

## INTRODUCTION

### LAW ENFORCEMENT

#### Crime

During 2000, Dallas County had a total of 146,920 Index crimes, a rate of 6,621.3 per 100,000 residents, reported to police agencies. Although this is a significant number of serious violent and property offenses, crime levels continue to be lower than a decade ago. For example, the city of Dallas alone had 156,267 index offenses reported in 1990. By 1998, the rate of index offenses dropped 40%, including substantial declines in both serious violence and property crimes. The population of the city increased nearly 8% during this same period. Similar reductions in crime rates are evident in many communities in Dallas County, including some such as Irving that experienced even greater overall population growth. It is unclear whether this trend will continue, however, given the recent decline in employment, financial difficulties of the State, and an urban infrastructure struggling to cope with the transportation, housing, education, and social service needs of a large and diverse population.

#### Policing

Crime rates may have declined, but many incidents remain serious and the demand for public safety continues to be high. The nature of the crime now includes fear of terrorist attack, identity theft, and cyber crimes that reflect the global aspects of our society. Police departments not only must continue to respond to traditional crime problems, but also must now address new ways in which to minimize risks to citizens and communities. Innovations in policing include more cooperation across jurisdictional boundaries and with agencies and information systems that have previously not been considered relevant to law enforcement. Police departments also have adopted policies and procedures that recognize, formally, the responsibilities police officers actually always have had for crime prevention and order maintenance that extend beyond crime fighting. To do this, many police departments have implemented problem solving or community oriented policing strategies (COPS). To do their job effectively, police officers must be well equipped and capable of solving a wide range of public safety problems. Increasingly officers are required to have college degrees and to pass rigorous tests of critical thinking, communication, and problem solving.

Police response to crime often is gauged in terms of arrests or the proportion of reported crimes that police departments consider "cleared." In Dallas County, there was clearance of only 13% of the 146,920 Index crimes reported in 2000. Clearance varied by offense category; 29% of murders were cleared, as were 44% of rapes, 27% of aggravated assaults, 14% of robberies, 13% of larcenies, 12% of auto thefts, and 6% of burglaries. Many factors affect variation in rates of reporting and clearance, including the ease with which information can be obtained by police, attitudes of victims and offenders, and level of public concern. Overall clearance rates also can vary by police departments, as is shown below for the seven largest police agencies in Dallas County. The percent of reported index crimes that are cleared is generally consistent by department across 1999-2001, except for Richardson in 1999. Clearance is highest in Irving and Mesquite, accounting for roughly one-quarter of reported index crimes.

<b>Index Crimes</b>	<b>1999</b>	<b>2000</b>	<b>2001</b>
<b>Dallas PD</b>			
# reported	104,944	105,050	111,006
rate*	9,615.7	9,383.0	9,132.1
% cleared	21	20	19
<b>Garland</b>			
# reported	8,851	8,673	9,568
rate	4,511.4	4,313.6	4,336.0
% cleared	28	23	23
<b>Carrollton</b>			
# reported	3,581	3,709	3,842
rate	3,513.9	3,451.1	3,428.4
% cleared	18	17	14
<b>Richardson</b>			
# reported	3,644	3,857	3,908
rate	4,176.1	4,236.5	4,162.5
% cleared	21	14	20
<b>Mesquite</b>			
# reported	6,152	6,059	6,542
rate	5,290.5	5,013.2	5,137.1
% cleared	27	27	26
<b>Grand Prairie</b>			
# reported	6,698	6,521	6,928
rate	5,826.3	5,455.3	5,316.2
% cleared	21	24	21
<b>Irving</b>			
# reported	9,211	9,025	9,993
rate	5,094.5	4,832.6	5,099.4
% cleared	31	31	26

\*rate per 100,000 residents

The police departments in the seven largest cities in Dallas County have a total of 5,382 full-time employees. The majority of full-time employees are sworn officers, although increasingly departments have many civilian employees. Despite diverse communities, these seven police departments have very few officers who are not white males. The range of starting annual salaries of entry-level officers is \$26,427 to \$33,030. The range of starting salaries at the level of sergeant is \$37,932 to \$47,328. No department requires officers to have a four-year college degree. Two departments require only completion of high school.

Six departments have dedicated community-oriented policing officers whose activities include civilian training and problem-solving policing strategies. Police departments in Dallas, Garland, and Grand Prairie have the most officers assigned to COPS. All departments assign some officers to schools. Although they exist in the form of inter-agency task forces, offices of

homeland security, and reciprocal agreements, there is no documentation of new ways that police departments in Dallas County have begun to cooperate across jurisdictional boundaries and with agencies that have previously not been considered relevant to law enforcement.

Information is key to improved policing in Dallas County. Information systems must contain data that identify many features of the community and residents and be widely accessible to police officers and others in positions to respond to emergency situations. In addition to development and access to better information systems, individual police officers must understand the relevance of information and how to apply it to public safety.

**DALLAS COUNTY POLICE DEPARTMENTS  
SEVEN LARGEST CITIES AND SHERIFF**

	Dallas PD	Sheriff	Carrollton	Garland	Grand Prairie	Irving	Mesquite	Richardson
Full time employees	3,581	1,528	190	401	268	431	258	253
Per 10,000 population	27		14	15	16	17	17	19
Civilian	723	1,179	56	121	89	127	64	96
Sworn	2,858	349	134	280	179	304	194	157
% female (of sworn)	16		9	5	6	6	7	8
% Black (of sworn)	21		2	3	7	4	2	2
% Hispanic (of sworn)	12		8	4	8	4	2	3
# C.O.P. officers	138	3	3	14	20	5	5	0
# school resource	34	2	4	25	9	15	14	10
Starting salary	\$27,754		\$33,030	\$31,866	\$26,427	\$29,136	\$30,744	\$31,896
Sgt. Salary	\$37,932		\$45,739	\$48,589	\$39,231	\$41,136	\$39,792	\$47,328
Minimum Educ. req.	2 yr. degree		Some college	Some college	2 yr. degree	H.S.	Some college	H.S.

The following is a compilation of issues as identified by the Law Enforcement Community Plan Focus Group.

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*NOTE: This list was compiled using  
focus group sign-in sheets from  
meetings held in 2002-2003.*

# **COUNTYWIDE CENTRAL REPOSITORY FOR ALL DNA EVIDENCE**

## **PROBLEM**

### **What is the problem for Dallas County?**

Recent legislative changes regarding the collection and handling of DNA and biological material containing DNA has broadened criminal justice agencies responsibilities. The criminal justice system has the responsibility of the collection of specimens to obtain DNA record of some offenders and the collection and preservation of evidence containing biological material and DNA. All law enforcement agencies are mandated to preserve all DNA and biological material containing DNA if the evidence will more likely than not establish the identity of the guilty person or exclude an accused person. Currently agencies are trying to establish guidelines and systems for compliance with these new statutes.

### **Why is this a problem for Dallas County?**

As DNA technology improves and expands our ability to identify offenders, criminal justice agencies will need additional support to meet statutory and scientific advances. Proper storage of some DNA and biological material containing DNA have special storage needs to ensure the evidence is preserved. There are thirty-five (35) law enforcement agencies located in Dallas County, which will be negatively impacted due to increase in DNA specimen collection and extended storage requirements. This type of evidence must be stored until the conclusion of the sentence, which in many cases can be many decades. Many agencies will not have the space or budgetary support necessary to meet these requirements. Without the availability of a central repository in the county, which will ensure proper and uniform collection procedures, efficient storage and retrieval for court presentation, many prosecutions will be slowed down, stalled or ultimately not presented for prosecution or convictions will be overturned.

### **What needs to be done to alleviate this problem?**

There is a need for a countywide central repository, where all law enforcement agencies in Dallas County can process and store collected DNA specimens and biological material containing DNA. In addition, it will be necessary to form a countywide committee to establish community interest, research structure type and location, budgetary issues, staffing issues and cost for cooperative participation by criminal justice agencies.

### **Impact for Dallas County**

By providing a central repository to all agencies located in Dallas County we will establish uniform guidelines for the collection and storage of all DNA and biological material containing DNA. All agencies will have access to proper storage and processing of said evidence. A central repository will allow for cooperative investigations into same offenders active in different jurisdictions, eliminating work duplication commonly experienced when agencies are working independent of one another. It will provide one retrieval location for all DNA evidence for prosecuting courts, which will provide for greater control of evidence, fewer opportunities for evidence to be lost or damaged, higher conviction rates and fewer cases lost upon appeal.

## **SUPPORTING STATISTICS**

The Texas Legislature passed new DNA statutes, which took effect April 5, 2001. These statutes apply to all criminal prosecutions where a defendant is convicted. This law mandates each law enforcement agency must preserve all evidence in its possession, which contains biological material that, if scientifically tested, would more likely than not establish the identity of the guilty person or exclude others as the guilty person. Biological material includes, but is not limited to the following: blood, semen, saliva, perspiration, bones, teeth, hair, urine, fecal material, and vomit. Physical evidence that may contain biological material includes, but is not limited to the following: rape kits, weapons, clothing, footwear, cigarette butts, postage stamps, envelope flaps, drinking cups, hats, ear plugs, eyeglasses, cellophane tape, telephone receivers, ligatures and near limitless other items where biological material can be transferred.

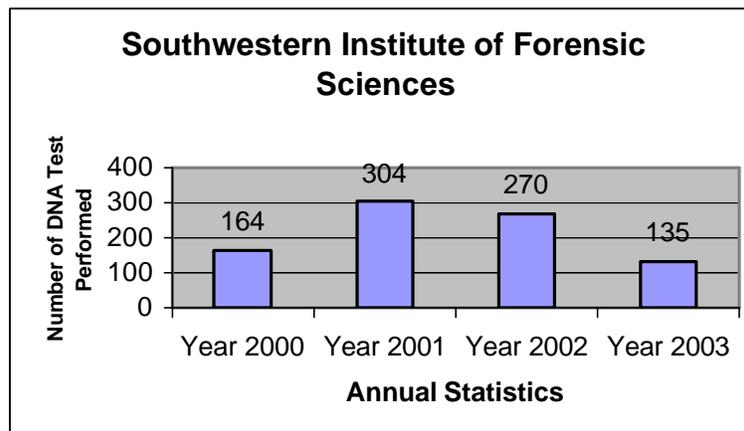
This new legislation places a heavy burden on all law enforcement agencies concerning the collection, preservation/storage, and testing of evidence containing biological material. Most evidence cannot be destroyed until the defendant dies, is executed, completes his sentence, or is released on parole or mandatory supervision. In addition, biological evidence collected when no suspect has been identified requires indefinite preservation. All law enforcement agencies will be impacted as climate controlled property/evidence storage space is filled with DNA evidence and biological material.

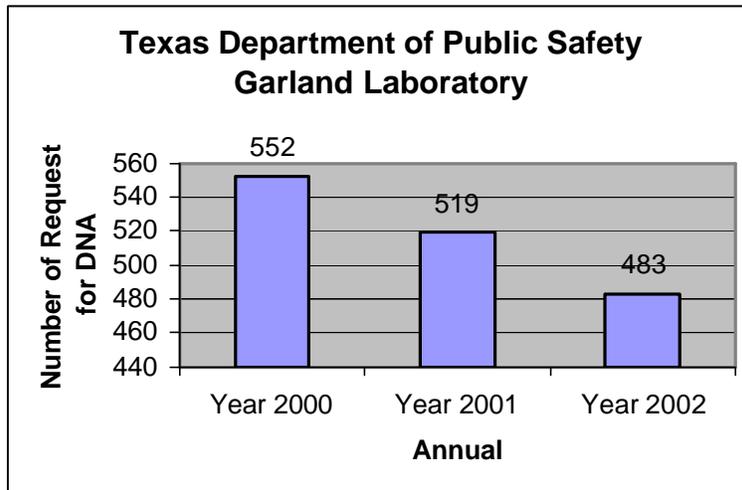
Collecting statistical data is limited, related to the number of items seized and inventoried as evidence or items, which possibly contain DNA or biological material before these statutes were enacted. The Southwestern Institute of Forensic Sciences, (SWIFS), reports an increase in DNA test conducted during the year 2001, in which the new statutes were in effect.

The Texas Department of Public Safety Crime Laboratory, Garland, Dallas County, Texas, reports the number of cases submitted, which contained biological material from January 2000 to December 2002 totaled 1,554. Not all of these cases resulted in a DNA test, as many items are examined for biological material, in which no evidence is present.

The Dallas County District Attorney's Office reports, since April 2001 they have received approximately 250 requests for post conviction DNA testing. Of these, six (6) requests were granted and two (2) were found in favor of the defendant, noting their office did not agree with one of the favorable cases.

## **DATA CHARTS**





Source: Southwestern Institute of Forensic Sciences

### **CURRENT SERVICE PROVIDERS**

As of June 2003 there are no central repositories for the storage of DNA evidence for Dallas County. Each individual law enforcement agency is required to store all DNA evidence and biological material.

### **GAPS IN SERVICE DELIVERY**

Law enforcement agencies will see gaps in service related to space and proper storage conditions. Some agencies will have limited monies available to address these concerns. DNA evidence and biological material require it be maintained with strict chain of custody procedures. This type of evidence cannot simply be stored off site without sufficient safeguards and security measures.

### **GOALS AND OBJECTIVES**

Our goal is to provide a means for all Dallas County law enforcement agencies to have a central repository for the storage of all DNA evidence and biological material, which provides for the security of evidence, proper preservation and storage, efficient and expeditious retrieval of same when needed at trial, at post conviction or any juncture in the criminal justice system.

The City of Dallas moved into a new police facility in 2003. They purchased seven (7) space efficient storage units, measuring 40' x 12' totaling approximately 6,720 square feet dedicated to the storage of DNA evidence. The cost to purchase and install these units is approximately \$12 per square foot. The City of Dallas estimates if they continue to receive DNA evidence and biological material at their current space, they will fill all seven units by the end of 2003.

### **EVALUATION AND OUTCOME MEASURES**

Working hand in hand with law enforcement agencies, forensic laboratories, the Dallas County District Attorney's Office, and the county criminal courts to increase successful prosecutions of defendant, reduce and eliminate the incidences of wrongful prosecution of innocent persons and reduce the number of overturned cases during appellate review.

Outcome #1

Objective: Improve the prosecution rate of cases involving DNA evidence.

Measurement: Number of cases presented with accurate DNA findings.

**REFERENCES**

Texas Code of Criminal Procedure Article 38.39 (preservation of evidence), Article 64.01-64.05 (evidence testing) and the Texas Government Code Section 411.142 (g) (the DNA database)

# COUNTYWIDE SATELLITE BOOKING FACILITIES

## **PROBLEM**

### **What is the problem for Dallas County?**

Recent legislative changes mandate an arrested person must be taken before a magistrate no later than 48 hours of their arrest. It is the responsibility of each law enforcement agency to independently ensure each person arrested is taken before a magistrate in a timely manner. Currently most agencies do not employ magistrates 24 hours a day, seven days a week, which requires them to transport arrested persons to an available magistrate usually outside of their jurisdiction. This practice generates manpower shortages and takes law enforcement officers out of their communities.

### **Why is this a problem for Dallas County?**

In most cases, when law enforcement agencies are required to take arrested persons before a magistrate within 48 hours of arrest, they are required to invest numerous manpower hours to be compliant with statutes. Law enforcement agencies without 24-hour access to a magistrate must transport their prisoners to the Lew Sterrett Justice Center. When a prisoner must be transferred to the county jail an agency incurs the time of transport and processing, which take officers from their assigned duties in their respective communities. Prisoner transfers on average take 30 minutes one-way and the booking process varies depending on time of day, day of week and jail conditions at time of arrival. Current procedures do not foster efficiency or best use of an officer's time.

### **What needs to be done to alleviate this problem?**

There is a countywide need to study the feasibility of creating strategically located satellite booking facilities to process and house persons arrested in the county with arrest charges classified as a Class B misdemeanor or higher. There is a need to establish where these facilities should be located to best serve the needs of all law enforcement agencies in the county as well as gathering geographic data on all Class B misdemeanor arrests or higher made in Dallas county. Also needed is the development of cooperative initiatives to combine law enforcement resources in providing more efficient and proper handling of arrested persons and to share costs of facilities, personnel, equipment and new technologies.

### **Impact for Dallas County**

By forming and creating strategically located satellite booking facilities for prisoners we can ensure each arrested person receives magistrate admonitions in a timely manner, in compliance with the statutes. By reducing the number of hours law enforcement agency spend on transporting and processing persons arrested for offenses classified as a Class B misdemeanor or higher it will increase the available hours an officer has to be in their communities. Communities and law enforcement agencies can share the costs of holding facilities, equipment, magistrate and other personnel salaries by joining together. Also, agencies can share the cost of technical equipment and tools, such as: intoxilyzer instruments, computer fingerprinting, digital camera and surveillance equipment.

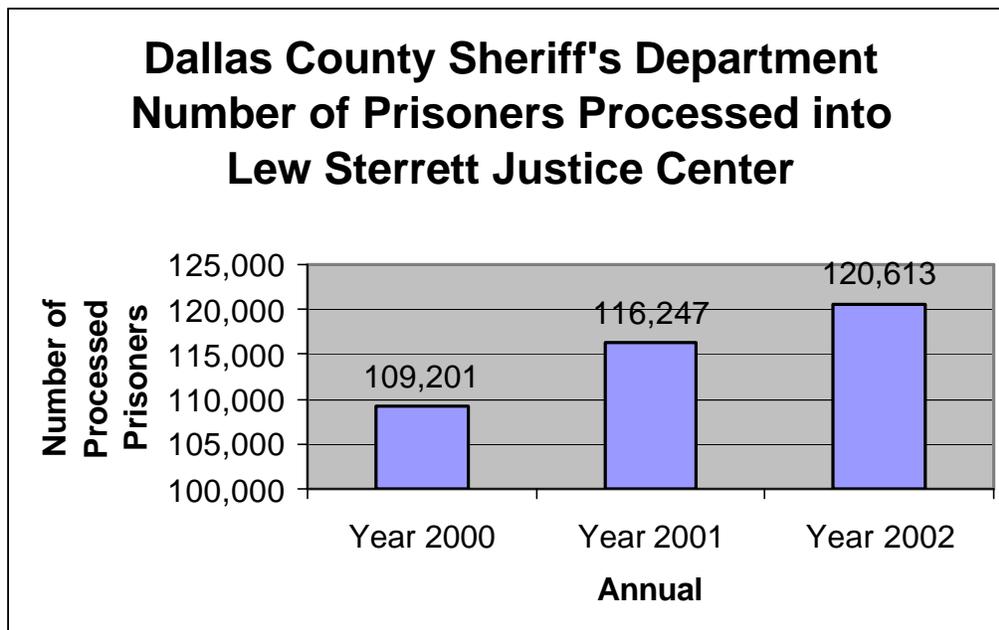
## **SUPPORTING STATISTICS**

When law enforcement agencies are required to transport prisoners to a county facility they are taken outside of their communities for extended periods of time. If satellite booking facilities were placed strategically to best meet the needs of the community, we can decrease travel distance and time an officer is out of service. If satellite facilities are earmarked to pool resources, provide budgetary savings and improve services to all participating agencies there will be benefits, such as safety to prisoners, compliance with state legislative requirements and ultimately putting officers back on the streets in their communities.

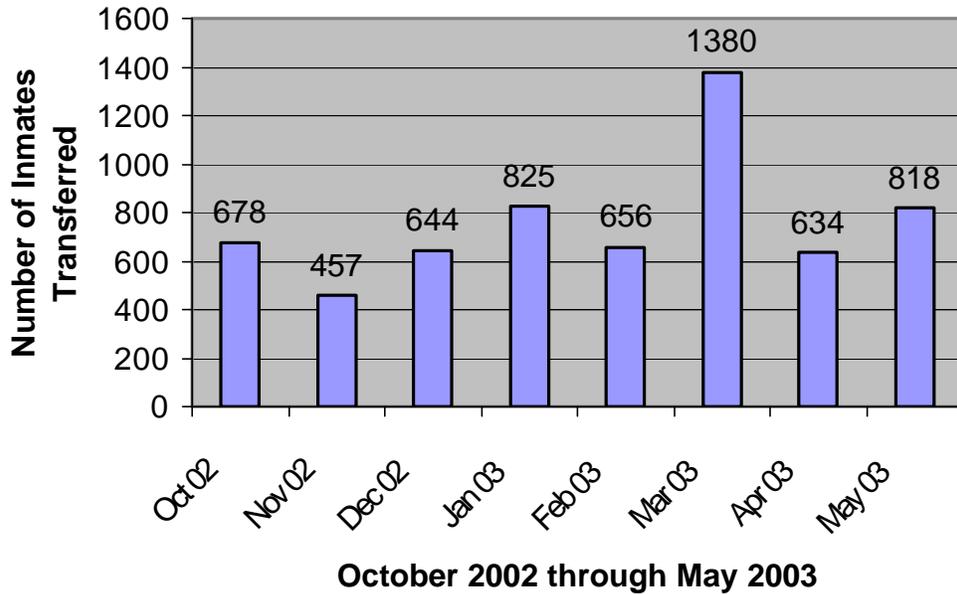
Several cities in the southern corridor of Dallas County have created cooperative relationships to house their prisoners in one facility by sharing the operating expenses. The cities agreed to divide the cost of operating one jail, which included salaries, equipment and magistrates. Jointly they reaped the benefits of state-of-the-art equipment like an intoxilyzer instrument, life scan fingerprinting computer system and a jail telephone system.

The Dallas County Sheriff's Department processed over 122,600 prisoners. The Dallas County District Attorney accepted over 65,000 criminal cases. Last year the Dallas County Sheriff's Department made over 3,700 inner-county prisoner transfers. These are transfers made when the Dallas Sheriff's Department goes to municipal jails located in the county and pick-up prisoners with county charges. Although data has not been collected to capture the exact number of prisoners which law enforcement agencies transport independently, considering the number of prisoners processed and the number of criminal cases filed annually it appears the number of transfers will be significant.

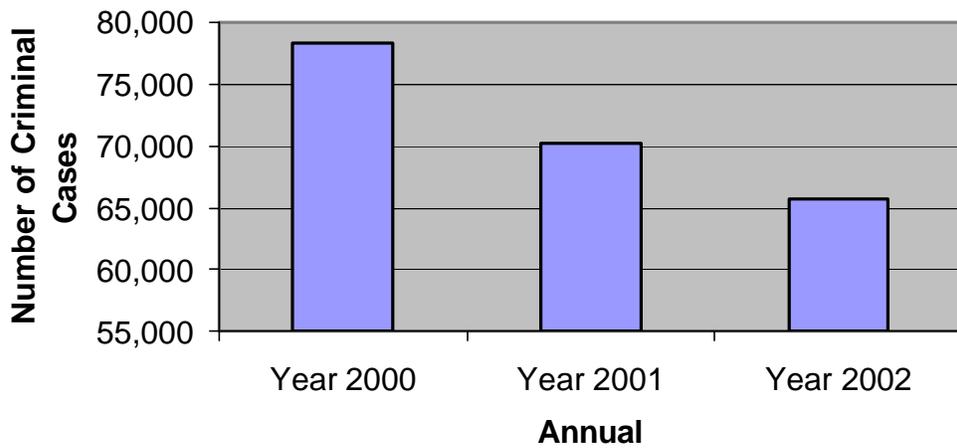
## **DATA CHARTS**



### Dallas County Sheriff's Department Inner-City Inmate Transfers



### Dallas County District Attorney's Office Total Number of Criminal Cases Accepted



Source: Dallas County District Attorney's Office<sup>2</sup>

## **CURRENT SERVICE PROVIDERS**

Currently there is no satellite facility to process persons arrested for Class B misdemeanors and above. Agencies without access to a magistrate generally transport to the county jail, the Lew Sterrett Justice Center.

## **GAPS IN SERVICE DELIVERY**

The gap in service exists with smaller agencies not having access to a local magistrate.

## **GOALS AND OBJECTIVES**

Our goal is have satellite county jail facilities strategically located within Dallas County to process county prisoners. With these satellite facilities all Dallas County communities will benefit in more expedient processing of prisoners, reduction in the time law enforcement officers spends transporting and processing county prisoners, compliance with legislative mandates, and the development of collaborative working relationships among law enforcement agencies. As independent law enforcement entities begin to work collectively to share resources and expenses the result will be greater efficiency, increased safety to prisoners and officers, decrease in detention operating expenses, and expanded opportunities to gain access to new technologies, tools and equipment.

## **EVALUATION AND OUTCOME MEASURES**

As independent law enforcement entities begin to work collectively to share resources and expenses the result will be greater efficiency, increased safety to prisoners and officers, decrease in detention operating expenses, and expanded opportunities to gain access to new technologies, tools and equipment.

Outcome #1

Objective: Law enforcement officers will spend less time transporting prisoners to Lew Sterrett Justice Center.

Measurement: Number of clocked hours staying in their own jurisdiction rather than driving prisoners to Lew Sterrett Justice Center.

## **REFERENCES**

1. Texas Code of Criminal Procedure Article 15.17 Duties of Arresting Officer and Magistrate (no later than 48 hours after arrest must be taken before magistrate) Article 26.04 Procedures for Appointing Counsel.
2. Dallas County District Attorney's Office, 2003

# **SPECIALIZED INNOVATIVE TRAINING FOR LAW ENFORCEMENT PERSONNEL**

## **PROBLEM**

### **What is the problem for Dallas County?**

With the increase in white-collar crime, law enforcement personnel need digital forensics training more than ever. The criminals are using state of the art technology to commit all crimes and many department lack trained officers in computer technology and/or state of the art technology to fight white-collar crime.

### **Why is this a problem for Dallas County?**

According to the Federal Trade Commission, identity theft will affect one in every five people and the time necessary to clear a person's identity take anywhere from 120 hours to years.<sup>1</sup>

### **What needs to be done to alleviate this problem?**

Law enforcement personnel need to be trained on the same technology that the criminals are using. This includes training in basic/advance digital recovery analysis, and also internet search technique.

### **Impact for Dallas County**

Better-educated law enforcement will reduce crime, educate the community and assist in increasing prosecution.

## **SUPPORTING STATISTICS**

Innovative training, in particular digital forensics, for law enforcement personnel is generally expensive and not accessible. Furthermore, due to the legislative mandated training requirements for law enforcement personnel to maintain their licenses, funding for innovative and specialized training is minimal and in some cases non-existent.

Attorney General John Ashcroft states, "Although there are no exact figures on the costs of cyber crime in America, estimates run into the billions of dollars each year. And unlike more traditional crimes, cyber crime is especially difficult to investigate".<sup>2</sup>

In 2002, the Greater Dallas Crime Commission and the University of Texas at Dallas (UTD) in partnership with the National White Collar Crime Center presented four digital forensics classes to approximately 200 officers. Due to lack of funding, in 2003 the Greater Dallas Crime Commission and UTD, in partnership with the National White Collar Crime Center, will only present two digital forensics classes to approximately 75 officers.

The Dallas Police Department Internet Crimes Taskforce has only one (1) fulltime detective, one (1) part-time detective and one (1) prosecutor working on Internet crimes against children. These individuals have only attended 8 classes in two years, which is not enough to stay current on technology. Currently there is a backlog of 200 cases in this department.<sup>3</sup>

The Dallas Police Department Computer Crimes Unit only has three (3) officers and currently has a backlog of 60 cases. This unit was started in 1999 and the workload has increased 75%.

The Coppell Police Department does not have any officers dedicated to either Internet or computer crimes. In 2003 Coppell Police Department had six computer related crimes and they do not have figures for the years 2002, 2001 and 2000. Currently they have five officers who are in need of computer/internet training.<sup>4</sup>

The DeSoto Police Department has one officer dedicated to internet/computer crimes. DeSoto case statistics are<sup>5</sup>:

2003	60 cases (to date)
2002	70 cases
2001	50 cases
2000	30 cases

The Lancaster Police Department has one detective assigned to internet/computer crimes but also handles other cases.<sup>6</sup>

2003	18 cases (to date)
2002	60 cases
2001	45 cases
2000	56 cases

### **CURRENT SERVICE PROVIDERS**

The National White Collar Crime Center partners with the Greater Dallas Crime Commission and UTD to provide two to three classes a year. The number of classes is inadequate to serve all the law enforcement officers in Dallas County.<sup>7</sup>

### **GAPS IN SERVICE DELIVERY**

UTD has partnered with the Greater Dallas Crime Commission to develop a digital forensics program for law enforcement. However, the program has not been funded at this time but UTD has sent to the White House a request for \$5 million to implement the program. Currently there is no degreed program offered west of the Mississippi, other than short 2-3 day courses. If successful, UTD will have the only degreed program in digital forensics west of the Mississippi.

### **GOALS AND OBJECTIVES**

Improvements on the availability and affordability of law enforcement training on how computer technology is used to facilitate crimes, address forensic issues for criminal investigations and address legal issues is needed. Additional cyber crime detectives in the law enforcement departments across the county are needed to keep pace with this growing crime trend.

Budget based on average training cost of \$800/person (training costs range from \$600-\$1,000 per officer):

Basic Data Recovery and Analysis Training cost per officer: \$800  
Each class will hold up to 25 students x \$800 = \$20,000

Advanced Data Recovery & Analysis in an Automated Environment Cost per officer: \$800  
Each class will hold up to 25 students x \$800 = \$20,000

Internet Trace Evidence Course cost per officer: \$800  
Each class will hold up to 25 students x \$800 = \$20,000

Electronic Law Enforcement Course cost per officer: \$800  
Each class will hold up to 25 students x \$800 = \$20,000

Courses offered quarterly 4 x \$20,000 = \$80,000 x 4 courses = \$320,000

### **EVALUATION AND OUTCOME MEASURES**

Objective #1: To ensure that law enforcement personnel master the complexities of computer technology and understand forensic and legal issues critical to solving computer crimes.

Objective #2: To enhance the expertise in the fight against cyber crime and increase the prosecution rate of the cyber criminals.

Measurement: These will be measured by training attendance, increased number of cases more thoroughly investigated and potentially victims of this type of crime will have to endure less disruption of their lives while claiming back their personal identification.

### **REFERENCES**

1. Federal Trade Commission, May 2003
2. Attorney General Ashcroft's Remarks First Annual Computer Privacy, Policy & Security Institute, May 22, 2001
3. The Dallas Police Department, 2003
4. Phone, Gary Nix, Coppell Police Department, June 19, 2003
5. Email, Carl Smith, DeSoto Police Department, June 19, 2003
6. Email, Sergeant Joe Hall, Lancaster Police Department, June 19, 2003
7. The National White Collar Crime Center, January 31, 2002

# **SPECIFIC TRAINING FOR LAW ENFORCEMENT PERSONNEL IN THE PROPER COLLECTION AND PRESERVATION OF DNA EVIDENCE AS REQUIRED BY LAW**

## **PROBLEM**

### **What is the problem for Dallas County?**

Training for law enforcement personnel throughout Dallas County on the proper collection and preservation of DNA evidence is limited.

### **Why is this a problem for Dallas County?**

If law enforcement are not trained properly there could be delay in prosecuting cases or in some cases dismissal of criminal cases due to lack of the proper collection of evidence.

### **What needs to be done to alleviate this problem?**

Proper training is needed at the local level for law enforcement agencies to assure forensic DNA evidence is used effectively.

### **Impact for Dallas County**

The impact will be better-trained law enforcement personnel and prosecution of cases will increase thereby creating a safer community.

## **SUPPORTING STATISTICS**

Awareness training and technique training regarding DNA are needed for law enforcement agencies to assure forensic DNA evidence is used effectively. To protect limited laboratory resources, training will also help assure that officers collect evidence selectively to assure that only that material which offers the best potential for probative results is recovered and submitted to the forensic laboratory.

Some of the law enforcement departments requesting training on this subject matter are:

DFW Airport	10 officers
Irving	5 officers
Highland Park	3 officers
Lancaster	6 officers
DeSoto	2 officers

Part of the Southwestern Medical Center of Dallas serves as the base for teaching for Southwestern Institute of Forensic Sciences (SWIFS) forensic medicine. It is comprised of the Dallas County Criminal Investigation Laboratory and the Medical Examiner's Office. SWIFS has conducted the following DNA testing per year:

2000 164 DNA tests  
2001 304 DNA tests  
2002 270 DNA tests  
2003 135 DNA tests (to date)

The DPS Crime Lab in Garland Police Department reports in January 2000 through December 2002, they received 1,557 cases requiring biological examination. 1,554 cases were examined and over 95% of these cases have biological material that needs to be properly preserved. This is equal to 1,476 cases.

### **CURRENT SERVICE PROVIDERS**

Funding for the DNA collection and preservation of evidence training for law enforcement is limited due to funding. The Dallas Crime Scene Response Unit conducts in-house training and can at times accommodate other agencies. There is a need for advanced training; using the train-the-trainer-concept can help offset costs.

The University of North Texas Police Academy offers a Forensic Training Program for law enforcement officers periodically throughout the year at a cost of \$195-\$595 per person depending on the length of the course and subject matter.

The Texas Association of Property and Evidence Inventory Technicians provides training to its members.

### **GAPS IN SERVICE DELIVERY**

In Dallas County there are only nine (9) medical examiners handling cases for not only Dallas County but for other surrounding counties. The shortage of medical examiners increases the backlog of DNA testing. The National Institute of Justice estimates that there are currently 350,000 samples in rape and homicide cases alone, awaiting analysis.<sup>1</sup> There are hundreds of thousands of convicted offenders whose samples have not yet been tested and entered into the DNA database. Dallas County lacks adequate training for law enforcement on handling the proper collection and preservation of DNA evidence.

### **GOALS AND OBJECTIVES**

Improvements in the quality and delivery of forensic services through collaboration with law enforcement and other criminal justice agencies, coordination of the DNA database, and training in proper DNA collection are desperately needed.

Budget based on average training cost of \$400/person (training costs range from \$250-\$550 per officer):

Fingerprints Training cost per officer: \$400  
Each class will hold up to 25 students x \$400 = \$10,000  
Courses offered monthly 12 x \$10,000 = \$120,000

### **EVALUATION AND OUTCOME MEASURES**

The Attorney General directed the National Institute of Justice to establish and administer the National Commission on the Future of DNA evidence to provide methods, applications and

technologies in the operation of the criminal justice system, from the crime scene to the courtroom.<sup>2</sup>

#### Outcome #1

Objective: Law enforcement personnel will be trained.

Measurement: Criteria for training and technical assistance for criminal justice professionals involved in the identification, collection and preservation of DNA evidence at the crime scene has been set by the National Commission on the Future of DNA Evidence and can be used as a guide.

#### **REFERENCES**

1. National Institute of Justice, April 7, 2003
2. National Commission the Future of DNA Evidence, March 18, 1998

# COMPUTER FORENSICS

## **PROBLEM**

### **What is the problem for Dallas County?**

Need for new and advanced technologies to allow law enforcement agencies and crime labs the ability to more effectively combat crime.

### **Why is this a problem for Dallas County?**

Crimes in which a computer is the instrument of the crime, victim of the crime, or contains evidence of a crime are increasing in Dallas County. However, there are limited qualified resources to examine this evidence. Criminals commonly use computers to commit crimes, communicate, store information, and perform financial and other transactions. Digital evidence is volatile and can be easily destroyed, or altered, rendering it useless in court.

### **What needs to be done to alleviate this problem?**

Provide law enforcement agencies with the technology, training and staff to identify, investigate and prosecute computer-related crimes and similar resources to analyze digital evidence.

### **Impact for Dallas County**

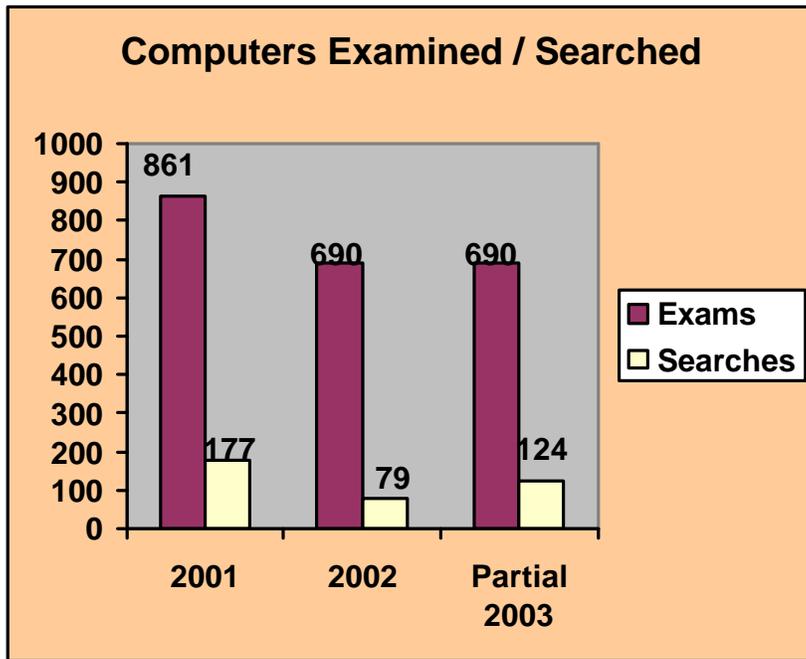
By providing law enforcement agencies with the needed technology, training and, in some cases, personnel, law enforcement agencies would solve more computer crimes and process computer evidence in a more legally defensible manner.

## **SUPPORTING STATISTICS**

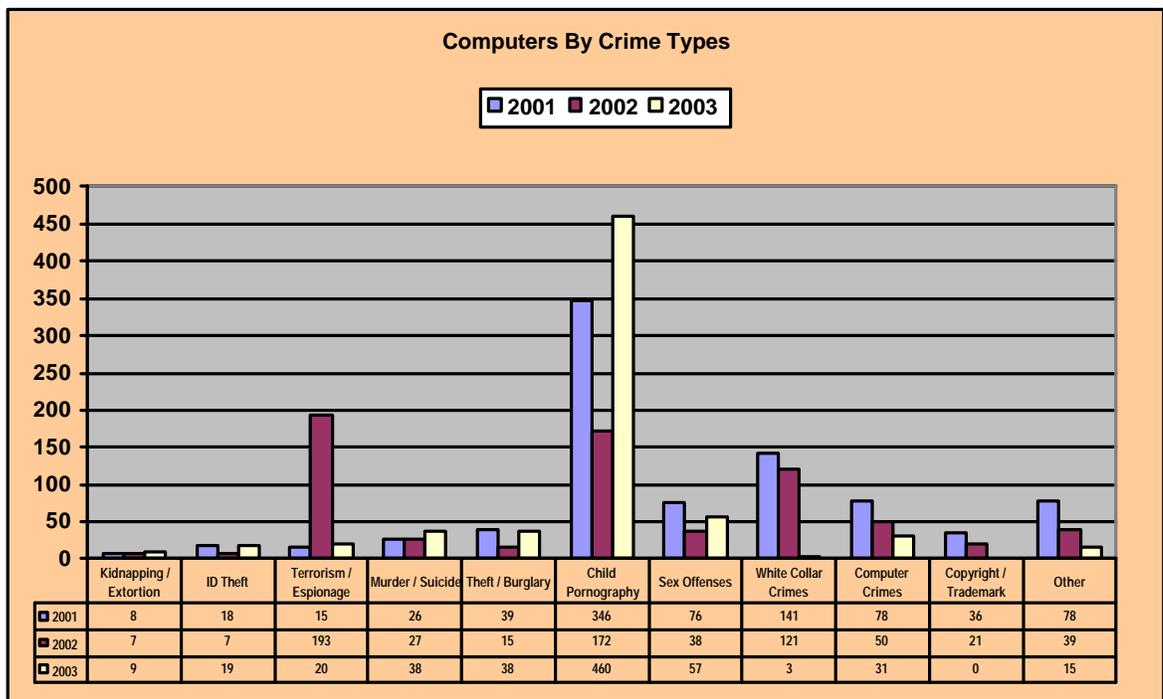
During 2001-2003 (partial year), the North Texas Regional Computer Forensic Laboratory (NTRCFL) provided forensic services to 62 different law enforcement agencies in North Texas. The NTRCFL conducted examinations on 2,241 different computers and performed 380 searches. The largest numbers of examinations were conducted in the following areas, ranked by greatest #s:

1. Child Pornography
2. Terrorism
3. Fraud/White collar crime
4. Computer (hacker) crimes
5. Sexual assaults
6. Copyright/trademark (counterfeiting)
7. Theft
8. Murder/suicide
9. ID theft
10. Kidnapping
11. Other

**DATA CHARTS**



Source: *The North Texas Regional Computer Forensic Laboratory (NTRCFL)*



## **CURRENT SERVICE PROVIDERS**

The North Texas Regional Computer Forensic Laboratory (NTRCFL)

## **GAPS IN SERVICE DELIVERY**

Most law enforcement agencies do not have the staff or resources to combat computer crime.

## **GOALS AND OBJECTIVES**

Providing law enforcement agencies in North Texas, the Texas Internet Bureau and Department of Public Safety Ranger Division with timely and professional forensic analysis of digital evidence and train these agencies in the proper seizure methods for digital evidence.

Due to advancements in computer technology, the field of computer forensics is constantly changing. In order to properly examine digital evidence an examiner must stay current on various types of computer hardware, operating systems and analysis tools. This type of investment in terms of both manpower and money are prohibitive for a single agency, but are manageable when spread across a "joint" project like the NTRCFL. This project will improve the target area by providing state-of-the-art technology, computer forensic services and training to all law enforcement agencies.

Project activities include: providing guidance in the preparation of search warrants and assistance in the planning and execution of search warrants dealing with computer or digital evidence; conducting impartial and objective analysis of computer evidence using the best available tools and procedures; prepare detailed reports of findings for the investigative officer; be available to prosecutors to testify regarding computers and computer evidence; providing training in the proper techniques for seizing and storing computer evidence.

## **EVALUATION AND OUTCOME MEASURES**

Evidence derived from these computer examinations will be legally defensible and will not be excluded because of evidentiary contamination. The number of days before computer evidence is examined, the numbers of search warrants, examinations and officers trained can measure the effectiveness of this project.

Outcome #1:

Objective: Reduce the average number of days before computer evidence is examined.

Measurement: Number of days before evidence is examined.

Outcome #2:

Objective: Increase number of search warrants executed.

Measurement: Number of search warrants executed.

Outcome #3:

Objective: Increase number of computer examinations done.

Measurement: Number of computer examinations conducted.

Outcome #4:

Objective: Train law enforcement officers local in proper techniques for seizing and storing computer evidence.

Measurement: Number of law enforcement officers trained.

## **REFERENCES**

Federal Bureau of Investigation, Dallas Sheriff's Department, Dallas Police Department, Garland Police Department, Richardson Police Department, Grand Prairie Police Department.

# ENVIRONMENTAL COURTS

## **PROBLEM**

### **What is the problem for Dallas County?**

With 2.2 million citizens, Dallas County is the second most populated county in Texas<sup>1</sup>. The large population has elevated the need for a structured environmental enforcement program that addresses investigating, apprehending, prosecuting, and sentencing environmental crime offenders at County and District level courts. Additionally, no specialized court is available to address the existing environmental cases, much less, the expected increase in the workload.

### **Why is this a problem for Dallas County?**

Dallas County continues to have significant problems with illegal dumping and environmental crimes. These problems pose concerns for the health and safety of everyone living in Dallas County and its surrounding counties. By implementing a structured environmental enforcement program, culminated by establishing an environmental court and increasing the dedicated prosecutor's status to full-time, Dallas County citizens can be assured that all is being done to apprehend and prosecute environmental criminals. Failing to do so could result in negative impacts on public health in Dallas County.

### **What needs to be done to alleviate the problem?**

Dallas County and its communities have worked at establishing an environmental court, or potentially a specialized court hearing both environmental crimes and white-collar crimes, would significantly help limit the amount of environmental crimes occurring in Dallas County and augment the existing environmental enforcement programs. An environmental court could further those initiatives by hearing a wide range of cases including: air pollution, water pollution, illegal dumping, hazardous waste control, housing code, building code, fire code, and sanitation issues. If the cost per case is prohibitive in creating an environmental court, a specialized court could be established to hear both environmental and white-collar crimes. This potentially could drop the cost per case from \$5,000 to \$1,500 by allowing these "specialized crimes" to be heard in a "specialized court"<sup>2</sup>. Ultimately, a precedent would be set that Dallas County is serious about enforcement of environmental crimes. Consequently, the community would be a safer, healthier and a more aesthetically pleasing place to live.

### **Impact for Dallas County**

The County can benefit by seeking to retain the funds received through local fines to help establish other programs and clean up illegal dumpsites. These actions will further the beautification efforts of Dallas County, while protecting its citizens from the dangers of environmental crimes.

### **Supporting Statistics**

The Specialized Crime Division of the Dallas County District Attorney's Office successfully sought funding from the Governor's Office Criminal Justice Division in 2002 to hire a dedicated environmental prosecutor. In September of 2002 this prosecutor was hired; however, due to

limited funds, the program allowed for only a part-time prosecutor. The DA's Office took advantage of this opportunity, and since the beginning of the program in September 2002, the office has managed 157 environmental cases, of which 71% of them were felonies<sup>3</sup>.

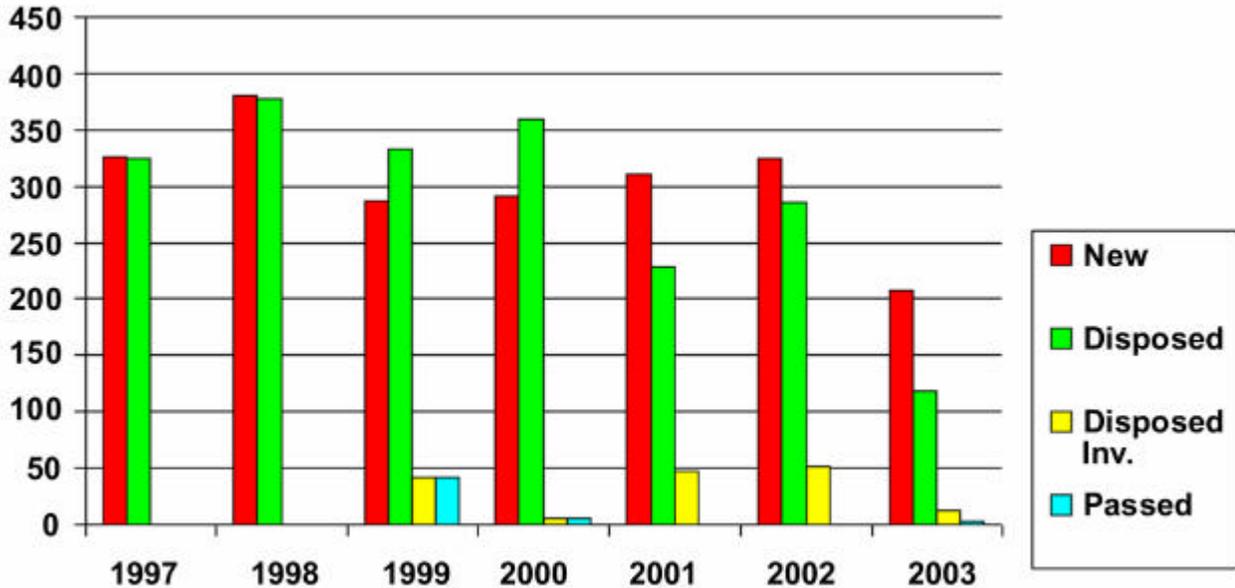
The Environmental Prosecutor, with the support of the Specialized Crime Division of the DA's Office, currently has 18 ongoing investigations (15 felonies), 86 active cases (76 felonies), 25 felony cases set for a jury trial and 53 disposed cases. Of the disposed cases, there has been one felony conviction on a trial before the court, 34 cases have plead out (two felonies and 32 misdemeanors), 13 felony rejected/closed investigations and 5 felony Grand Jury No-Bills. Moreover, the range of punishments given to date has been: 10 years community supervision, 8 years penitentiary time, 9 months county jail time, \$5,000 restitution to the US EPA and \$116,000 in fines<sup>4</sup>.

These are significant numbers for a part-time prosecutor. The trend is expected to increase as the DA's Office establishes its environmental prosecution program and establishes further relationships with environmental enforcement agencies and the community. The DA's Office continues to support the county by prosecuting environmental crimes, but with limited financial support the office may have to turn down even more pending investigations and cases. This could prove detrimental to Dallas County by showing its citizens that environmental crimes are not important enough to fund a full-time prosecutor to handle these cases. If the current trend continues, the DA's part-time prosecutor would have over 200 cases to review by the end of the first year, with a 333% increase in workload. Consequently, the average number of cases managed by a full-time prosecutor in the Specialized Crime Division of the DA's Office is approximately 60 per year<sup>5</sup>.

## **DATA CHARTS**

There is no significant data available to establish an accurate trend on the amount of new environmental crime cases brought to the Dallas County District Attorney's Office. The graphs provided below were created by the Specialized Crime Unit of the Dallas County District Attorney's Office, the designated unit to prosecute environmental crimes in Dallas County, on the total amount of new cases coming into their office since 1995. This will help to gauge the amount of work conducted by their office, all of which are categorized as white-collar crimes, including environmental crimes.

**Specialized Crime Division 1997-2003 Annual In/Out 2003 January YTD<sup>6</sup>**  
*(New Cases includes Incoming Cases and Cases Transferred From Courts)*



*(Year 2003 shows new intake through April 2003 only)*

**CURRENT SERVICE PROVIDERS**

Currently there is no dedicated environmental court in Dallas County or in any county in the North Central Texas region. Environmental cases are assigned a criminal court and are heard as a routine criminal case.

**GAPS IN SERVICE DELIVERY**

There are currently no significant gaps in service for Dallas County when it comes to hearing environmental crimes cases. Local enforcement officers file environmental cases, which are prosecuted by a dedicated environmental prosecutor in the DA's Office. The case then can be heard in any number of courts; however, often the judge hearing the case is not familiar with Texas' environmental laws and must then learn them during the process of the trial. This can contribute to inconsistent verdicts in the court system. A dedicated environmental court could help establish consistent verdicts with the presiding judge familiar and up-to-date on Texas' environmental laws.

Establishing an environmental court, or special court for white-collar crimes that can also hear environmental cases, would provide significant relief to other courts that are dealing with overcrowded dockets. This relief would allow established criminal courts to hear the more traditional criminal cases and allow for a specialized court hear to non-traditional criminal cases, including environmental crime cases.

**GOALS AND OBJECTIVES**

The ultimate goal of establishing an environmental court in Dallas County is to streamline enforcement of increasing environmental crimes. Local- and county-level environmental

enforcement units have been established throughout Dallas County, but the enforcement officers need help. That is why the DA's Office sought funding to hire a dedicated environmental prosecutor in 2002, which has been very successful, but more needs to be done.

The consultant firm Reed, Stowe & Yanke, LLC from Austin, Texas did a study on environmental courts and identified the following important points on operating an environmental court<sup>7</sup>:

- Enforcement personnel become more active in the enforcement of environmental crimes as there is a greater likelihood that their efforts will result in a conviction.
- Enforcement personnel can be more effective in the field, as they know that the environmental court can ultimately "back-up" any requests for compliance.
- Provides an opportunity for multiple cities and/or counties to coordinate efforts to enforce environmental crimes.
- Penalties can be enforced on a consistent basis and with a purpose of reducing future illegal dumping through fines and/or jail time.
- Provides an opportunity to focus on compliance from offenders in terms of cleaning up illegal dumpsites.

These points are helpful in understanding the need for an environmental court and to ensure that a support structure is in place for law enforcement officers and prosecutors when investigating and prosecuting these cases.

## **EVALUATION AND OUTCOME MEASURES**

Since the Dallas County DA's office received funding for a part-time prosecutor to handle the large number of criminal environmental cases in September 2002, 157 environmental cases have been filed, 71% of which were felony cases. This is an extremely heavy workload for a part-time prosecutor, which can ultimately limit the support the DA's office can provide to the citizens of Dallas County. To reach the goal of establishing an environmental court the following should be considered as measurable outcomes.

### Outcome #1

Objective: Increase the part-time status of the dedicated environmental prosecutor to full-time status.

Measurement: The current workload of the part-time prosecutor justifies an increase from part-time to full-time status. This increase will provide sufficient time to review and investigate each case thoroughly and lead to less cases being rejected.

### Outcome #2

Objective: Hire additional legal support, i.e., prosecutor, paralegal, or investigator, to handle the large number of environmental cases being filed.

Measurement. Monitor the number of criminal environmental cases and seek to hire additional legal support when 200+ criminal environmental cases have been filed, or are projected to be filed by years end.

### Outcome #3

Objective: Establish a dedicated environmental court or “specialized crime court” that can hear both environmental and white-collar crimes.

Measurement: Continue to monitor the number of environmental cases filed with the DA’s office. When approximately 100 environmental cases have been disposed, or are projected to be disposed by years end, seek to establish a dedicated environmental or “specialized crime court”.

### **REFERENCES**

1. U.S. Census Website, Dallas County Population, <http://www.census.gov/census2000/states/tx.html>, May 2003
2. Statistics provided by the Specialized Crime Division of the Dallas County District Attorney’s Office, May 2003.
3. *Id.*
4. *Id.*
5. *Id.*
6. *Id.*
7. *Regional Environmental Enforcement Study*, Houston-Galveston Area Council of Governments, Reed Stowe & Yanke LLC, March 2003

# **POLICE CIVILIAN INVESTIGATORS**

## **PROBLEM**

### **What is the problem for Dallas County?**

According to estimates from the National Crime Victimization Survey (NCVS), there were 691,710 non-fatal violent victimizations committed by former spouses, boyfriends, or girlfriends of the victims during 2001. Such crimes – intimate partner violence – primarily involve female victims. About 588,480 or 85% of these non-fatal victimizations by intimate partners were against women.<sup>1</sup> Failure to provide an adequate number of specially trained personnel to investigate offenses involving violence against women may result in offenses not being thoroughly investigated, delays in the apprehension and prosecution of suspects, crucial evidence being lost due to time, decreases in number of indictments, a repeated cycle of violence, and a general feeling of apathy towards the criminal justice system.

### **Why is this a problem for Dallas County?**

Valuable resources such as tax dollars, medical insurance benefits and premiums, and law enforcement manpower and time, are expended at a disproportionate rate as a result of the continuing cycle of domestic violence and crimes against women. These crimes tend to escalate and become more frequent and violent in nature thus posing a threat for the entire community including the workplace and educational system. Based on the reports of female victims of non-fatal intimate violence, medical expenses from the physical trauma, broken or stolen property, and lost wages cost these victims nearly \$150 million a year.

### **What needs to be done to alleviate this problem?**

A problem of this magnitude requires a specialized unit of properly trained investigators, some of which may be bilingual and who are sensitive to the dynamics of domestic violence and who promote victim safety and awareness and offender accountability.

### **Impact for Dallas County**

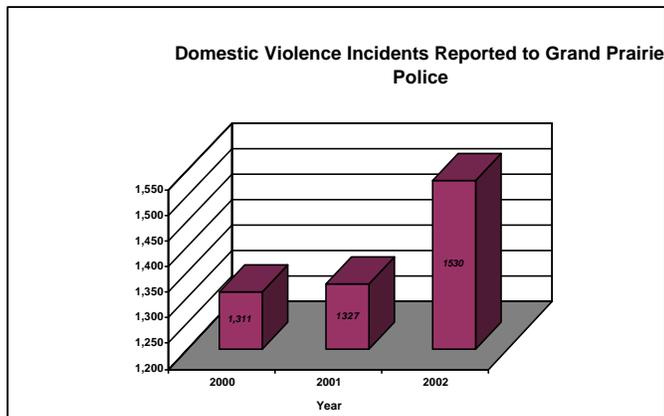
In providing specialized units of properly trained personnel, it is likely that victims of domestic violence will become more educated and aware of their options and overcome their sense of powerlessness thereby dramatically reducing the likelihood of future episodes of violence, decreasing injuries and other costs associated with these acts. Offenses, which are thoroughly investigated in a timely manner, will result in a higher indictment and conviction rate whereby abusers will clearly receive the message that society, namely Dallas County, does not tolerate family violence that it is a crime and is treated as such.

## **SUPPORTING STATISTICS**

Of twenty-four Dallas County law enforcement agencies surveyed by members of the Dallas County Community Plan Victim Services Focus Group, only 21% (five agencies) reported having a specialized unit for investigating Domestic Violence. According to Texas Department of Public Safety Records for the year 2000 there were 27,901 incidents of domestic violence reported in Dallas County and of that number 1,311 in Grand Prairie.<sup>2</sup> For 2001 there were

28,839 (1,327 in Grand Prairie) and for 2002 there were 27,482 (1,530 in Grand Prairie) incidents reported.

### **DATA CHART**



Source: Grand Prairie PD, 2003

### **CURRENT SERVICE PROVIDERS**

As a result of the survey conducted by the Dallas County Community Plan Victim Service Focus Group, it was determined that 21% of Dallas County law enforcement agencies provide a specialized unit for investigation of domestic violence crimes. The availability of these specialized units does not adequately cover the magnitude of the problem of investigating domestic violence and other crimes against women in Dallas County.

### **GAPS IN SERVICE DELIVERY**

According to data received from the Dallas County District Attorney's Office, in year 2000 there were 6,823 domestic violence cases disposed of by the Dallas County District Attorney's Office, 7,016 in 2001 and 6,617 in 2002.<sup>3</sup> These numbers are disproportionate to the number of specialized units and the number of personnel assigned.

### **GOALS AND OBJECTIVES**

Increasing the number of specialized units within Dallas County law enforcement agencies for the investigation of domestic violence would greatly enhance the quality of cases presented to the DA's office for prosecution. Specialized units would contact the victims of domestic violence within a relatively short interval following the initial incident, provide referrals and resource materials to victims of domestic violence and sexual abuse, make referrals to Crime Victim Compensation, local shelters, programs and other social service related agencies. Specialized units would have the capability of taking notarized statements from complainants and witnesses, photographing injuries, reviewing the suspect's criminal history for prior offenses and convictions, preparing warrants/affidavits and ultimately preparing the case for prosecution through either the city court or county district court. The overall process beginning with the initial assault and culminating with the judicial process will be less cumbersome and more expedient than ever before as specialized units will be available to answer questions and provide guidance through each phase of the criminal justice process. Funding two positions in Grand Prairie would cost approximately \$122,547 annually in 2005-2007.

## **EVALUATION AND OUTCOME MEASURES**

Victims of domestic violence and sexual assault are hesitant to participate in the sometimes-confusing criminal justice process. Others who are initially willing to cooperate in the investigations have become frustrated by the time it takes to investigate, prepare warrants and arrest suspects. Victims' perceptions of law enforcement and the criminal justice system has been somewhat jaded, and they may come to fear retaliation, or believe, "it's not worth it, no one cares" and even believe that the police cannot do anything about the incident. Some domestic violence victims may even remain in the relationship with the batterer until serious injury or death occurs. Increasing the number of specialized units within Dallas County law enforcement agencies will increase the likelihood that victims form a favorable relationship with the entity preparing the cases for prosecution.

### Outcome #1

Objective: Offenses will be investigated thoroughly in a timely manner with suspects held to a high level of accountability.

Measurement: Number of domestic violence and sexual offenses investigated by specialized unit, including number of cases presented to courts system for prosecution.

### Outcome #2

Objective: Use of bilingual personnel and resource materials to provide referral information, justice support and advocacy to victims of domestic violence and sexual assault.

Measurement: Satisfaction survey, and percentage of cases successfully prosecuted through the court system.

## **REFERENCES**

1. *Intimate Partner Violence, 1993-2001*, NCJ 197838, February 2003
2. Texas Department of Public Safety
3. Dallas County District Attorney's Office