



*Division of Adult Correction & Juvenile Justice
Rehabilitative Programs & Services*

PROGRAM FACT SHEET

Domestic Violence Programs within the

North Carolina Prisons

September, 2013

PURPOSE

Each year more than 20,000 inmates are released from North Carolina's state prison system. Ninety-eight percent of the inmates in prison today will be released in the future. The North Carolina Division of Adult Correction (DAC) offers services and programs intended to prepare those inmates for successful lives as law-abiding citizens after their incarceration. This fact sheet provides descriptive statistics on active and former inmates in the custody of the Division that have been enrolled in domestic violence programs during their incarceration.

PROGRAM DESCRIPTION AND ENROLLMENT

The STOP & Change Direction Domestic Violence Education & Treatment Program (STOP) is located at Albemarle Correctional Institution. The program serves a target population of three distinct groups of male inmates who have been affected by domestic violence: perpetrators (batterers), victims, and witnesses. Based in part on the Duluth model and the Internal Family Systems model, STOP is a psychoeducational program with a mental health component rooted in dialectical behavior therapy (DBT) that follows a 20 week course designed to develop skills for social/interpersonal communications, address attitudes regarding male gender stereotyping, modify behavior and increase knowledge about domestic violence. The program has the capacity to serve 50 inmates per year.

The Domestic Violence Education Program (DVEP) is a four-week education and awareness program. Located at Brown Creek Correctional Institution and Dan River Prison Work Farm, the program is designed to help male inmates learn to identify the factors that lead to abusive/aggressive behavior patterns and equip them with basic skills designed to break the cycle. Based on a cognitive behavioral intervention model, the program emphasizes the need to think before reacting to situations. Curriculum topics include types of domestic violence, the inside-out principle, domestic violence cycle, self-control cycle, accountability and responsibility, power and control beliefs, boundaries and healthy relationships. The program's maximum capacity is 720 inmates per year.

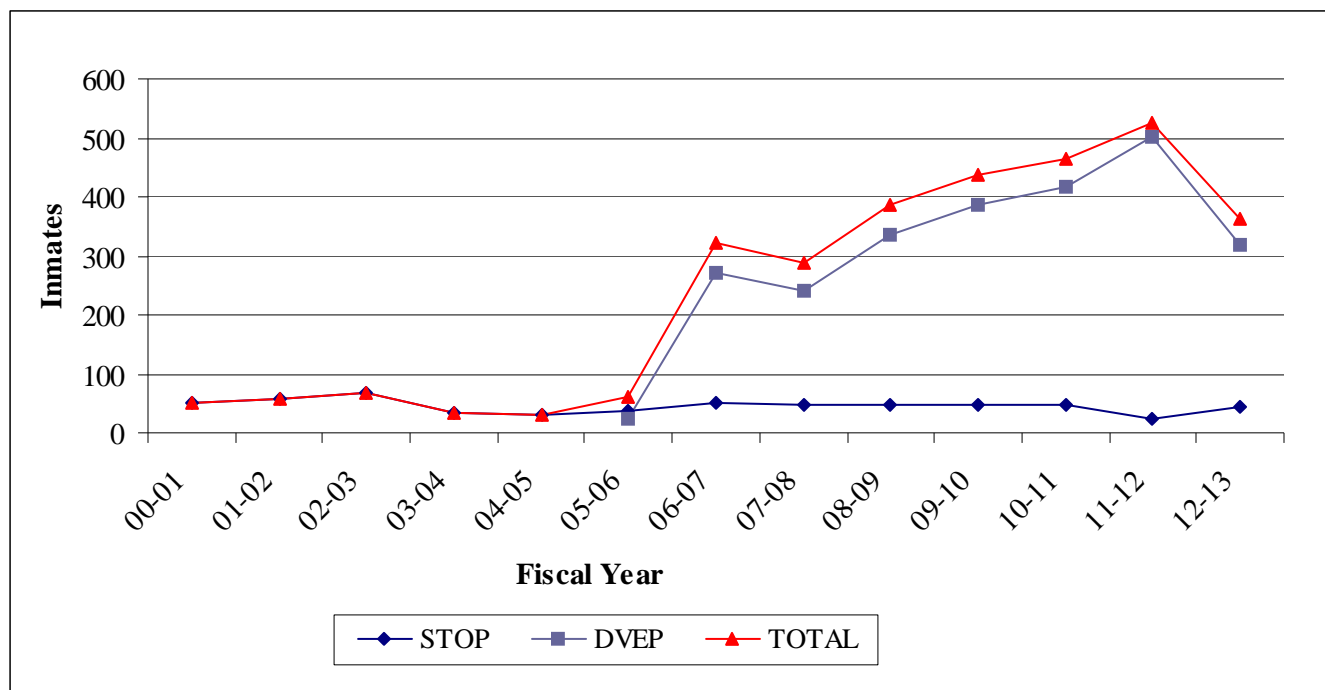
STOP was initiated in 1999 by prison staff as a means of concentrating services for domestic violence offenders and to assist men living in an institutional setting to stop using or excusing violence – whether physical, verbal, emotional or sexual - in all of their personal relationships. The program was designed to equip inmates with the skills to become accountable and responsible for their own actions and for their eventual successful integration

into their communities and homes, resulting in reduced victimization. Participation in the STOP program is voluntary, but inmates must meet program eligibility requirements.

DVEP was initiated in 2005 by prison staff and is mandated in North Carolina General Statute (GS 143B-262). DVEP is mandatory for inmates whose court commitment indicates that the offense committed was an act of domestic violence. The program is tailored for inmates with shorter sentences that meet the legislative requirement but also accepts referrals deemed appropriate by program staff.

Since these programs began enrolling inmates through the end of fiscal year 2012-2013 there have been 3,093 inmates entered in one of the domestic violence programs. Most (86%) were referred by prisons program staff. The remaining inmates (426 inmates) were found by the courts to have committed a domestic violence crime and were enrolled pursuant to statute (GS 143B-262). Figure 1 shows enrollment by fiscal year for both STOP and DVEP. The spike in total offenders reflects the first full cycle of DVEP which, due to program length, is able to enroll many more offenders than STOP. The decrease in enrollments to DVEP during fiscal year 2012-2013 can be attributed to changes in where misdemeanor offenders serve their sentences.¹

Figure 1: Enrollment in Domestic Violence Programs



Inmates spend an average of 129 days in STOP and 29 days in DVEP. The typical (median) inmate was enrolled in STOP 42 months before his anticipated exit date, while the typical inmate enrolled in DVEP had approximately 4 months remaining on his sentence.² More than three-quarters (78%) of the inmates enrolled in domestic violence programs successfully completed program requirements. Approximately 14% were removed

¹ The Justice Reinvestment Act of 2011 created a new program for non-DWI misdemeanant offenders serving between 91-180 days in prison. This change affected the number of inmates entering prison who may be eligible for DVEP.

² Does not include inmates enrolled that have a life sentence and have gone past their parole eligibility date.

before completion; nearly 7% were unable to complete the program due to administrative issues (transfers, releases, court appearances) and 1% withdrew from the programs. Table 1 shows the percentage of inmates in each status by program.

Table 1: Final Status of Inmates Enrolled in Domestic Violence Programs³

	STOP	DVEP	Total
Enrollments	591	2500	3,091
Completed	76.5%	78.7%	78.3%
Administrative	4.8%	7.2%	6.8%
Removed	17.4%	13.5%	14.3%
Withdrawn	1.3%	0.5%	0.7%
	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%

Characteristics of Inmates Enrolled in Domestic Violence Programs

This section describes the demographic and socio-economic background of the 3,093 inmates enrolled in the programs. The average age of inmates at enrollment was 35 years. Table 2 shows the ethnicity of enrolled inmates by program.

Table 2: Ethnic Distribution of Inmates Enrolled in Domestic Violence Programs

Ethnicity	STOP	Percent	DVEP	Percent
European	271	45.7%	894	35.8%
African American	282	47.6%	1,478	59.1%
Hispanic	26	4.4%	51	2.0%
Asian	5	0.8%	18	0.7%
Native American	5	0.8%	49	2.0%
Other	4	0.7%	10	0.4%
Totals	593		2,500	

More than half (58%) of inmates enrolled in domestic violence programs reported at intake to prison that they were single; less than one-quarter (15%) reported that they were married. The remaining inmates reported that they were separated (11%), divorced (15%) or widowed (1%). The typical inmate enrolled in either program reported 11 years of education. Inmates enrolled in STOP read at approximately 9th grade level; while DVEP participants read at approximately 8th grade level. Average IQ scores were 91 and 93 for enrollees in DVEP and STOP, respectively.

Most inmates enrolled in domestic violence programs reported at intake to prison that they come from urban areas and that they were employed at the time of arrest (57% and 64%, respectively). At intake to prison, enrolled inmates reported a wide variety of occupations. The largest percentage (39%) reported that they were semi-skilled. Few (13%) reported no occupation or only criminal activity. Table 3 shows reported occupational class by program.

³ There were 2 inmates enrolled prior to the end of FY 12/13 still enrolled in a program. These inmates have yet to receive a final status.

Table 3: Occupational Class of Inmates Enrolled in Domestic Violence Programs

Occupational Class	STOP	Percent	DVEP	Percent
Professional	8	1.4%	16	0.6%
Skilled	73	12.6%	389	15.8%
Semi-Skilled	226	39.0%	964	39.1%
Unskilled	187	32.2%	658	26.7%
Criminal	7	1.2%	25	1.0%
Disabled	12	2.1%	46	1.9%
Student	7	1.2%	20	0.8%
Other	15	2.6%	17	0.7%
None	45	7.8%	331	13.4%
Totals	580		2,466	

Note: 47 inmates did not provide these data

Most (85%) inmates enrolled in domestic violence programs reported a religious preference. The majority reported a preference of Christian followed by Rastafarian, Islam, and American Indian. Socio-economic (SES) data suggest that the largest majority of inmates self-identify with the lower classes. Table 4 shows the reported SES by program.

Table 4: Socio-Economic Status of Inmates Enrolled in Domestic Violence Programs

Socio-Economic Status	STOP	Percent	DVEP	Percent
Upper Class	2	0.3%	10	0.4%
Middle Class	196	33.4%	956	38.5%
Lower Class	264	45.0%	1,249	50.3%
Poverty	92	15.7%	206	8.3%
Unknown	33	5.6%	63	2.5%
Totals	587		2,484	

Note: 22 inmates did not provide these data

Most inmates (61%) enrolled in domestic violence programs had scores on substance abuse assessments that indicate a need for substance abuse treatment. Most (57%) of the inmates needing substance abuse treatment have been assigned to a substance abuse program; the majority assigned to treatment prior to entering the domestic violence programs. Relatively few inmates (13%) exiting either domestic violence program with untreated substance abuse problems have been subsequently assigned to a substance abuse program. Nonetheless, nearly one-quarter of the inmates with untreated substance abuse problems are still in prison and may be assigned to a substance abuse program before exiting prison.

Criminal Justice Background of Inmates Enrolled in Domestic Violence Programs

This section examines the criminal background of inmates enrolled in domestic violence programs while incarcerated in a state prison. The overwhelming majority of enrollees are felons (71%) though there are differences between programs. Enrollees in DVEP were less likely to have ever committed a felony than were enrollees in STOP (64.3% and 96.5%, respectively). Inmates reported on average 4 felonies prior to the incarceration period in which they were enrolled in a domestic violence program. The average number of

reported prior misdemeanor convictions was greater for participants in DVEP compared to STOP (8 and 6, respectively). Prior periods of incarceration were less frequent regardless of program. Inmates reported on average 1 prior period of incarceration. More than one-third (34%) reported that a family member other than himself had been convicted of a felony, misdemeanor or both.

The most serious crimes on the incarceration period in which they were enrolled in a domestic violence program fell into 23 different categories. The greatest proportion of inmates was incarcerated for non-sexual assault (30%). Commitments as habitual felons (10%), for robbery (7%), sexual offenses (7%) and murder 2nd degree (6%) were next most frequent. Table 5 shows the most serious offense on this period of incarceration by program.⁴

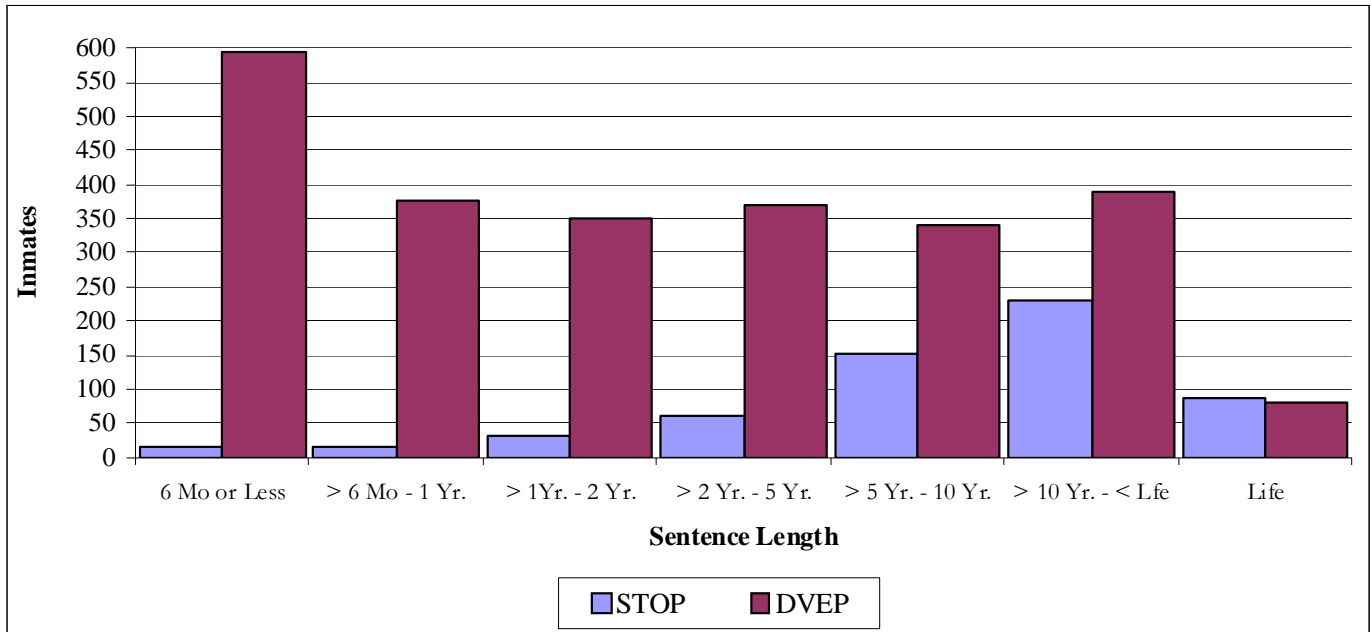
Table 5: Most Serious Crime on Period of Incarceration by Domestic Violence Program

Most Serious Crime	STOP	Percent	DVEP	Percent
Murder 1st Degree	33	5.6%	42	1.7%
Murder 2nd Degree	90	15.2%	107	4.3%
Manslaughter	12	2.0%	27	1.1%
Robbery	58	9.8%	153	6.1%
Assault	61	10.3%	873	34.9%
Sexual Assault	77	13.0%	106	4.2%
Other Sexual Offense	11	1.9%	43	1.7%
Kidnapping & Abduction	20	3.4%	62	2.5%
Other Offense Against Person	3	0.5%	126	5.0%
Burglary	14	2.4%	39	1.6%
Breaking & Entering	16	2.7%	97	3.9%
Larceny	13	2.2%	90	3.6%
Auto Theft	1	0.2%	8	0.3%
Burnings	2	0.3%	8	0.3%
Fraud	8	1.3%	52	2.1%
Forgery	1	0.2%	6	0.2%
Other Property Crime	0	0.0%	13	0.5%
Drugs Non-Traffick	19	3.2%	153	6.1%
Drugs Trafficking	33	5.6%	46	1.8%
DWI	4	0.7%	99	4.0%
Other Traffic	1	0.2%	44	1.8%
Habitual Felon	99	16.7%	205	8.2%
Other Public Order Crime	17	2.9%	101	4.0%
Totals	593		2,500	

As the table illustrates, there were significant differences in the most serious offense for inmates enrolled in the respective programs. Inmates enrolled in DVEP were more likely to be convicted of assault (35%) while inmates enrolled in STOP were more likely to be convicted of murder-1st or 2nd degree (21%). Most (83%) enrolled inmates did not commit crimes that require registration as a sex offender. Concurrently, sentence lengths of enrollees varied by program. Figure 2 shows sentence length by program type.

⁴ Although many of the most serious crimes were not in the traditional domestic violence related crime categories (e.g., assault on a female, stalking, violation of a protective order), domestic violence crimes cover a wide range of criminal behaviors that can be physical, economic or emotional in nature.

Figure 2: Length of Sentence by Domestic Violence Program



Summary

This fact sheet contains information on the domestic violence programs provided by the Division of Adult Correction for incarcerated male offenders and summary statistics about inmates who have enrolled in these programs. Through June 2013, nearly 3,100 inmates have enrolled in a domestic violence program. Since fiscal year 2000-2001, 593 inmates have enrolled in the long-term psychoeducational STOP program, while 2,500 inmates have enrolled in the short-term educational DVEP program since fiscal year 2005-2006. Both programs base their intervention on cognitive behavioral strategies that provide the best chance to reduce future acts of domestic violence. More than three-quarters of inmates who enroll in these programs successfully complete program requirements.