

**WOMEN**  
**HELPING**  
**WOMEN**

DVERT™  
Domestic Violence  
Enhanced Response  
Team  
Women Helping Women

Kristin Smith-Shrimplin - President of Women Helping Women

Amy Bleser, LPC - Director of Hamilton County Direct Services


Wayne Williams - DVERT Program Director

## What is a DVERT™ program?

- A trauma informed response team that partners with local law enforcement for a collaborative response to domestic violence survivors.
- DVERT advocates work with survivors to create survivor specific safety plans.
- DVERT advocates provide on scene advocacy and education on the legal process.
- DVERT advocates create follow up plans with survivors and provide survivors with 24/7 access to support through WHW's 24-hour confidential hotline.
- Operates 24 hours a day, 365 days a year on a tiered system response



## How does DVERT™ get on scene?

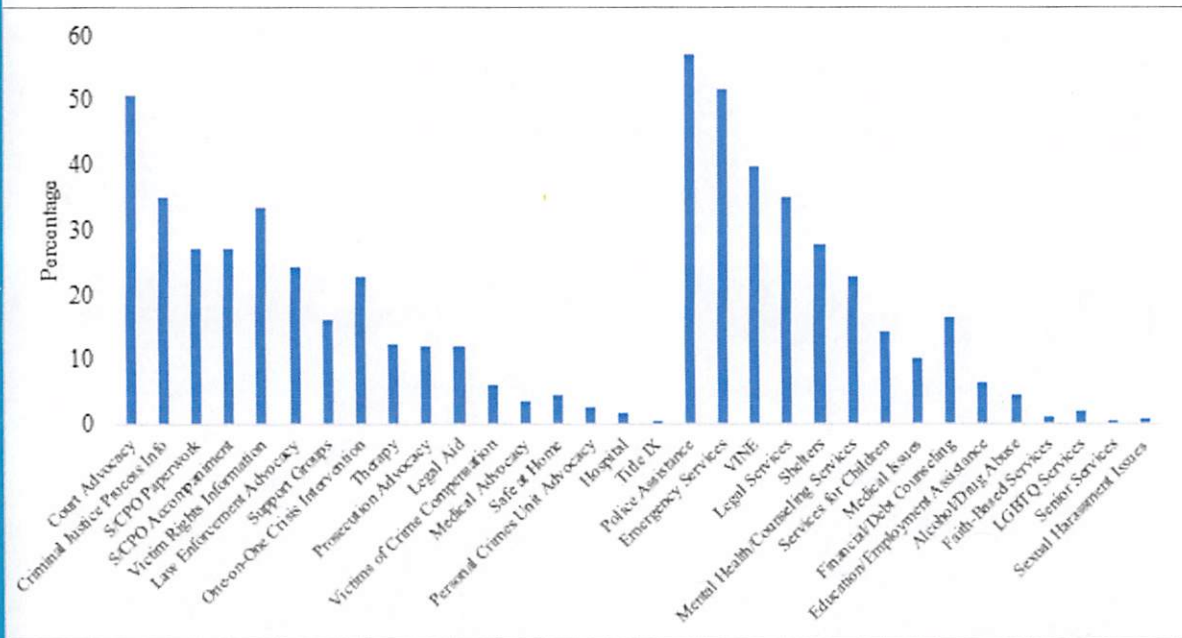
- Officers respond to a 911 call
  - After an officer is on scene and has established it to be safe, they request a DVERT advocate
  - DVERT advocates communicate with officers directly via radios
  - DVERT has a response time of 25 minutes or less
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## What happens after DVERT™?

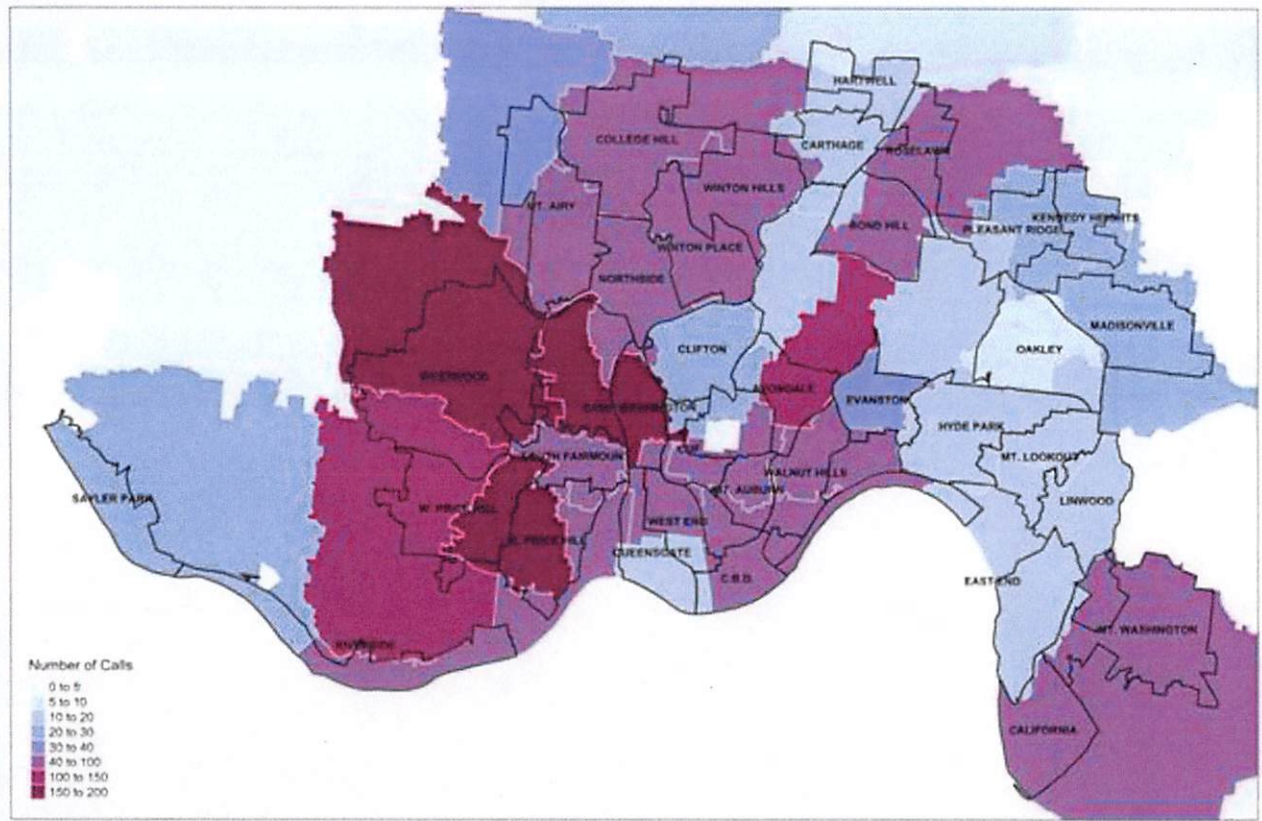
- Follow up during the next business day
- Notification of the legal system process
- On-going safety planning
- Access to resources – relocation, attending court, civil protection orders etc.
- Support, empathy, empowerment
- Agency receives police reports and is reviewed by DVERT and law enforcement advocates

# Outcome and Impact of DVERT on Agency Services



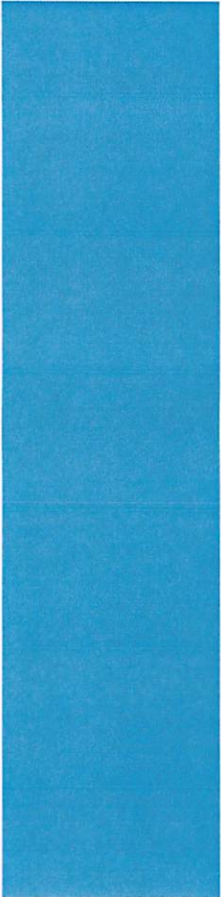


# Geographic Scope and Impact of DVERT™




# DVERT™ Demographics and findings

- DVERT has responded to 3,000+ survivors since February 15, 2018
  - **Over 70%** never interacted with WHW
  - **62% of survivors** reported an **income below \$10,000 annually**
- Survivor Demographics
  - **88% identified as female**
  - 11% identified as Male
  - 37% were between the ages of 20 and 33
  - **67% identified as African American**
  - 2% identified as Hispanic or Latino
  - 6% identified as Multiracial



# DVERT™ Demographics and findings

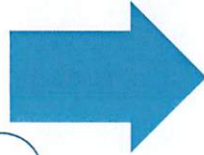
- Types of Harm reported by survivors and indicators of lethality
    - **50% reported strangulation** at the time of victimization
    - **36% reported a threat or use of weapon** (gun or knife)
    - **80% reported that the perpetrator threatened to kill** the survivor and themselves
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## Expansion Goals

- Currently, there are at least **10,000 survivors annually not receiving DVERT services** following a 911 call for Domestic Violence (per Hamilton County Sheriff's Department)
- **We Must engage more survivors** in immediate safety planning and ongoing wrap around services
- **Increase response coverage to additional jurisdictions**
  - Currently focused on adding an additional **10-15 jurisdictions** throughout Hamilton County
  - **6 jurisdictions have already agreed on partnering at this time**
- Remain a no cost addition to jurisdictions that are willing to partner

DVERT will expand from 1 zone coverage to a 3 zone coverage



Each DVERT Zone contains 37 shifts

- Allows response time to remain the same for all partners
- Maintains consistent scheduling and practices across all responses
- Provides the ability to focus on high-risk areas
- Allows flexibility for additional capacity of new partners

- Tiered system during each shift allows response to multiple requests in the same time frame with no delay
- Up to 3 advocates available to respond during each shift, in each zone

## Expansion Process

# Questions?

- Questions?
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