

Project Connections: Frequently Asked Questions

The University of Denver, Graduate School of Social Work
The Colorado Coalition Against Domestic Violence

1. What is this study about and what purpose does it serve?

The purpose of this study is to examine how the treatment of pets is related to the development of children who witness domestic violence. This groundbreaking study is the only one of its kind. Information generated by this study may be used in a wide variety of applications to improve the lives of women and children whose lives are impacted by domestic violence.

2. Who is doing this study?

The University of Denver Graduate School of Social Work (DUGSSW) received a grant award from the Eunice Kennedy Shriver National Institute of Child Health and Human Development to conduct this study. The principal investigator is Dr. James Herbert Williams, Dean of The University of Denver Graduate School of Social Work.

DUGSSW has partnered with the Colorado Coalition Against Domestic Violence to ensure the safety of study participants and appropriate application of the surveys. Domestic violence organizations that choose to participate in the study will administer the study's surveys to women and children, ages 7 through 12 years, who are receiving services through that organization. DUGSSW will receive the coded survey instruments that have no identifying information; participating domestic violence organizations and the Coalition will keep the coding records.

3. Where will the study be conducted?

This study will be conducted at approximately 15-20 urban, suburban, and rural domestic violence organizations throughout Colorado. Participation is voluntary for both domestic violence organizations and mothers and children.

4. What is expected from participating organizations?

Please see the MOU for details. In summary, participating sites agree to:

- Designate at least one advocate to complete the online Institutional Review Board (IRB) modules on ethical considerations in research with human participants.
- Have an advocate complete in-person training on administering the survey instruments.
- Conduct surveys with women and children at your organization.
- Safely store documents in provided project lock box.
- Submit invoices to the Coalition via <http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/ProjectConnections>
- Follow up with survey participants at 6-month intervals.
- Conduct 18-month follow-up surveys.
- Possibly travel to conduct surveys with women and children in outlying areas.

5. When will this study begin and end?

This grant award period is September 2, 2010 through August 31, 2014, however the project likely will extend beyond 2014 in order to allow enough time to collect sufficient numbers of surveys. We will continue enrolling new participants until further notice.

6. Does my organization receive any compensation for participating in this study?

Yes! Upon completion of the online training module and the daylong training at DU, participating organizations will receive \$750. Furthermore, each participating organization will receive compensation for staff time spent in training (eight hours in-person, four hours web-based, for a total of 12 hours of training @ \$25/hour/individual for a total of \$300 for each person completing the training).

In addition, your organization receives compensation in the amount of \$125.00 for each survey that is administered. It is estimated that for each mother-child pair that participates, the staff at the local organization will spend approximately:

- 1 hr prep time (scheduling interviews, preparing the meeting space, etc.)
- 2 hrs maternal interview
- 1 hr child interview
- 1 hr to assemble completed assessments and submit information to CCADV

Therefore, for each completed interview, the organization will be compensated for 5 hours of work at \$25/hour, for a lump sum of \$125.

7. Do the women and children we interview receive compensation for participating in this study?

Yes! All clients involved in this study will be compensated for their time. Participant compensation increases from the initial survey to the 18-month follow-up survey to encourage continued participation. Women who participate in the study will be compensated with \$60 the first year, and \$110 at the 18-month survey. Participants will be paid in cash and will need to sign a receipt. The receipt is kept by the program in the project lock box.

Participating children will receive \$15 compensation for completing the initial survey, and \$15 again for completing the 18-month follow-up survey.

8. What steps have been taken to ensure confidentiality?

This study is designed to offer participants complete confidentiality. Each participant will be assigned a code number by the advocate conducting the interviews. The code numbers, identifying information, and information for maintaining contact with participants will be kept in locked files at the organization and in the Coalition office. The completed surveys will not contain any identifying information. Only the coded survey instruments will be shared with DUGSSW. In addition, the project data is covered by a federal Certificate of Confidentiality so that raw data will be protected and cannot be subpoenaed.

9. How can I learn more about this project?

Please contact project staff! Beth Collins: ecollins@ccadv.org or 303-962-3321
Tina Hageman: Tina.Hageman@du.edu or 303-871-4177