community responses.

One involves pro-arrest, or mandatory arrest policies. Two, aggressive and prompt prosecution. Three, follow up support and advocacy for victims. Four, active monitoring of offender compliance with probation conditions.

Five, court mandated participation and better intervention programs. And six, strengthening civil remedies. In the end, most studies of domestic violence interventions have focused on individual components according to community responses, rather than all combinations of interventions.

Nevertheless, the initial studies of coordinated community response projects focused on interagency coordination have demonstrated increases in domestic violence arrest rates, successful prosecutions, and increased referrals to better intervention programs. Furthermore, in several Minnesota jurisdictions, both arrests and successful prosecutions increased with the creation of coordinated community responses involving law enforcement.

Although other studies have found similar promising results, research indicates that effective coordinated community responses are elaborate endeavors, and are hard to develop and implement, so future research is necessary. This concludes the presentation.