

City of Seattle  
Office of City Auditor



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

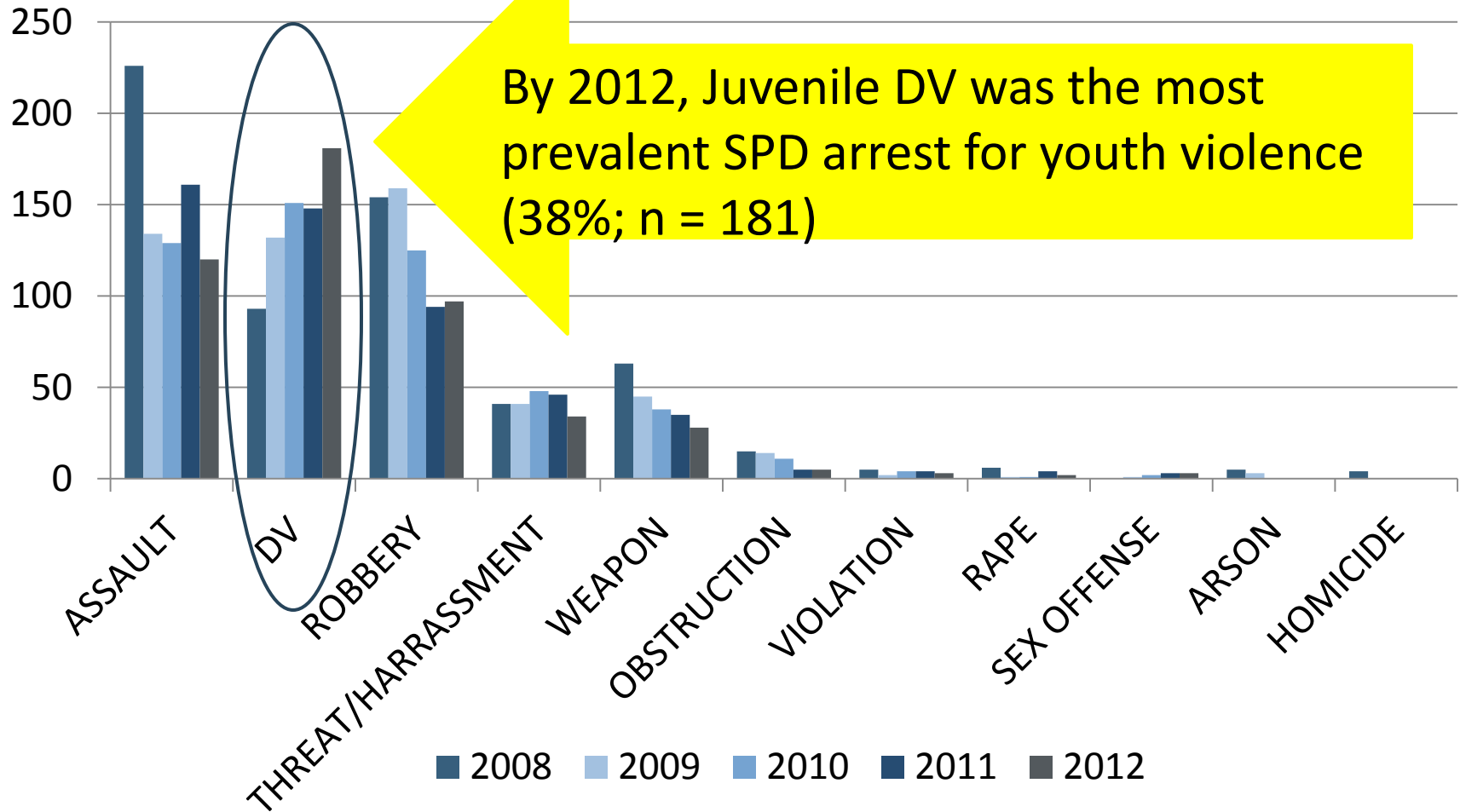
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Seattle City Council – Public Safety, Civil Rights, and Technology

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# JUVENILE DV ARRESTS INCREASED BETWEEN 2008-2012



# JUVENILE DV CHARACTERISTICS



- **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).**

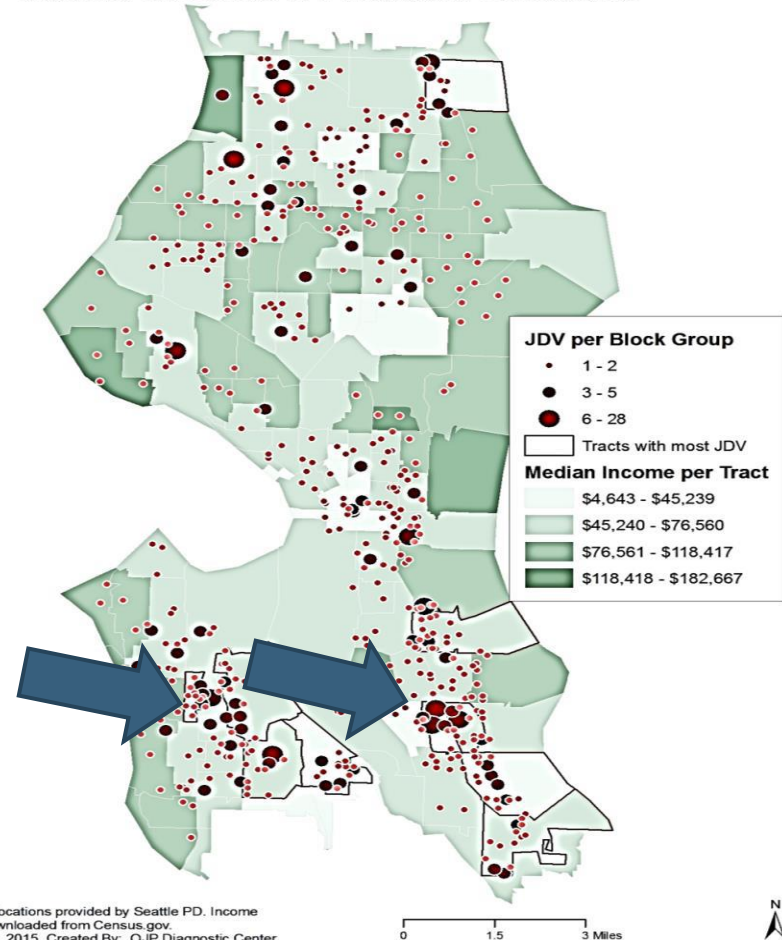
# INCIDENT CONCENTRATIONS

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

Seattle Juvenile DV Incident Locations



# CURRENT RESPONSE: DETENTION

- 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.**



# PREVENTION SERVICES

- **“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.**

# THANK YOU, PARTNERS!

