

# THE COLORADO APPROACH TO DOMESTIC VIOLENCE OFFENDER TREATMENT

HOW EVIDENCE-BASED STRATEGIES CAN RENEW HOPE AND  
SUPPORT FOR EFFECTIVE OFFENDER TREATMENT, EVALUATION AND  
MANAGEMENT

PRESENTED BY:

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# AGENDA

- Basis for Change - Grounded in Research
- Research on Evidence Based Core Correctional Practices
- DVOMB Standards of Practice
- Outcomes and the Evidence Based Practice Movement



## WHY CHANGE...?

# RESEARCH BASIS FOR EXPLORATION

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**WHAT WORKS TO REDUCE RECIDIVISM BY DOMESTIC VIOLENCE OFFENDERS?**

In Washington and across the United States, courts often send offenders charged with domestic violence (DV) crimes to attend DV treatment. Attending DV treatment may be a condition of a sentence, a requirement for release, or a requirement of a deferred disposition.

The 2012 Washington State Legislature directed the Washington State Institute for Public Policy (WSIPP) to conduct an evidence-based review of the evidence and dissemination of evidence on the effectiveness of DV treatment programs. The Institute has previously found that DV treatment has little or no significant impact on repeat domestic violence incidents.<sup>1</sup> Other researchers have reached similar conclusions.<sup>2</sup>

In this report we confirm and extend our earlier review to include other types of DV interventions. This finding was directed to correct the review of the DV literature in collaboration with the Washington State Superior Court Gender and Justice Commission and reports on domestic violence.

The 2012 legislature also asked the Institute to survey other states regarding legal requirements for DV cases, and to report evidence on rates of Washington's DV offenders (see box, page 2).

This report first presents findings from our review of the literature to determine "what works" to reduce recidivism by DV offenders. Second, we report the results from our survey of other states regarding the legal requirements for DV treatment. Third, we report on the evidence on the effectiveness of evidence-based programs in Washington State. Finally, we identify the evidence-based programs that we recommend for Washington State Superior Court Gender and Justice Commission and the treatment professionals.

*Suggested citation: Miller, M., Davis, S., & Haganreid, M. (2013). What works to reduce recidivism by domestic violence offenders? Document produced by domestic violence offender treatment unit for Public Policy.*

(WSIPP, 2013)

**Toward Evidence-Based Practice with Domestic Violence Perpetrators**

Kenneth Corvo  
Donald Dutton  
Wan-Yi Chen

**ABSTRACT.** This review examines the policy and practice of intervention with male perpetrators of domestic violence in light of the widely accepted principles of evidence-based practice. Thus far, these policies and practices have been primarily based on the clinical, empirical, and anecdotal available through implementing the findings from evaluations research and other empirical practice studies. This literature is reviewed in a general framework which, for example, the state controlling agencies may encourage local methods of intervention, with an obligation to empirically assess their efficacy or safety. But controlling the approach would. Based on the review of findings from both explanatory research and intervention research, evidence-based recommendations for policy and program change are proposed.

**KEYWORDS.** Domestic violence, treatment effectiveness, forensic mental health, program evaluation

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(Corvo et al., 2008)

**Integrating the Principles of Effective Intervention into Batterer Intervention Programming: The Case for Moving Toward More Evidence-Based Programming**

David L. Rubin<sup>1</sup> and Emily M. Wright<sup>2</sup>

**ABSTRACT.** This article discusses the importance of integrating the principles of effective intervention into batterer intervention programming. The authors argue that current batterer intervention programming is largely based on anecdotal evidence and is not supported by research. They propose a more evidence-based approach to batterer intervention programming, one that is based on the principles of effective intervention. The authors discuss the importance of assessing the effectiveness of batterer intervention programming and the need for more research in this area. They also discuss the importance of training batterer intervention professionals in the principles of effective intervention.

(Radatz & Wright, 2015)

**Does Batterer's Intention = 0? A meta-analytic review of domestic violence research**

Ray C. Baker<sup>1</sup>, Peter T. Dowd<sup>2</sup>, Thea F. Theobald<sup>3</sup>

**ABSTRACT.** This meta-analysis examined the relationship between batterer's intention and domestic violence. The authors found that batterer's intention is a significant predictor of domestic violence. The authors also found that batterer's intention is a significant predictor of domestic violence. The authors also found that batterer's intention is a significant predictor of domestic violence.

(Babcock et al., 2004)

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**Domestic Violence Perpetrator Programs: A Proposal for Evidence-Based Standards in the United States**

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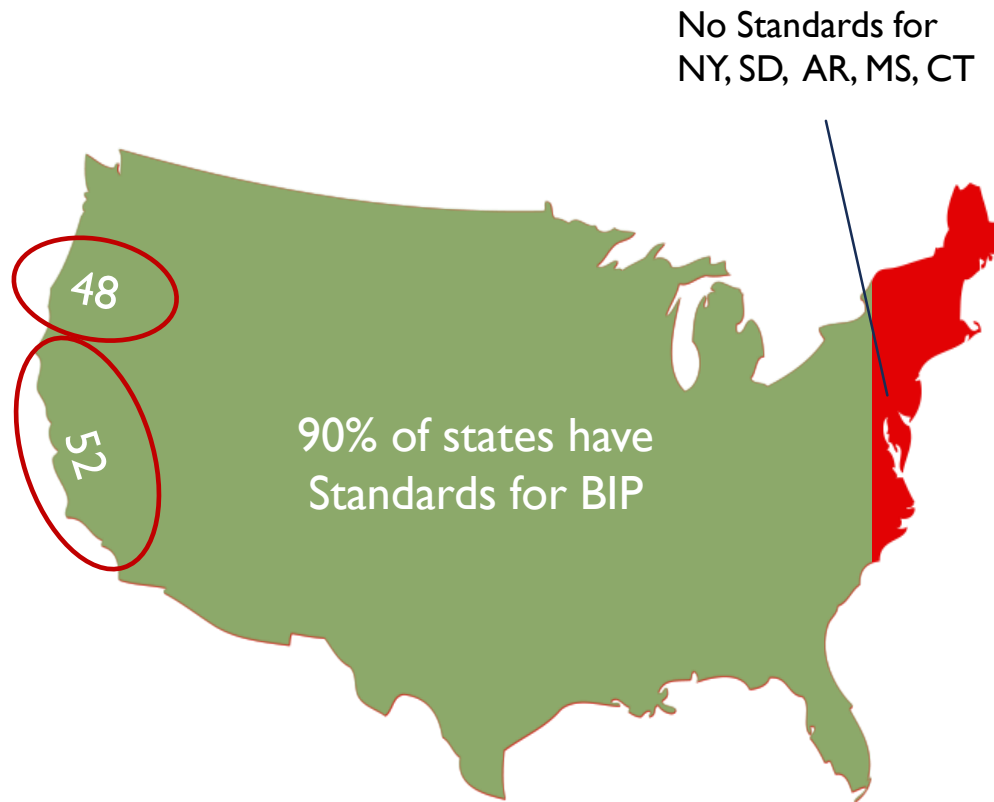
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(Babcock et al., 2016)

# CURRENT TRENDS





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DO DOMESTIC VIOLENCE OFFENDER INTERVENTIONS WORK...?

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"I take it you object?"

# NATIONAL RESPONSES TO DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

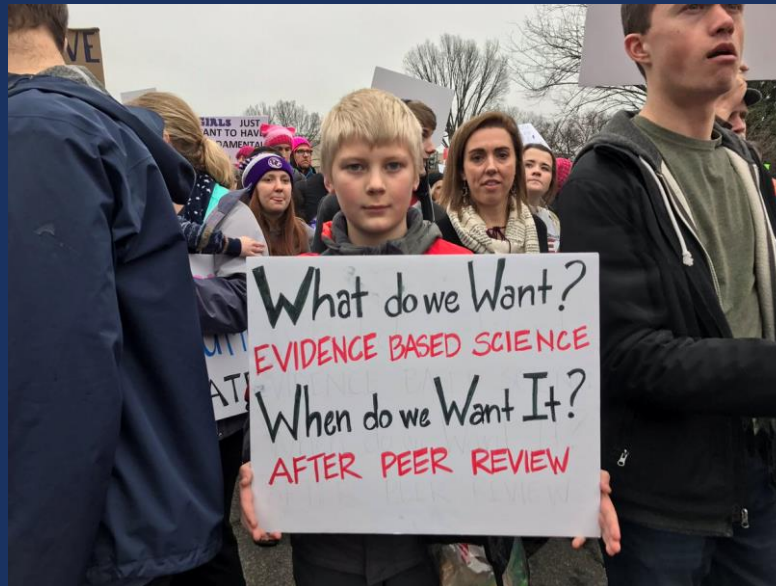
- Mandatory arrest policies for domestic violence
- Proliferation of Batterer Intervention Programs (BIPs)
- State mandated *Standards of Practice*

**Treat First, Evaluate Later**



# WHAT WORKS...

AND HOW DO YOU KNOW?



# RISK, NEED, RESPONSIVITY PRINCIPLES

**Risk** – Services provided to offenders should be proportionate to the offenders' level of static and dynamic risk

**Need** - Interventions are most effective if services target criminogenic needs that have been empirically associated with recidivism.

**Responsivity** - Effective service delivery of treatment and supervision requires individualization that matches the offender's culture, learning style, and abilities, among other factors.

# DIFFERENTIAL TREATMENT

## Empirical

- Coulter & VandeWeerd (2009) examined re-arrest rates for 17,999 offenders using a three-tier treatment program developed in Hillsborough County, Florida.
- Nicholls et al., (2013) systematic review of domestic violence risk assessments

## Conceptual

- Stewart et al., (2013) discusses the application of RNR to partner abuse interventions
- Radatz & Wright, (2015) proposes key programmatic components needed to integrating RNR into batterer intervention programming

# SPECIALISTS VERSUS GENERALISTS

## Piquero, et al., 2006

“Regarding specialization, the official record data indicates that few SARP domestic violence offenders have been specializing exclusively in violence. We were certainly able to identify many offenders with violence in their official criminal histories, but the overwhelming majority of these individuals also committed nonviolent offenses.”

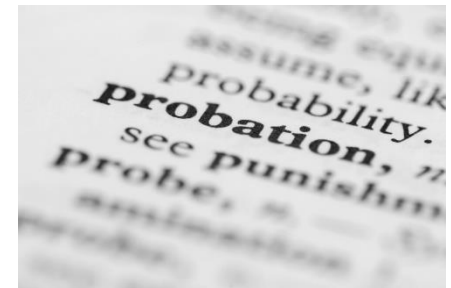
## Richards et al., 2014

“The results from this study indicated that more than half of the participants in the sample were rearrested for domestic violence (51.5%) and/or nondomestic violence (55.6%) over the 10-year follow-up period. This is consistent with prior research demonstrating that individuals who are arrested for domestic violence are often repeat offenders (Piquero et al., 2006).”

*Domestic violence offenders do not tend to specialize in domestic violence.*

# COLORADO

- Mandatory Arrest State
- Court-Ordered DV Offender Treatment
- Domestic Violence Offender Management Board
- DVOMB Standards of Practice



# DIFFERENTIAL TREATMENT

## Profile

- Healthy relationship construct
- 1<sup>st</sup> DV offense
- Limited to no co-occurring disorders
- Limited to no victim safety issues



## Profile

- Co-occurring disorders
- Patter of coercive control
- Repeat offender
- Crisis management
- Victim safety, lethality risks

*Low Risk*



*High Risk*

iatrogenic Effects when Mixed

# Differential Treatment Levels

## *High Intensity*

## *Moderate Intensity*

## *Low Intensity*

- High Intensity
- Crisis management, cognitive skills treatment plan  
Minimum of three Treatment Plan Review Periods
- Minimum of two weekly clinical contact and more as needed
- Victim safety concerns

- Moderate Intensity
- Psycho-educational and Cognitive/Behavioral Therapy (CBT) treatment plan
- Minimum of three Treatment Plan Review Periods
- Minimum of one weekly and one monthly clinical contact

- Psycho-educational treatment plan
- Minimum of two Treatment Plan Review Periods
- Minimum of one weekly clinical contact

**LEVEL A**

**LEVEL B**

**LEVEL C**

# EVALUATIONS AND ASSESSMENTS

- Types: Pre-Sentence, Post-Sentence
- Section 4.0 Requirements:
  - Required External Sources of Information
  - Required Assessment Instruments
  - Required Minimum Content of Offender Interview
  - Required written brief report for probation or court
  - Collateral information required
- Determination of treatment level, criminogenic needs, strengths and adjunct treatments needed

## Assessment Instruments

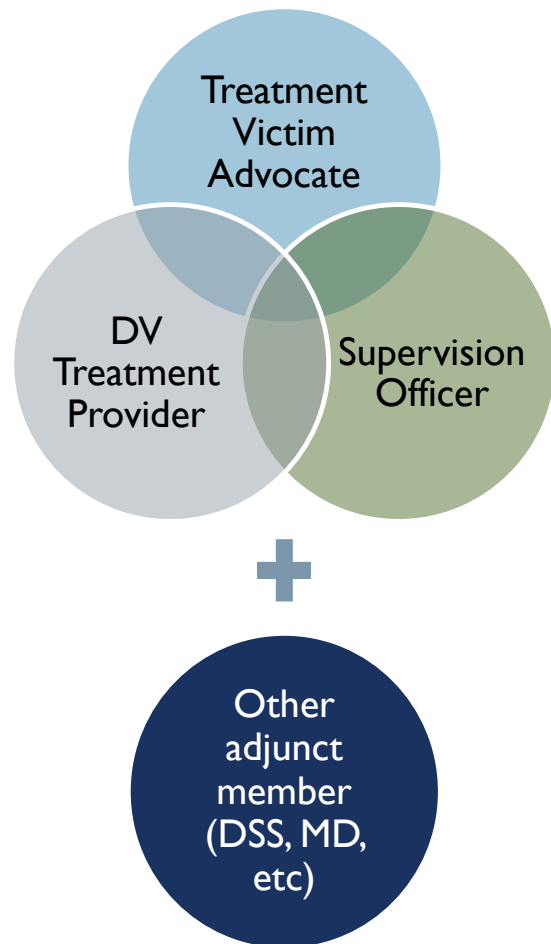
- DVRNA
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Domestic Violence Risk Assessment
- Mental Health Screen
- Cognitive Screen
- Substance Abuse Screen



# DOMESTIC VIOLENCE RISK AND NEEDS ASSESSMENT – SCORING

- 14 Domains
- Research-based risk factors
- Used by the Multi-Disciplinary Treatment Team
- Offender classification of risk and intensity level of treatment
  - Level A
  - Level B
  - Level C
- Subsequently justify possible change in level of treatment

# COORDINATED COMMUNITY RESPONSE: MULTI-DISCIPLINARY TREATMENT TEAM (MTT)

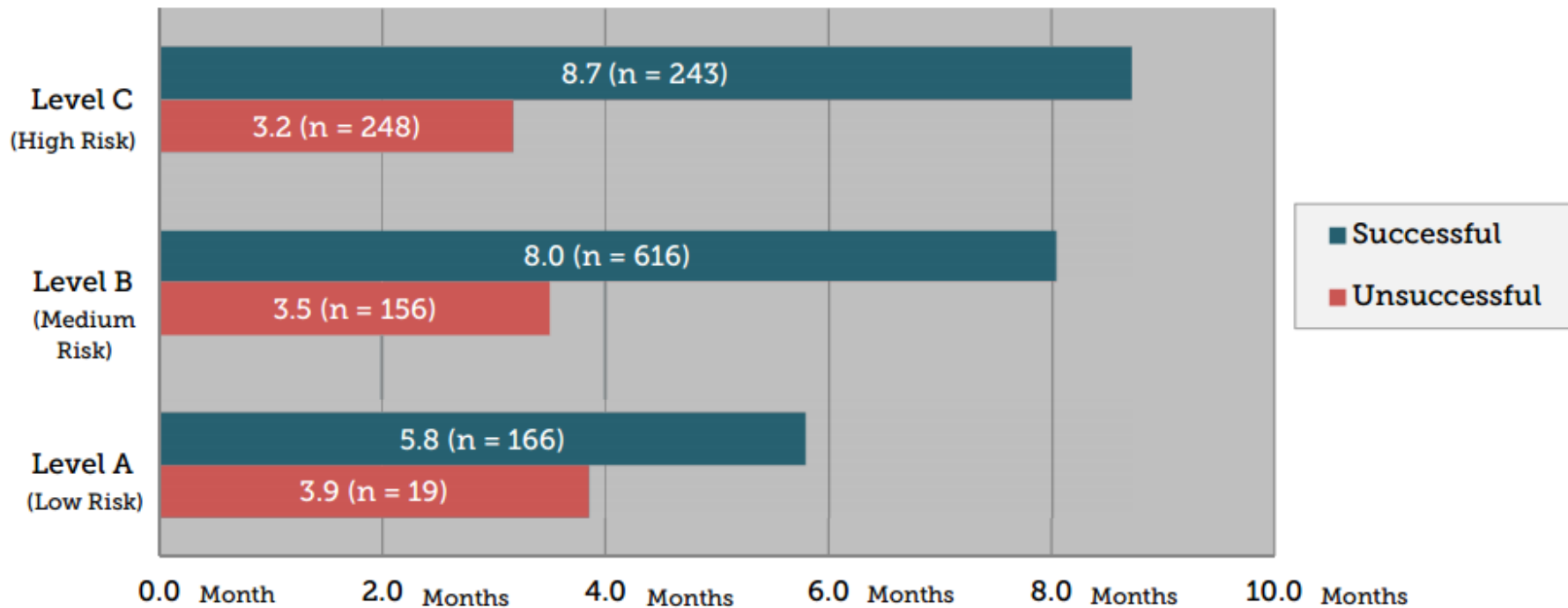


MTT consensus is required:

- Initial placement in treatment
- If treatment planning indicates a change in level
- When reviewing offender competencies
- Prior to discharge

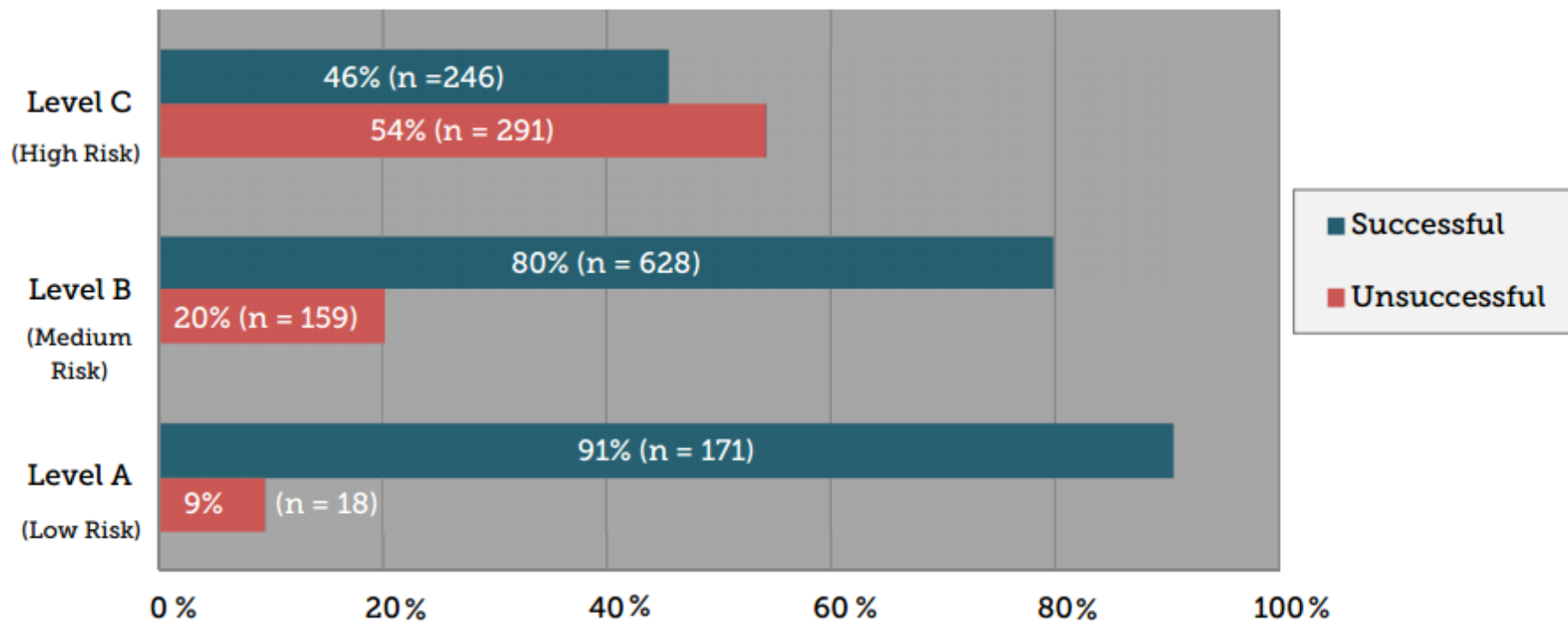
# AVERAGE LENGTH OF TIME IN TREATMENT BY RISK LEVEL

Figure 1. Average Length of Time in Treatment (in months) by DVRNA Risk Level at Discharge



# TREATMENT OUTCOMES BY RISK LEVEL

Figure 2. Percentage of Successful Treatment Outcomes by DVRNA Risk Level at Discharge



# EVIDENCE BASED MOVEMENT

- Victim Safety Focus
- Individualization – Not One Size Fits All
- Implementation and Application
- National Trends in Policy
- Research and forensic experience

Questions?



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