



Data Driven Decisions

**BENNINGTON COUNTY
INTEGRATED DOMESTIC VIOLENCE DOCKET
PROJECT:
OUTCOME EVALUATION
FINAL REPORT**

Submitted to:

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THE VERMONT CENTER FOR JUSTICE RESEARCH

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Bennington County Integrated Domestic Violence Docket (IDVD) Project was initiated in September, 2007, as a special docket within the Bennington County Criminal/Family Division Courts. The goal of the IDVD project was to provide an immediate response to domestic violence events by coordinating Family and Criminal Division cases. Dedicated to the idea of *One Family, One Judge*, the IDVD Project was designed to allow a single judge, one day each week, to have immediate access to all relevant information regardless of the traditional docket and to gather all appropriate players at the table regardless of any traditionally limited roles. The IDVD Project focused on: 1) protection and safety for victims and their children as well as other family members; 2) providing immediate access to community services and resources for victims, their children, and offenders to help overcome the impact of prior domestic abuse and prevent future abuse; and 3) providing an immediate and effective response to non-compliance with court orders by offenders.

By integrating all domestic violence related matters (e.g., criminal charges, protection orders, custody matters) involving the same people, the IDVD Project was able to coordinate all court efforts toward the same goals of preventing further abuse and violence and remediating the effects of prior abuse on family members. All orders were coordinated, case scheduling was expedited, and appropriate, comprehensive case resolution for all parties was the primary and immediate focus.

Victim Safety: Of paramount importance to the IDVD Project was the court's ability to provide the victim with immediate access to a free attorney who specialized in matters of domestic violence on behalf of victims. In addition, a separate victim advocate and additional victim advocacy services were available to assist victims of domestic violence with safety planning and support services before, during, and after court proceedings.

Services: The IDVD Project was designed to quickly identify serious unmet needs for families in the court system and provide referrals to a comprehensive array of health and social services designed to meet the immediate and long-term needs of the family, including the victim, the offender, and their children.

Offender Accountability: The IDVD Project sought to ensure offender accountability by relying on a comprehensive coordinated community response based on active participation of the court, criminal justice agencies, the community, and professional service providers to hold offenders accountable for their behavior. Within the context of the IDVD Project responses to non-compliance with court orders were swift, consistent, and proportionate to the violation and needs of the offender and victim. To ensure that offenders understood orders which were issued as well as their rights and responsibilities, public defenders provided assistance during the abuse prevention order process as well as the criminal process.

METHODOLOGY

An outcome evaluation attempts to determine the effects that a program has on participants. In the case of the IDVD Project the objective of the outcome evaluation was to determine whether or not the project reduced the frequency of post program criminal behavior on the part of program participants as compared to the post program criminal behavior of defendants who had their cases prosecuted in District Court without the benefit of the services provided by the IDVD Project. The post program behavior of IDVD project participants was also compared to that of defendants charged with domestic assault in Vermont between 2004 and 2008.

An indicator of post program criminal behavior that is commonly used in outcome evaluations of criminal justice programs is the number of participants who recidivate; that is the number of participants who are convicted of a crime after they complete the program, when they are convicted, and where they are convicted. This evaluation also investigated whether or not there is a difference between the elapsed time from arraignment to disposition between the IDVD Program cases and those cases handled in District Court.

An analysis of the criminal history records of the 140 subjects who were referred to the IDVD project and the 102 subjects whose cases were prosecuted in Bennington County District Court, without the benefit of the IDVD Project, from January 1, 2007 through June 30, 2010 was conducted using the Vermont criminal history record of participants as provided by the Vermont Criminal Information Center at the Department of Public Safety. The Vermont criminal history record on which the recidivism analysis was based included all charges and convictions prosecuted in a Vermont District Court that were available as of July 17, 2011. The criminal records on which the study was based do not contain Federal, out-of-state prosecutions, or traffic tickets.

MAJOR CONCLUSIONS*

1. The IDVD Project appears to be a promising approach for reducing post-program recidivism among defendants convicted of domestic violence.

In terms of all three recidivism measures used in this evaluation (reconviction for domestic violence, reconviction for a violent offense, and reconviction for any crime) the participants from the IDVD Project recidivated less frequently or at a comparable level than did participants in the District Court group or defendants in a statewide domestic assault cohort. The most substantial difference between the groups involved the percentage of defendants who recidivated based on a reconviction for **any** crime. In this case the percentage of participants in the IDVD Project who recidivated was approximately 25% lower and 54% less often than was the case for defendants in the statewide cohort.

2. The IDVD Project appears to be a promising approach for reducing the number of post-program reconvictions among defendants convicted of domestic violence.

In reference to domestic violence and violent crime reconvictions, the reconviction rate for the IDVD Project group was either comparable to or lower than the District Court group or defendants in a statewide domestic assault cohort. The reconviction rate for all crimes was 25.6% lower (41% less) for the IDVD Project than for the District Court group.

3. Recidivists from both study groups engaged in a variety of different post-program criminal behaviors which suggests a high level of service needs beyond the presenting problem of domestic violence.

The subjects from the IDVD Program and the District Court group combined were convicted of a total of 115 crimes during the follow-up period. More than 50% of the reconvictions involved (listed in order of frequency) DMV offenses, assaults, drug crimes, DUI, domestic assault, and alcohol offenses. Other charges for both groups involved a variety of violent, property, and public order convictions.

4. Based on available data, on average the IDVD Project processed domestic violence cases twice as quickly as the Bennington County District Court and three times more quickly than other District Courts statewide.

The median number of days from arraignment to disposition was 28 days in the IDVD Project compared to 88 days for Bennington County District Court Cases and 113 days for other District Courts statewide.

*METHODOLOGICAL NOTE: Because criminal history records were unavailable for the IDVD Project participants whose records were expunged (36%), the recidivism and reconviction data reported in this evaluation may be underreported. Similarly the "Time to Disposition" analysis did not include participants whose records were expunged.

INTRODUCTION

This outcome evaluation of the Bennington County Integrated Domestic Violence Docket (IDVD) Project was designed to answer six questions associated with the IDVD Project and the post-program behavior of subjects who participated in the IDVD Project from January 1, 2007 through June 30, 2010, as compared to subjects who had their cases prosecuted in Bennington County District Court without the benefit of IDVD Project services.

1. Which subjects were convicted of additional crimes after their case was disposed?
2. For those subjects who were convicted after their case was disposed, when were they convicted?
3. For those subjects who were convicted after their case was disposed, what crimes did they commit?
4. For those subjects who were convicted after their case was disposed, in which counties were the subjects convicted?
5. Can the program effects of the IDVD Project be attributed to the Project or to other factors including the characteristics of the participants?
6. Is there a difference between the elapsed time from arraignment to disposition of cases between the two study groups?

This outcome evaluation was jointly funded by the Vermont Department of Health, Office of Alcohol and Drug Abuse Programs and by the Office on Violence Against Women, U.S. Department of Justice (grant number 2009-EF-S6-0024). The opinions, findings, conclusions, and recommendations expressed in this report are those of the authors and do not necessarily reflect the views of the Vermont Department of Health, the Department of Justice, Office on Violence Against Women, or the Vermont Court Administrator or his staff.

BENNINGTON COUNTY INTEGRATED DOMESTIC VIOLENCE DOCKET (IDVD) PROJECT¹

September 2007 – September 2010

Overview

After one year of planning and with minimal resources, the Bennington County Integrated Domestic Violence Docket (IDVD) Project opened its doors at the beginning of September, 2007. The IDVD Project was developed to provide an immediate response to domestic violence events by coordinating Family and Criminal Division cases. The IDVD Project focused on: 1) protection and safety for victims and their children as well as other family members; 2) providing immediate access to community services and resources for victims, their children, and offenders to help overcome the impact of prior domestic abuse and prevent future abuse; and 3) providing an immediate and effective response to non-compliance with court orders by offenders.

The IDVD Project operated as a special docket within the Bennington County Criminal/Family Division Courts. The IDVD Project initially handled all criminal division misdemeanor offenses, some felony offenses, all felony and misdemeanor violation of probation cases, and Family Division abuse prevention order cases involving domestic violence. The IDVD Project also integrated related Family Division child custody matters, juvenile matters and child/family support matters whenever possible. Dedicated to the idea of *One Family, One Judge*, the IDVD Project was designed to allow a single judge, one day each week, to have immediate access to all relevant information regardless of the traditional docket and to gather all appropriate players at the table regardless of any traditionally limited roles. For example, the State's Attorney's and Public Defender's roles were traditionally limited to criminal matters. However, they nevertheless attended and participated in the coordinated case resolution efforts taking place even during abuse prevention order hearings, matters traditionally considered not to be within the State's Attorney's or Public Defender's authority.

By so integrating all DV related matters involving the same people, the IDVD Project was able to coordinate all court efforts toward the same goals of preventing further abuse and violence and overcoming the impact of prior abuse on the involved adults and their children. All orders were coordinated, case scheduling was expedited, and appropriate, comprehensive case resolution for all parties was the primary and immediate focus. The IDVD Project had as a goal to schedule hearings in the family's related multiple cases, whether criminal or family, for the same time thus avoiding, as much as possible, multiple trips to the court house for parties and witnesses. If there was non-compliance with any order, the program provided an immediate and effective

¹ This section of the report was written for the evaluation by Vermont Superior Court Judge David Suntag who originated and led the IDVD Project during the study period.

response. If there was a need to modify any one order, IDVD Project assured that all related orders, regardless of docket, were modified at the same time and remained consistent.

Victim Safety

Of paramount importance to the IDVD Project was the court's ability to provide the victim with immediate access to a free attorney who specialized in matters of domestic violence on behalf of victims. In addition, a separate victim advocate and additional victim advocacy services were available. The Project Against Violent Encounters (PAVE), the local domestic violence advocacy organization, was directly involved in the creation and planning of the IDVD Project and was always available to assist victims of domestic violence with safety planning and support services before, during, and after court proceedings.

Service Delivery

The IDVD Project was designed to quickly identify serious unmet needs for families in the court system and provide referrals to a comprehensive array of health and social services designed to meet the immediate and long-term needs of the family, including the victim, the offender, and their children. IDVD Project staff developed a relationship with community service providers and helped parties access those service providers on a court ordered or voluntary basis. The process involved a range of services including: arranging for free legal representation or advice; explaining court orders to self-represented parties or special needs parents who chose not to access legal services; making appointments for parents to immediately access supervised visitation or monitored exchange services; setting up prompt mental health, substance abuse or batterer's education/counseling intakes and assessments resulting in prompt needs assessment reports to the court and all parties; providing all contact information for available service providers as well as actually making the service appointments for the family before they left the courthouse; negotiating with providers to obtain affordable services or available appointment times for the family, and/or follow-up calls and reports to advise the court and parties whether services were obtained; as well as other services as needed.

Offender Accountability

The IDVD Project sought to ensure offender accountability by relying on a comprehensive coordinated community response based on active participation of the court, criminal justice agencies, the community, and professional service providers to hold offenders accountable for their behavior. Within the context of the IDVD Project responses to non-compliance with court orders were swift, consistent, and proportionate to the violation and needs of the offender and victim. IDVD Project responses included: 1) immediate arrest for violation of any criminal or abuse prevention order; 2) additional appropriate criminal sanctions; and 3) referral to the batterers' intervention program and/or other treatment or educational programs as appropriate. To ensure that offenders understood orders which were issued as well as their rights and responsibilities, public defenders provided assistance during the abuse prevention order process as well as the criminal process. In this manner, all parties had legal advice

regardless of the type of case which initially brought those parties to the courthouse and regardless of their ability to hire counsel.

The IDVD Project, in conjunction with the Probation and Parole Office, created a specialized criminal probation warrant which helped facilitate more effective and close monitoring of the defendant's compliance with court orders. This enabled swift action by the Court when dealing with violations of probation. Probation and Parole officers assertively enforced judicial orders and conditions of probation. The response was immediate and generally resulted in immediate arrest and incarceration until the first appearance on a violation of probation. At that time all parties then attempted to reach a prompt resolution best designed to assure future compliance.

EVALUATION METHODOLOGY

An outcome evaluation attempts to determine the effects that a program has on participants. In the case of the IDVD Project the objective of the outcome evaluation was to determine whether or not the project reduced the frequency of post program criminal behavior on the part of participants as compared to the post program criminal behavior of defendants who had their cases prosecuted in District Court without the benefit of the services provided by the IDVD Project. An indicator of post program criminal behavior that is commonly used in outcome evaluations of criminal justice programs is the number of participants who recidivate -- that is, are convicted of a crime after they complete the program.

Recidivism Measures

For this particular project there are several measures of recidivism that are relevant: 1) reconviction for a domestic violence offense; 2) reconviction for a violent offense; and 3) reconviction for any offense. As a matter of interest conviction information for violations of court orders has also been provided.

An analysis of the criminal history records of the 140 subjects who were referred to the IDVD project and the 102 subjects whose cases were prosecuted in Bennington County District Court without the benefit of the IDVD Project from January 1, 2007 through June 30, 2010 was conducted using the Vermont criminal history record of participants as provided by the Vermont Criminal Information Center at the Department of Public Safety. The Vermont criminal history record on which the recidivism analysis was based included all charges and convictions prosecuted in a Vermont District Court that were available as of July 17, 2011. The criminal records on which the study was based do not contain Federal prosecutions, out-of-state prosecutions, or traffic tickets.

Recidivism Timeline

Typically outcome evaluations investigate the criminal behavior of program participants for a period of three years after program completion. The three-year review period of post program behavior was not the protocol for this evaluation for two reasons: 1) IDVD Project administrators wanted to obtain interim outcome findings; and 2) approximately 36% (N=51) of the participants from the IDVD Project had their criminal records expunged one year or so after their cases were disposed by the court as a condition of their deferred sentence agreement. When the participant's record was expunged so also was any record that they participated in the program. However, criminal records were only expunged if an IDVD Project participant was not reconvicted of a new crime during the period of their one-year or so deferred sentence. As such, all 51 subjects whose records were expunged due to successful completion of their deferred sentence were considered not to have been reconvicted for at least one year after their case was disposed by the court. However, because it was not possible to obtain a criminal record for these "unknown participants" it was also not possible to determine whether or not these subjects were reconvicted of a crime after their record was expunged. Consequently the analysis is not able to address the post project criminal behavior of these "unknown participants" in the second or third year after project completion.

Participant Description Data

Similarly, the descriptive information regarding the IDVD Project participants presented in this report is only based on the 89 participants who did not have their records expunged. Since descriptive information is missing on 36% of the subjects, discussions regarding the characteristics of the IDVD Project group need to be viewed with caution. Essentially descriptive data regarding IDVD Project participants is only based on a sample of the IDVD Project group – a sample which may nor may not be representative of the entire group.

Statewide Domestic Assault Recidivism Data

In addition to recidivism reports for IDVD Project participants and District Court group participants this report also contains statewide recidivism data for defendants charged with domestic assault in Vermont between 2004 and 2008. This data is drawn from a September, 2011, study entitled, *Domestic Assault Recidivism in Vermont: 2004 – 2008*, conducted by Dr. Robin Adler, the Senior Research Associate at the Vermont Center For Justice Research. The measures of recidivism and the type of criminal history records used for the analysis in the statewide report are identical to those used in this outcome evaluation. The recidivism findings, less defendants from Bennington County, have been included in this analysis for comparative purposes.

RECIDIVISM

In this report three different recidivism measures are discussed: 1) reconviction for a domestic violence offense; 2) reconviction for a violent offense; and 3) reconviction for any offense. As a matter of interest conviction information for violations of court orders are also presented.

Reconviction for Domestic Violence

Table 1 below presents the recidivism results for subjects whose first reconviction was for a domestic assault charge. An analysis of the Vermont criminal records for all subjects in the study indicates that 4.3% of IDVD Project participants were convicted of a domestic violence offense as their first reconviction. For those participants whose cases were prosecuted in Bennington District Court, 2.9% of participants were convicted of a domestic violence offense as their first reconviction after disposition of their case. Analysis from a separate statewide recidivism study (excluding Bennington County cases) conducted by the Center for defendants convicted of domestic assault offenses between 2004 and 2008 indicated that 7.4% of defendants from that study were reconvicted of a domestic violence offense as their first reconviction.

Table 1
Subjects Reconvicted of Domestic Violence Offenses

	IDVD Participant		District Court Case		Statewide	
	Count	Percent	Count	Percent	Count	Percent
Recidivist	6	4.3%	3	2.9%	127	7.4%
Non-recidivist	134	95.7%	99	97.1%	1597	92.6%
Total	140	100.0%	102	100.0%	1724	100.0%

Though the percentage of participants who were reconvicted of a domestic violence offense as their first reconviction was low for all three groups, the percentage of reconvictions was lower for both the IDVD Project participants and the District Court group when compared with statewide figures. Reconviction for a domestic violence charge for IDVD Project participants was approximately 3% lower than the percentage for statewide defendants. Reconviction for a domestic violence charge for the District Court group was 4.5% lower than the percentage for statewide defendants.

Reconviction for Violent Offenses

Table 2 presents the reconviction results for subjects whose first reconviction was for a violent offense (which includes domestic violence reconvictions). An analysis of the Vermont criminal records for all subjects indicates that the level of reconviction for a violent offense was 6.4% for IDVD Project participants as compared to 8.8% for defendants who had their cases prosecuted in Bennington District Court and 10.4% for domestic violence defendants statewide.

**Table 2
Subjects Reconvicted of Violent Offenses**

	IDVD Participant		District Court Case		Statewide	
	Count	Percent	Count	Percent	Count	Percent
Recidivist	9	6.4%	9	8.8%	179	10.4%
Non-recidivist	131	93.6%	93	91.2%	1545	89.6%
Total	140	100.0%	102	100.0%	1724	100.0%

Recidivism based on reconviction for a violent offense was low for all three groups. However, once again participants in both the IDVD Project and the District Court group were reconvicted of violent offenses as their first reconviction less often than were defendants statewide. Reconviction for a violent crime was 4% lower for IDVD Project participants than for defendants in the statewide cohort. Violent crime reconvictions for participants in the District Court group were 1.6% lower than their statewide counterparts.

Reconviction for Any Offense

Though the differences in reconvictions for domestic violence and violent crimes were relatively minor between participants in the IDVD Project, the District Court group, and the statewide cohort, more pronounced differences between the three groups appear in the analysis of reconviction data for any offense.

Table 3 provides data regarding the percentage of subjects whose first reconviction was for any offense. For this measure recidivism was defined as a new conviction occurring during the study period for any crime prosecuted in District Court including motor vehicle offenses. This measure is more comparable to the type of recidivism measures typically used in criminal justice program evaluations. An analysis of the Vermont criminal records for all subjects indicates that 22.1% of IDVD Project participants were reconvicted of some type of crime as compared to 36.3% of defendants who had their cases prosecuted in Bennington District Court and 47.7% of domestic violence offenders statewide.

Table 3
Subjects Reconvicted for Any Offense

	IDVD Participant		District Court Case		Statewide	
	Count	Percent	Count	Percent	Count	Percent
Recidivist	31	22.1%	37	36.3%	822	47.7%
Non-recidivist	109	77.9%	65	63.7%	902	52.3%
Total	140	100.0%	102	100.0%	1724	100.0%

When looking at a reconviction for any crime prosecuted in a Vermont District Court, reconvictions for the participants in the IDVD Project was approximately 25% lower and 54% less often than was the case for defendants in the statewide cohort. Reconvictions for any crime were approximately 11% lower and 24% less often for District Court participants than for the statewide group. Within this recidivism category, participants in the IDVD Project were substantially less likely to be reconvicted than were participants in the other two groups.

Conviction for Violations of Court Orders

In addition to the three recidivism measures presented above, analysis was also conducted on convictions for violations of court orders. Court order violations included violation of abuse prevention orders and violations of conditions of release. Though violations of court orders are not characterized as violent or property crimes, they sometimes indicate that the defendant is having difficulty conforming their behavior to supervision and may be precursors to more serious criminal behavior.

An analysis of the Vermont criminal records for all subjects indicates in Table 4 that 5.0% of IDVD program participants were convicted of a new court order violation as compared to 4.9% of defendants who had their cases prosecuted in Bennington District Court.

Table 4
Subjects Convicted For Violations of Court Orders

	IDVD Participant		District Court Case		Total	
	Count	Percent	Count	Percent	Count	Percent
Recidivist	7	5.0%	5	4.9%	12	5.0%
Non-recidivist	133	95.0%	97	95.1%	230	95.0%
Total	140	100.0%	102	100.0%	242	100.0%

WHEN WERE SUBJECTS CONVICTED?

In addition to recidivism measures, program effectiveness can be also measured in terms of how long a participant remains conviction free in the community. Even if a participant is convicted of another offense after program completion, the longer the subject remains conviction free is important in evaluating the crime prevention potential for a project. For this study the recidivism clock was started for each subject after their case was disposed by the court **and** the subject was living in the community and capable of being reconvicted. In cases where incarceration was not part of a subject's sentence, the subject's recidivism clock began upon disposition of their case. In cases where the subject was incarcerated, their recidivism clock began after the subject was released from incarceration. The elapsed time was then measured between the start of the participant's recidivism clock and when the participant was convicted of another offense. To be consistent with the previous analysis in this report, three different types of recidivism timelines are presented; one for domestic violence, one for violent offenses, and one for any criminal offense. As a matter of interest a recidivism timeline for violations of court orders has also been included.

The Methodology section of this report refers to the fact that it was not possible to identify 36% (N=51) of the IDVD participants because their record of participation in the IDVD Project had been expunged as a result of successfully completing the terms of a deferred sentence agreement. However, since criminal records were only expunged if a participant was not reconvicted of a new crime during the period of their deferred sentence (which was typically one year from the date the case was disposed by the court), it is reasonable to conclude that none of these 51 participants were reconvicted within one year after their recidivism clocks were started. However, because it was not possible to obtain a criminal record for these "unknown participants" it was also not possible to determine whether or not these subjects were reconvicted of a crime after their record was expunged; that is, it could not be determined whether or not the participant had been convicted in the second or subsequent years after program completion. Consequently the time analysis presented in the following tables is based on all 140 IDVD Project participants for the first year and 89 participants for subsequent years.

Table 5 presents the elapsed recidivism clock for subjects who were convicted of a new domestic violence crime during the study period. For the IDVD participants 5 of the 6 reconvictions for domestic violence occurred in less than one year and 1 occurred between one and two years after the start of the recidivism clock. For the District Court group 2 of the 3 reconvictions for domestic violence occurred in less than one year and 1 occurred between years two and three.

Table 5
Time To Recidivism: Domestic Violence

Participant Code	When 1st Recidivated	Total	Percentage
IDVD Participant	< 1 year	5	83.3%
	1 - 2 years	1	16.7%
	2 - 3 years		
	> 3 years		
	Total	6	100%
District Court Case	< 1 year	2	67%
	1 - 2 years		
	2 - 3 years	1	33%
	> 3 years		
	Total	3	100%

A recidivism measure can be developed based on reconviction and the recidivism timeline. If “successful outcome” for the program is defined as no reconviction for a domestic violence crime within one year of recidivism eligibility than the level of success for the IDVD Project would be 96.4% (135 subjects with no domestic violence reconviction within one year divided by 140 program participants). The one year success level for the District Court group is slightly higher at 98.0% (100 divided by 102).

Table 6 presents the elapsed recidivism clock for subjects who were convicted of a new violent crime during the study period. For the IDVD participants 7 of the 9 reconvictions for violent crimes occurred in less than one year, 1 occurred between one and two years, and 1 occurred between years two and three. For the District Court group 5 out of 9 reconvictions for crimes of violence occurred in less than one year, 3 occurred between one and two years, and 1 occurred between years two and three.

Table 6
Time To Recidivism: Violent Crimes

Participant Code	When 1st Recidivated	Total	Percentage
IDVD Participant	< 1 year	7	77.8%
	1 - 2 years	1	11.1%
	2 - 3 years	1	11.1%
	> 3 years		
	Total	9	100%
District Court Case	< 1 year	5	55.6%
	1 - 2 years	3	33.3%
	2 - 3 years	1	11.1%
	> 3 years		
	Total	9	100%

If “successful outcome” for the program is defined as no reconviction for a violent crime within one year of recidivism eligibility than the success rate for the IDVD Program would be 95.0% (133 subjects with no reconviction for a violent crime within one year divided by 140 program participants). The success rate for the District Court group is nearly identical at 95.1% (97 divided by 102).

Table 7 indicates the elapsed recidivism clock for subjects who were convicted of any new crime during the study period. For the IDVD participants 77.4% of those reconvictions for any new crime occurred in less than one year, 16.2% occurred between one and two years, and 6.4% occurred between years two and three. For the District Court group 70% of reconvictions for any new crime occurred in less than one year, 19% occurred between one and two years, and 11% occurred between years two and three. In terms of reconviction for any new crime, the IDVD Project participants tended to recidivate somewhat more quickly than did the participants in the District Court group.

Table 7

Time to Recidivism: All Convictions

Participant Code	When 1st Recidivated	Total	Percentage
IDVD Participant	< 1 year	24	77.4%
	1 - 2 years	5	16.2%
	2 - 3 years	2	6.4%
	> 3 years		
	Total	31	100%
District Court Case	< 1 year	26	70.0%
	1 - 2 years	7	19.0%
	2 - 3 years	4	11.0%
	> 3 years		
	Total	37	100%

If “successful outcome” for the program is defined as no reconviction for any new crime within one year of recidivism eligibility than the success rate for the IDVD Program would be 82.9% (116 subjects with no reconviction for any new crime within one year divided by 140 program participants). The success rate of 74.5% for the District Court Program group (76 divided by 102) is lower than that of the IDVD Project.

Table 8 indicates the elapsed recidivism clock for subjects who were convicted of a new court order violation during the study period. For the IDVD participants, 6 out of 7 of those reconvictions for a new court order violation occurred in less than one year and 1 occurred between years two and three. For the District Court group 3 out of 5 reconvictions for a new court order violation occurred in less than one year and 2 occurred between years one and two.

Table 8
Time to Recidivism: Court Order Violations

Participant Code	When 1st Recidivated	Total	Percentage
IDVD Participant	< 1 year	6	85.7%
	1 - 2 years	0	0.0%
	2 - 3 years	1	14.3%
	> 3 years		
	Total	7	100%
District Court Case	< 1 year	3	60.0%
	1 - 2 years	2	40.0%
	2 - 3 years		
	> 3 years		
	Total	5	100%

CRIMES FOR WHICH PARTICIPANTS WERE CONVICTED

When considering the effect that the IDVD Project had on participants it is important to differentiate between the number of participants who recidivated and the number of crimes for which participants were convicted during the study period. For example, if a participant's case were disposed in 2007 and s/he was convicted of two crimes in 2008 and then three crimes in 2009, the participant would be counted as a recidivist only once. However, in order to understand the full offense pattern of participants and to assess the full impact of the IDVD Project on the criminal behavior of participants it is important to also note that the defendant was convicted of those five additional crimes during the study period. While the first section of this evaluation focused on whether or not a participant was reconvicted during the study period, this section of the analysis focuses on the *number of crimes* for which participants were reconvicted.

Participant Offense Patterns

Table 9 indicates that the subjects from the IDVD Program and the District Court Group combined were convicted of a total of 115 crimes during the follow-up period from January 1, 2007 through June 30, 2011. Participants in the IDVD Project were convicted of 52 crimes (45%)

compared to the District Court group who were convicted of 63 crimes (55%). Table 5 is sorted by the frequency of the total convictions per crime.

Table 9
All Crimes For Which Subjects Were Reconvicted

	IDVD Participant		District Court Case		Total	
	Number of Convictions	Percent	Number of Convictions	Percent	Number of Convictions	Percent
DMV	6	11.5%	10	15.9%	16	13.9%
ASSAULT	6	11.5%	6	9.5%	12	10.4%
DRUGS	6	11.5%	3	4.8%	9	7.8%
DUI	5	9.6%	4	6.3%	9	7.8%
ASSAULT-DOMESTIC	5	9.6%	3	4.8%	8	7.0%
ALCOHOL	2	3.8%	5	7.9%	7	6.1%
VIOLATION OF ABUSE PREVENTION ORDER 2ND OR SUBSEQUENT	6	11.5%	1	1.6%	7	6.1%
THEFT	2	3.8%	4	6.3%	6	5.2%
VIOLATION OF ABUSE PREVENTION ORDER	1	1.9%	5	7.9%	6	5.2%
DISORDERLY CONDUCT	0	.0%	4	6.3%	4	3.5%
FALSE INFO-LE OFFICER/IMPLICATE ANOTHER	1	1.9%	3	4.8%	4	3.5%
VIOLATION OF CONDITIONS OF RELEASE	2	3.8%	2	3.2%	4	3.5%
PROHIBITED ACT-ENGAGE IN #1	0	.0%	3	4.8%	3	2.6%
UNLAWFUL TRESPASS	1	1.9%	2	3.2%	3	2.6%
ASSAULT-AGG DOMESTIC-2ND DEG SUBSEQUENT WITH INJURY	1	1.9%	1	1.6%	2	1.7%
STOLEN PROPERTY	0	.0%	2	3.2%	2	1.7%
CRUELTY-CHILD <10 YRS	2	3.8%	0	.0%	2	1.7%
ESCAPE CUSTODY-FURLOUGH	0	.0%	2	3.2%	2	1.7%
RESISTING ARREST #1	2	3.8%	0	.0%	2	1.7%
UNLAWFUL RESTRAINT-2ND DEG	0	.0%	2	3.2%	2	1.7%
ASSAULT-AGG DOMESTIC-1ST DEG WITH WEAPON	1	1.9%	0	.0%	1	.9%
INTERFERENCE WITH ACCESS TO EMERGENCY SERVICES	1	1.9%	0	.0%	1	.9%
RECKLESS ENDANGERMENT	1	1.9%	0	.0%	1	.9%
SEX OFFENDER REGISTRY - FAILURE TO COMPLY 1ST	1	1.9%	0	.0%	1	.9%
UNLAWFUL MISCHIEF >\$1000	0	.0%	1	1.6%	1	.9%
TOTAL NUMBER OF CONVICTIONS	52	100.0%	63	100.0%	115	100.0%

For the IDVD Project participants, approximately 50% of their reconvictions included (listed in order of frequency) DMV charges, assault, drug crimes, DUI, and domestic assault. For the District Court group, approximately 50% of their reconvictions included (listed in order of frequency) DMV charges, assault, violation of an abuse prevention order, alcohol charges, DUI, and theft. Other charges for both groups involved a variety of violent, property, and public order convictions. It is clear from this data that recidivists from both programs engaged in a variety of different criminal behaviors after their cases were disposed by the court which suggests a high level of service need beyond the presenting problem of domestic violence.

Table 10 presents the number of convictions for both groups of participants for the crimes of domestic violence, violent crimes, and violations of court orders during the follow-up period from January 1, 2007 through June 30, 2011. The percentage of domestic assault reconvictions was higher for the IDVD Project participants (13.5%) than for or the District Court group (6.3%). However the percentage of reconvictions for violent crime was similar for both groups. The percentage of violations of court orders was slightly higher for the IDVD Project participants (17.3%) than for the District Court group (12.5%).

Table 10
Selected Crimes For Which Subjects Were Reconvicted

	IDVD Participant		District Court Case		Total	
	Number of Convictions	Percent	Number of Convictions	Percent	Number of Convictions	Percent
Domestic Assault - Total	7	13.5%	4	6.3%	11	9.6%
ASSAULT-AGG DOMESTIC-1ST DEG WITH WEAPON	1	1.9%	0	.0%	1	.9%
ASSAULT-AGG DOMESTIC-2ND DEG SUBSEQUENT WITH INJURY	1	1.9%	1	1.6%	2	1.7%
ASSAULT-DOMESTIC	5	9.6%	3	4.8%	8	7.0%
Violent Crime - Total	15	28.8%	17	27.0%	32	27.8%
ASSAULT-AGG DOMESTIC-1ST DEG WITH WEAPON	1	1.9%	0	.0%	1	.9%
ASSAULT-AGG DOMESTIC-2ND DEG SUBSEQUENT WITH INJURY	1	1.9%	1	1.6%	2	1.7%
ASSAULT-DOMESTIC	5	9.6%	3	4.8%	8	7.0%
ASSAULT-AGG	2	3.8%	0	.0%	2	1.7%
ASSAULT-SIMPLE	3	5.8%	6	9.5%	9	7.8%
ASSAULT-SIMPLE-LE OFFICER/1 ST	1	1.9%	0	.0%	1	.9%
DISORDERLY CONDUCT-FIGHT, ETC	0	.0%	2	3.2%	2	1.7%
PROHIBITED ACT-ENGAGE IN #1	0	.0%	3	4.8%	3	2.6%
RESISTING ARREST #1	2	3.8%	0	.0%	2	1.7%
UNLAWFUL RESTRAINT-2ND DEG	0	.0%	2	3.2%	2	1.7%
Violation of Court Order - Total	9	17.3%	8	12.7%	17	14.8%
VIOLATION OF ABUSE PREVENTION ORDER	1	1.9%	5	7.9%	6	5.2%
VIOLATION OF ABUSE PREVENTION ORDER 2ND OR SUBSEQUENT	6	11.5%	1	1.6%	7	6.1%
VIOLATION OF CONDITIONS OF RELEASE	2	3.8%	2	3.2%	4	3.5%
TOTAL OF ALL CONVICTIONS	52		63		115	

Project Impact

For purposes of the IDVD Project evaluation it is important to determine whether participants in the IDVD program were convicted of more or less crimes than subjects prosecuted in District Court. A side-by-side comparison is complicated by two factors: 1) the number of participants in each group is different (the IDVD group had 140 subjects while the District Court group had

102 subjects); and 2) 36% of the IDVD Project participants are missing criminal histories on which to base a detailed analysis of convictions. The first issue was resolved by reporting the data in rates per 100 persons. The second issue is more complicated and requires a more detailed discussion.

The Methodology section of this report refers to the fact that it was not possible to identify 36% (N=51) of IDVD participants because their record of participation in the IDVD Project had been expunged. As such it was not possible to conduct a detailed analysis of their criminal history after the completion of the program other than to note that they had not been convicted of a crime for the first year after they completed the IDVD Project. The missing data from the “unknown participants” creates a problem for the analysis of total crimes for which participants were convicted after program completion.

There are a variety of strategies for dealing with missing data. The most common approach is to omit those cases which have missing data. For this analysis that would mean eliminating the 51 participants whose records were expunged from the analysis. However, eliminating any participant for whom a criminal history is not available would ignore the post program behavior of 51 participants (36%) who were not convicted of any crime for one year after their recidivism clock was started. Eliminating these cases from the study would significantly bias the outcome results for the IDVD Project.

Another approach would be to use a statistical imputation method to estimate the missing data. For this project the post-program behavior of the “unknown participants” would be estimated from the criminal histories of participants for whom criminal histories were available. However, the small size of the study groups and the modest financial resources afforded the evaluation effort made this approach an unrealistic option.

An alternative strategy could be to limit the study to just the first year of each participant’s recidivism clock. This approach would not eliminate any participants but it would ignore any incidents of recidivism that occurred after the first year which would result in underreporting the level of recidivism for both groups. In the case of the IDVD Project the percentage of recidivists would drop from 22% to 17%. For the District Court group the percentage of recidivists would drop from 36% to 25%. By the same token the successes of 75 IDVD Project participants (54%) and 56 District Court group participants (55%) who remained conviction free more than one year would be ignored as well. In addition to the loss of data, limiting the study to the first year does not resolve the problem of a missing criminal history and the corresponding lack of information regarding any of the demographic characteristics of the “unknown participants”.

Because of the fact that each of the approaches to resolving the missing data issue had significant drawbacks to validly assessing the outcome effects of the IDVD Project it was determined that all of the participants would be included in the study and no data regarding the post-program behavior of participants would be excluded from the analysis. The reader would, however, be advised that the missing data for 36% of the IDVD Project’s “unknown participants”

could negatively affect the outcome results of the IDVD Project if those subjects had been reconvicted after their first year of post-program release. For example, if the behavior of the “unknown participants” were similar to the behavior of IDVD Project participants for whom a criminal history was available during their second and subsequent years of post-program release, it is possible that 8% of them (4 individuals) could have been reconvicted for an average of 1.4 crimes per person – adding a total of 6 reconvictions to the IDVD Project group’s total.

Similarly it is possible that some of the “unknown participants” who were not reconvicted in the first year went on to be reconvicted more than once during the study period. Using the criminal histories from the 89 IDVD Project participants whose records had not yet been expunged it was determined that 12 participants (13.5%) were reconvicted more than once for a total of 33 crimes. On average each person was convicted of 2.75 additional crimes. It is possible then that 13.5% of the 51 “unknown participants” -- 7 persons -- might have been identified as multiple recidivists if their records had not been expunged and could have been convicted of an average of 2.75 crimes resulting in an additional 19 convictions. Between these two types of recidivism scenarios it is possible that the “unknown participants” could have contributed an additional 25 convictions to the IDVD Project group’s total. As such the reader should be aware that the recidivism data and the crime conviction data presented in this report are conservative estimates for the reoffending behavior of IDVD Project participants.

Table 11 presents the conviction *rates* per 100 participants for both the IDVD Project participants and the District Court group. The data in Table 11 indicates that the IDVD Project participants had a slightly higher reconviction rate for domestic assault than did the District Court group. However, the reconviction rates for violent crime were lower for the IDVD Project participants as compared to the District Court group. The reconviction rates for violation of court orders are comparable between the two groups. Once again, the more substantial differences in reconviction rates appear in the total crime category. Here the reconviction rate for the IDVD Project is 25.6% lower (41% less) than the District Court group. The IDVD Project was substantially more successful at preventing post-program reconvictions than was the District Court. Put another way, the IDVD Project prevented 26 criminal convictions per 100 program participants when compared to District Court prosecutions without the benefit of IDVD Project services.

Table 11
Reconviction Rates Per 100 Participants For Selected Crimes

	IDVD Participant	District Court Case	Total
	Conviction Rate per 100	Conviction Rate per 100	Conviction Rate per 100
Domestic Assault – Total	5.0	3.9	4.5
ASSAULT-AGG DOMESTIC-1ST DEG WITH WEAPON	0.7	0.0	0.4
ASSAULT-AGG DOMESTIC-2ND DEG SUBSEQUENT WITH INJURY	0.7	1.0	0.8
ASSAULT-DOMESTIC	3.6	2.9	3.3
Violent Crime – Total	10.7	16.7	13.2
ASSAULT-AGG DOMESTIC-1ST DEG WITH WEAPON	0.7	0.0	0.4
ASSAULT-AGG DOMESTIC-2ND DEG SUBSEQUENT WITH INJURY	0.7	1.0	0.8
ASSAULT-DOMESTIC	3.6	2.9	3.3
ASSAULT-AGG	1.4	0.0	0.8
ASSAULT-SIMPLE	2.1	5.9	3.7
ASSAULT-SIMPLE-LE OFFICER/1 ST	0.7	0.0	0.4
DISORDERLY CONDUCT-FIGHT, ETC	0.0	2.0	0.8
PROHIBITED ACT-ENGAGE IN #1	0.0	2.9	1.2
RESISTING ARREST #1	1.4	0.0	0.8
UNLAWFUL RESTRAINT-2ND DEG	0.0	2.0	0.8
Violation of Court Order – Total	6.4	7.8	7.0
VIOLATION OF ABUSE PREVENTION ORDER	0.7	4.9	2.5
VIOLATION OF ABUSE PREVENTION ORDER 2ND OR SUBSEQUENT	4.3	1.0	2.9
VIOLATION OF CONDITIONS OF RELEASE	1.4	2.0	1.7
TOTAL OF ALL CONVICTIONS	37.1	62.7	47.9

IN WHICH COUNTIES WERE SUBJECTS RECONVICTED?

All reconvictions for both study groups were confined to Bennington, Rutland, and Windham Counties. Approximately 94% of the 52 new convictions for IDVD participants occurred in Bennington County. Approximately 95% of the 63 new convictions for the District Court group occurred in Bennington County.

Table 12 provides the distribution of reconvictions for IDVD Project participants by the county in which the case was prosecuted and, more than likely, the county where the crime was committed. All reconvictions were prosecuted in Bennington County other than two DUI convictions and one unlawful trespass conviction which were prosecuted in Windham County.

Table 12
County of Prosecution for Reconvictions: IDVD Participants

	Bennington		Windham	
	# of Convictions	%	# of Convictions	%
ASSAULT-DOMESTIC	7	14.3%	0	.0%
DMV	6	12.2%	0	.0%
ASSAULT	6	12.2%	0	.0%
DRUGS	6	12.2%	0	.0%
VIOLATION OF ABUSE PREVENTION ORDER 2ND OR SUBSEQUENT	6	12.2%	0	.0%
DUI	3	6.1%	2	66.7%
ALCOHOL	2	4.1%	0	.0%
THEFT	2	4.1%	0	.0%
CRUELTY-CHILD <10 YRS	2	4.1%	0	.0%
RESISTING ARREST #1	2	4.1%	0	.0%
VIOLATION OF CONDITIONS OF RELEASE	2	4.1%	0	.0%
FALSE INFO-LE OFFICER/IMPLICATE ANOTHER	1	2.0%	0	.0%
INTERFERENCE WITH ACCESS TO EMERGENCY SERVICES	1	2.0%	0	.0%
RECKLESS ENDANGERMENT	1	2.0%	0	.0%
SEX OFFENDER REGISTRY - FAILURE TO COMPLY 1 ST	1	2.0%	0	.0%
VIOLATION OF ABUSE PREVENTION ORDER	1	2.0%	0	.0%
UNLAWFUL TRESPASS	0	.0%	1	33.3%
Total	49	100.0%	3	100.0%

Table 13 provides the county distribution of reconvictions for the District Court group. All of the reconvictions were prosecuted in Bennington County with the exception of one disorderly conduct conviction and a violation of an abuse prevention order prosecuted in Rutland County and a DUI conviction prosecuted in Windham County.

Table 13
County of Prosecution for Reconvictions: District Court Group

	Bennington		Rutland		Windham	
	# of Convictions	%	# of Convictions	%	# of Convictions	%
DMV	10	16.7%	0	.0%	0	.0%
ASSAULT	5	8.3%	0	.0%	1	100.0%
DUI	4	6.7%	0	.0%	0	.0%
ASSAULT-DOMESTIC	4	6.7%	0	.0%	0	.0%
ALCOHOL	5	8.3%	0	.0%	0	.0%
THEFT	4	6.7%	0	.0%	0	.0%
DISORDERLY CONDUCT	3	5.0%	1	50.0%	0	.0%
UNLAWFUL TRESPASS	2	3.3%	0	.0%	0	.0%
STOLEN PROPERTY	2	3.3%	0	.0%	0	.0%
DRUGS	3	5.0%	0	.0%	0	.0%
ESCAPE CUSTODY-FURLOUGH	2	3.3%	0	.0%	0	.0%
FALSE INFO-LE OFFICER/IMPLICATE ANOTHER	3	5.0%	0	.0%	0	.0%
PROHIBITED ACT-ENGAGE IN #1	3	5.0%	0	.0%	0	.0%
UNLAWFUL MISCHIEF >\$1000	1	1.7%	0	.0%	0	.0%
UNLAWFUL RESTRAINT-2ND DEG	2	3.3%	0	.0%	0	.0%
VIOLATION OF ABUSE PREVENTION ORDER	4	6.7%	1	50.0%	0	.0%
VIOLATION OF ABUSE PREVENTION ORDER 2ND OR SUBSEQUENT	1	1.7%	0	.0%	0	.0%
VIOLATION OF CONDITIONS OF RELEASE	2	3.3%	0	.0%	0	.0%
Total	60	100.0%	2	100.0%	1	100.0%

Table 14 provides the distribution of reconvictions for all subjects in the study. Approximately 95% of all reconvictions were prosecuted in Bennington County. The data clearly show that the vast majority of post-program release reconvictions occur in Bennington County. This fact reinforces the notion that a judge who presides over an integrated District and Family Court docket can be fully informed about the post-program criminal behavior of program participants.

Table 14
County of Prosecution for New Convictions: All Subjects

	Bennington		Rutland		Windham	
	# of Convictions	%	# of Convictions	%	# of Convictions	%
DMV	16	14.7%	0	.0%	0	.0%
ASSAULT	11	10.1%	0	.0%	1	25.0%
ASSAULT-DOMESTIC	11	10.1%	0	.0%	0	.0%
DRUGS	9	8.3%	0	.0%	0	.0%
DUI	7	6.4%	0	.0%	2	50.0%
ALCOHOL	7	6.4%	0	.0%	0	.0%
VIOLATION OF ABUSE PREVENTION ORDER 2ND OR SUBSEQUENT	7	6.4%	0	.0%	0	.0%
THEFT	6	5.5%	0	.0%	0	.0%
VIOLATION OF ABUSE PREVENTION ORDER	5	4.6%	1	50.0%	0	.0%
FALSE INFO-LE OFFICER/IMPLICATE ANOTHER	4	3.7%	0	.0%	0	.0%
VIOLATION OF CONDITIONS OF RELEASE	4	3.7%	0	.0%	0	.0%
DISORDERLY CONDUCT	3	2.8%	1	50.0%	0	.0%
PROHIBITED ACT-ENGAGE IN #1	3	2.8%	0	.0%	0	.0%
UNLAWFUL TRESPASS	2	1.8%	0	.0%	1	25.0%
STOLEN PROPERTY	2	1.8%	0	.0%	0	.0%
CRUELTY-CHILD <10 YRS	2	1.8%	0	.0%	0	.0%
ESCAPE CUSTODY-FURLOUGH	2	1.8%	0	.0%	0	.0%
RESISTING ARREST #1	2	1.8%	0	.0%	0	.0%
UNLAWFUL RESTRAINT-2ND DEG	2	1.8%	0	.0%	0	.0%
INTERFERENCE WITH ACCESS TO EMERGENCY SERVICES	1	.9%	0	.0%	0	.0%
RECKLESS ENDANGERMENT	1	.9%	0	.0%	0	.0%
SEX OFFENDER REGISTRY - FAILURE TO COMPLY 1 ST	1	.9%	0	.0%	0	.0%
UNLAWFUL MISCHIEF >\$1000	1	.9%	0	.0%	0	.0%
Total	109	100.0%	2	100.0%	4	100.0%

PARTICIPANT PROFILE COMPARISONS

In this evaluation the recidivism results of the IDVD Project participants are being compared with those of the participants in the District Court group. This comparison is based on the notion that differences in the post-program behavior of the participants reported in the previous sections can be attributed to the benefits of the program in which they participated. The hypothesis was that participants in the IDVD Project would have less of a tendency to be reconvicted after program completion than persons whose cases were prosecuted in District Court who did not have the benefit of the services provided in the IDVD Project. The assumption that differences in post-program behavior are due to program services is only valid

if a “quasi experimental” design can be assumed. That is, we can only conclude that differences in post-program behavior are due to the program and not to other factors including the characteristics of the participants if it can be established that the participants in the different groups are essentially the same or at least are not significantly different on variables which are related to the tendency to be reconvicted.

No data was available regarding the characteristics of participants other than that which could be gleaned from participants’ criminal records. As such, the following profiles and variables were the only factors used to examine whether the two groups were equivalent or not.

- Demographic Profile: Gender, age at disposition of base docket, race, and state of birth
- Criminal History Profile: Age at first conviction and prior criminal record
- Case Profile: Offense level, case disposition & sentence, maximum sentence to incarceration, and violations of probation.

Profile information was not available for any of the “unknown participants” because no criminal records were available for these subjects. All calculations are based on the 89 IDVD Project participants for whom criminal history records were available and the 102 District Court participants. As such, the descriptive data regarding IDVD Project participants presented in this section is only based on a sample of the IDVD Project group – a sample which may nor may not be representative of the entire group.

Demographic Profile

Table 15 presents the gender composition of the two study groups. The IDVD Project group consisted of approximately 30% females and 70% males as compared to the District Court group which was comprised of approximately 13% females and 87% males. Significant differences in demographic characteristics between the IDVD participants and the District Court cases were observed for gender. The IDVD group had a significantly higher percentage of female participants as compared to the District Court group.

**Table 15
Gender**

	IDVD Participant		District Court Case		Total	
	N	%	N	%	N	%
Female	27	30.3%	13	12.7%	40	20.9%
Male	62	69.7%	89	87.3%	151	79.1%
Total	89	100.0%	102	100.0%	191	100.0%

Note: Values in the same row that are shaded in gray are significantly different at p< 0.05 in the two-sided test of equality for column proportions.

Table 16 presents the age distribution of both study groups at the time their base dockets (cases) were disposed by either the IDVD Project or the District Court. The case that resulted in their referral to the IDVD Project or District Court is referred to as the “Base Docket” since it serves as the basis for all recidivism calculations. More than 61% of the participants from both groups were less than 36 years old at the time their base docket was disposed. Another 30% of the participants from both groups were between the ages of 36 – 55 at the time their base docket was disposed. There were no significant differences between the two groups regarding age at the time of base docket disposition.

Table 16
Age At Disposition of Base Docket

	IDVD Participant		District Court Case		Total	
	N	%	N	%	N	%
18 and under	3	3.4%	5	4.9%	8	4.2%
19 to 25	24	27.0%	33	32.4%	57	29.8%
26 to 35	27	30.3%	28	27.5%	55	28.8%
36 to 45	18	20.2%	20	19.6%	38	19.9%
46 to 55	13	14.6%	13	12.7%	26	13.6%
56 to 65	4	4.5%	3	2.9%	7	3.7%
Total	89.0	100.0%	102	100.0%	191	100.0%
Mean	33.9		32.9		33.4	
Median	31.3		29.7		30.9	

Note: Values in the same row that are shaded in gray are significantly different at $p < 0.05$ in the two-sided test of equality for column proportions.

Table 17 presents the racial characteristics of the two study groups. Not surprisingly, over 95% of both groups were white. African Americans comprised approximately 4% of the study participants. No other racial groups were represented. There were no significant differences between the IDVD Project participants and the District Court group in regards to race.

Table 17
Race Of Participants

	IDVD Participant		District Court Case		Total	
	N	%	N	%	N	%
African American	2	2.2%	5	4.9%	7	3.7%
Caucasian	86	96.6%	97	95.1%	182	95.3%
Unknown	1	1.1%	0	.0%	1	.5%
Total	89	100.0%	102	100.0%	191	100.0%

Note: Values in the same row that are shaded in gray are significantly different at $p < 0.05$ in the two-sided test of equality for column proportions.

Table 18 presents information regarding the states where participants were born. Only 54% of the IDVD Project participants were born in Vermont. Approximately 60% of the District Court participants were born in Vermont. After Vermont the most common state of birth for both groups was New York and Massachusetts.

Table 18
State Of Birth

	IDVD Participant		District Court Case		Total	
	N	%	N	%	N	%
AZ	1	1.1%	0	.0%	1	.5%
CT	3	3.4%	5	4.9%	8	4.2%
DE	1	1.1%	0	.0%	1	.5%
FL	1	1.1%	3	2.9%	4	2.1%
GA	1	1.1%	0	.0%	1	.5%
HI	0	.0%	1	1.0%	1	.5%
IA	1	1.1%	0	.0%	1	.5%
IL	1	1.1%	0	.0%	1	.5%
MA	7	7.9%	10	9.8%	17	8.9%
ME	0	.0%	1	1.0%	1	.5%
MI	1	1.1%	0	.0%	1	.5%
NC	2	2.2%	0	.0%	2	1.0%
NH	1	1.1%	1	1.0%	2	1.0%
NJ	4	4.5%	3	2.9%	7	3.7%
NM	1	1.1%	0	.0%	1	.5%
NY	14	15.7%	9	8.8%	23	12.0%
PA	1	1.1%	2	2.0%	3	1.6%
TN	0	.0%	1	1.0%	1	.5%
TX	0	.0%	2	2.0%	2	1.0%
VT	48	53.9%	60	58.8%	108	56.5%
Missing	1	1.1%	4	3.9%	5	2.6%
Total	89.0	100.0%	102	100.0%	191	100.0%

Criminal History Profile

Table 19 presents data regarding the age of participants at their first criminal conviction. For the IDVD participants, approximately 48% were under 21 when they were first convicted of a criminal offense. In the District Court group, approximately 60% of participants were under 21 when they were convicted of their first criminal offense. On the other end of the age scale approximately 15% of the IDVD participants were not convicted of their first criminal offense until they were over 45 years old, as compared to 6% for the District Court group.

Significant differences in the criminal history profile between the IDVD and District Court study groups were observed for age at first conviction – the IDVD group had significantly fewer participants in the 18 to 21 year old category (33.7% vs. 49.0%), and more in the 45 to 55 year old category (13.5% vs. 4.9%) than did the District Court group. As such the IDVD group tended to be convicted of their first criminal offense later in life than did participants in the District Court group.

**Table 19
Age At First Conviction**

	IDVD Participant		District Court Case		Total	
	N	%	N	%	N	%
17 and under	12	13.5%	11	10.8%	23	12.0%
18 to 21	30	33.7%	50	49.0%	80	41.9%
22 to 35	26	29.2%	25	24.5%	51	26.7%
36 to 45	8	9.0%	10	9.8%	18	9.4%
46 to 55	12	13.5%	5	4.9%	17	8.9%
over 55	1	1.1%	1	1.0%	2	1.0%
Total	89.0	100.0%	102	100.0%	191	100.0%

Note: Values in the same row that are shaded in gray are significantly different at $p < 0.05$ in the two-sided test of equality for column proportions.

Table 20 presents data on the prior convictions of project participants. The criminal records of participants were examined to determine the number of times they had been convicted of criminal offenses *prior* to their involvement with the IDVD Project or the District Court group. For all types of crimes investigated, participants in the IDVD Project collectively had significantly fewer prior criminal convictions than did the participants in the District Court group. For example, out of the 30 prior convictions for domestic violence among all participants in the study, only 17% were attributable to the IDVD Project participants versus 83% of those domestic violence convictions were attributable to participants in the District Court Group. The same type of comparison could be made for all of the prior conviction types presented in Table 20.

Therefore, the participants in the IDVD cohort had significantly fewer prior criminal convictions than did the District Court cohort.

Table 20
Prior Convictions

	IDVD Participant		District Court Case		Total	
	Convictions	%	Convictions	%	Convictions	%
Domestic Violence	5	16.7%	25	83.3%	30	100.0%
Other Violent Crimes	10	17.9%	46	82.1%	56	100.0%
Violations of Probation	39	26.0%	111	74.0%	150	100.0%
Other Violations of Court Order	7	25.9%	20	74.1%	27	100.0%
DUI Convictions	11	30.6%	25	69.4%	36	100.0%
Drug Convictions	9	24.3%	28	75.7%	37	100.0%
Alcohol Convictions	24	37.5%	40	62.5%	64	100.0%
All Other Convictions	106	26.8%	290	73.2%	396	100.0%
Total	211	26.8%	585	73.2%	796	100.0%

Note: Values in the same row that are shaded in gray are significantly different at $p < 0.05$ in the two-sided test of equality for column proportions.

Case Profile

Table 21 presents data regarding the most serious offense level for charges from the base docket for participants from both groups. Approximately 11% of IDVD Project participants were charged with felonies as compared to approximately 28% of the District Court group being charged with felonies. Nearly 89% of the IDVD Project participants were charged with misdemeanors as compared to approximately 72% of the District Court group being charged with misdemeanors. Significant differences were found in the offense level between the two groups. The IDVD Project participants were significantly more likely to be charged with misdemeanors as compared to the District Court group.

Table 21
Offense Level

	IDVD Participant		District Court Case		Total	
	N	%	N	%	N	%
Felony	10	11.2%	29	28.4%	39	20.4%
Misdemeanor	79	88.8%	73	71.6%	152	79.6%
Total	89	100.0%	102	100.0%	191	100.0%

Note: Values in the same row that are shaded in gray are significantly different at $p < 0.05$ in the two-sided test of equality for column proportions.

Table 22 displays information regarding the type of sentence received by participants in the two groups. Case dispositions and sentences were similar for both groups except for the percentage of participants who were sentenced to incarceration or received deferred sentences. Whereas 7.9% of IDVD participants were sentenced to incarceration, 28.4% of District Court group participants were sentenced to incarceration. Not unexpectedly, a larger percentage of IDVD participants received deferred sentences (38.2%) than was the case for the District Court group (6.9%). As such, the IDVD Project participants were significantly less likely to be sentenced to incarceration and significantly more likely to receive deferred sentences than the District Court group participants.

Table 22
Case Dispositions & Type of Sentence

	IDVD Participant		District Court Case		Total	
	N	%	N	%	N	%
Incarceration	7	7.9%	29	28.4%	36	18.8%
Split Sentence	5	5.6%	7	6.9%	12	6.3%
Probation	19	21.3%	28	27.5%	47	24.6%
Fine	4	4.5%	4	3.9%	8	4.2%
Sentence Deferred	34	38.2%	7	6.9%	41	21.5%
Not Convicted	2	2.2%	2	2.0%	4	2.1%
Dropped / Dismissed	17	19.1%	24	23.5%	41	21.5%
Missing / Unknown	1	1.1%	1	1.0%	2	1.0%
Total	89	100.0%	102	100.0%	191	100.0%

Note: Values in the same row that are shaded in gray are significantly different at $p < 0.05$ in the two-sided test of equality for column proportions.

Table 23 presents information regarding the maximum number of days that defendants were sentenced to serve in jail. Maximum sentence to incarceration data includes sentences for both the “incarceration” category and the “split sentence” categories from Table 22. In reference to sentences to incarceration versus community-based sentences there was a significant difference between the IDVD Project participants and the District Court group participants. IDVD Project participants were significantly less likely to be sentenced to jail (85.5% not sentenced to incarceration) than were District Court group participants (64.7% not sentenced to incarceration). For those subjects who did receive a sentence to jail, the differences between the two groups were not significant except in the category of sentences from “180 days to 1 year” in jail. IDVD Project participants were significantly less likely to receive a maximum of sentence of “180 days to 1 year” in jail than were the District Court group participants.

Table 23
Maximum Sentences To Incarceration

	IDVD Participant		District Court Case		Total	
	N	%	N	%	N	%
Not Sentenced to Incarceration	77	86.5%	66	64.7%	143	74.9%
1 to 30 days	5	5.6%	4	3.9%	9	4.7%
30 to 90 days	2	2.2%	6	5.9%	8	4.2%
90 to 180 days	1	1.1%	3	2.9%	4	2.1%
180 days to 1 year	2	2.2%	10	9.8%	12	6.3%
1 to 3 years	0	.0%	9	8.8%	9	4.7%
3 to 5 years	1	1.1%	2	2.0%	3	1.6%
5 to 10 years	1	1.1%	1	1.0%	2	1.0%
10+ years	0	.0%	1	1.0%	1	.5%
Total	89	100.0%	102	100.0%	191	100.0%

Note: Values in the same row that are shaded in gray are significantly different at $p < 0.05$ in the two-sided test of equality for column proportions.

Table 24 presents information for the number of participants from both groups who were charged with violations of probation after the court disposed of the base docket. Approximately 60% of participants from both groups were charged with probation violations after their case was disposed by the court. There were no significant differences between the groups on this variable.

Table 24
Violations of Probation

	IDVD Participant		District Court Case		Total	
	N	%	N	%	N	%
# Of Participants Charged With Violation Of Probation	54	60.7%	64	62.7%	118	61.8%
# Of Participants Not Charged With Violation of Probation	35	39.3%	38	37.3%	73	38.2%
Total Participants	89	100.0%	102	100.0%	191	100.0%

REGRESSION ANALYSIS: Are The Differences In The Study Group Profiles Important When Assessing Program Effects?

To answer this question several multivariate regression methodologies were employed to determine if any of the profile characteristics discussed above were strongly correlated to the tendency to recidivate. This analysis is critical when assessing whether or not the differences observed previously in post-program criminal behavior between the IDVD Project participants and the District Court group are due to the benefits of the IDVD Project or to the characteristics of the participants. For example, among other significant differences between the two groups, the IDVD Project participants were found to have fewer prior criminal convictions than did participants in the District Court group. If the number of prior convictions is correlated or related to post-program reconviction then one could argue that the reduction in post-program reconvictions for the IDVD Project participants was due more to the less serious criminal histories of the participants than to the services provided by the IDVD Project.

The following variables were used in the regression analyses to determine the extent to which the profile characteristics of the two groups were correlated to the tendency to reoffend. Neither Race nor State of Birth was included as an independent variable in the regression analyses because neither variable was considered an important characteristic in determining tendency to recidivate. For both variables there was no significant difference between the IDVD and District Court groups and there was no significant difference between the Non-recidivists / Recidivists segments. The prior criminal record variable and the violation of probation variable were expanded for the regression analysis to create more detailed data for the analysis.

Independent variables:

- Gender
- Age at Disposition of Base Docket
- Age at 1st Conviction
- Prior Other Violent Crimes
- Prior Other Violations of Court Order
- Prior Violations of Probation
- Prior Domestic Violence Crimes
- Prior DUI Convictions
- Prior Drug Convictions
- Prior Alcohol Convictions
- Prior Other Convictions
- Offense Level
- Sentence Type
- Maximum Sentence
- Violations of Probation
- Violations of Probation - convicted
- Violations of Probation – charged, not convicted

Dependent variables:

Recidivist Index: A continuous scale that is based on years to recidivate and provides a “degree” of recidivism. The scale ranges from negative values (the larger the negative value the longer the subject has remained conviction free) to positive values (the larger the positive value the sooner the subject was reconvicted).

Recidivist: 1 = recidivist and 0 = non-recidivist

The first step in the analysis was to calculate a Pearson Correlation matrix using these variables. Pearson correlation coefficients range from 0.00 (no correlation) to 1.00 (perfect correlation). The results of the analysis revealed very low correlation coefficients indicating that on an individual basis, none of the independent variables were significantly correlated with the tendency to recidivate. The details of the correlation matrix are presented in Figure 1 below. Of primary interest in Figure 1 are the first and second columns of coefficients which indicate how the independent variables correlated with the dependent variables.

Figure 1
Pearson Correlation Matrix

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	
1 Recidivist	1.00																			
2 Recid Index	0.64	1.00																		
3 Gender	-0.02	-0.11	1.00																	
4 Age 1st Conv	-0.20	0.05	-0.01	1.00																
5 Age at Dispo	-0.26	-0.10	0.07	0.65	1.00															
6 Prior Other Violent	-0.01	-0.07	0.01	-0.22	-0.14	1.00														
7 Prior Other VCO	0.01	-0.08	0.16	-0.13	-0.07	0.12	1.00													
8 Prior VPROB	0.06	-0.10	0.11	-0.26	-0.12	0.16	0.19	1.00												
9 Prior DV	-0.06	-0.08	0.11	-0.11	-0.03	0.13	0.23	0.21	1.00											
10 Prior DUI	-0.06	-0.18	0.09	-0.06	0.06	0.22	0.02	0.17	0.07	1.00										
11 Prior Drug	0.00	-0.09	0.11	-0.21	-0.10	0.15	0.09	0.25	0.00	0.30	1.00									
12 Prior Alc	0.14	-0.02	-0.07	-0.28	-0.26	0.10	0.10	0.32	-0.01	0.00	0.24	1.00								
13 Prior Other Conv	-0.03	-0.21	0.08	-0.35	-0.16	0.19	0.15	0.52	0.34	0.33	0.29	0.28	1.00							
14 Offense Level	0.05	0.25	-0.16	0.09	-0.09	-0.14	-0.15	-0.24	-0.34	-0.15	-0.17	0.03	-0.21	1.00						
15 In Study VProb Conv	0.36	0.37	0.11	-0.15	-0.22	0.07	0.18	0.19	-0.04	-0.05	-0.01	0.06	0.08	0.11	1.00					
16 Total In Study VProb	0.34	0.36	-0.01	-0.20	-0.25	0.08	0.11	0.18	-0.09	0.00	0.02	0.02	0.09	0.13	0.83	1.00				
17 In Study VProb Non-Conv	0.19	0.20	-0.13	-0.17	-0.19	0.05	-0.01	0.10	-0.11	0.06	0.03	-0.03	0.06	0.11	0.33	0.79	1.00			
18 Maximum Incarceration	0.03	-0.01	0.23	-0.13	-0.13	0.16	0.21	0.15	0.21	0.18	0.21	0.01	0.23	-0.38	0.08	0.01	-0.06	1.00		
19 Sentence Type	-0.16	-0.11	-0.20	0.27	0.25	-0.18	-0.25	-0.20	-0.11	-0.15	-0.20	-0.06	-0.22	0.11	-0.24	-0.25	-0.16	-0.67	1.00	

A multivariate linear regression analysis was performed next to determine if there were any interdependencies between the variables that might bring to light more significant associations with the tendency to recidivate. A custom stepwise methodology was used to enter or remove variables from the analysis based on statistical significance criteria. “Recidivist Index” was used as the dependent variable. The analysis resulted in a recidivist model with four predictor variables:

- Gender
- Prior Other Convictions
- Offense Level
- Violations of Probation – Convictions

Although the analysis of variance from the resulting model shows there is a linear relationship between the independent variables and the Recidivist Index (F-Ratio = 14.1688, P statistic <.05), the squared multiple R is very low (0.234) indicating a very poor fit with the data. Details of the analysis are shown below in Tables 25 – 27.

**Table 25
Model Summary**

Dependent Variable	N	Multiple R	Squared Multiple R	Adjusted Squared Multiple R	Standard Error of the Estimate
Recidivist Index	191	0.483	0.234	0.217	5.934

**Table 26
Analysis of Variance**

Source	Sum-Of-Squares	DF	Mean-Square	F-Ratio	P
Regression	1995.3815	4	498.8454	14.1688	0.0000
Residual	6548.5383	186	35.2072		

**Table 27
Coefficients**

Variable	Coefficient	Std Error	Std Coef	Tolerance	T	P (2 tail)
Constant	-3.2350	3.0441	0.0000	.	-1.0627	0.2893
Gender	-1.8847	1.0801	-.1147	0.9543	-1.7449	0.0826
Prior Other Convictions	-0.3602	0.1214	-0.1958	0.9456	-2.9668	0.0034
Offense Level	2.4547	1.1135	0.1479	0.9150	2.2045	0.0287
VOP-convicted	1.3396	0.2277	0.3858	0.9618	5.8821	0.0000

A Discriminant Analysis was run using the same list of independent variables, regressing against the dependent variable “Recidivist” (1=recidivist, 0=non-recidivist). The main purpose of this type of regression analysis is to predict whether or not a participant is likely to recidivate based on a linear combination of the independent variables.

For a first step, a test of equality of the group means of the independent variables was done. Table 28 below shows this analysis and indicates that the variables Age at First Conviction, Age at Disposition of Base Docket, Prior Alcohol Convictions, Sentence Type, and Violations of Probation variables, showed the greatest differences between the Recidivist and Non-Recidivist groups.

Table 28
Test Of Equality Of Group Means

	Non-Recidivists	Recidivists	F	Sig.
Age at First Conviction	2.81	2.34	7.712	.006
Age at Disposition of Base Docket	3.52	2.88	13.275	.000
Gender	1.80	1.78	.079	.779
Other Violent Crimes	.30	.28	.041	.839
Other Violations of Court Order	.14	.15	.016	.900
Violations of Probation	.70	.94	.733	.393
Domestic Violence	.18	.12	.687	.408
DUI Convictions	.21	.15	.760	.384
Drug Convictions	.20	.19	.002	.964
Prior Alcohol Convictions	.23	.53	3.834	.052
All Other Convictions	2.15	1.93	.171	.680
Maximum Sentence	1.85	1.96	.141	.707
Sentence Type	5.26	4.54	4.966	.027
Violations of Probation	.90	3.04	25.146	.000
Offense Level	1.78	1.82	.495	.482
Violations of Probation-convicted	.41	1.85	28.192	.000
Violations of Probation-charged, not convicted	.50	1.19	7.077	.008

Similar to the previous analysis, a multivariate regression was subsequently performed to determine if a combination of the independent variables exists that accurately assigns cases to the two recidivist groups. Again, a stepwise variable selection method was used to determine which variables to include or remove from the model. The final result showed that two independent variables remained in the model – Age at Base Docket Disposition and Violations of Probation. Table 29 below summarizes how well the final model predicted group membership. It shows that the model correctly classified only 104 of the 123 non-recidivists and 19 of the 68 recidivists, or only 72% of the total sample.

Table 29
Classification Results

		Actual Group Membership	Predicted Group Membership		Total
			Non-recidivist	Recidivist	
Original	Count	Non-recidivist	104	19	123
		Recidivist	34	34	68
	%	Non-recidivist	84.6	15.4	100.0
		Recidivist	50.0	50.0	100.0

Numbers/Percentages in bold are correctly predicted
72.3% of original grouped cases correctly predicted.

The final conclusion from these analyses is that the characteristics that differentiated the two study groups do not significantly affect the tendency to recidivate and therefore the differences observed in the demographic, criminal history, and case profile analysis are not related to differences in recidivism levels between the two groups. Therefore the differences in reconviction behavior between the two study groups are more likely to be the result of program benefits rather than the result of the participant characteristics that were analyzed in this report.

CASE PROCESSING TIME FROM ARRAIGNMENT TO DISPOSITION

This study also investigated elapsed time between arraignment and disposition for domestic violence cases prosecuted in the IDVD Project, cases prosecuted in Bennington District Court, and domestic assault cases prosecuted statewide. The case processing time analysis for the IDVD Project is based only on the 89 cases which were not expunged.

Table 30 presents the results of the elapsed time study. The median number of days from arraignment to disposition was 28 days in the IDVD Project compared to 88 days for District Court Cases and 113 days for other District Courts statewide. On average the IDVD Project processed domestic violence cases twice as quickly as the Bennington County District Court, and three times more quickly than other District Courts statewide.

Table 30
Elapsed Time From Arraignment to Disposition for Domestic Violence Cases

	Arraignment to Disposition Time (days)						
	Minimum	Maximum	Mean	Median	Mode	Standard Deviation	Count
IDVD Project	0	358	51	28	5	59	89*
Bennington County District Court	4	903	125	88	37	134	102
Statewide	0	1102	138	113	0	113	5844

* Though there were 140 subjects in the IDVD Program, 51 cases could not be included in the Arraignment to Disposition analysis because their records had been expunged.

Figure 2 presents the results of the elapsed time analysis by indicating the number of cases from the different study groups which were disposed during different weekly increments. For example, during the study period the IDVD Project was able to dispose of 15 cases in less than one week, whereas the District Court disposed of just three cases in less than one week's time.

Figure 2
Time to Disposition

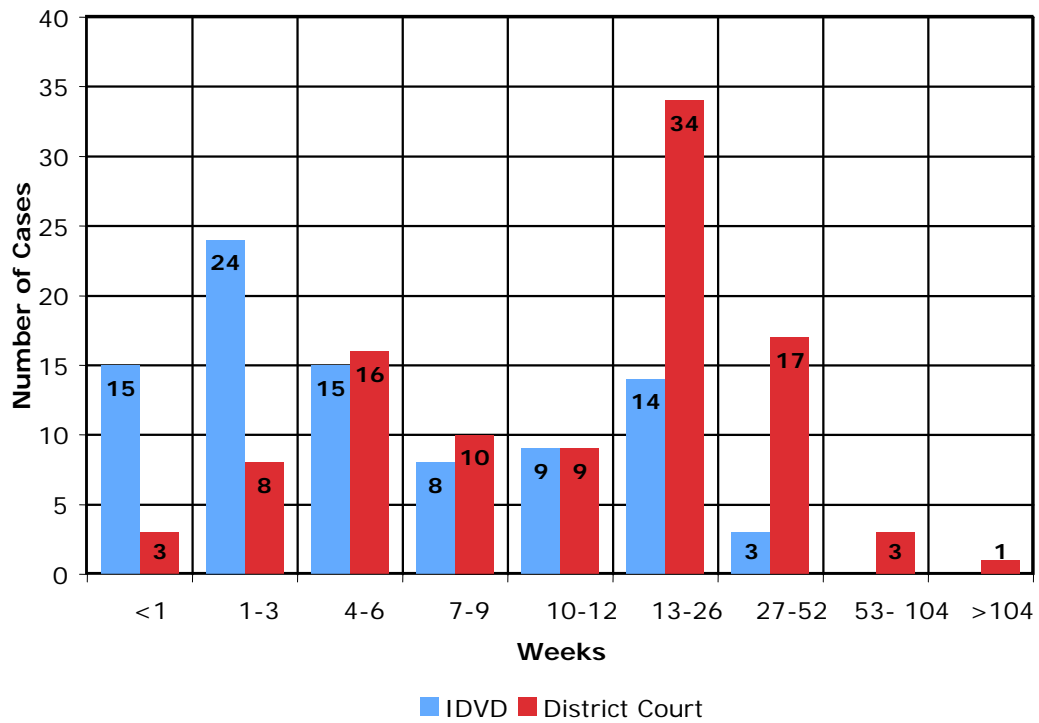
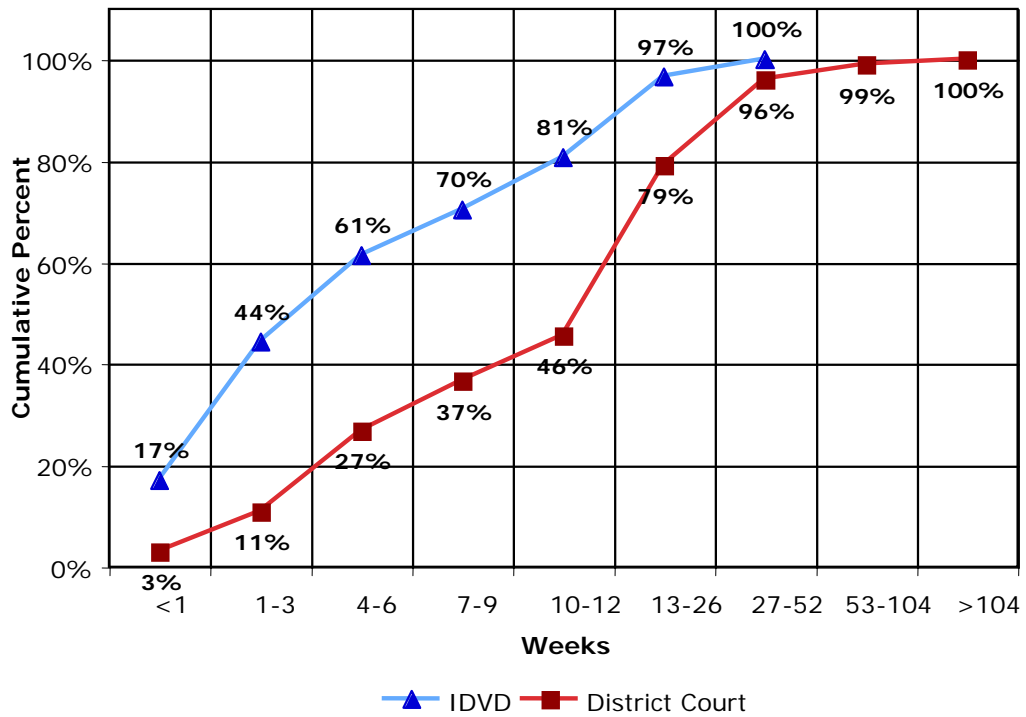


Figure 3 presents the cumulative percentages of cases disposed in different weekly increments. For example, 61% of the IDVD cases were disposed in less than six weeks. In District Court, only 27% of the cases were disposed in less than six weeks.

**Figure 3
Time to Disposition**



FINDINGS

METHODOLOGICAL NOTE

Because criminal history records were unavailable for 36% of the IDVD Project participants the recidivism and reconviction data reported in this evaluation may be underreported. Similarly the demographic characteristics of the IDVD Project participants and the “Time to Disposition” analysis are based on only a sample of the IDVD Project participants and may not be representative of the entire group.

RESEARCH QUESTION #1

Which subjects were convicted of additional crimes after their case was disposed?

1.1 Though there is little difference between the percentage of defendants reconvicted of a domestic violence offense as their first reconviction between the IDVD Project (4.3%), District Court (2.9%), and cases prosecuted statewide (7.4%), the percentage of reconvictions was lower for both the IDVD Project participants and the District Court group than for defendants in the statewide cohort.

1.2 Recidivism based on reconviction for a violent offense was low for the IDVD Project (6.4%), District Court (8.8%), and cases prosecuted statewide (10.4%). However, participants in the IDVD Project were reconvicted of violent offenses less often than were the District Court group and defendants statewide.

1.3 In reference to reconviction for any crime prosecuted in a Vermont District Court, reconvictions for the participants in the IDVD Project were approximately 25% lower and 54% less often than was the case for defendants in the statewide cohort.

RESEARCH QUESTION #2

For those subjects who were convicted after their case was disposed, when were they convicted?

2.1 For those IDVD Project participants who recidivated, approximately 77% did so in less than one year after their recidivism clock was started. For the District Court group who recidivated, 70% did so in less than one year after their recidivism clock was started.

2.2 For all three measures of recidivism, a greater percentage of IDVD Project recidivists were reconvicted in less than one year than was the case for the District Court group.

RESEARCH QUESTION #3

For those subjects who were convicted after their case was disposed, what crimes did they commit?

3.1 The subjects from the IDVD Project and the District Court group combined were convicted of a total of 115 crimes during the follow-up period.

3.2 Approximately 50% of the IDVD Project reconvictions included (listed in order of frequency) DMV charges, assault, drug crimes, DUI, and domestic assault. A similar pattern existed for the District Court group.

3.3 Other charges for both groups involved a variety of violent, property, and public order convictions.

3.4 It is clear from this data that recidivists from both programs engaged in a variety of different criminal behaviors after their cases were disposed by the court which suggests a high level of service need beyond the presenting problem of domestic violence.

3.5 Recidivism **rates** for both study groups were comparable in terms of domestic violence (5.0 vs. 3.9 per 100) while the reconviction rate for the IDVD group was lower for violent crime reconvictions (10.7 per 100) than the rate for the District Court group (16.7 per 100).

3.6 The reconviction rate for all crimes was 25.6% lower (41% less) for the IDVD Project than for the District Court group. As such the IDVD Project was substantially more successful at preventing post-program reconvictions than was the District Court. The IDVD Project prevented 26 more criminal convictions per 100 program participants when compared to District Court prosecutions without the benefit of IDVD Project services.

RESEARCH QUESTION #4

For those subjects who were convicted after their case was disposed, in which counties were the subjects convicted?

4.1 Approximately 95% of all reconvictions were prosecuted and therefore were likely committed in Bennington County. Four out of the 115 reconvictions occurred in Windham County and two occurred in Rutland County.

RESEARCH QUESTION #5

Can the program effects of the IDVD Project be attributed to the Project or to other factors including the characteristics of the participants?

5.1 Multiple Regression analysis demonstrated that any characteristics that differentiated the two study groups did not significantly affect the tendency to recidivate and therefore any differences observed between the two groups are not related to differences in recidivism levels between the two groups. Therefore the differences in reconviction behavior between the two study groups are more likely to be the result of program benefits rather than the result of the characteristics of the participants.

RESEARCH QUESTION #6

Is there a difference between the elapsed time from arraignment to disposition of cases between the two study groups?

6.1 The median number of days from arraignment to disposition was 28 days in the IDVD Program compared to 88 days for District Court Cases and 113 days for other District Courts statewide. The typical domestic violence case handled in the IDVD Project was disposed twice as quickly as those in Bennington County District Court cases and three times more quickly as cases statewide.

CONCLUSIONS

1. THE IDVD PROJECT APPEARS TO BE A PROMISING APPROACH FOR REDUCING POST-PROGRAM RECIDIVISM AMONG DEFENDANTS CONVICTED OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE.

In terms of all three recidivism measures used in this evaluation (reconviction for domestic violence, reconviction for a violent offense, and reconviction for any crime) the participants from the IDVD Project recidivated less frequently, or at a comparable level, than did participants in the District Court group or defendants in a statewide domestic assault cohort. The most substantial difference between the groups involved the percentage of defendants who recidivated based on a reconviction for any crime. In this case the percentage of participants in the IDVD Project who recidivated was approximately 25% lower and 54% less often than was the case for defendants in the statewide cohort.

2. APPROXIMATELY 77% OF IDVD PROJECT RECIDIVISTS WERE FIRST RECONVICTED IN LESS THAN ONE YEAR AFTER THEIR RECIDIVISM CLOCK WAS STARTED.

For the IDVD participants 77.4% of reconvictions for any new crime occurred in less than one year as compared to the District Court group where 70% of reconvictions for any new crime occurred in less than one year. In terms of reconviction for any new crime, the IDVD Project participants tended to recidivate somewhat more quickly than did the participants in the District Court group.

3. THE IDVD PROJECT APPEARS TO BE A PROMISING APPROACH FOR REDUCING THE NUMBER OF POST-PROGRAM RECONVICTIONS AMONG DEFENDANTS CONVICTED OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE.

In reference to domestic violence and violent crime reconvictions, the reconviction rate for the IDVD Project group was either comparable to or lower than the District Court group or defendants in a statewide domestic assault cohort. The reconviction rate for all crimes was 25.6% lower (41% less) for the IDVD Project than for the District Court group.

4. RECIDIVISTS FROM BOTH STUDY GROUPS ENGAGED IN A VARIETY OF DIFFERENT POST-PROGRAM CRIMINAL BEHAVIORS WHICH SUGGESTS A HIGH LEVEL OF SERVICE NEEDS BEYOND THE PRESENTING PROBLEM OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE.

The subjects from the IDVD Program and the District Court group combined were convicted of a total of 115 crimes during the follow-up period. More than 50% of the reconvictions involved (listed in order of frequency) DMV offenses, assaults, drug crimes, DUI, domestic assault, and alcohol offenses. Other charges for both groups involved a variety of violent, property, and public order convictions.

5. RECIDIVISTS FROM BOTH STUDY GROUPS TENDED TO COMMIT POST-PROGRAM CRIME IN BENNINGTON COUNTY.

All reconvictions for both study groups were confined to Bennington, Rutland, and Windham Counties. Approximately 94% of the 52 new convictions for IDVD participants occurred in Bennington County. Approximately 95% of the 63 new convictions for the District Court group occurred in Bennington County.

6. BASED ON AVAILABLE DATA, ON AVERAGE, THE IDVD PROJECT PROCESSED DOMESTIC VIOLENCE CASES TWICE AS QUICKLY AS THE BENNINGTON COUNTY DISTRICT COURT, AND THREE TIMES MORE QUICKLY THAN OTHER DISTRICT COURTS STATEWIDE.

The median number of days from arraignment to disposition was 28 days in the IDVD Project compared to 88 days for District Court cases and 113 days for other District Courts statewide.