

AN EXPLORATORY STUDY OF
COURT-REFERRED
BATTERER INTERVENTION PROGRAMS
IN OHIO



JUNE 2006

The opinions, findings, and conclusions or recommendations expressed in this publication are those of the author(s) and do not necessarily reflect the views of the Department of Justice. This project was supported by Award Nos. 2003-DG-B0V-7489 and 2003-DG-B0V-7239 awarded by the Bureau of Justice Assistance, Office of Justice Programs, U.S. Department of Justice, and administered by the Ohio Office of Criminal Justice Services.

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FOREWORD

This study was conducted with continuing input and support from the Family Violence Prevention Center of the Ohio Office of Criminal Justice Services and its dedicated research staff. The findings, insights and recommendations detailed in this study are a direct outcome of this important collaboration. We wish to acknowledge our partners in this collective endeavor – and especially Diana Ramos-Reardon, M.P.A., J.D., Robert Swisher, M.A., and Lisa Contos Shoaf, Ph.D. – for their invaluable contributions to this project.

We wish to recognize and extend our appreciation to the researchers who assisted us: Dr. Eric Lambert, Amy Platz, Korrine Miller and Abbey Weikert.

Last, but certainly not least, we wish to thank all the probation officers and program staff who took the time to participate in this study.

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ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

The Office of Criminal Justice Services (OCJS) has worked for more than a decade with Ohio criminal justice professionals to increase the safety of domestic violence victims and to hold their abusers accountable. We have raised public awareness about domestic violence, supported services for victims and worked to strengthen Ohio law to ensure abusers are punished for their crimes. While these initiatives have been successful in increasing understanding about domestic violence, we also recognize that effective programming for abusers, when appropriate, could be another important tool in our collective efforts to end domestic violence. Similar to the judicial system efforts to address substance abuse offenders or those presenting mental health issues through specialized dockets, Ohio courts want to know if a similar approach could be as effective for domestic violence.

Collectively, the OCJS Family Violence Prevention Center and its advisory council have taken on the issue of studying batterer intervention programs. We are proud of this joint venture. Sound public policy can only emanate from good research. This report is the first in a series that will consider the important empirical question, “What batterer intervention programs work for whom?”

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This study was commissioned by the Ohio Office of Criminal Justice Services, with oversight from the Family Violence Prevention Center Advisory Council. The primary purpose of the study was to create an inventory of court-referred batterer intervention programs in Ohio and to gather general descriptive information about the programs listed in the inventory.

- ❖ One-hundred sixteen probation departments throughout Ohio participated in the survey to identify court-referred batterer intervention programs.
- ❖ Probation officers reported that a substantial number of their agencies' probationers have a history of domestic violence.
- ❖ The data indicates that participating probation departments referred 14,563 probationers to 167 different community programs due to domestic violence in 2005.
- ❖ One hundred thirty-seven (82 percent) of the 167 programs were reached and participated in a program survey regarding the nature of their services.
- ❖ Nearly 40 percent (54) of the 137 programs contacted self-identified as actual batterer intervention programs. Fifty (92.6 percent) of those 54 programs completed all or part of the batterer intervention survey before the end of the study period.
- ❖ More than three-quarters of all batterer intervention programs in the study (76 percent) operate as part of a larger agency. Of those programs, most are part of a larger mental health agency (41.7 percent) or community service organization (27.8 percent).
- ❖ On average, participating programs served approximately 60 participants in 2005; however, individual programs reported that they served anywhere from 12 to 700 participants in calendar year 2005.
- ❖ The surveyed batterer intervention programs predominantly served white male offenders between the ages of 28 and 35.
- ❖ A significant majority of programs in the study (85.7 percent) report that some or most of their participants are parents.
- ❖ Batterer intervention programs rate the level of judicial oversight of program participants as being very good (36.2 percent), to good (38.3 percent), to fair (25.5 percent).
- ❖ More than 80 percent of the batterer intervention programs surveyed employ elements of the Duluth and/or cognitive-behavioral models.
- ❖ More than 90 percent of the surveyed programs reportedly address power and control, personal responsibility, male socialization, social responsibility, sexism, patriarchy, and anger management as a standard part of their curriculum.
- ❖ More than 95 percent of the programs report that participants must achieve specific requirements in order to complete batterer intervention. The most common completion requirement is that batterers must attend all program sessions (87.5 percent).

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- ❖ More than half of the programs (51.1 percent) report a completion rate of 76 percent or better.
 - ❖ Analysis of factors associated with program completion suggests that the less rigorous the demands on the participant, the greater the program's completion rate.
 - ❖ The study found no statistically significant association between program completion and the staff's assessment that a batterer will not re-offend.
 - ❖ An inventory of court-referred batterer intervention programs identified in the study appears on Appendix G of this report.

This study was meant to lay the foundation for more extensive research aimed at developing sound, evidence-based policies for integrated batterer intervention systems in Ohio. The investigators identify several areas for further research throughout this report.

INTRODUCTION

Batterer intervention programs have been the subject of considerable research over the past 20 years. What emerges is a growing recognition that static variables, such as batterer profiles and demographics, or the particular length, design or approach of batterer intervention programs, have not yielded significant findings of effectiveness (Scott, 2004). That is to say that among the studies already published, there is no clear consensus that batterer intervention programs markedly reduce the likelihood of re-offense or significantly increase the safety of women who have been abused, regardless of the type of batterer who attends intervention or what kind of program is under investigation (Gondolf, 2004). While much of the research shows that batterer intervention programs have a *modest* positive effect on violence prevention, there is little evidence to support the effectiveness of one batterer intervention approach over another (Bennett & Williams, 2001), even when batterer typologies (White & Gondolf, 2000; Cavanaugh & Gelles, 2005) and stages of change (Gondolf, 1987) are taken into account.

One of the few consistent findings in the body of research is that the success of batterer intervention programs depends, to some degree, on how embedded they are in a coordinated community response to domestic violence (Gondolf, 2002). Consequently, there is a growing interest among researchers in examining programs in context, as part of a larger and more elaborate intervention system that includes courts and law enforcement, victim services, probation, socio-medico-legal and other community resources, as well as local customs, norms and practices (Scott, 2004; Gladwell, 2000).

This study, commissioned by the Ohio Office of Criminal Justice Services with oversight from the Family Violence Prevention Center Advisory Council, creates an inventory of court-referred batterer intervention programs in Ohio. It is the precursor to a prospective investigation that will more closely examine the extent to which court-referred batterer intervention programs in Ohio are integrated into larger domestic violence intervention systems and what effect that integration has on victim safety and violence reduction. The goal of the prospective investigation will be to develop evidence-based policies for integrated batterer intervention systems in Ohio.

METHODOLOGY

In order to investigate the effectiveness of court-referred batterer intervention programs in Ohio and the impact of program integration into larger domestic violence intervention systems, it is first necessary to identify the batterer intervention programs used by courts in Ohio. The research team determined that probation departments would be the best source of information on court-utilized programs addressing domestic violence. The Ohio Office of Criminal Justice Services provided an initial list of probation departments in Ohio to be invited to participate in the study. This list was added to and updated by the University of Toledo research team.¹

Phone surveys were the primary instruments used for data collection (see Appendix A, B and C). These surveys were developed by the research team in conjunction with the Ohio Office of Criminal Justice Services. Some agencies preferred to complete a written survey, which the research team provided upon request. Letters were sent to chief probation officers explaining the survey in advance (see Appendix D). Advance notice of the probation survey was also published in the *OCJS Criminal Justice Weekly* newsletter (see Appendix E).

The intent of the probation survey was to gather information on domestic violence caseloads, including, but not limited to, community programs and services to which batterers were referred. The phone survey of probation departments was conducted from October 2005 to February 2006. Seventy-three (83 percent) of the 88 Ohio counties were represented by one or more probation departments. One hundred sixteen probation departments completed all or part of the phone survey. Most (71.6 percent) of the respondents were the chief probation officers for their jurisdictions.

Probation departments were asked a series of questions about referrals to community programs and services. Based on responses to these questions, it is estimated that in the 12 months prior to the phone survey, probation departments that participated in the study referred 14,563 probationers to programs or services to address domestic violence. These 14,563 probationers were referred to 167 different community programs and services in 2005.

One hundred thirty-seven (82 percent) of the 167 programs were reached and participated in the program survey.² A series of preliminary questions was asked to determine whether the programs actually provided batterer intervention services.

Most (60.6 percent) of the 137 programs contacted did not report running a batterer intervention program. Individual counseling was the most common service reportedly provided by more than 75 percent of the non-batterer intervention programs. More than 60 percent of the non-batterer intervention programs reportedly provided group counseling, anger management, mental health treatment, substance abuse treatment and/or couples counseling.³ Religious or spiritual counseling was a less common service, reported by 16.9 percent of the programs to which probationers were referred due to domestic violence.

Nearly 40 percent (54) of the programs contacted self-identified as providing batterer intervention programs. Those self-identified batterer intervention programs were asked to complete an additional phone survey regarding their batterer intervention program (see Appendix C). The batterer intervention program survey specifically addressed questions that included, but were not limited to, descriptions of the following: program participants, relationships with referring probation departments, program screening, program models, program completion criteria and assessment of program of success. Fifty (92.6 percent) of the 54 self-identified batterer intervention programs completed all or part of an in-depth phone survey.⁴

The results of the phone survey were analyzed using SPSS 13.0. Descriptive statistics were the primary means of analysis. Some regression analyses were also completed and are discussed later in this report.

PROGRAM FINDINGS

Batterer intervention programs in the sample have been operating in Ohio for at least three decades. Nearly a quarter of all programs in the study (24.5 percent) have been in existence for more than 10 years. Thirty percent of all programs in the study have been providing batterer intervention services for at least 10 years. More than 14,500 Ohio probationers were referred to batterer intervention programs in 2005 by participating probation departments.

Agency Affiliation, Staffing and Caseloads

More than three-quarters of all batterer intervention programs in the study (76 percent) operate as part of a larger agency or organization. Of those programs, most are part of a larger mental health agency (41.7 percent) or community service organization (27.8 percent). Other programs are affiliated with substance abuse agencies (8.3 percent) or operate within a criminal justice organization (5.6 percent).

Almost all programs in the study (93.9 percent) have a full-time staff, and very few programs (14.3 percent) rely, even in part, on part-time staff. Even so, many programs report that they are understaffed and in need of resources to increase the number of program facilitators on staff.

There does not seem to be any uniformity in the caseload of batterer intervention programs in the study. Programs report that they served anywhere from 12 to 700 participants in calendar year 2005. On average, programs worked with approximately 60 participants in 2005. Individual groups tend to be small, with half of all programs (50 percent) reporting groups of 10 and under.

Populations Served

Owing to the gendered nature of domestic violence and community need, almost all of the programs in the study (95.9 percent) serve predominately male batterers. Only two programs (4.1 percent) serve a population that is less than 70 percent male. More than half of the programs (59.2 percent) report that 95 percent of the people they serve are men. Thirty-nine percent of the programs serve only men. Only two programs in the study (4.1 percent) cater exclusively to women. Individual groups are predominately same sex (83.3 percent). Only 16.7 percent of the programs in the study allow men and women in the same group.

Approximately 75 percent of all programs in the study serve mostly white batterers. More than half of the programs (53.1 percent) report that white batterers comprise 75 percent of all program participants. White batterers constitute at least 90 percent of all program participants in one-third of the programs. Forty-three percent of all programs report that less than 5 percent of their participants are African-American. Eighty-two percent of all programs in the study report that less than 5 percent of their participants are Latino.⁵

The data suggests that most programs serve primarily white men between the ages of 28 and 35. The lowest average age reported for program participants was 24 and the highest average age was 40. No programs report providing services specifically tailored to teens or adolescents.⁶

A significant majority of programs in the study (85.7 percent) report that some or most of their participants are parents. It appears that most batterers attending intervention are neither married to nor living with the person they abused in the incident giving rise to the referral.⁷ Most programs (69.4 percent) report that only some or a few of their participants are married to the person they abused in the incident giving rise to the referral, while 63.4 percent of the programs report that only some or a few of their participants are living with, but not married to, the person they abused in the referral-based incident.

Screening for Co-occurring Factors

A significant majority of the programs in the study screen for co-occurring factors, such as alcohol and substance abuse (93.8 percent), other addictions (81.3 percent), mental illness (87.5 percent), and illiteracy

(79.2 percent). More than half of the programs (58.3 percent) screen for occupational limitations. While most programs screen for co-occurring factors, they do not necessarily use a standardized screening tool. Just over half of the programs (56.3 percent) report using a standardized screening instrument, while 43.8 percent report that they do not utilize a uniform screening tool.

Most programs in the study (87.8 percent) report that some or most of their participants have alcohol or substance abuse problems. Nearly one-third of all programs (32.6 percent) report that some or most of their participants have been diagnosed with mental health problems, while another 53 percent indicate that a few of their participants have a history of mental illness.

Poverty or lack of income does not appear to be an impediment to intervention. Most batterers referred to programs receive services regardless of ability to pay, though most participants do, in fact, pay for intervention. A significant majority of programs (83.7 percent) report that most or all of the participants actually pay for services. Most programs (57.1 percent) never deny services based on a participant's inability to pay and less than one-quarter (22.4 percent) of the programs report that they only rarely deny services due to a participant's inability to pay. Significantly, most programs (67.3 percent) do not receive insurance reimbursement for batterer intervention services. Although not an explicit finding, the data suggests that those programs that do receive insurance reimbursement are part of a larger mental health organization that provides separate mental health treatment in appropriate circumstances.

Length and Nature of Programs

The length of batterer intervention programs in the study varies considerably. Approximately one-quarter of all programs (27.1 percent) run for 14 weeks or less. Approximately 27.3 percent of the programs run for 15 to 24 weeks. One-quarter of the programs (25 percent) are designed to meet for 26 weeks. Only 21 percent of the programs run for more than six months.

While all programs in the study seem to have a set duration, more than half of the programs (54.2 percent) have no limit on the number of weeks a batterer may attend. It is not clear from the survey whether batterers actually attend more sessions than recommended, whether they are permitted to make up missed sessions, or whether they must complete a certain number of sessions or attain a certain level of competency within a prescribed period of time. Further research in this area is recommended.

The data also suggests that most programs permit batterers to be readmitted two or more times in the same calendar year. More than 35 percent of the programs readmitted some, and 52 percent of the programs readmitted a few batterers two or more times in 2005. While the incidence of readmittance generally appears to be low, further research is warranted to determine the rate, circumstances and conditions of readmittance into batterer intervention programs.

Relationship to Courts and Probation Departments

Batterer intervention programs were first developed in the late 1970s by men's collectives involved in a larger grassroots effort to respond to violence against women. Early batterer intervention programs tended to attract male participants whose partners had sought protection in a battered women's shelter (Adams, 1989).

Early batterer intervention programs received most of their referrals directly from battered women's shelters. While many early programs received court referrals for batterer intervention, most programs did not accept offenders who were diverted from the criminal justice system (Gondolf, 1990).

Today, batterer intervention programs in Ohio are much more institutionalized. In fact, more than three-quarters of all programs in this study (76 percent) are affiliated with a larger agency or organization. Only 24 percent of the programs operate independently. In contrast to earlier models that often excluded court mandated offenders, virtually all of the programs in this study exist entirely or almost entirely on court referrals. Nearly

half of all programs in the study (49 percent) report that *all* of their participants are referred by probation officers, courts or other agents of the criminal justice system. Just over half of the programs (51 percent) report that *most* of their participants are referred through the criminal justice system. Nearly all of the programs in the study receive referrals from more than one court or probation department (93.9 percent).⁸

One-hundred sixteen probation departments from 73 of Ohio’s 88 counties participated in this study. More than three-quarters of the participating probation departments (75.9 percent) are affiliated with municipal, as opposed to common pleas, courts. Most of the respondents (71.6 percent) were the chief probation officers for their jurisdictions.

To provide a context for court-referred batterer intervention programs, probation officers were asked to estimate what proportion of their current probationers had actually been charged with domestic violence. They were also asked to estimate what proportion of their current probationers had been physically aggressive or threatening towards a spouse or intimate partner. The results of these estimates follow.⁹

Table 1
Current probationers who were originally charged with domestic violence:

| Response | All Probation Departments N=112 | Municipal Court Probation Departments Only ¹⁰ N=84 |
|----------|------------------------------------|--|
| Most | 9.8% | 13.1% |
| Many | 17.9% | 19.0% |
| Some | 41.1% | 41.7% |
| Few | 26.8% | 23.8% |
| Very Few | 4.5% | 2.4% |

Table 2
Current probationers who have been physically aggressive or threatening towards a spouse or intimate partner:

| Response | All Probation Departments N=109 | Municipal Court Probation Departments Only N=82 |
|----------|------------------------------------|--|
| Most | 20.2% | 19.5% |
| Many | 23.9% | 29.3% |
| Some | 34.9% | 32.9% |
| Few | 18.3% | 15.9% |
| Very Few | 2.8% | 2.4% |

These findings suggest that chief probation officers recognize that a significant number of their agencies’ probationers have a history of domestic violence regardless of whether those clients were actually charged with domestic violence.¹¹ In fact, participating probation departments estimate that they referred more than 14,500 probationers for some kind of domestic violence services in 2005.

Batterer intervention programs were asked to assess the quality of their relationships with courts and probation departments. Most batterer intervention programs report having a good (31.3 percent) or very good

(62.5 percent) working relationship with courts and probation departments, while a few programs characterize their working relationship with the criminal justice system as only fair (6.3 percent). Most programs report that they communicate with the referring court or probation department at least monthly (73.5 percent) or “as needed” (85.4 percent) during the course of the program, and almost always at the time of intake (81.6 percent), upon a batterer’s first non-compliance with program requirements (83.7 percent), and upon repeated acts of non-compliance (95.9 percent). All programs report that they communicate with the referring court or probation department upon program completion or termination.

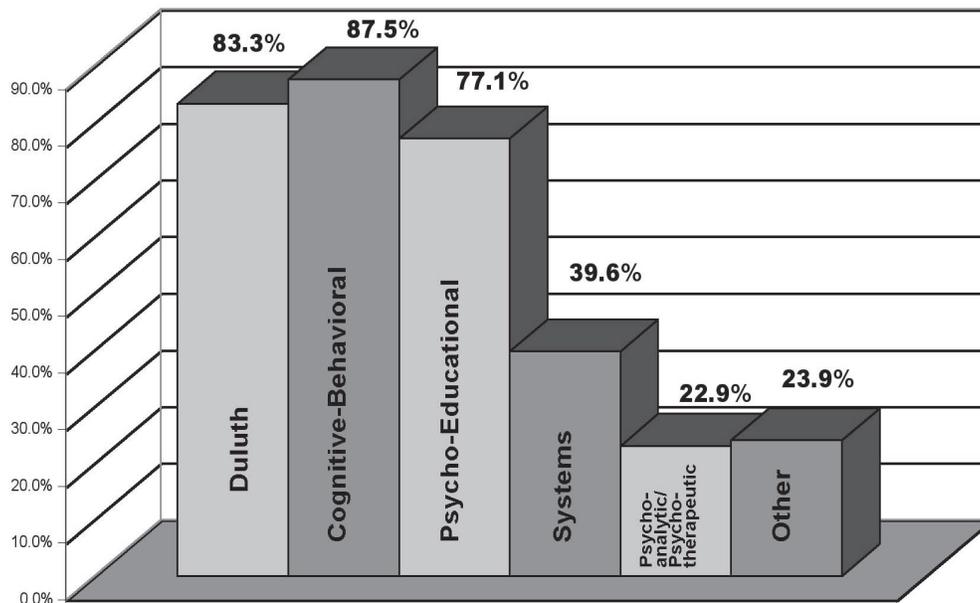
Although the programs in the study generally communicate regularly with referring agencies, those that receive referrals from multiple agencies report varying degrees of monitoring of participant progress by the referring courts and probation departments. Only one program (2.3 percent) responded that the multiple referring agencies provided the exact same level of monitoring of participants’ progress. Many programs report that the level of monitoring by multiple referring agencies is “about the same” (45.5 percent) or “somewhat different” (40.9 percent). Some programs report that monitoring among different referring agencies is “very different” (9.1 percent).

Programs in the study were almost evenly divided on the question of whether courts in their jurisdictions conduct hearings to find out whether court-referred offenders are in compliance with the requirements of the batterer intervention program. Just over one-third of the programs (37.5 percent) say that *all* of the courts in their jurisdiction conduct compliance hearings to ensure that court-referred batterers are adhering to the requirements of the program. Slightly less than one-third of the programs (29.2 percent) report that *none* of the courts in their jurisdiction conduct compliance hearings. One-third of the programs (33.3 percent) report that *some* of the courts in their jurisdiction conduct compliance hearings. When programs were asked to rate the level of judicial oversight of program participants, assessments ranged from very good (36.2 percent), to good (38.3 percent), to fair (25.5 percent). There were no reports of poor or very poor levels of judicial oversight.

Program Models, Curriculum, and Services

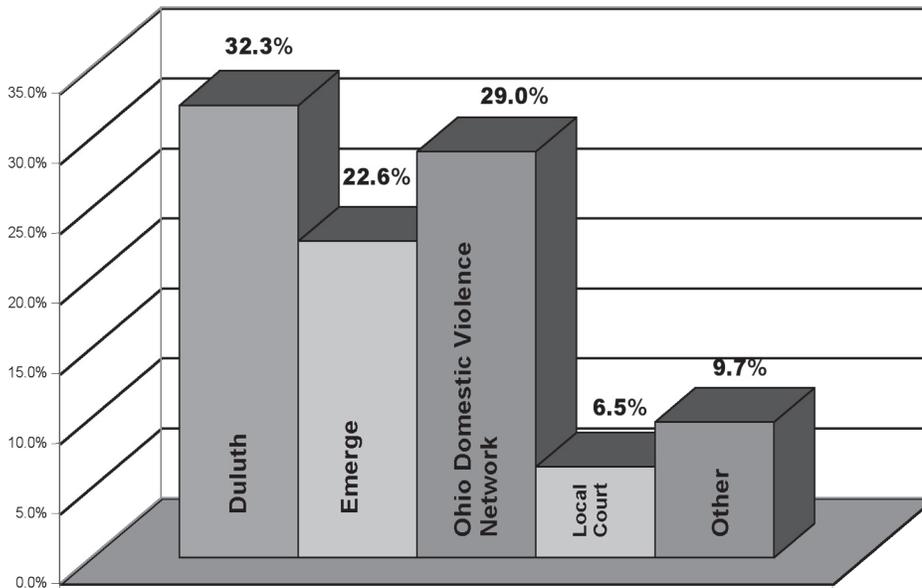
Each program was asked to indicate if it is based on or incorporates elements of any particular model of batterer intervention. Some of the models overlap and many programs identified multiple models.¹² The following chart depicts the responses:

Chart 1: Percent of Programs Using Elements of Batterer Intervention Program Models



Programs were also asked whether they follow any published standards or best practices for batterer intervention. Three-quarters of the programs (75 percent) report that they do. Here, some of the programs indicated that they follow certain program models (like Duluth and Emerge), while other programs identified specific standards and protocols (like the Ohio Domestic Violence Network Standards or the standards established by the Cleveland Municipal Court). The following chart depicts the responses:

Chart 2: Standards and Best Practices



Each program was also asked to identify the major components of its curriculum. By and large, most programs cover a range of topics, including power and control (100 percent), personal responsibility (100 percent), male socialization (95.8 percent), social responsibility (95.7 percent), sexism (93.8 percent), patriarchy (93.8 percent), anger management (91.7 percent), parenting (89.6 percent), and racism (72.9 percent). Some programs also address legal rights (60.4 percent) and approximately one-third of the programs include religious or spiritual teachings (35.4 percent).

Apart from the elements of its curriculum, each program was asked to identify specific services it provides to program participants. An overwhelming majority (95.7 percent) of programs report that they always provide educational groups designed to change attitudes and reduce abusive behavior. Programs report providing other services, including educational groups that address the nature and effects of domestic violence (93.8 percent), individual assessments of each participant (89.4 percent), and group counseling (85.1 percent). Some programs provide other services as needed, such as individual counseling (70.2 percent), couple counseling (31.9 percent), family counseling (39.1 percent), substance abuse treatment (40.4 percent), psychiatric services (55.3 percent), and psychological services (44.7 percent). Very few programs (4.3 percent) provide religious or spiritual guidance as part of their regular services, although some programs (13 percent) provide religious or spiritual guidance “as needed.”

Evaluation of Program Participants

Nearly all programs (89.6 percent) report that they periodically evaluate each participant’s progress in the program. Some programs evaluate participants on a weekly basis (47.6 percent), on a monthly basis (26.2 percent), or at other intervals over the course of the program (23.8 percent). However, very few programs (17.0 percent) use a standardized assessment tool.¹³

Contact with Victims

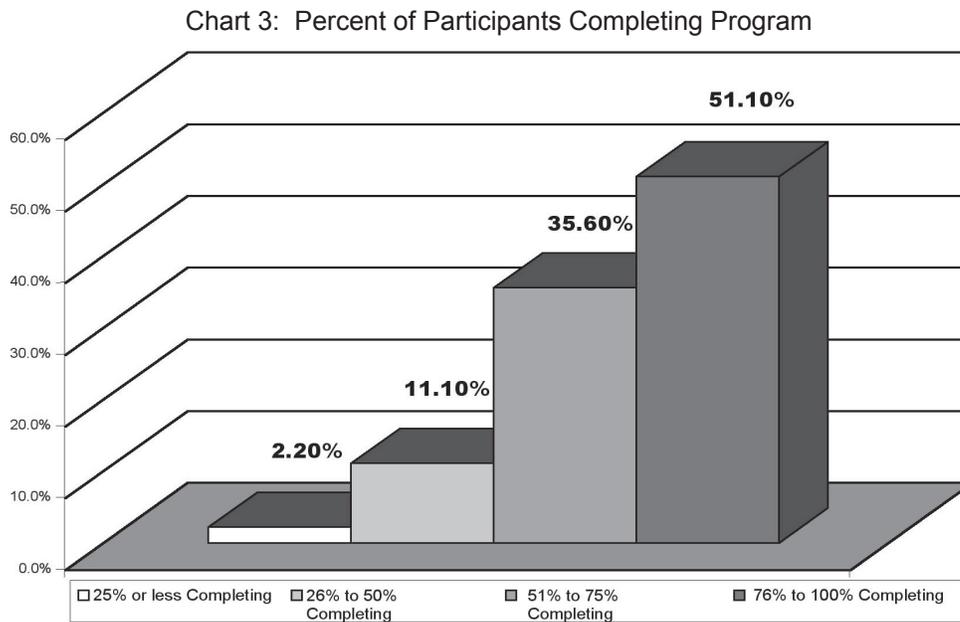
Approximately one-half of the programs (47.9 percent) report that they normally contact the people their participants abused at some point during the program. Approximately two-thirds of the programs (69.6 percent) contact victims at the time the offender is accepted into the program. More than half of the programs (52.2 percent) contact victims periodically during the program to assess participants' progress. Roughly half of the programs (52.2 percent) contact victims upon participants' discharge from the program. Only 17.4 percent of programs contact victims after the program has been completed to follow up on participants' progress.

Requirements for Completion

Most all programs (95.8 percent) report that there are specific requirements that must be met by participants to complete batterer intervention. The most common completion requirement is that batterers must attend all program sessions (87.5 percent). Other common completion requirements include demonstrated change in attitudes and beliefs (79.2 percent), attending a certain number of weeks (76.6 percent), attending a certain number of prescribed sessions (64.6 percent), staying sober during the program (75 percent) and having no reports of re-offense during the program (70.2 percent). Slightly over half (55.3 percent) required *both* sobriety and no reports of re-offense. Only one-third of the programs required evidence of contrition (33.3 percent) as a criterion for completion.

Completion Rates

Each program was asked to approximate the percentage of participants who completed their programs in 2005. Their responses follow:



More than half of the programs (51.1 percent) report a completion rate of 76 percent or better.¹⁴

A multivariate regression analysis was conducted to determine if any specific completion criteria were associated with increased or reduced rates of program completion. The required length of the program, along with the following completion criteria,¹⁵ were entered into the regression model: the recommendation of program staff, attendance at all program sessions, attendance at a set number of sessions, successful completion of probation, no

domestic violence re-offenses, no arrests, maintaining sobriety, evidence of contrition, demonstrated change in attitudes and beliefs and other requirements. The resulting statistical model is shown in Appendix F.

Only two criteria, no re-offense and the absence of other completion requirements, showed statistically significant associations with program completion.¹⁶ The natures of these associations are as follow:

- ❖ Programs without the completion criterion of no re-offense had higher rates of participant completion.
- ❖ Programs without other requirements had higher rates of participant completion.

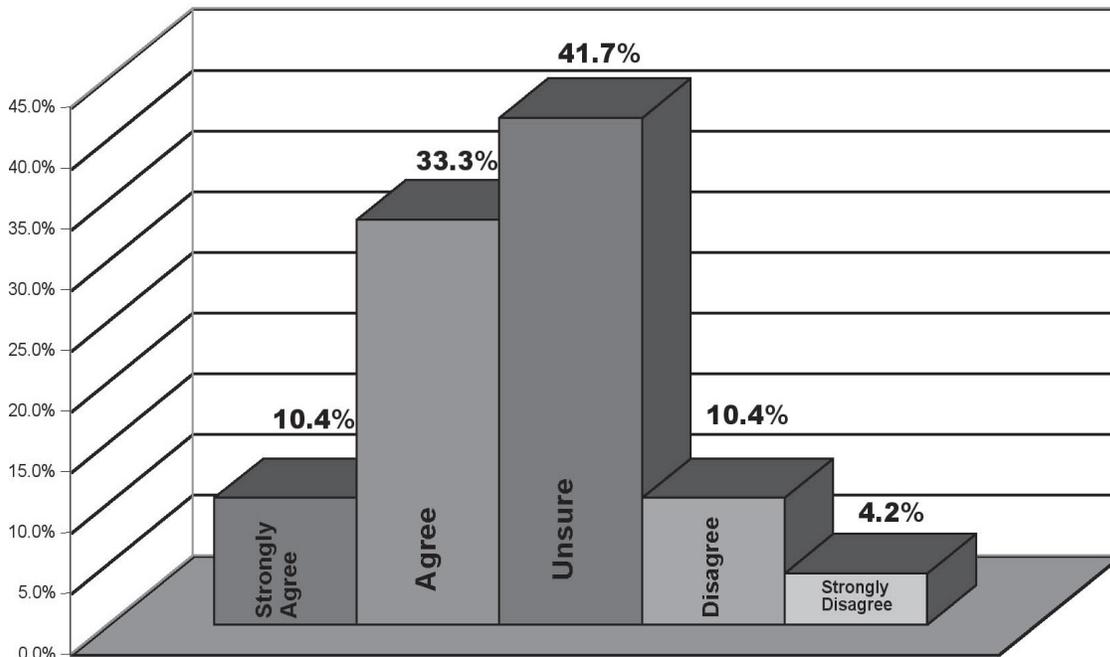
These findings suggest the programs that ignore re-offenses and do not have additional completion requirements have higher completion rates than programs that are attentive to re-offenses and have more rigorous completion requirements. Stated differently, it appears that the more a program requires of its participants, the less likely participants are to complete the program. It is important to note that “program completion” is not equated in any way with the “success” of the program or the “success” of its participants. *This finding should not be interpreted to mean that programs should simply make it easier for participants to get through them so that they can report higher rates of completions.* This is clearly an area in need of further investigation.

Perceived Likelihood of Re-abuse

Each program was asked whether it believes offenders are likely to refrain from abusing their partners for at least 12 months following completion of their programs. More than half of the respondents (56.3 percent) indicated that they either were not sure (41.7 percent) or doubted (14.6 percent) that participants would not abuse their partners within a year of intervention. Chart 4 shows the specific breakdown of responses by response categories.

Bivariate and multivariate analyses¹⁷ were conducted to identify factors that were associated with respondents’ perceptions that participants would not re-offend in 12 months following program completion. The possible affects of program completion and all completion criteria were examined.

Chart 4: Participants Who Complete this Program Will Not Abuse an Intimate or Family Member in the 12 Months Following Program Completion



There was no statistically significant association between program completion criteria and belief that offenders who complete the program are likely to refrain from abusing their partners for at least 12 months following completion of their programs. There was no significant association between program model and perception of participants' likelihood of avoiding abusive behavior in the future. There was no significant association between probation involvement, court involvement, court oversight and assessments of offenders' likelihood of re-offending.

Consistent with the observations of many researchers, this study did not find any specific variable or group of variables that is linked with predictions of reduced recidivism. Clearly, a more in-depth analysis is needed to determine what configuration of program design and theory, probation monitoring and judicial oversight, community intervention strategies, and local standards, practices and customs are most promising.

Strengths and Areas for Improvement

When asked what made their program effective, 30 percent identified their program model and/or curriculum,¹⁸ 26 percent identified the program's emphasis on participant accountability, 16 percent identified group process, 16 percent identified relationships with the court/probation officers and 10 percent identified the staff. There was a range of other factors identified as contributing to the programs' effectiveness, including but not limited to: multi-cultural approach, empathy, male group facilitators, assessment, communications with victims and no waiting lists.

The most commonly recommended program improvement was increasing program length. Thirty percent of the programs recommended lengthening the time of participation. Other common recommendations included: increased funding (16 percent), more staff (6 percent), more court involvement (6 percent) and more victim involvement (4 percent). There was an array of other, less common, recommendations offered: more individual treatment, couple counseling, targeting more serious offenders, more jail space for non-compliant participants, improved program space, staff training and bilingual services.

SUMMARY, LIMITATIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

The probation survey clearly indicates that a majority of probation departments in Ohio have at least some, if not many, probationers who have been charged with and/or have a propensity towards domestic violence. Given the relative size of their domestic violence caseloads and the lack of consistent, specialized domestic violence training among probation officers, chief probation officers expressed an almost universal need for increased domestic violence training opportunities for line staff.

More than 14,000 probationers were referred to community services in 2005 to address issues of domestic violence; however, less than 40 percent of those probationers were referred to programs that were actually identified as batterer intervention programs. It is not altogether clear from the study why or how often probationers are referred to alternative services. One explanation might be that batterer intervention programs do not exist in or near some referring jurisdictions. Another explanation might be that some self-identified batterer intervention programs are full to capacity and cannot accept referrals within a prescribed time frame. It could be that some courts and probation departments prefer alternative services to batterer intervention programs. It could also be that some courts and probation departments misapprehend the nature of the programs to which they are referring domestic violence offenders. Further investigation is needed to determine whether batterer intervention programs and alternative services for domestic violence are being appropriately utilized by Ohio courts and probation departments and whether there is a sufficient number and quality of batterer intervention programs to meet the needs of all Ohio jurisdictions.

More than 80 percent of the batterer intervention programs surveyed employ elements of the Duluth and/or cognitive-behavioral models. Power and control as well as personal responsibility are part of the curriculum in all surveyed programs. More than 90 percent of the surveyed programs also address male socialization, social responsibility, sexism, patriarchy, and anger management. While this study examined which batterer intervention models are most commonly utilized in Ohio, it did not explore how those models are actually applied in practice. In other words, this study goes some way in describing the *nature* of batterer intervention programs in Ohio, but it does not purport to assess the *quality or effectiveness* of those programs. That is an area that warrants further investigation in the future.

Analysis of factors associated with program completion suggests that the less rigorous the demands on the participant, the greater the program's completion rate. Given this finding, it is not surprising that there was no statistically significant association between completing a batterer intervention program and program staff's assessment that a batterer will not re-offend. This study does not attempt to address the relationship, if any, between program completion and program effectiveness, or the extent to which batterer intervention programs actually reduce recidivism, prevent future violence, or promote victim safety, all of which deserve further investigation.

Court-referred batterer intervention programs in Ohio serve predominantly white male offenders between the ages of 28 and 35. It is not at all clear what inferences may be fairly drawn from this finding. In the first place, this study did not examine the demographics of Ohioans who are arrested, tried and ultimately convicted of domestic violence to determine whether the number of young white males referred to batterer intervention programs is disproportionate to other populations. That is an area that warrants further research.

Participating programs regularly screen for co-occurring factors such as alcohol and substance abuse, other addictions, mental illness and illiteracy. Most programs in the study report that some or most of their participants have alcohol or substance abuse problems, while about a third of the programs indicate that some or most of their participants have been diagnosed with mental illness. This finding suggests that future research ought to take co-occurring factors into account when analyzing the broader question of effective batterer intervention systems.



Overall, participating programs report that they have good or very good working relationships with courts and probation departments and indicate generally favorable levels of judicial oversight of program participants. At the same time, virtually all of the programs that participated in this study report that their business relies almost exclusively on court or probation referrals. Consequently, participating programs may be heavily invested in maintaining positive relationships with courts and probation departments. Further research is warranted to explore the extent to which courts and probation departments directly or indirectly dictate how batterer intervention programs are designed, structured and operate and how much leverage courts and probation departments have in establishing standards, protocols and mechanisms for monitoring and oversight of batterer intervention programs in Ohio.



CONCLUSION

This study takes a preliminary look at court-referred batterer intervention programs in order to lay the foundation for more extensive research aimed at developing sound, evidence-based policies for integrated batterer intervention systems in Ohio. It is anticipated that future research will build on this study by identifying and analyzing a sample of programs that exists within diverse settings with varying degrees of integration into broader domestic violence intervention systems in order to improve Ohio's overall coordinated community response to domestic violence.

ENDNOTES

- ¹ Municipal court probation departments were selected because most domestic violence cases are processed through municipal courts. In Ohio, municipal courts primarily process misdemeanor, as opposed to felony, cases. Common pleas court probation departments were only contacted when a municipal court probation department could not be identified and/or reached in the jurisdiction.
- ² For the information from a program to be included in the data analysis the information had to be received by April 15, 2006.
- ³ Most programs reported providing two or more types of services.
- ⁴ For the information from a program to be included in the data analysis the information had to be received by April 15, 2006.
- ⁵ Census data for Ohio shows that whites make up 85.2 percent of the population, blacks 11.9 percent of the population and Hispanics /Latinos 2.2 percent of the population (<http://quickfacts.census.gov/qfd/states>). Further research is warranted to more closely examine the demographics of those who are arrested, prosecuted, and convicted of domestic violence in relation to sentencing patterns and referrals to batterer intervention programs.
- ⁶ This study does not include referrals from juvenile court, so this finding should not be interpreted to mean that batterer intervention programs for teens and adolescents do not exist in Ohio. Further research in this area is recommended.
- ⁷ This is not to say that the victim and offender *never* lived together, but only that they did not live together at the time of participation in the batterer intervention program. Since the Ohio domestic violence statute extends protection to persons who have one or more children in common, as well as to certain classes of persons who live or have lived together, it is *possible* that the victim and offender never lived together. That issue, however, is beyond the scope of this study.
- ⁸ It is important to recognize that this study includes only those programs that receive court and probation department referrals. Consequently, there may well be other batterer intervention programs in Ohio not included in this study that do not receive or accept court-referrals and that do not depend at all on the criminal justice system for survival.
- ⁹ The data presented in Tables 1 and 2 are based on information from probation departments, not batterer intervention programs.
- ¹⁰ In Ohio, municipal courts primarily process misdemeanor, as opposed to felony, cases.
- ¹¹ There was a statistically significant association ($p < .001$) between probation officers' reports of the proportion of their current clients originally charged with domestic violence and the proportion of current clients who had been physically aggressive or threatening towards and intimate.
- ¹² For instance, a program based on the Duluth model may have a predominately psycho-educational and skills-building curriculum, but may also incorporate cognitive-behavioral techniques.
- ¹³ A variety of assessment tools was reported including substance abuse assessment tools, mental health assessment tools and tools to assess the risk of domestic violence. The validity of the instruments used was not addressed but should be considered in future investigation.
- ¹⁴ The completion rates reported by programs in this study are higher than completion rates reported in much of the literature. The reason for this variance is a subject for future investigation.
- ¹⁵ All independent variable were dichotomous (yes/no) with the exception of weeks of required attendance which was entered as a continuous variable.

- 
- ¹⁶ Because of the small sample size the results of multivariate analysis are limited. Only the most powerful associations will attain statistical significance. It is possible that with a larger sample more factors would prove to be significantly associated with program completion.
- ¹⁷ Logistic regression was used in the multivariate analyses. For the purpose of logistic regression analysis, responses to the question regarding participants' likelihood of avoiding abusive behaviors for at least 12 months following completion of their programs were dichotomized into the categories of agree and uncertain/disagrees.
- ¹⁸ Bivariate and multivariate analyses were conducted to determine if a specific program model or curriculum was associated with recognition of program model/curriculum as critical to effectiveness. No statistically significant associations were found. Because of the small sample size the results of multivariate analysis are limited. It is possible that with a larger sample some factors would prove to be significantly associated with program effectiveness.

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Appendix A
Probation Department Survey

Phone Survey for Chief Probation Officer

Hello. My name is _____. I am a graduate/law student from the University of Toledo. We are conducting a survey sponsored by the Ohio Office of Criminal Justice Services. The purpose of the survey is to explore court utilization of batterer intervention programs in Ohio. Because of your unique role as a chief probation officer, your participation is vital to this study. The telephone survey will only take a few minutes to complete. We intend to report aggregate responses only, so your individual responses will be known only to the researchers. May we proceed with the survey now, or is there a better time for us to call?

County/Municipality: _____ Date of Contact: _____

Chief Probation Officer: _____ Phone #: _____

Contact person if not Chief Probation Officer: _____

First, I am going to ask you a few general questions about your community and your probation department:

1. Approximately, what is the population of the community served by your probation department?

2. Approximately, how many people are currently on active or inactive probation with your department?

3. Approximately what percent of your probationers are on:
active probation _____% inactive probation _____%
4. How many probation officers are currently employed by your department? _____
5. What is the average size of a probation officer's caseload at your department? _____
6. Do any probation officers in your department have a specialized caseload in domestic violence?
___ yes (1) ___ no (0) ___ other (9) Please explain :
7. Have all or some of the probation officers in your department received special training on domestic violence during the course of their employment there?
___ yes (1) ___ no (0)
7a. If yes: Approximately what percent of your officers have received DV training?
_____% ___ Unsure
7b. Was DV training:
Mandatory _____ (1) or Voluntary _____ (0) Both _____ (2)?
What organization(s) provided the DV training?

8. Do you think DV training is important for probation officers?

___ yes (1) ___ no (0)

8a. If yes: What type of information would you like to have included in the training?

9. Does your agency participate in a community task force or CCR (Coordinating Community Response Team) on domestic violence?

___ yes (1) ___ no (0) ___ unk (9)

9a. If yes: Who represents your agency on the committee and what is their position?

9b. If yes, which of the following best describes your agency's level of participation?

| | | | | |
|--------------|---------------|---------------|----------------|--------|
| 5 | 4 | 3 | 2 | 1 |
| Attend | Attend | Attend | Attend | Do not |
| All meetings | Most meetings | Some meetings | A few meetings | Attend |

10. Does your court or probation department follow any special protocols or guidelines for dealing with persons charged with domestic violence?

___ yes (1) ___ no (0) ___ unk (9)

If yes:

10a. Who authored the protocols?

10b. Did the protocol come from a specific organization?

11. Which of the following best describes the number of current probationers who were originally charged with domestic violence?

| | | | | |
|------|------|------|-----|----------|
| 5 | 4 | 3 | 2 | 1 |
| Most | Many | Some | Few | Very Few |

12. Which of the following best describes the number of current probationers who plead to or were convicted of domestic violence?

| | | | | |
|------|------|------|-----|----------|
| 5 | 4 | 3 | 2 | 1 |
| Most | Many | Some | Few | Very Few |

13. Which of the following best describes the number of current probationers who have been physically aggressive or threatening towards a current or former partner or family member?

| | | | | |
|------|------|------|-----|----------|
| 5 | 4 | 3 | 2 | 1 |
| Most | Many | Some | Few | Very Few |

14. Of the current probationers who have been physically aggressive or threatening towards a current or former spouse, girlfriend or boyfriend, which of the following best describes the number on **inactive** probation?

| | | | | |
|-------------|------|------|-----|-----------------|
| 5 | 4 | 3 | 2 | 1 |
| All or Most | Many | Some | Few | Very Few if Any |

15. What do you think would help make your court and/or probation department more effective in handling domestic violence cases?

Now, I have a series of questions specifically about programs in your community that address domestic violence. Would you be the best person to answer these questions or is there a supervisor or officer who might be more familiar with DV programs in your community?

_____ Original respondent continuing with survey
_____ Referred to another person:

Name: _____
Phone #: _____

Position: _____
Date of Contact: _____

If referred to a supervisor or another officer, re-ask the following questions to that supervisor or officer. If the Chief Probation Officer continues with the survey, skip to the question asking for a list of programs.

13R. Which of the following best describes the number of current probationers who were originally charged with domestic violence?

| | | | | |
|------|------|------|-----|----------|
| 5 | 4 | 3 | 2 | 1 |
| Most | Many | Some | Few | Very Few |

14R. Which of the following best describes the number of current probationers who plead to or were convicted of domestic violence?

| | | | | |
|------|------|------|-----|----------|
| 5 | 4 | 3 | 2 | 1 |
| Most | Many | Some | Few | Very Few |

15R. Which of the following best describes the number of current probationers who have been physically aggressive or threatening towards a current or former partner or family member?

| | | | | |
|------|------|------|-----|----------|
| 5 | 4 | 3 | 2 | 1 |
| Most | Many | Some | Few | Very Few |

16R. Of the current probationers who have been physically aggressive or threatening towards a current or former spouse, girlfriend or boyfriend, which of the following best describes the number on **inactive** probation?

| | | | | |
|-------------|------|------|-----|-----------------|
| 5 | 4 | 3 | 2 | 1 |
| All or Most | Many | Some | Few | Very Few if Any |

17R. What do you think would make your court and/or probation department more effective in handling domestic violence cases?

I would like you to rate how effective you consider each of the following types of programs and services to be in **reducing a batterer's likelihood of re-offending?**

We are going to use the following rating scale:

Very Effective =5 Effective=4 Somewhat Effective =3 Not Very Effective =2 Ineffective =1
Unsure= 9

| | | | | | | | |
|-----|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 18. | Couples Counseling | 5 | 4 | 3 | 2 | 1 | 9 |
| 19. | Anger Management | 5 | 4 | 3 | 2 | 1 | 9 |
| 20. | Victims Counseling | 5 | 4 | 3 | 2 | 1 | 9 |
| 21. | Psychological/ Psychiatric Treatment for the Batterer | 5 | 4 | 3 | 2 | 1 | 9 |
| 22. | Batterer's Intervention Program | 5 | 4 | 3 | 2 | 1 | 9 |
| 23. | Substance Abuse Treatment | 5 | 4 | 3 | 2 | 1 | 9 |

Record comments:

Now, I am going to ask you to identify the specific community programs your department uses to refer probationers who have battered, or are at risk of battering, their current or former partner or family member. Once you have identified the programs, I am going to ask you a brief series of questions about each program. OK?

What are the names of the specific community programs to which your department refers probationers who have been charged with and/or are considered at risk of domestic violence?

Program Names:

| | |
|-------|-------|
| _____ | _____ |
| _____ | _____ |
| _____ | _____ |
| _____ | _____ |
| _____ | _____ |
| _____ | _____ |

Now, I am going to ask you a series of questions about each program you have listed.

1P. Program Name: _____

2P. Phone #: _____

3P. Contact Person: _____

4P. Mailing Address: _____

5P. What makes this program a good referral source for your department?

6P. Do you know what type of services this program provides?

___ yes (1) ___ no (0) ___ unsure (9)

If yes, could you briefly describe services provided?

7P. Approximately how many probationers did your agency refer to this program in the past 12 months?

8P. Of the probationers referred to this program, which of the following best describes the proportion that successfully completed the program?

| | | | | |
|-------------|------|------|-----|-----------------|
| 5 | 4 | 3 | 2 | 1 |
| All or Most | Many | Some | Few | Very Few if Any |

9P. In your professional opinion, which of the following best describes the effectiveness of this program in reducing domestic violence?

| | | | | |
|----------------|-----------|--------------------|--------------------|-------------|
| 5 | 4 | 3 | 2 | 1 |
| Very Effective | Effective | Somewhat Effective | Not Very Effective | Ineffective |

If program is rated as **4 or 5**, ask the following:

9P A. In your opinion, what makes this program more effective?

If program is rated **1,2 or 3**, ask the following:

9P B. In your opinion what would make this program more effective?

Program Name _____

I am going to read you a list of information a program addressing domestic violence may report to a probation department. I am going to ask you if, to the best of your knowledge, this program reports specific information to your probation department. If you are not sure if a given piece of information is provided by the program, we can note that. OK?

Yes (1) No (0) Unsure (9)

| | | | |
|------|------|------|---|
| ____ | ____ | ____ | 10P. Provides a treatment plan for each client? If yes: 10PA. Is the information usually provided in a timely manner? ___ yes (1) ___ no (0) ___ unk (9) 10PB. Is a written report provided? ___ yes (1) ___ no (0) ___ unk (9) |
| ____ | ____ | ____ | 11P. Provides regular progress reports? If yes: 11PA. Is the progress report usually made in a timely manner? ___ yes (1) ___ no (0) ___ unk (9) Is a written report provided? ___ yes (1) ___ no (0) ___ unk (9) |
| ____ | ____ | ____ | Notifies probation if a client fails to attend the program. If yes: Is the notification usually made in a timely manner? ___ yes (1) ___ no (0) ___ unk (9) Is a written report provided? ___ yes (1) ___ no (0) ___ unk (9) |
| ____ | ____ | ____ | Notifies probation if a client fails to comply with program requirements? If yes: Is the notification usually made in a timely manner? ___ yes (1) ___ no (0) ___ unk (9) Is a written report provided? ___ yes (1) ___ no (0) ___ unk (9) |
| ____ | ____ | ____ | Provides an outcome* report for each client? If yes: Is the outcome report usually provided in a timely manner? ___ yes (1) ___ no (0) ___ unk (9) Is a written report provided? ___ yes (1) ___ no (0) ___ unk (9) |

* Outcome refers to both successful and unsuccessful program outcomes.

Program Name _____

When your department receives notifications from this program that clients are failing to attend the program and/or failing to comply with conditions of the program, which of the following best describes the number of cases in which probation violations are issued?

- | | | | | | |
|-------------|------|------|-----|-----------------|---------|
| 5 | 4 | 3 | 2 | 1 | 9 |
| All or Most | Many | Some | Few | Very few if any | Unknown |

Comments:

What are the most common sanctions for probation violations issued for failure to attend or failure to comply with conditions of this program?

When you receive notifications from this program that clients have failed to successfully complete the program, which of the following best describes the number of cases in which probation violations would be issued?

- | | | | | | |
|-------------|------|------|-----|-----------------|---------|
| 5 | 4 | 3 | 2 | 1 | 9 |
| All or Most | Many | Some | Few | Very few if any | Unknown |

What are the most common sanctions for probation violations issued for failure to complete this program?

Do you have any additional comments you would like to make about this program?



Appendix B
Preliminary Program Survey



Program Screening Form

Name of Organization: _____ Phone: _____
City of location: _____ Contact Date: _____
Name of contact person: _____
Position of person responding to survey: _____
Referral Source used by: _____

The Ohio Department of Criminal Justice Services and the University of Toledo are conducting a study of court-referred batterer intervention programs. Your organization was identified by (refer to above list) as an agency to which domestic violence offenders are sometimes referred. May I ask you a few questions?

1. Does your organization provide a batterers intervention program?

yes no

1A. Was clarification of what of the term “batterers’ intervention program” requested?

yes no

If clarification is requested state:

A batterers’ intervention program provides services for persons who are abusing, or have abused, an intimate partner or family member. These services sometimes take the form of facilitated group meetings or educational programs designed to address domestic violence.

If yes to question # 1, ask to speak to the person in charge of, or responsible for, the program that serves batterers and go to the BIP survey.

If no to question # 1, ask the following:

Which of the following services does your organization provide?

(Check all that apply)

- Individual counseling
- Couples counseling
- Group counseling
- Anger management
- Substance abuse treatment
- Psychiatric services
- Psychological services
- Spiritual or religious guidance
- Other: List

Thank you very much for your time.



Appendix C
Batterer Intervention Program Survey



6. Approximately, how long has batterer's intervention program been in existence?
 _____ year(s) _____ months
7. How many program staff directly work with participants in the batterer's intervention program?
 _____ Full-time staff _____ Part-time staff
8. Approximately, how many participants were served by the program in calendar year (CY) 2005?
 _____ Participants served in CY 2005
9. Approximately, what percentages of the participants served by your program in CY 2005 were referred by probation officers and /or the courts?
 _____%

Now I am going to ask you a few general questions about the characteristics of the participants your program served during 2005. I will not ask you to identify any participants or reveal any confidential information about them. Okay?

10. Approximately, what percentage of participants served in CY 2005 were:
 _____ Male _____ Female
11. Approximately, what percentage of participants served in CY 2005 were:
 _____ Caucasian
 _____ African-American
 _____ Latino/Hispanic
 _____ Other: Specify _____
12. Which of the following best describes the number of participants served in CY 2005 who spoke only Spanish?

| | | | | | |
|-----|------|------|-----|------|-----|
| 5 | 4 | 3 | 2 | 1 | 0 |
| All | Most | Some | Few | None | Unk |
13. Which of the following best describes the number of participants served in CY 2005 who spoke English?

| | | | | | |
|-----|------|------|-----|------|-----|
| 5 | 4 | 3 | 2 | 1 | 0 |
| All | Most | Some | Few | None | Unk |
14. What was the approximate average age of participants served by your program in CY 2005?
 _____ Average age _____ Unknown (99)
15. Does the program regularly screen for any of the following factors at intake?
 Yes (1) No (0)
 _____ 15A. alcohol or substance abuse
 _____ 15B. other addictions
 _____ 15C. mental illness
 _____ 15D. illiteracy
 _____ 15E. occupational limitations

16. Does your program use a standardized screening instrument(s)?

___ no (0) ___ yes (1) ___ unknown (9)

16A. If yes, name of instrument(s)? _____

17. How does the program determine whether referrals are appropriate for the batterer's intervention program?

18. What is the average length of time participants spends in the program?

___ weeks ___ months

19. What is the maximum length of time a participant may spend in the program?

___ weeks ___ months

_____ no limit, participant may stay in the program as long as necessary(99)

Unless otherwise specified, the following questions refer to participants served by your program during CY 2005.

20. Which of the following best describes the number of participants who have been admitted to this program two or more times during or prior to 2005?

| | | | | | |
|-----|------|------|-----|------|-----|
| 5 | 4 | 3 | 2 | 1 | 9 |
| All | Most | Some | Few | None | Unk |

21. Approximately what percent of batterers in your program are parents?

| | | | | | |
|-----|------|------|-----|------|-----|
| 5 | 4 | 3 | 2 | 1 | 9 |
| All | Most | Some | Few | None | Unk |

22. Which of the following best describes the number of participants who were married to the persons they are alleged to have abused?

| | | | | | |
|-----|------|------|-----|------|-----|
| 5 | 4 | 3 | 2 | 1 | 9 |
| All | Most | Some | Few | None | Unk |

23. Which of the following best describes the number of participants who were living with, but not married to the person they are alleged to have abused?

| | | | | | |
|-----|------|------|-----|------|-----|
| 5 | 4 | 3 | 2 | 1 | 9 |
| All | Most | Some | Few | None | Unk |

24. Which of the following best describes the number of participants, who abused a same sex intimate partner?

| | | | | | |
|-----|------|------|-----|------|-----|
| 5 | 4 | 3 | 2 | 1 | 9 |
| All | Most | Some | Few | None | Unk |

25. Which of the following best describes the number of participants who had alcohol or drug abuse problems?

| | | | | | |
|-----|------|------|-----|------|-----|
| 5 | 4 | 3 | 2 | 1 | 9 |
| All | Most | Some | Few | None | Unk |

26. Which of the following best describes the number of participants who have been diagnosed with mental health problems?
- | | | | | | |
|-----|------|------|-----|------|-----|
| 5 | 4 | 3 | 2 | 1 | 9 |
| All | Most | Some | Few | None | Unk |
27. Approximately, what proportion of participants pay a fee for services?
- | | | | | | |
|-----|------|------|-----|------|-----|
| 5 | 4 | 3 | 2 | 1 | 9 |
| All | Most | Some | Few | None | Unk |
28. Approximately, what proportion of the cases does the program receive insurance reimbursement for provision of services to participants?
- | | | | | | |
|-----|------|------|-----|------|-----|
| 5 | 4 | 3 | 2 | 1 | 9 |
| All | Most | Some | Few | None | Unk |
29. How often are persons referred to the program denied access because of an inability to pay or lack of insurance?
- | | | | | | |
|------------|-------|-----------|--------|-------|-----|
| 5 | 4 | 3 | 2 | 1 | 9 |
| Very Often | Often | Sometimes | Rarely | Never | Unk |
30. Which of the following best describes the number of participants referred by probation officers, the courts or other agents of the criminal justice system who were accepted into the program?
- | | | | | | |
|-----|------|------|-----|------|-----|
| 5 | 4 | 3 | 2 | 1 | 9 |
| All | Most | Some | Few | None | Unk |
31. How would you describe the working relationship between your program and courts or probation departments from which you receive referrals?
- | | | | | | |
|-----------|------|------|------|-----------|-----|
| 5 | 4 | 3 | 2 | 1 | 9 |
| Very Good | Good | Fair | Poor | Very Poor | Unk |

*Does your program communicate with the referring court or probation department regarding the person(s) referred at any of the following times? (*enter 9 for unknown*)*

32. Immediately after program intake _____ yes (1) _____ no (0)
33. At least once a month during the course of the program _____ yes (1) _____ no (0)
34. Periodically during the program on an “as needed basis” _____ yes (1) _____ no (0)
35. Weekly during the course of the program _____ yes (1) _____ no (0)
36. First non-compliance with any program requirements _____ yes (1) _____ no (0)
37. Repeated non-compliance with program requirements _____ yes (1) _____ no (0)
38. Upon termination of participant from program _____ yes (1) _____ no (0)
39. Upon program completion _____ yes (1) _____ no (0)
40. Upon request of court or probation officer _____ yes (1) _____ no (0)

41. Does your batterer's intervention program receive referrals from more than one probation department and/or court?
___ yes (1) ___ no (0)

41A. If yes: Is there any difference in the level of participant's progress monitoring by the different probation departments or courts?

- ___ Very different (4)
- ___ Somewhat different (3)
- ___ About the same (2)
- ___ Exactly the same (1)
- ___ Unknown (9)

42. Do the court(s) in your jurisdiction ever schedule hearings to find out whether participants comply with the requirements of the program?

___ yes, all courts (2) ___ yes, some of the courts (1) ___ none of the courts (0)

43. Overall, how would you rate the level of judicial oversight of the participants in your batterer's intervention program?

| | | | | | |
|-----------|------|------|------|-----------|-----|
| 5 | 4 | 3 | 2 | 1 | 9 |
| Very Good | Good | Fair | Poor | Very Poor | Unk |

44. Does your batterer's intervention program formally or systematically evaluate each participant's progress?

___ yes (1) ___ no (0) ___ unknown (9)

44A. If yes: How often does the program evaluate participant's progress?

___ (3) At least once a week ___ (2) Twice a month
___ (1) Once a month ___ (9) Other, please describe: _____

44B. Does the program use a standardized instrument to assess progress?

___ yes (1) ___ no (0) ___ unknown (9)

44C. If yes, what is the name of the instrument?

45. Are there specific requirements for completion of the batterer's intervention program?

- ___ No specific requirements (0)
- ___ Requirements are unknown (9)
- ___ Yes, there are specific requirements for completion of the program (1)

If yes, which of the following are among the requirements for completion of the program? (*check all that apply*)

- | | | |
|---------|--------|---|
| Yes (1) | No (0) | |
| ___ | ___ | 45A. Staff recommendation |
| ___ | ___ | 45B. Attend all program sessions |
| ___ | ___ | 45C. Attend a certain number of session. Specify # of sessions: |
| ___ | ___ | 45D. Attend for a certain number of weeks. |
| | | 45E. Specify weeks: _____ |

- ___ 45F. Successful completion of probation
- ___ 45G. No reports of re-offense during the program
- ___ 45H. No arrests during the program
- ___ 45I. Stay sober during the program
- ___ 45J. Evidence of contrition
- ___ 45K. Demonstrated change in participant's attitudes and beliefs
- ___ 45L. Other criteria, *please describe:*

46. During CY 2005, approximately what percentage of the participants served completed the batterer's intervention program?

_____ % completing in CY 2005

I am going to read you a list of services and activities. Please tell me if each service is always provided, provided as needed or not provided, as part of your batterer's intervention program.

(Coding: AP =Always Provided, PN= Provided as Needed , N= Not provided)

- | | AP(1) | PN(2) | N(0) | |
|-----|-------|-------|------|--|
| 47. | ___ | ___ | ___ | Individual assessment of participant |
| 48. | ___ | ___ | ___ | Educational groups that addresses the nature and effects of domestic violence |
| 49. | ___ | ___ | ___ | Educational groups designed to change the participant's attitude and reduce his/her abusive behavior |
| 50. | ___ | ___ | ___ | Journaling |
| 51. | ___ | ___ | ___ | Peer mentoring |
| 52. | ___ | ___ | ___ | Community service |
| 53. | ___ | ___ | ___ | Individual counseling |
| 54. | ___ | ___ | ___ | Group counseling |
| 55. | ___ | ___ | ___ | Couples counseling |
| 56. | ___ | ___ | ___ | Family counseling |
| 57. | ___ | ___ | ___ | Victim/participant (batterer) groups |
| 58. | ___ | ___ | ___ | Substance abuse treatment |
| 59. | ___ | ___ | ___ | Psychiatric services |
| 60. | ___ | ___ | ___ | Psychological services |
| 61. | ___ | ___ | ___ | Religious/spiritual guidance |
| 62. | ___ | ___ | ___ | Anger management groups or training |

63. Please identify any other activities or services that are always provided as part of your program:

64. Is group work a part of the program? ___ yes (1) ___ no (0)

If yes:

- 64A. What is the average size of the group _____
- 64B. Average number of facilitators per group _____

65. Are all the participants in the group batterers? ___ yes (1) ___ no (0)
66. Are male and female participants in the same group? ___ yes (1) ___ no (0)
67. Does the program's curriculum address any of the following? ___ yes (1) ___ no (0)
- 67A. Power and control ___ yes (1) ___ no (0) ___ unknown (9)
- 67B. Male socialization ___ yes (1) ___ no (0) ___ unknown (9)
- 67C. Anger management ___ yes (1) ___ no (0) ___ unknown (9)
- 67D. Racism ___ yes (1) ___ no (0) ___ unknown (9)
- 67E. Sexism ___ yes (1) ___ no (0) ___ unknown (9)
- 67F. Patriarchy ___ yes (1) ___ no (0) ___ unknown (9)
- 67G. Personal responsibility ___ yes (1) ___ no (0) ___ unknown (9)
- 67H. Social responsibility ___ yes (1) ___ no (0) ___ unknown (9)
- 67I. Religious teachings ___ yes (1) ___ no (0) ___ unknown (9)
- 67J. Legal rights ___ yes (1) ___ no (0) ___ unknown (9)
- 67K. Parenting ___ yes (1) ___ no (0) ___ unknown (9)

Please indicate if your program is based on or incorporates elements on any of the following models.

68. Duluth ___ yes (1) ___ no (0) ___ unk (9)
69. Cognitive-behavioral ___ yes (1) ___ no (0) ___ unk (9)
70. Psychoanalytic/Psychotherapeutic ___ yes (1) ___ no (0) ___ unk (9)
71. Systems ___ yes (1) ___ no (0) ___ unk (9)
72. Psycho-educational ___ yes (1) ___ no (0) ___ unk (9)
73. Other model(s) ___ yes (1) ___ no (0) ___ unk (9)

74. If other model(s), please describe: _____

75. Does the program follow any published standards or best practices for batterer intervention programs?
 ___ yes (1) ___ no (0) ___ unknown (9)

75A. If yes, please name the source of the standards or best practices:

76. Please indicate your degree of agreement or disagreement with the following statement: **Representatives of this program actively participate in a local domestic violence task force or coordinated community response?**

5 4 3 2 1
 Strongly Agree Agree Unsure Disagree Strongly Disagree

Now I am going to ask you a few questions about the involvement of victims and survivors of domestic violence in your program.

77. Are the participant's victims normally contacted at any point in the program?
___ (0) no ___ (1) yes ___ (9) unknown

77A. If yes, when? (check all that apply)

- ___ (4) Participant intake
- ___ (3) Periodically during the program to assess participant's progress
- ___ (2) At participant's discharge
- ___ (1) As part of the program's follow-up
- ___ (9) Other, please specify:

78. Please indicate your degree of agreement or disagreement with the following statement: **In our program, victim safety is more important than participants' confidentiality.**

5 4 3 2 1
Strongly Agree Agree Unsure Disagree Strongly Disagree

79. Do survivors of domestic violence serve on the board or committee governing the program?
___ (0) no ___ (1) yes

80. First, please indicate your degree of agreement or disagreement with the following statement: **Participants who complete this program will not abuse an intimate or family member in the 12 months following program completion.**

5 4 3 2 1
Strongly Agree Agree Unsure Disagree Strongly Disagree

81. What do you believe are the most effective services or components of the program and why?

82. How do you believe the program could be improved?

83. Any additional comments?



Appendix D
Letter to Chief Probation Officers



September 1, 2005

Chief Probation Officer
[Probation Department]
[Street Address]
[City, Ohio Zip Code]

Re: Statewide Study on Court Utilization of Batterer Intervention Programs

Dear Chief Probation Officer:

The Ohio Office of Criminal Justice Services, in collaboration with the University of Toledo, seeks your assistance with a new study that explores court utilization of batterer intervention programs in Ohio.

As a first step, our researchers will be conducting a telephone survey of all Ohio probation offices to identify batterer intervention programs that receive referrals from the criminal justice system. You may expect a call within the next few months from a member of our research team. We ask that you take a minute to answer a series of questions about court referred batterer intervention programs. If you would prefer to answer a written survey, we would be happy to send you a hard copy of the survey by mail or e-mail, whichever is more convenient for you.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact either of the principal investigators at the e-mail addresses below.

Thank you for your cooperation and assistance.

Sincerely Yours,

Lois A. Ventura, Ph.D.
Department of Criminal Justice

Gabrielle Davis, J.D.
College of Law

Lois Ventura, Co-Principal Investigator, University of Toledo, Department of Criminal Justice, College of Health and Human Services – 419-530-2660 - lois.ventura@utoledo.edu

Gabrielle Davis, Co-Principal Investigator, University of Toledo, College of Law - gabrielle.davis@utoledo.edu



Appendix E
OCJS Criminal Justice Weekly Newsletter Notice



Statewide Study on Court Utilization of Batterer Intervention Programs

The Ohio Office of Criminal Justice Services, in collaboration with the University of Toledo, seeks your assistance with a new study that explores court utilization of batterer intervention programs in Ohio.

As a first step, our researchers are compiling an inventory of all batterer intervention programs that receive referrals from the courts. You can help by sending us the names, locations and contact information for batterer intervention programs throughout Ohio, including urban, suburban and rural sites. ***Our focus is on programs that receive referrals from the courts, regardless of the particular structure or model of the program.***

Please send us names and contact information for any and all batterer intervention programs that you know about in Ohio. We will ascertain whether they receive court referrals.

E-mail: gabrielle.davis@utoledo.edu

Fax: (419) 530-2605

Mail: Gabrielle Davis
 The University of Toledo
 College of Law
 Toledo, Ohio 43606

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact either of the researchers at the e-mail addresses below.

Lois Ventura, Co-Principal Investigator, University of Toledo, Department of Criminal Justice, College of Health and Human Services - lois.ventura@utoledo.edu

Gabrielle Davis, Co-Principal Investigator, University of Toledo, College of Law - gabrielle.davis@utoledo.edu



Appendix F
Statistical Model: Factors Associated with
Program Completion



Regression: Factors Associated with Program Completion

| Model | B | Std. Error | Beta | t | Sig. |
|---|------------|------------|-------|--------|--------|
| (Constant) | 97.430 | 13.862 | | 7.029 | .000 |
| Staff recommendation | 2.798 | 7.208 | .069 | .388 | .702 |
| Attending all program sessions | 6.161 | 8.388 | .127 | .735 | .470 |
| Attending a certain number of sessions | -6.251 | 7.593 | -.154 | -.823 | .419 |
| Weeks of required attendance | -4.432E-02 | .261 | .028 | .170 | .867 |
| Successful completion of probation | 13.243 | 7.552 | .289 | .1754 | .093 |
| No reports of re-offense during the program | -20.902 | 8.833 | -.498 | -.2366 | .027* |
| No arrests during the program | -4.134 | 8.117 | -.111 | -.509 | .616 |
| Staying sober during the program | -4.112 | 6.595 | -.094 | -.623 | .539 |
| Evidence of contrition | .137 | 6.936 | .003 | .020 | .984 |
| Change in attitudes and beliefs | -2.358 | .7522 | -.054 | -.313 | .757 |
| Other additional requirements | -25.030 | 7.672 | -.546 | -3.263 | .004** |

* p<.05 **p<.01

Adjusted R Square = .379

Dependent Variable = Percent Completing Program

Independent Variables = Completion Criteria

All independent variable were dichotomous with the exception of weeks of required attendance which was entered as a continuous variable.



Appendix G
Court-Referred Batterer Intervention Programs



Inventory of Batterer Intervention Programs

The following programs were identified by one or more of the surveyed probation departments and completed all or part of the batterer intervention survey.

A-FAR

Afro centric Freedom from Abuse
1409 E. Livingston Ave.
Columbus, OH 43205
614-253-4448
Carol Stegall, Facilitator

Alternatives to Violence

16 E. Franklin St.
Troy, OH 45373
937-339-6761
Barbara Holman, Director

AMEND

898 Walnut St.
Cincinnati, OH 45202
513-361-2135
Jim Beiting, Director

Amend Program

55 S. 4th St.
Batavia, OH 45103
513-732-0450
Darlene Ramone, Coordinator

Anger Management

111 N. High St.
Waverly, OH 45690
740-947-7581
Tom Johnson, Director

Another Way, Batterer Intervention Program

104 Spink St. Gault
Liberty Center
Wooster, OH 44691
330-263-6021
Leslie Graves, Coordinator

August Project

184 Salon Ave.
Dayton, OH
934-222-9481
Ralph Clanton, Facilitator

Batterer Intervention Program

202 S. Union St.
Bryan, OH 43506
419-636-6848
Don Karcher, Counselor

Batterer Intervention Program

1276 W. Third Street, #325
Cleveland, Ohio 44113
216-443-5626
Don Karcher, Counselor

Batterer Intervention Program

511 Perry St.
Defiance, OH 43512
419-782-4933
Brent Shaffer, Licensed Counselor

Batterer Intervention Program-MACC

320 Executive Drive
Marion, OH 43302
740-387-5210
Elaine Ring, Associate Director

Batterer Intervention Program, Southeast Inc.*

Columbus, Ohio
614-449-5522
David Weinhold

Batterers' Treatment Program

1425 Starr Ave.
Toledo, OH 43605
419-693-0631
Tom Calvin, Manager of Assessments

BEAP

P.O. Box 487
Waverly, OH 45690
740-947-1611
Sarah Smith, Executive Director

Behavioral Health

355 W. Prospect, #124
Ashtabula, OH 44044
440-998-7333
Rene Fisher, Director of Chemical Dependency

Bexley Men's Group

2483 E. Main St.
Columbus, OH 43209
614-237-5081
Steve Sandor, Clinical Director

* A written response to the batterer intervention survey was received in May of 2006, after cut off date for entry of information into the data set. While the program is being listed in the inventory, information from this program was not part of the data analysis.

Choices at Crossroads
P.O. Box 643
Lima, OH 45802
419-303-4291
Emily Wrencher, Program Coordinator

Crossroads Recovery Services
1364 S. High St.
Columbus, OH 43207
614-445-0352
Terence Donohue, Clinical Director

DAIP – Domestic Abuse Intervention Program
335 Buckeye Blvd.
Port Clinton, OH 43452
419-734-2942
Martin Williams, Clinical Director

Diversions Program
2703 Mahoning, St., #102
Youngstown, OH 44509
330-501-0067
W. Youngman

Domestic Abuse Intervention Program
104 ½ N. Marietta St.
St. Clairsville, OH 43950
1-800-695-1639
Kim Malolepszy, Counselor

Domestic Abuse Intervention Program
835 N. Locust St.
Ottawa, OH 45875
419-523-4300
Jessica Cox, LISW, CCDCI

Domestic Violence Intervention Project
P.O. Box 1083
Athens, OH 45701
740-593-3108

Domestic Violence Offenders Program
1616 E. Wooster, #24
Bowling Green, OH
419-352-4654
G. Keith Brotteridge, Director

Domestic Violence Program*
410 Conant St.
Maumee, Ohio 43537
419-897-7149
Edward Vollmar, Mental Health Counselor LPCC

* A written response to the batterer intervention survey was received in May of 2006, after cut off date for entry of information into the data set. While the program is being listed in the inventory, information from this program was not part of the data analysis.

Domestic Violence Psycho-Educational Group
4449 St. Rt. 159
P.O. Box 6179
Chillicothe, OH 45601
740-775-1260
Brian Bethel, Outpatient Director

Domestic Violence Prevention and Education
32 E. Sugartree St.
Wilmington, OH 45177
937-383-3285
Denise Turner, Interim Director

Domestic Violence Program
2458 Stetzer Road
Bucyrus, OH 44820
419-562-2000
John Smith, Therapist

DOVE, Domestic Options for Violence Education
989 N. High St.
Columbus, OH 43201
614-421-3611
Juliette Williams, Director

Duluth Batterer Intervention Program.
205 W. Market St.
Lima, OH 45802
419-229-2222
Tammie Colon, V.P. of Behavioral Health Service

Family Guidance Center,
Batterer Intervention Program
2500 Euclid Ave., #406
Euclid, OH 44117
216-731-8815
Bonnie Morris, Executive Director

Family Service Agency
15 East Pleasant St.
Springfield, OH 45506
937-325-5564
Melinda Kappel, Clinical Counselor

Firelands Batterer Intervention Program
675 Bartson Road
419-332-5524
Fremont, OH 43420
Tim Wise, Offender Treatment Program Coordinator

Jackson County Domestic Violence Intervention
Program
1 Acy Ave.
Jackson, OH 45640
740-286-1579
Deborah Walters, Facilitator

Men's DV Prevention Program
604 Walnut
Coshocton, OH 43812
James McVey, Director

Moundbuilders Guidance Center
65 Messimer Dr.
Newark, OH 43055
740-522-8477
Barbara Bonfield, Clinical Supervisor

Mt. Carmel Commitment to Nonviolence
777 W. State, Suite 403
Columbus, OH 43222
614-234-2938
Bob Scheuneman, Program Manager

Nonviolent Conflict Resolutions
452 W. Market
Xenia, OH 45383
937-376-8700
Nathan Wilson, Therapist III

Person to Person
836 W. South Boundary
Perrysburg, OH 43551
419-874-3201
Dan Moser, Director

Phoenix Domestic Violence Treatment
800 Pro. Drive
Celina, OH 45822
419-586-4030
Daniel Jones, II, Consultant

Recovery Options
470 E. Market St.
Alliance, OH 44601
330-823-4566
Albert Lotz, Program Director

Response
205 W. Brown St.
New Lexington, OH
740-342-4480
Vicki Valentine, Court Advocate

Sounding Board
3120 E. Main St.
Columbus, OH 43290
614-231-1164
Lisa Montgomery, Counselor

SAVE
1101 E. High St.
Springfield, OH 45505
937-328-5300
Mark Jones, Therapist

STOP, Inc., Domestic Violence Offender Program
523 E. Enger St.
Columbus, OH 43215
614-461-7867
Mark Ingram, Director

Stopping the Violence
41 N. Perry
Dayton, OH 45422
937-496-3192
Deborah Cubbie

Time out Program
150 Furnace St.
Akron, OH 44304
330-376-0091
Kirby Schmidtgal, Ph.D.

Tri-County Help Center
109 W. Warren St.
Cadiz, OH 43907
740-942-1018
Debbie McGlothlin, Coordinator

Voyager
315 W. Tuscarawas, #500
Canton, OH 44702
330-455-2145
Sondra Fronimo, Program Director

Warren City Batterer Intervention Program
27 N. East St.
Lebanon, OH 45036
513-695-1185
Vanessa Dennis, Coordinator

Women Who Resort to Violence
604 Walnut
Coshocton, OH 43812
240-662-8504
James McVey, Director

Women Who Resort to Violence
P.O. Box 866
Steubenville, OH 43952
740-283-3444
Charmaine Jackson, Social Worker Assistant