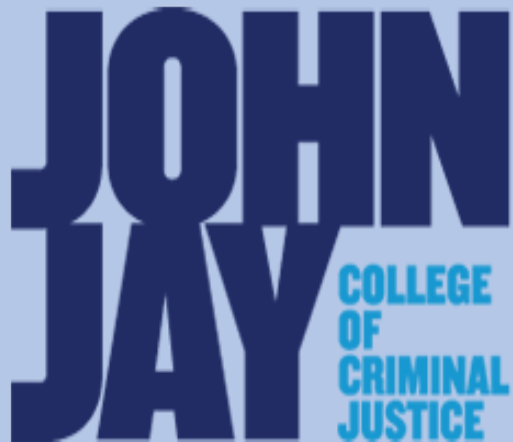


**Collaborative Research:
Understanding the Impact of the COVID-19 Pandemic on
Victimization Risk and Service Needs for
Domestic Violence Victims and Survivors**

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NSF Build and Broaden Workshop

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Overview

- Introduction: A collaborative research project between John Jay College of Criminal Justice and George Mason University
- Purpose of the research & theoretical framework
- Methodology highlights
- Where are we now with our project? What is next?

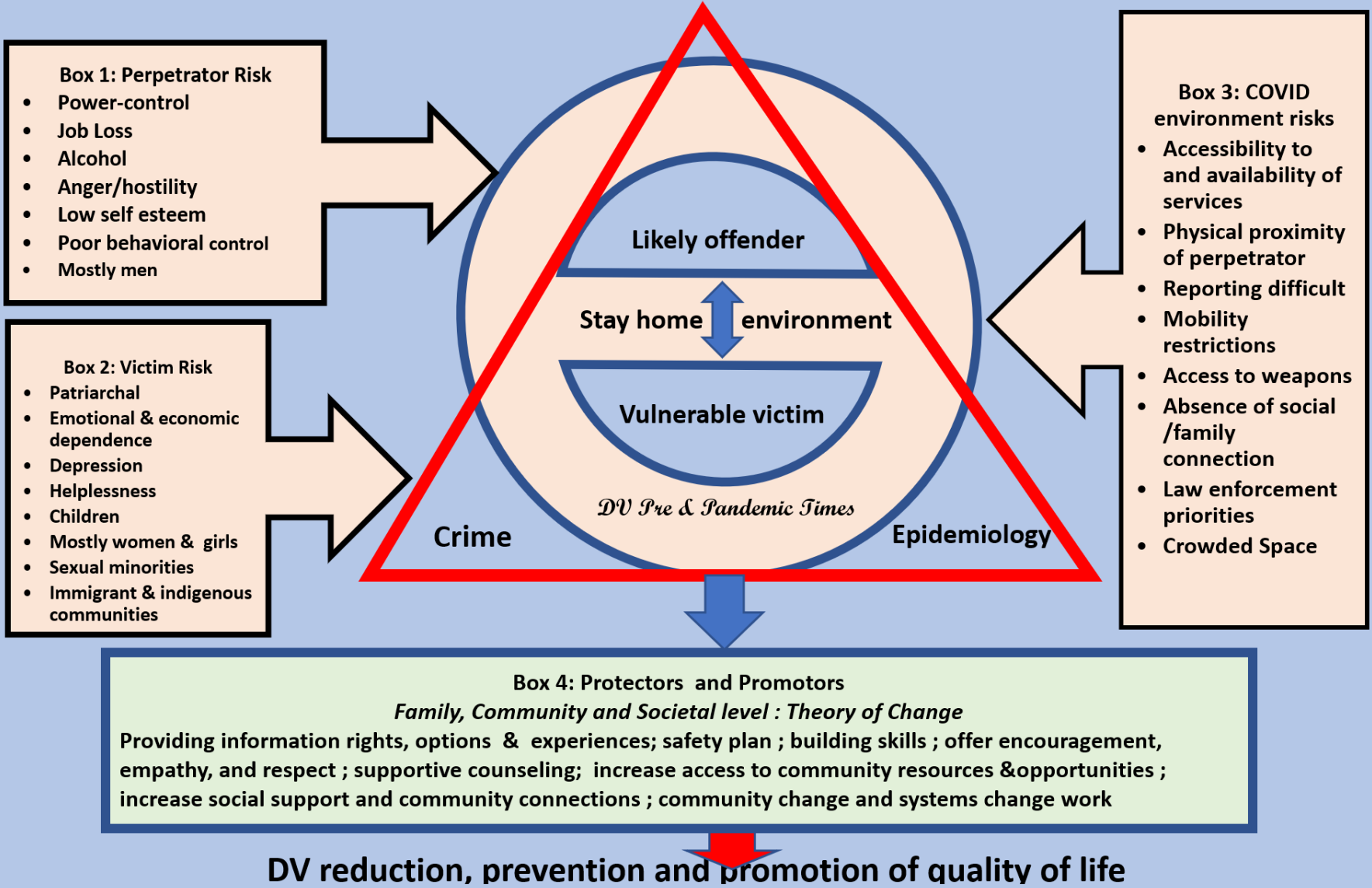
Introduction: MSI-Non MSI Collaboration

- **Team:**
 - John Jay/GMU collaboration as Minority Serving Institution (MSI) and Non-MSI
 - Inclusive team effort
 - Collaboration strengths:
 - Utilizing resources and connections of organizations/PIs to identify topical experts and stakeholders
 - Prior collaboration experience of PIs
 - Institutional collaboration-IRB
- **Activities:**
 - Team building
 - Data collection instruments and data collection
 - Early engagement of topical experts via a workshop to inform study protocols
 - Training and mentoring of junior research team members
 - Past and upcoming engagements with practitioners and academics via conferences
- **Current Outputs:**
 - Ph.D. students published a paper about their mentoring experience.
 - Graduate students as mentees are working on a report about their experience with the project and being mentored.
 - Panel Presentation at the American Society of Criminology Conference (Nov 16, 2022)

Purpose of Research

- The goals of the research project
- Research questions

Interdisciplinary Framework for Understanding the Convergence of Risks of Domestic Violence - Victim, Perpetrator & COVID -19 Pandemic Environment: Towards a Theory of Change



COVID Pandemic DV Model



Methodology: Highlights

- Nationwide data collection
- Sampling frame for data collection:
 - NCADV, OVC, and FJC – National inventory of services including all states and territories (n= approximately 4,000).
 - Limitations of sample
- Data collection:
 - Secondary data collection from the websites of organizations in the sampling frame
 - Ongoing interviews/focus group discussions
 - Forthcoming survey: Piloting stage and IRB approval process

Interviews/Focus Group Discussions

- We have so far contacted 512 organizations in 28 states –we identified them through state coalitions, OVC, and Family Justice Center directories (with a 10% response).
- We have interviewed 51 organizations (including 8 focus group sessions) from 20 states.
- Most organizations serve local jurisdictions – countywide (35%) or citywide (13%), and multiple counties or cities (31%) with a small number of organizations that served clients at the statewide (4%), tribal (2%), or national (2%) level.
- The geographic representation of interviewed organizations greatly varied from urban, suburban, and rural regions, with most organizations serving a mix of regions at different levels.
- The study organizations serve special populations such as children or teens, immigrants, Latinx, Asian, and Middle Eastern, indigenous/tribal communities, and LGBTQ+ individuals – through specialized programs, language services, and culturally-tailored support.

Lessons learned to date

- **Risk factors:**
 - Known risk factors have remained the same and escalated
 - COVID pandemic situational risk factors have created fear among victims/survivors
- **Basic immediate and long-term needs:**
 - *Safety and security*: the priority reflecting the need for shelters, transitional homes, and future housing needs
 - *Time burden*: Childcare
 - *Economic needs*: Financial support and gainful employment
- **Public health response needs**: Individual level, interpersonal level, and community/societal level actions
- **Treatments/social services**: Reflecting on the various needs- in and outpatient assessments, counseling services, individual and family therapies, behavioral health programs, etc.
- **CJ operational needs**: Multi-agency collaboration -- Family Justice Centers.
- **Service provider's challenges**: Staff turnover, intensified vicarious trauma, increased backlog in the court system, culturally sensitive services-language, ethnic-culture
- **Positives of the pandemic in terms of service delivery**: Tech use and hybrid models; increased sense of unity within organizations; collaboration between different organizations; nationwide attention to DV and diversified funding
- **Service gaps**: public health, social service, and CJ

What is next?

- *Continuation of interviews and focus group discussions
- *Administration of the survey nationwide with organizations primarily focusing on domestic violence victims/survivors and umbrella organizations that also serve domestic violence victims/survivors
- *Compilation of qualitative and quantitative data for analyses
- *Transformation of nationwide inventory into a searchable and publicly available dataset
- *Dissemination of research findings: journal articles, conference presentations, end-of-project public webinar

Acknowledgement

- Collaborative Research: The Impact of Covid-19 on Victimization Risk and Service Needs for Domestic Violence Victims and Survivors
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