

Solano Partnership Against Violence

Domestic Violence Services Gap Survey

Results & Analysis

2009/2010

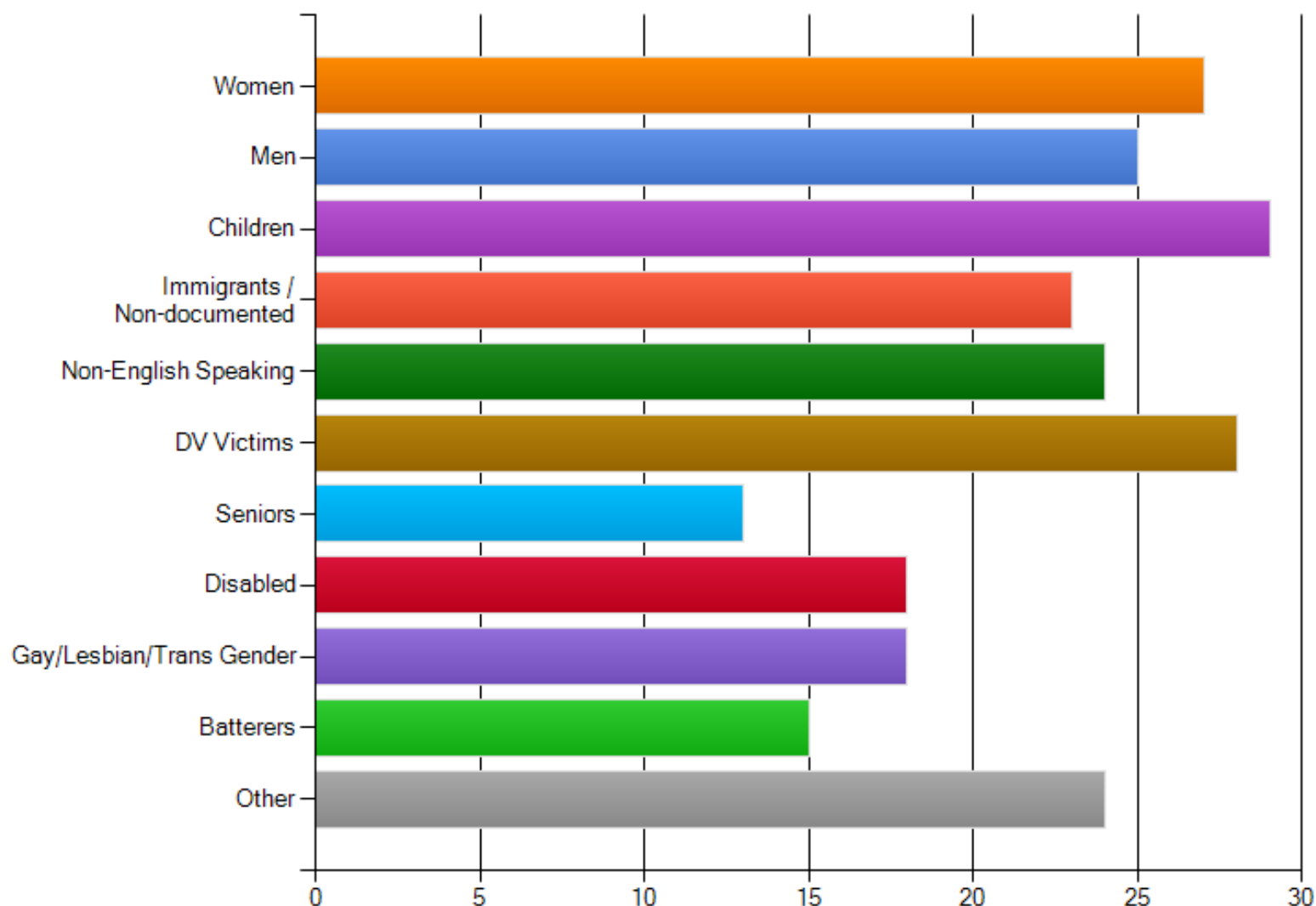
Table of Contents

■ Overview	Page 3
■ Data Captured & Reported	Pages 4—13
■ Identified Service Gaps	Page 14
■ Budget Implications	Pages 15—16
■ Summary	Page 17
■ Findings	Pages 18—21
■ Recommendations	Pages 22—25
■ Conclusion	Pages 26—27
■ Acknowledgements	Page 28

32 Agencies Responded

- Domestic Violence shelter agencies
- Law enforcement agencies
- DA, Probation, Child Welfare & Office of Family Violence Prevention (OFVP)
- Community and faith based victim services agencies

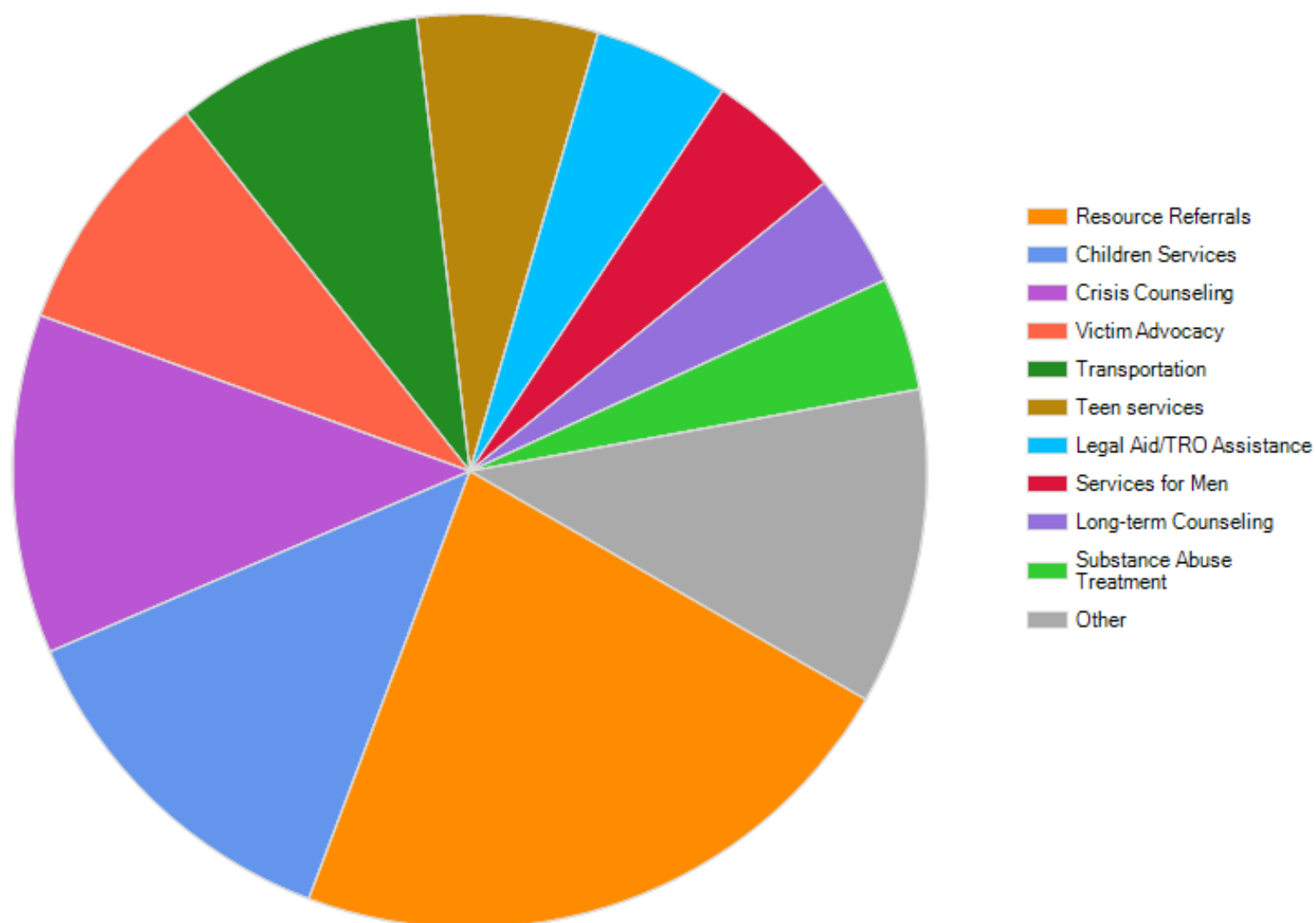
Which of the following populations does your agency serve? (Please check all appropriate boxes)



Common services that agencies provide for domestic violence victims

- 88% provide resource referrals
- 50% provide service for children
- 47% provide crisis counseling
- 34% provide victim advocacy

What type of services do you or your agency provide to assist domestic violence victims? (Please check all appropriate boxes)



**The average number of referrals made
in order for a victim to receive
all the assistance they need . . .**

- 35% reported 0-5 Referrals
- 62% reported 6-10 Referrals
- 4% reported 20-25 Referrals

When a child discloses DV in the home, they are referred to:

- 86% - Child Protective Services (CPS)
- 70% - Family Resource Centers (FRC)
- 59% - Law Enforcement
- 48% - Counseling Services
- 41% - Child Haven

Respondents rated Solano County's response to children who witness domestic violence as:

- Poor – 43%
- Adequate – 50%
- Good – 7%
- Excellent – 0%

In addressing the needs of domestic violence victims, respondents felt the following populations are underserved:

- Immigrants/non-documented – 50%
- Children – 53%
- Non English Speaking Victims – 60%
- Teens – 60%

Respondents rated collaboration within Solano County* as:

- 29% - Poor
- 41% - Adequate
- 29% - Good
- 0% - Excellent

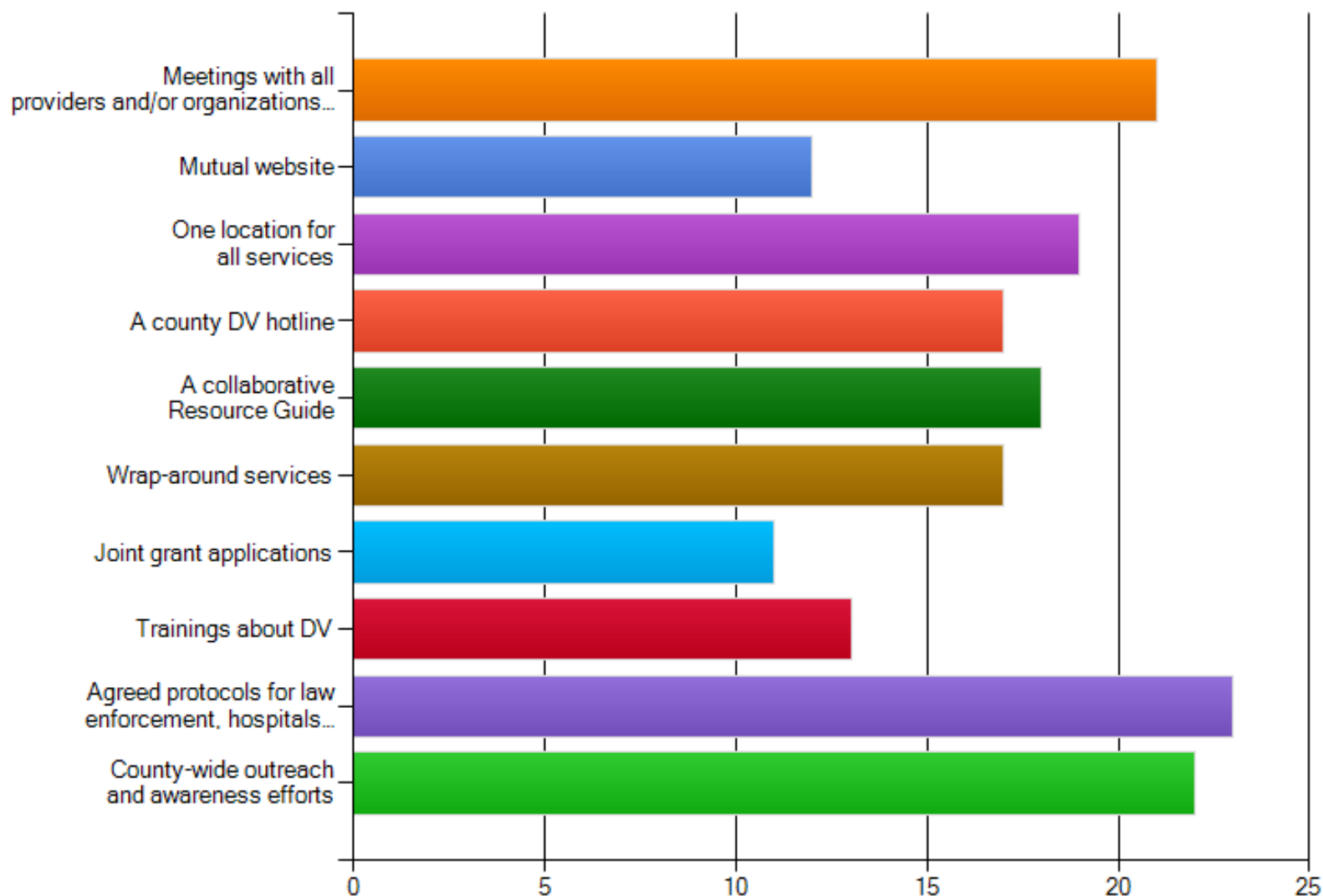
When compared to other counties 33% agreed that Solano County's collaboration is comparable to others.

**Survey was taken prior to Family Justice Center Strategic Planning*

Suggestions to improve collaboration in Solano County

- 72% - Agreed Protocols are needed for
 - Law Enforcement, Hospitals, CWS and Service Providers
- 69% - County wide outreach and public awareness efforts
- 66% - Meetings with all providers and organizations serving DV victims
- 60% - One location for services
- 57% - Collaborative Resource Guide

Which items listed below do you feel would improve collaboration in Solano County to help domestic violence victims? (Please check all appropriate boxes)



Service Gaps

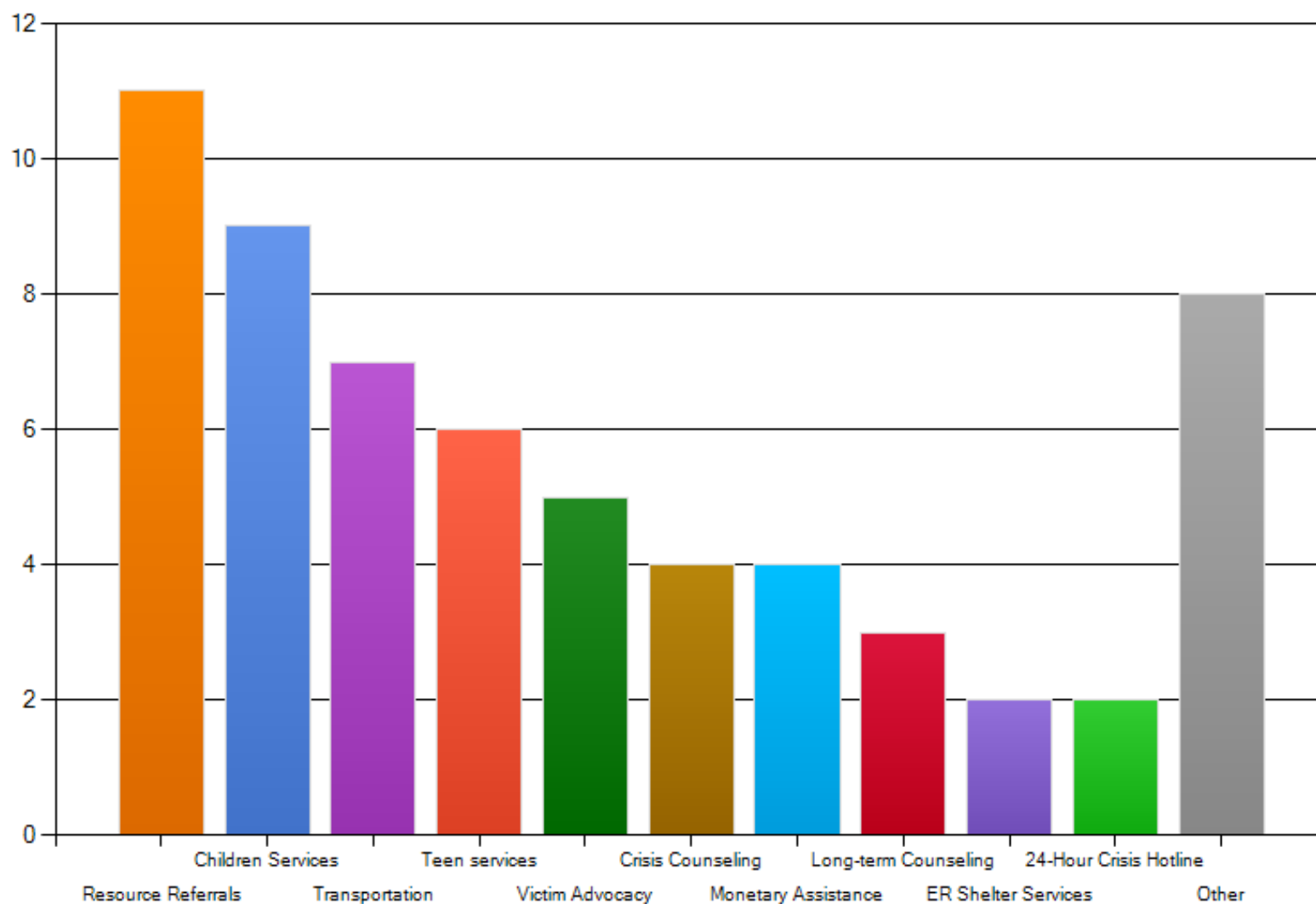
- Currently have only 18 DV crisis shelter beds and 9 transitional shelter beds
- Only 1 program works specifically with children exposed to domestic violence
- Less than 10% of respondents provide:
 - ✓ Medical Care & Treatment
 - ✓ Financial Assistance
 - ✓ Crisis Hotlines

When asked, “Which services will be most affected by Budget Cuts . . .”

Survey Respondents Listed:

- ❑ Resource Referrals
- ❑ Children’s Services
- ❑ Victim Advocacy
- ❑ Transportation

Please check any services that you or your agency provides which have been, or are at risk of being, cut due to budget constraints. (Please check all appropriate boxes)



Summary

- Agencies work well together but collaboration could be improved
- There is a need for additional crisis services
- Financial assistance for victims and their children was identified as a major gap
- The primary service provided (70% response) is resource referrals to other agencies
- Agencies feel resource referrals would be most at risk as a result of budget cuts

Finding #1

- Existing services for non-English speaking, adolescent and child victims and witnesses of domestic violence must be strengthened through the support and development of
 - ❑ immigration advocacy,
 - ❑ addressing cultural and acculturation components of domestic violence,
 - ❑ translation and interpreter services, and
 - ❑ additional programs for children exposed to domestic violence.

Finding #2

- Teen dating violence must be addressed by focusing educational prevention efforts beginning at the middle school level.
- Barriers to providing teen education on a variety of family life issues must be researched and resolved.
- Evidenced based practices should be utilized.

Finding #3

- Outreach to local colleges and universities that encourages the development and implementation of programs to recruit and retain additional bilingual mental health clinicians must be supported.

Finding #4

- All agencies serving victims of family violence, particularly underserved populations, must continue to find opportunities to collaborate and share resources ~ individually we are strong; together we are invincible!

Recommendation

#1

- Continue to support the development and implementation of the Solano Family Justice Center that strives to reduce the number of locations a victim/survivor must visit in order to have their needs met and to support victim safety and offender accountability.

Recommendation

#2

- Strengthen service providers' ability to identify the “silent injuries” of children witnessing domestic violence by directing SPAV to facilitate training and provide technical assistance using *Safe From the Start* and other model initiatives.

Recommendation

#3

- Direct SPAV to collaborate with the Child Abuse Prevention Council and other stakeholders to update the County's Child Abuse Investigation Protocol (CAIP) to ensure an appropriate coordinated/collaborative response for children witnessing domestic violence is included.
- Direct SPAV to determine which agencies provide services to children exposed to domestic violence and disseminate this updated protocol to those service providers.

Recommendation

#4

- After the opening of the Solano Family Justice Center (SFJC), and implementation of the updated Child Abuse Investigation Protocol, direct SPAV to conduct a further survey to determine if there is any change in participant responses to the current survey.

Conclusion

The Solano Partnership Against Violence (SPAV), as an advisory board to the Board of Supervisors, has sought to determine how victims of family violence in Solano County receive services, which services are most available and to identify significant gaps in services.

Conclusion, cont.

It is through our advisory capacity that the survey was conducted and the results presented. This is only the first step in assisting the Board of Supervisors in understanding the full scope of family violence issues in Solano County.

We respectfully present our survey findings and seek direction for further efforts to end family violence in Solano County.

~ Thank you!

Acknowledgements

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- *SPAV also acknowledges OFVP staff, for their work in assisting the committee with developing the survey, compiling the data, and formatting the presentation.*