

Goals of Evaluation

- To examine the impact of the 24-Hour Initiative on:
 - The criminal justice system's response to victims of domestic violence
 - Providing stronger cases to prosecute
 - The level and degree of services provided for victim restoration
 - Strengthening collaborations between law enforcement, prosecutors, the courts, and victim service providers

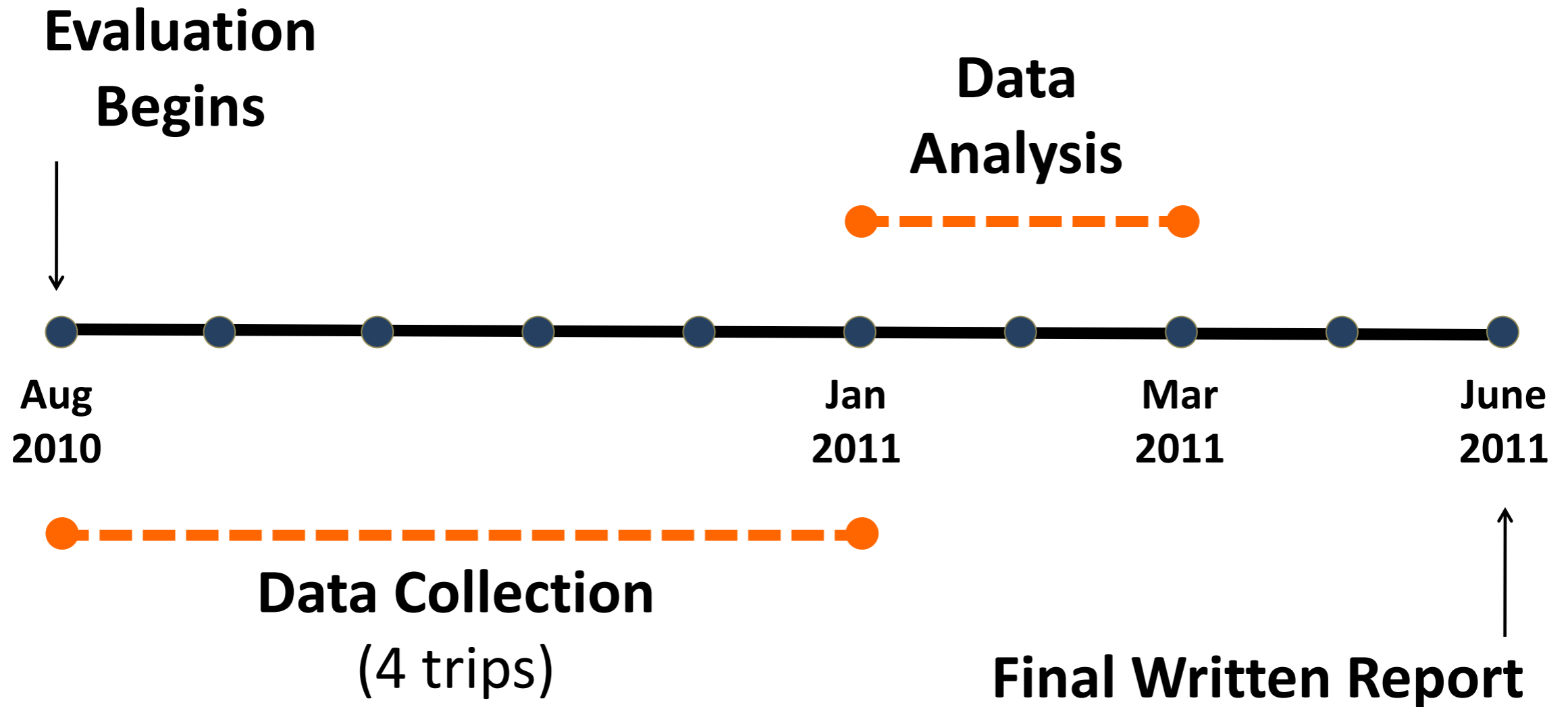
Evaluation Goals Continued

- To determine the following elements for replication across other Texas communities:
 - The strengths and promising practices of the current program operations and service delivery
 - The challenges and barriers encountered
 - The cost to implementation

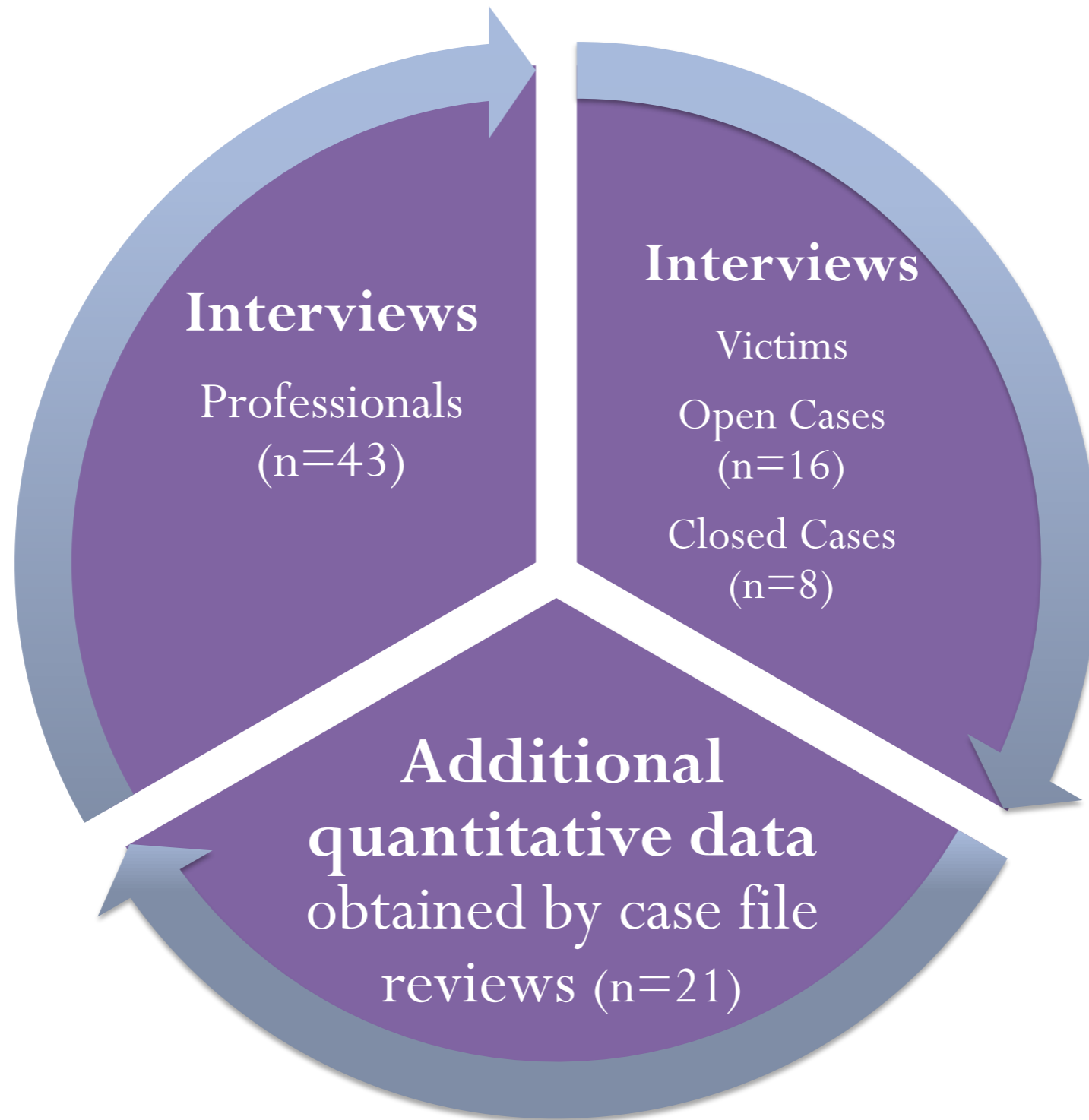
Methodology

- Evaluation will entail several elements:
- Interviews with law enforcement, victim advocates, prosecutors, judges, and other professionals involved with or impacted by the 24-hour Initiative
- Interviews with victims served
- Descriptive statistics of all cases
- In-depth review of selected case files

Evaluation Timeline



Methodology



Data Analysis

- Combination of qualitative and quantitative
 - **Qualitative** data collected from interviews
 - Interviews transcribed
 - Data organized or grouped into properties and developed into contextual themes around research questions
 - **Quantitative** data collected from survey data and case file reviews

Victim Sample Statistics

Descriptive Variables		Percent
Gender	Female	86%
	Male	14%
Employment Status	Unemployed	62%
	Employed	38%
Relationship to Offender	In dating relationship	50%
	Married	40%
	Divorced	5%
	In another dating relationship	5%

N = 24

Note: The sample varied slightly on a few demographic variables

Victim Sample Statistics

Descriptive Variables		Percent
Language	English	75%
	Spanish	25%
Offender Armed?	No	71%
	Yes	29%
Offender Intoxicated?	Yes	52%
	No	48%
Victim Intoxicated	No	100%
	Yes	0%

N = 24

Note: The sample varied slightly among demographic variables

Evaluation Results

Paradigm
Shift

Victim
Restoration

Strengthening
Collaborations

Increased
Competency

Victimless
Prosecution

Finding #1: **Paradigm Shift**

- Domestic violence is “no joke” in El Paso County
- Permanent change requires unrelenting persistence
- Prosecutors are the “fall guys”
- Victim perceptions are changing
- Defense attorneys get into the game

Quote

Last time when the police officer came, he [offender] gave all his keys to the officer when he left the house. I left to go run some errands and when I came back, I found him very comfortably in the bedroom. Therefore, I am very afraid that he will do the same again...But I believe I might be able to control the situation in case he was to show up... I feel like I am being backed up. I feel I can trust the police department... I trust they will rush here, unlike the last time when they told me they would come and they never did

--From Victim Interview

Quote

They responded very well because it all began since eight o'clock in the morning and they arrested him at seven pm, and all day long... I had been calling them because they told me "if he comes, call us". So I called them like four times, and they came four times, and they tried to get him. They did not give up, because many times they say "well we are here but he is not there" or something, but these cops were very fast and they never said "no". It was very good.

--From Victim Interview

Finding #2: **Victim Restoration**

- It's a lifeline
- Increased information about services
- Gaps in victim services persist

Victim Response to Survey Questions

Survey Question	Mean Score	N	Scale
How helpful would you rate the visit you received from the District Attorney's office?	4.17	24	0-5
How safe did you feel before the people from the District Attorney's office visited you?	2.86	21	1-4
How safe did you feel after the people from the District Attorney's office visited you?	3.48	21	1-4
How satisfied are you with the home visit that the District Attorney's office did in response to your case?	3.35	23	1-4

Note: High scores indicate higher values on each variable.

Quote

At least I know I am not alone. I know that in the event that something happens, there will always be help...I know that they have my back because they were calling me and calling me and calling me afterwards, that I am Mr. so-and-so and they would leave me messages and say 'whenever you need anything, please call this number.' Yes they were calling, did call more than once. Even after he [offender] was released from jail, they kept calling me to ask if I was ok, if I needed any help. And actually the police department called me as well to keep helping me.

--From Victim Interview

Quote

It was very important and a good experience...they were very courteous and attentive. The man that called me was by no means rude or demeaning and plus he spoke to me in Spanish which was very important to me because I don't understand English very much...so that was extremely relieving to be able to speak with someone who was professional and courteous and able to talk to me in Spanish. Very good experience. I personally enjoyed it very much.

--From Victim Interview

Finding #3: **Strengthening Collaborations**

- Epitome of (effective) criminal justice system
- Collaborations between entities
- Collaborations within entities

Finding #4: **Increased Competency**

- **Prosecution strengthened**
 - Collection of better evidence
 - Increased gathering of evidence
 - Improved preparation of case files
 - Increased preparedness and effectiveness of prosecutors

Finding #5: **Victimless Prosecution**

- Victimless prosecution is possible
- Range of reactions from positive to negative
- Reluctant responsibility
 - Criminal justice system reluctant to pursue cases without victim testimony

Victim Response to Survey Questions

Assessing Victimless Prosecution

Survey Question	Mean Score	N	Scale
How satisfied are you with DA's decision to move forward with your case with/without your permission?	3.14	22	0-4

Note. High scores indicate higher values on each variable.

Quote

I think it is a good idea because they want to protect you. They might think 'well maybe she is not thinking that she can get hurt again, so we are going to make sure she is ok or that nothing further happens.' So yes I do like that, I agree with that.

--From Victim Interview

Quote

I don't think that is right...I didn't do anything to the state...why would they pick it up and hold it against me that way? I think it should be my word, he didn't do anything. It was a misunderstanding that we had and...I was in this relationship for 19 years and I still carry on that weight. I just don't think it's right, that it's fair.

--From Victim Interview

Core Elements for Replication

“Buy-in” of all key individuals

Committed District Attorney & Chief with
effective leadership skills

Dedicated Assistant District Attorneys & Staff

Access to technology and collaborative information-sharing
systems

QUESTIONS

Concerns



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