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Intelligence-led Case Management and Investigations Software

Case Study

Pacific Prevention of Domestic Violence Programme

Challenge	Solution	Outcome
To find a system for recording the details of domestic violence cases in the Pacific, and gather information on developing trends.	Investigator from Methodware, tailored to specific needs of the PPDVP and its partner police agencies to apply a common reporting standard.	Improved reporting of domestic violence incidents. Implementation of local strategies targeting reduction and mitigation of domestic violence.

The Issue

Domestic violence is a serious global problem that does not receive the attention it should. Violence is a major cause of death and disability for women 16 - 44 years old.

According to a World Health Organization study across different regions, 30 - 60 percent of women have experienced violence perpetrated by a partner.

Studies by agencies such as the United Nations Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM) suggest that the Pacific region has a high incidence of domestic violence.

The PPDVP

The Pacific Prevention of Domestic Violence Programme (PPDVP) is a joint initiative of the New Zealand Police, the Pacific Islands Chiefs of Police and NZAID, New Zealand's international aid and development agency. The long-term aim of the PPDVP is achieving "A Safer Pacific Free from Domestic Violence."

The PPDVP employs a two-level approach. Regionally, the initiative focuses on creating a common, consistent understanding and approach for Pacific police agencies as they relate to domestic violence issues.

Locally, the PPDVP works to build the capacity of law enforcement to effectively prevent and respond to domestic violence within their communities.

Other key goals include working to improve national policies, governance and social environments to reduce the prevalence and effects of domestic violence; and strengthening relationships with NGOs and social agencies to apply a common understanding and approach in response to domestic violence events.



"With Investigator, the police now have the data available to provide confidence to the public that they are effectively responding to these serious crimes" - Cam Ronald, PPDVP Programme Manager

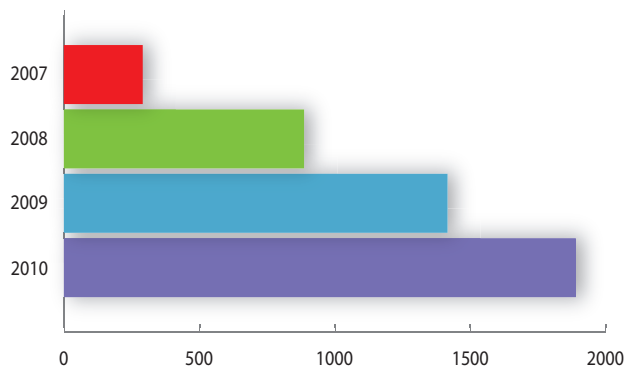


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Reported Incidents



The PPDVP initiative has led to a steady increase in the reporting of domestic violence incidents across the Pacific. More and more people are conscious of the need to report these as crimes, and the involvement of the PPDVP has helped victims develop trust in the local police forces – both by taking domestic violence seriously and maintaining confidentiality.

Data captured from the PPDVP's Investigator implementation is used throughout this case study. Without Investigator, this data would be fragmented and difficult to gather, much less analyse.

The Challenge

The PPDVP needed a system to record the domestic violence cases being reported, as well as allow officers to gather information on developing trends and patterns. This was a difficult task, as domestic violence is an underreported crime, often hidden within families, neighbourhoods and villages. It was vital to gain the support of the public so that adequate data could be collected and effective targeting programmes could be developed and implemented.

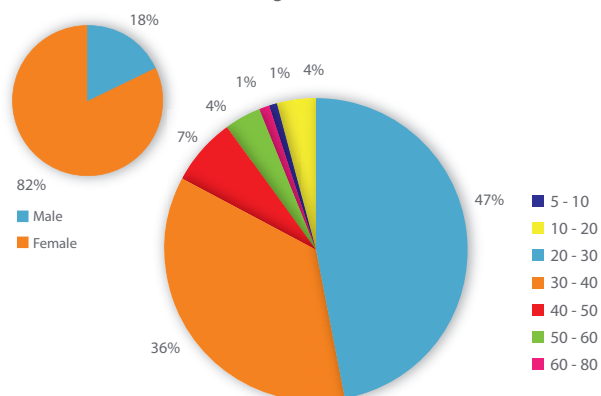
Additionally, the police services across different Pacific countries and regions did not have a consistent method for recording cases. Data capture needed to be standardised so that correct, singular and comparative analysis could be undertaken. Providing implementation, training and support across the region also posed a considerable tactical challenge.

The Solution

Investigator is a proven, trusted system used by the regional police services in the Pacific Transnational Crime Network. In 2008, the PPDVP implemented Investigator as the solution for the recording and analysis of domestic violence cases across a number of Pacific countries, including the Cook Islands, Kiribati, Niue, Samoa, the Solomon Islands, Tonga and Tuvalu.

As the trend analysis has been undertaken across the region and by country, analysts use Investigator to view the details of all reported cases from a number of perspectives. Investigator allows the identification of repeat offenders, and the capture of a detailed incident report, including key factors such as the involvement of alcohol, the use of weapons and the injuries incurred.

Victims Age & Gender



Investigator data shows domestic violence victims are overwhelmingly women between 20 and 40 years old.

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Benefits

Investigator provides a common standard for domestic violence data across the PPDVP region, and facilitates the sharing of trend analysis information. PPDVP uses Investigator to build on the objectives of the United Nations UNiTE to End Violence against Women campaign, specifically to:

- Strengthen data collection on the prevalence of violence against women and girls, and
- Increase public awareness and social mobilisation.

Statistical analysis has seen a marked increase in the number of reported cases since the implementation of Investigator in 2008. The ability to categorise offences has provided a base on which to implement targeted strategies to mitigate and eradicate domestic violence.

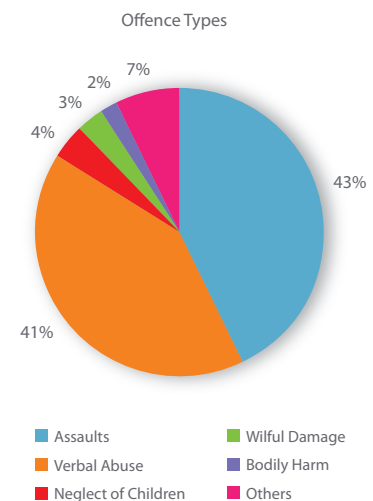
PPDVP Programme Manager Cam Ronald notes how the data from Investigator is being used to meet a range of needs. "The data collected identifies at-risk families and helps to establish safety plans, allows for performance measurement of the police in handling domestic violence cases and provides statistics locally and across the region to lobby for legislative change. The data remains the same, but its uses are many."

"In the past, the police have been unable to give specific details on cases they have dealt with – either individually or collectively. They now have the data available to quantify their work and provide confidence to the public that they are effectively responding to these serious crimes."

Investigator's use within the PPDVP region has broadened to include

performance measurement, resource allocation decisions and process improvement assessment.

The police in both the Cook Islands and Niue have extended Investigator's remit to all offence and incident reporting.



By categorising the types of offence, the PPDVP can recommend strategies targeting specific forms of domestic violence.

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Investigator is the choice of police forces investigating crime, governments fighting corruption, customs agencies securing borders and companies safeguarding investments.

Investigator

The PPDVP uses Investigator's intuitive searching capabilities to look at all data elements associated with a reported incident, including embedded text and partial images.

With Investigator's visualisation functionality, the PPDVP can view relationships with easy-to-follow diagrams linked across cases and data sources, helping to identify patterns and repeat offenders or locations.

Automated tasking allows Investigator clients like the PPDVP to define standard workflows and assign steps to the right individuals, allowing operating procedures to be followed with ease.

Powerful user-defined security roles and permissions keep sensitive information under control, allowing teams to restrict access on a need-to-know basis or share data as necessary.



About Methodware

Methodware is a world-leading developer of risk, compliance, audit and investigations software with over 1,800 clients in 80 countries. Investigator, our award-winning case management and intelligence-led investigation solution, is used by law enforcement, intelligence agencies, government and businesses for sensitive, complex investigations. Highly secure, fast to configure and easy to deploy, Investigator lets your team focus on connecting the dots, not organising them.

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