Domestic Violence Homicide Reduction

State and territorial STOP Implementation Plans must include goals and objectives for reducing domestic violence-related homicides within the state or territory, including available statistics on the rates of domestic violence homicides within the state or territory and challenges specific to the state or territory and how the plan can overcome them.

Domestic Violence Homicide Reduction

What we'll discuss today:

1. Grounding our understanding of DVHR risk in the science: evidence-based risk factors, newer work looking at more diverse communities

2. Risk assessment: State of the art tools and approaches

3. Examples of strategies STOP funding can support efforts to reduce DV homicides (including those included in current implementation plans)

Risk factors for DV Homicide: The Science

- Landmark study (2003): Jacqueline Campbell and colleagues:
- Caveats:
  - Urban areas
  - Mostly white, Black, and Latina victims
  - Different society, different technology

From the researchers themselves:

"Research is needed to update risk factors for IPH and to expand data collection across diverse communities by including victims and survivors of all gender and sexual identities, racial/ethnic identities, and geographies. It is also vital that future research seeks to better understand *how* diverse communities experience known risk factors. Communities of color, for example, may share the same risk factors as those in white communities, but the nuances of how they experience and understand these risk factors may be different."

Risk factors for DV Homicide: The Science

- Identified risk factors:
  - Threats of suicide or murder
  - Threats with or past use of a weapon
  - Access to weapons*
  - Separation and loss of control in the relationship
  - Strangulation
  - Use of drugs and alcohol
  - Escalation of violence
  - Victim belief that offender is capable of lethality

* “Likely the strongest risk factor” across many studies

Risk factors for DV Homicide: The Science

- Identified risk factors:
  - Avoiding arrest
  - Presence of non-biological children of the perpetrator
  - Forced sex
  - Coercive control
  - Extreme jealousy
  - Violence while pregnant
  - Perpetrator suicide threats or attempts

Risk assessment tools

DVRISC.org

Examples of strategies STOP funding can support efforts to reduce DV homicides

Addressing DV Homicide Risk in Implementation Plans

- Strangulation and stalking training
- LAP
- Fatality review
- Improving data collection to better understand DV homicide circumstances
- Bringing Native American voices to the table
- CCRs and DVHRT
- Firearms:
  - Relinquishment protocols (and assess their effectiveness)
  - Relinquishment special prosecutor
  - Storage
  - Training
- Special consideration for projects addressing DVHR
- Housing, economic security, and advocacy support to help reduce DVH

Strangulation

https://www.strangulationtraininginstitute.com

Training: all disciplines

Protocols (example: Indiana model protocol)

Law enforcement investigation tools

Prosecution resources (e.g., trial visual aids)

Safety-planning resources

Lethality Assessment Program (LAP)

https://www.mnadv.org/lethality-assessment-program/lap-program-overview-2/

New implementers apply to MNADV

Ongoing implementers: LAP 2.0 (Subscription model)

Fatality Review

https://ndvfri.org

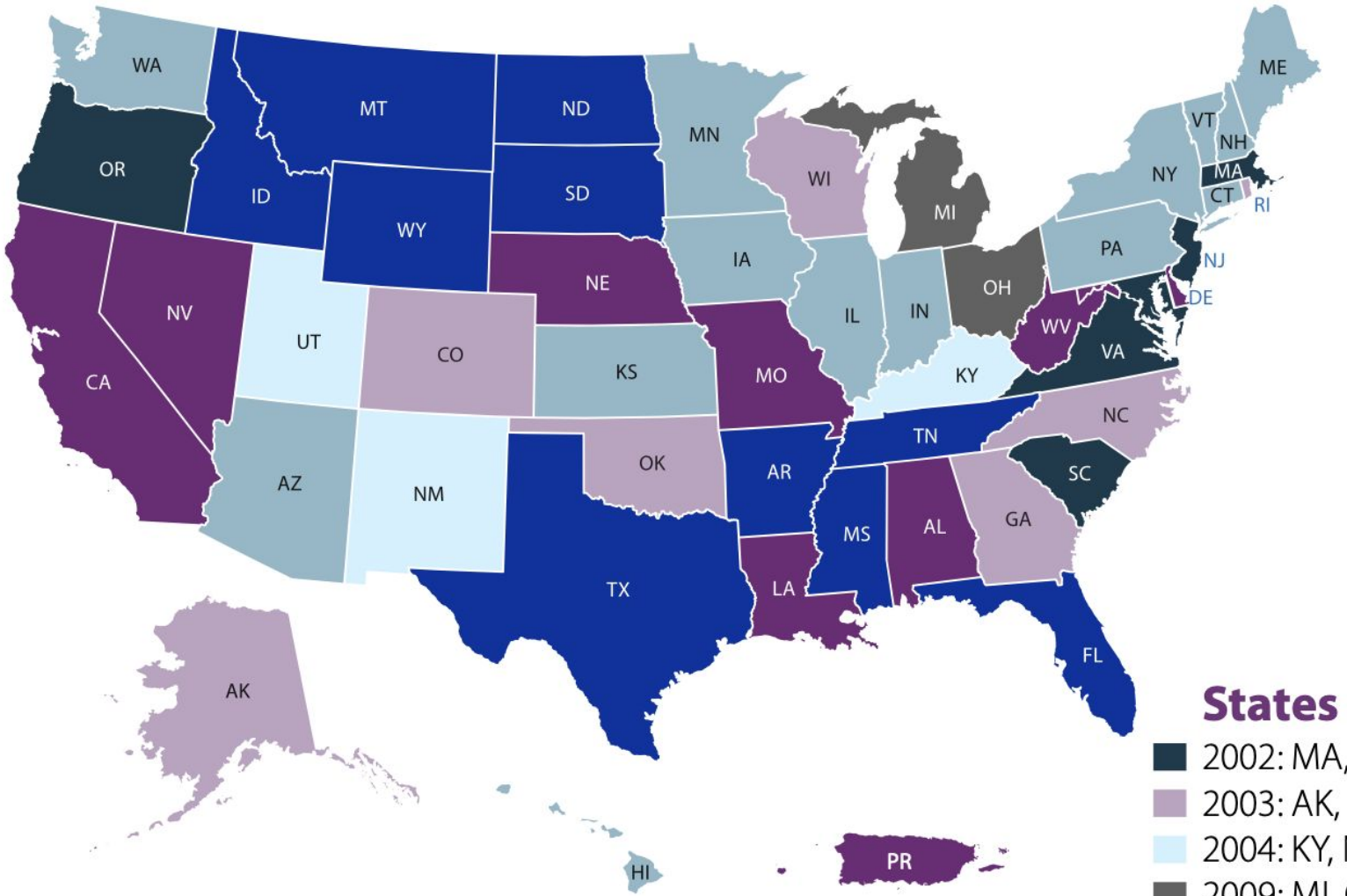
Training and tools/resources on confidentiality, data collection tools/processes, etc.

Ujima, The National Center on Violence Against Women in the Black Community: Domestic Violence Fatality Review Teams: Ensuring Culturally Specific Responses (ECSR)—upcoming TA Clinic

Improving data collection to better understand DV homicide circumstances

National and state data:

- FBI Uniform crime reporting database, Supplementary Homicide Report (SHR)
- Summarized annually in: Violence Policy Center, When Men Murder Women (2020 data is most recent)
- Many shortcomings: incomplete reporting, non-participation, etc.
- Newer program: CDC's National Violent Death Reporting System (NVDRS)



The Reach of NVDRS

NVDRS began collecting data on violent deaths from six states in 2002, followed by progressive additions to the system over several years. **In 2018, NVDRS was expanded to include data collection from all 50 states, Puerto Rico, and the District of Columbia.** This expansion brings NVDRS closer to the goal of providing a complete picture of violent deaths across the nation

States added by year:

- 2002: MA, MD, NJ, OR, SC, VA
- 2003: AK, CO, GA, NC, OK, RI, WI
- 2004: KY, NM, UT
- 2009: MI, OH
- 2014: AZ, CT, HI, IA, IL, IN, KS, ME, MN, NH, NY, PA, VT, WA
- 2016: AL, CA, DE, DC, LA, MO, NE, NV, Puerto Rico, WV
- 2018: AR, FL, ID, MS, MT, ND, SD, TN, TX, WY

Improving data collection to better understand DV homicide circumstances

Some state VDRS reports on DV homicide have been produced:

- **Arizona** - Suicides Involving Intimate Partner Violence
- **Colorado** - Mortality from Intimate Partner Violence in Colorado, 2007-2017
- **Illinois** - Intimate Partner Homicides in Illinois: 2005 through 2010, December 2016
- **Kentucky** - Intimate Partner-Related Homicides
- **North Carolina** - Intimate Partner Violence in North Carolina, 2016-2020
- **Ohio** - Intimate Partner Violence and Homicide in Ohio, 2016

https://www.safestates.org/page/NVDRS_DataReports#Intimate%20Partner%20Violence

Improving data collection to better understand DV homicide circumstances

Many state domestic violence coalitions and fatality review teams collect and publish data re: DV homicides as well

- These are the sources for more specific information regarding the circumstances of the events
- Both a STOP funding opportunity and a source of important information for planning and grantmaking

Bringing Native American voices to the table

- "[V]iolence against AI/AN women is an issue of **urgent concern**."
- AI/AN women experience **higher rates** of rape and sexual assault, physical assault, and stalking than women of other racial/ethnic groups
- Intimate partner violence (IPV) a contributing factor in **nearly half of the homicides** of AI/AN females.
- **Rape or sexual assault occurred in nearly one third of IPV-related homicides** precipitated by another serious crime
- Approximately **40% of female victims were killed by a current or former intimate partner**
- **Leaving an intimate partner relationship remains dangerous** for some victims. Ten percent of AI/AN female victims and 4.2% of male victims were killed by a former intimate partner

Petrosky, et al., *Homicides of American Indians/Alaska Natives — National Violent Death Reporting System, United States, 2003–2018*

Coordinated Community Response and DV High Risk Teams

CCR Approach:

The CCR model provides concrete processes for analyzing where and how community responses to domestic violence meet survivors' actual day-to-day needs, and conversely, where and how those responses are disconnected from survivors' experiences. CCRs encourage communities to look closely at how specific actions/responses impact survivors and engage people of mixed expertise and perspectives in the process of problem-solving.

SOURCE: Battered Women's Justice Project: https://bwjp.org/site-resources/coordinated-community-response-report/

Coordinated Community Response and DV High Risk Teams

Four Core Components of the DVHRT Model

The Geiger Institute's DVHRT Model consists of four core components:

1. early identification of the most dangerous cases through evidence-based risk assessment
2. increased access to supportive services for high-risk victims
3. increased offender monitoring and accountability
4. a coordinated response to high-risk cases through a multidisciplinary team.

https://geigerinstitute.org/dvhrt-model/

Coordinated Community Response and DV High Risk Teams

STOP Regional meetings session

TA on DVHRTs: https://geigerinstitute.org/dvhrt-model/

Funding opportunities:

- Coordinators
- Dedicated advocates (and other stakeholders)
- Support participation by organizations serving culturally-specific and other underserved communities
- Training

Firearms

- Relinquishment protocols (and assess their effectiveness)
- Relinquishment special prosecutor
- Storage
- Training

Components of a Surrender Program

- **Information for victims and public:**
  - Brochures, videos
  - Advocate tools
- **Information for the court and other stakeholders:**
  - Interview worksheets
  - Petitions and affidavits

Information Gathering

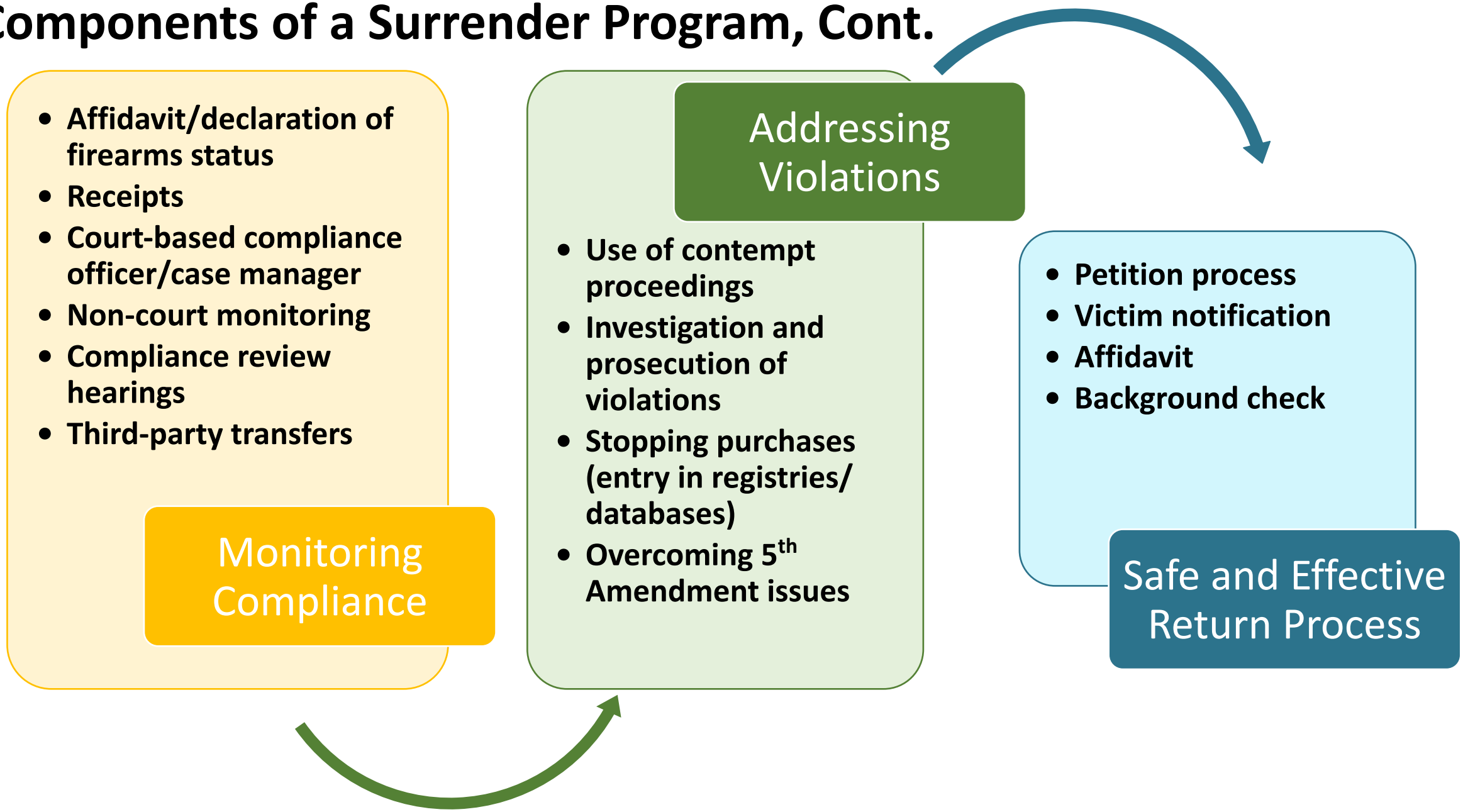
Clear and Enforceable Orders to Surrender

- **Specificity re: firearms and location**
- **Instructions re: surrender**
- **Videos for respondents/ defendants**

- **Protocol for service re: firearms**
- **Pre-service interviews**
- **Development of service packets**
- **“WARM approach”**
- **Effective handling of third-party issues**
- **Victim notification**

Service of Process

Components of a Surrender Program, Cont.



Additional strategies

- Special consideration for projects addressing DVHR
- Housing, economic security, and advocacy support to help reduce domestic violence homicide