

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

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY



JUNE 2006



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 the following pages 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.

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

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

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

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