

Pocatello Women's Correctional Center

PROCESS AND OUTCOME EVALUATION

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE PROGRAM

Produced by the Statistical Analysis Center
of the Idaho State Police
S.T.O.P. Violence Against Women
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Pocatello Women's Correctional Center:

Domestic Violence Program

Process and Outcome Evaluation

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Introduction:

The female inmate population for the state of Idaho is expected to grow at 18% for the next 4 years, compared to 8.5% for the male population (Sali, 2003). Because of the high rate of increase, there is much needed research into appropriate methods of rehabilitation for female offenders. Treatment should focus on the true needs of inmates and be limited to areas that can be evaluated for overall effectiveness.

Studies on the female inmate population have nationally shown that between 48% and 80% have histories of either sexual abuse or domestic violence (Women's Action Coalition). Additionally:

- 75% are between the ages of 25 and 34.
- 50% live below the poverty line and are unemployed when arrested.
- 90% of female inmates have abused either drugs or alcohol.
- 75% are in prison for committing non-violent offenses.

The following report is an analysis of a program conducted at the Pocatello Women's Correctional Center (PWCC), intent on teaching inmates about issues related to domestic violence. Currently, 79.7% of PWCC inmates report they have been in emotionally abusive relationships, and 70.9% say they have been physically abused. Obviously, there is a strong need for victim education in the prison setting.

Located in Pocatello, Idaho, the PWCC has received STOP grant funding since 1995 to provide education about domestic violence to

female offenders. The program was initially implemented in a coordinated effort between the Young Womens' Christian Association (YWCA) and PWCC. In the 1997 grant, Bannock Regional Medical Center (BRMC) took YWCA's place, and has fulfilled this need ever since.

Based on the project's needs statement, the premise for bringing a domestic violence class to female prison inmates is that "Women who become victims while on probation/parole often regress to criminal activity and drug abuse to cope with domestic violence." The intent of the class is to help women lead more productive lives once released from prison, by instructing offenders about various issues such as the cycle of domestic violence, anger management, and raising self-esteem.

As identified in STOP grant applications (1995 - 2002), the intended outcome for female offenders at the successful completion of the program is as follows:

1. To identify (the) cycle of domestic violence and identify issues (the inmates) were subjected to in their relationships to break the denial cycle.
2. To access community services relating to domestic violence.
3. To identify their (victims') rights under Idaho Law.
4. To become more aware of domestic violence and to assist in holding batterers accountable for their violence through pressing charges and following through on restraining orders when incidents occur.

5. To take charge of their lives and break generational patterns in abusive relationships.

The program lasts ten weeks and covers a variety of topics intended to help inmates recover from past traumas and move forward. The following lists the types of clients targeted by case managers to take the domestic violence course:

- ◆ Inmates with a history of domestic violence (either as victim or offender).
- ◆ Inmates serving 180 day rider sentences (jurisdictional review)
- ◆ Inmates with a history of parole violations related to domestic violence (as victims or offenders).
- ◆ Inmates who have spent a length of time in jail and are approaching their first experience on parole, or are within 12 to 15 months of a parole date and want to have completion of the program for the parole board.
- ◆ Inmates who request to enter the program, even if they have not been a victim of domestic violence.

The students attend several hours a week of scheduled classes. They are given daily homework assignments, and have a workbook the facilitator has compiled for them to use in and outside of class. The women may purchase the book if they wish, and many have chosen to do so. A weekly support group is also provided, offering additional counseling for inmates. The group has been very healing to the inmates, who take advantage of the time they spend in prison to deal with any psycho-

logical problems they have associated with previous abuse. Additionally, the grant provides for suicide education of inmates and staff, trained to understand the signs of suicide in order to decrease suicide attempts among the prison population.

Evaluation:

The intent of this paper is to thoroughly analyze the domestic violence class in the Pocatello Women's Correctional Center. The process and outcome objectives of the class will be evaluated, along with a study of other relationships associated with recidivism that exist.

Process objectives relate to whether the components of the goal were successfully completed. Examples of process objectives include: the number of classes taught, the number of individuals completing the course, and the number who went to the support group for additional counseling.

Outcome objectives can help determine the overall success of the program and if it has had a possible effect on the surrounding environment. Examples of outcome objectives include: whether the class increased the clients' knowledge of domestic violence, and whether the rates of domestic violence have increased or decreased since the start of the program.

The process and outcome objectives of the following goals were listed in PWCC grant applications (1995 - 2001) and will be analyzed.

1. Increase offender awareness of domestic violence issues that may lead to parole/probation success.
2. Collect domestic violence data for future use.
3. Reduce suicide attempts.

Increase offender awareness of domestic violence issues that may lead to parole/probation success.

The goal of increasing offender awareness of domestic violence includes the following process objectives:

1. Providing a support group for female inmates to be tracked by how many women take the class.
2. Covering a wide range of domestic violence related subjects in the class to be assessed by a curriculum review and feedback from the students and other interested parties on its content.

Since the projects' start date, hundreds of women have been educated about domestic violence in PWCC, thus attaining the first objective. Not all offenders complete the course, as they may be released, or moved to another area. However, the courses' intent is that even if the inmate only attends a few classes, a measurable change will be noticed in her behavior. This intent will be measured later.

The second process objective, of covering a broad range of topics has also been reached. As mentioned in grant applications, the class focuses on:

...the socio-historical perspective of domestic violence, the cycle of violence, the

characteristics of an abuser and the effects upon children, reasons why women stay in abusive relationship(s) and its effects on children, the addictive process and its symptoms, co-dependency issues, and custody issues. In addition, safety planning, problem solving, self-esteem, self-image, stress management, re-victimization, criminal thinking/self defeating thinking skills and current victim rights issues...

The following are the measures used to determine the outcome of increasing offender awareness of domestic violence:

1. pre and post tests.
2. evaluations completed by the class.

The test the inmates have taken over the course of the grant has changed as the needs of the class have changed. The number of questions has fluctuated from 10 to 25. The post test scores have stayed significantly higher than pre tests. Average pre-test scores have consistently stayed around 66%, and post tests have stayed around 74%.

The evaluation is given at the end of the class to all inmates who have completed the course. The students are asked a list of questions pertaining to their feelings about the class. Fifteen questions are posed on a five-point scale ranked from "Not at all" to "A significant Amount." Questions are asked, such as: "I learned about the cycle of violence," "I understand the profile of the batterer," "The domestic violence group improved my self-esteem," and "The group facilitator was knowledgeable about the subject of domestic violence." The

majority, or at least 86% have consistently circled "A Significant Amount" for all fifteen questions.

The inmates enjoy the class a tremendous amount. The following are a few of the comments recorded from evaluations:

"Thank you! I learned a lot from the class."

"I came out with a lot of wonderful knowledge."

"My life has changed for the better after coming here."

"I learned a lot more than I thought I would. And there is a lot more I need to learn."

"The best teachers here are the ones who've been through it themselves, not just learned from books."

The pre/post tests and evaluations have been a very useful tool for the program. The only problem with looking at just the evaluations for an understanding of the effect the class has upon the client, is it relates only to whether the inmates enjoyed the class. This is useful for the instructor, and helps to develop the curriculum. However, a much more in-depth scope is needed to determine whether this information truly impacted the clients' lives, and in what direction. This leads to the second goal of the program.

II. Collect Domestic Violence Data for Future Use:

The second goal is to collect domestic violence data for future use. The process objective for this goal is to give every new inmate a six-page client profile questionnaire. The questions pertain to previous domestic violence abuse, previous child abuse, previous drug and alco-

hol abuse, self-esteem, and inquiries about their three most recent batterers. Previously the questionnaire was given only to women taking the domestic violence program, but it was taking time away from the class. Therefore, all inmates are given the form to fill out during their first few weeks in prison. Having all new inmates fill out the form has provided for a way to measure the differences between those who have, versus have not taken the class. The outcome of this goal is determined through the analysis of and reports written from collected domestic violence questionnaires. Reports based on the information collected are submitted quarterly along with grant reports. It is hoped that the information gathered will lead to a better understanding of the problems faced by inmates, and the best way to educate them to assure their success once released from prison.

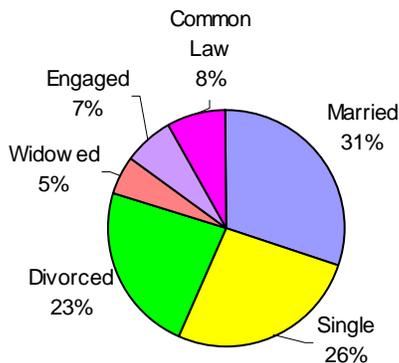
Methodology:

In order to understand the type of information being gathered about domestic violence, the following summary is based on most of the individuals who took the class during the year 2000. Clients were not required to fill out the form, as it contained very personal information, and a few chose not to. The class participants were informed that the information would help the prison understand how much domestic violence exists among inmates, and would help to assess the needs of clients in creating future classes. A total of 173 individuals who were about to take the domestic violence class, filled out the questionnaire.

Although more information has been gathered for all years of the grant, this snapshot is useful to compare to the additional recidivism analysis of students who took the class between 1999 - 2000. The general characteristics of individuals taking the domestic violence class have stayed relatively consistent over its course; which underscores the validity and reliability of the data. Included in the analysis are various charts and graphs depicting various demographics collected about the sample; including the marital status, employment history, family income, educational attainment, and degree of previous abuse faced by the inmate.

Marital Status: Chart 1 indicates the marital status of all individuals who took the domestic violence class in 2000. As shown, approximately one-third of the inmates were married (31%), 26% were single, and another 23% divorced.

Chart 1. Marital Status



Employment: Chart 2 refers to how many hours a week individuals were employed before going to prison. As indicated, close to half (45%) worked full-time before prison. Almost one-third were unemployed (31%), and one quarter worked part-time (25%).

Chart 2. Hours Employed

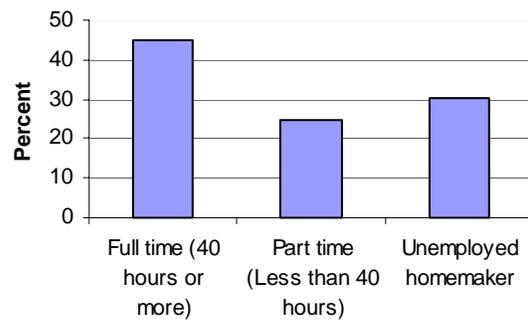
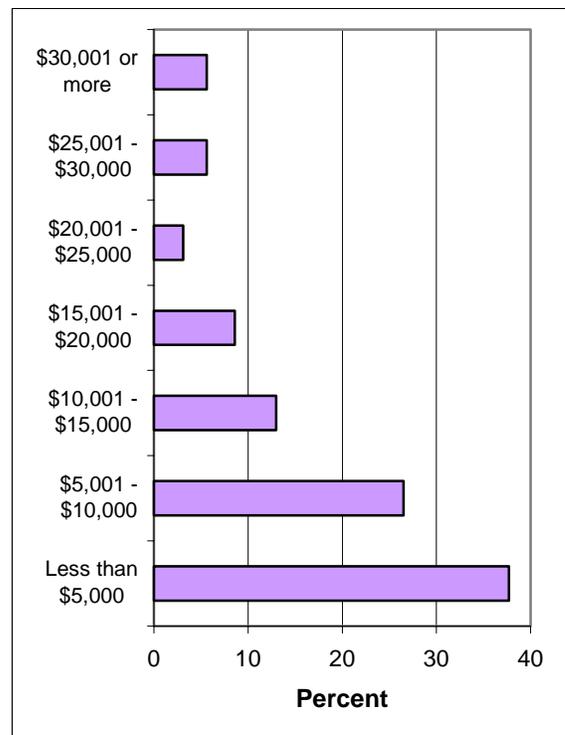


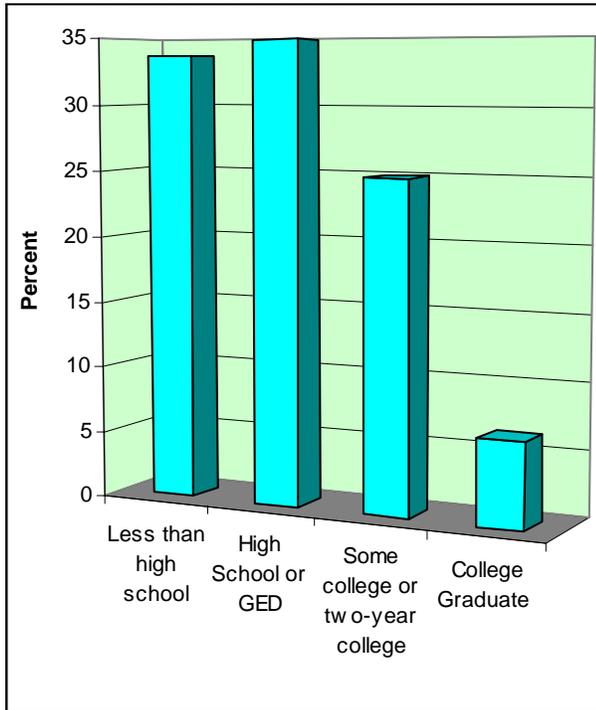
Chart 3. Total Family Income Before Incarceration



Total Family Income Before Incarceration:

Chart 3 refers to the total family income before incarceration of inmates taking the domestic violence class. As shown, the majority, or 64% made \$10,000 or below per year, and only 6% had household incomes above \$30,000. Therefore, even though almost half were employed full time before prison, the pay received at their jobs was poor. Almost half, or 49%, worked in service related positions (includes the food industry), 16% worked as general laborers, and 10% worked in health care usually as Certified Nursing Assistant.

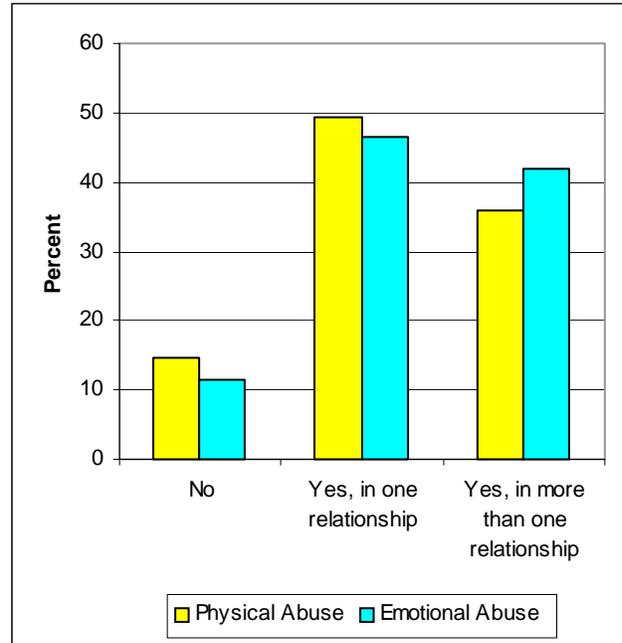
Chart 4. Educational Attainment



Education: The following responses were recorded when asked: “How much education have you had?” (Chart 4). A little over a third had less than a high school education (34%). 35% were high school graduates, or had their GED. 25% had gone to some college, and 6.5% were college or graduate school graduates. This information is important when

realizing that the domestic violence class is structured around a book the client must read. It is expected that those who have difficulty

Chart 5. Previous Emotional and Physical Abuse:



reading the material will ask for help so that they too can benefit from the class.

Previous Abuse: The respondents were asked “Have you experienced physical abuse?” and “Have you experienced emotional abuse?” The majority of female offenders checked that they had experienced either emotional, or physical abuse (Chart 5). Only 15% of the inmates who were about to take the class marked that they had never experienced physical abuse, and only 12% indicated no previous emotional abuse.

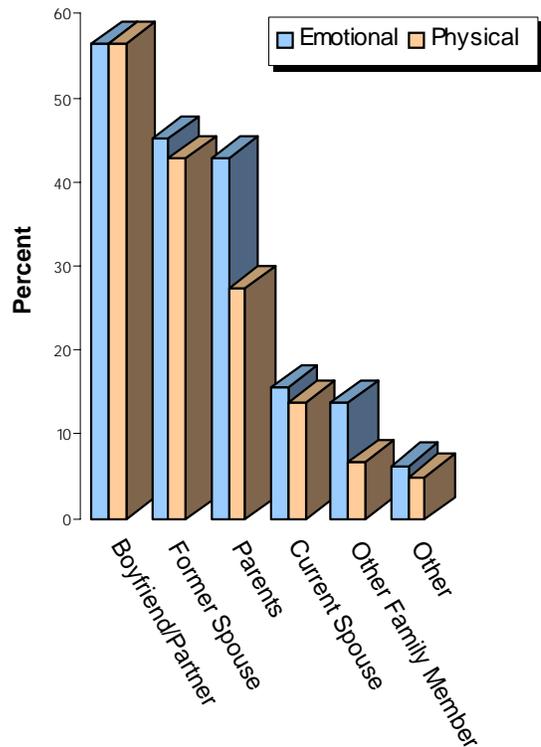
If the class participants had never experienced any domestic violence previously, they were asked to not continue with the questionnaire. Therefore, the rest of the information is taken

from 159 individuals who admitted to previous abusive relationships.

- ◆ 82% had been cut, bruised or seriously injured in a fight with their partner. Of these, 43% said the injury was serious enough to warrant medical attention.
- ◆ 25% have partners who have been cut, bruised or seriously injured during a domestic fight. Of these, 12% said their partner was injured enough to require medical attention.
- ◆ 10% are currently in an abusive relationship. One-fourth of these report they are planning on going back to this person after release from prison.
- ◆ 36% reported there was physical violence between their parents while they were growing up.
- ◆ 43% had been touched sexually before the age of 13, and 27% indicated that they were forced to have sex by an adult or juvenile before the age of 13.

Perpetrator of Abuse: Responses to whom the participant had been emotionally or physically abused by are listed in Table and Chart 6. Over half (57%) of the female offenders who had experienced some type of previous abuse, encountered abuse at the hands of their current/ former boyfriends or partners (57%). The second largest category was emotional (45%) and physical (43%) abuse from their former spouse. A large percentage also reported receiving emotional abuse from their parents (43%). 16% admitted that their current spouse has been physically abusive.

Table 6. Perpetrator of Abuse



Note: The above categories are individual elements. Each element is out of 100%.

Table 6. Percent of Inmates listing the following as perpetrators of abuse

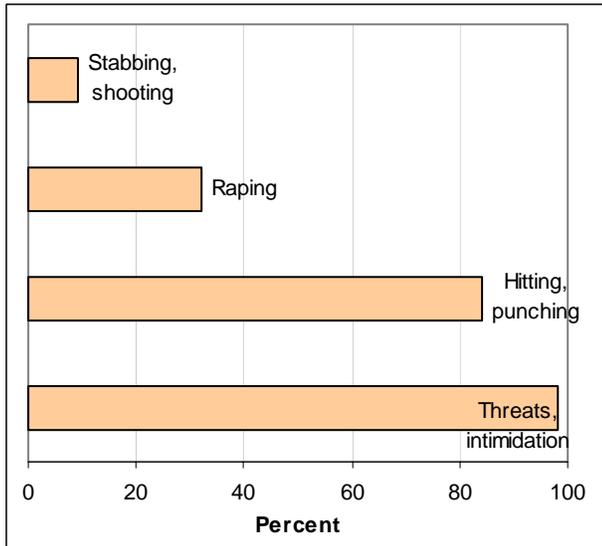
Type of Abuse:	Emotional	Physical
Boyfriend/Partner	56.5	56.5
Former Spouse	45.1	42.9
Parents	42.9	27.3
Current Spouse	15.5	13.7
Other Family Member	13.7	6.8
Other	6.3	5

Note: The above categories are individual elements. Each element is out of 100%.

Severity of Abuse: To the question, “What forms of abuse have you experienced?” almost all (98%) of the inmates who have experienced abuse reported to have received emotional punishment, such as threats or intimidation (Chart 7). The majority (84%) have also expe-

rienced some type of personal violence such as hitting, punching, or kicking. A smaller proportion have experienced being raped (32%) and still lower proportion have either been stabbed or shot (9%).

Chart 7. Severity of Abuse:



Note: The above categories are individual elements. Each action is out of 100%

Actions Taken After a Beating: The following responses pertain to the question “What actions have you taken after a beating?” This information is useful for determining what extent the participants have previous knowledge of safeguards that are in place for domestic violence victims. This can help the facilitator to determine what areas need to be focused on in more or less detail. For instance, Table 8 shows that only 14% of individuals who have had previous domestic violence relationships have called or visited a social service agency or emergency shelter for help. Also, only 20% have sought counseling due to their pervious abuse. This is significant as it shows the need of counseling and domestic violence education in the prison setting. Also, the fact that

Table 8. Action Taken After Physical Abuse

Action Taken:	Total	%
Left Home	110	60.1
Fought Back	77	42.1
Called Police	74	40.2
Sought Counseling due to Domestic violence	38	20.8
Sought Emergency Medical Treatment	37	20.3
Called/Visited a Social Service Agency or Emergency Shelter	25	13.7
Called Lawyer	10	5.5
None	32	17.5

Note: The above categories are individual elements. Each action is out of 100%.

42% admit to fighting back indicates that they may not consider themselves a victim. Some women have stated that they felt they instigated the violent encounter, and felt the beating was warranted. These are issues that are brought up and dealt with in class.

Conclusion of data gathered for future purposes:

It is clear from the previous analysis that the information being gathered from the domestic violence class has tremendous research value. The results can be used to not only help the class in formulating the curriculum, but also contribute to ongoing research into the lives of inmate domestic violence victims.

III. Reduce Suicide Attempts

The third goal of reducing suicide attempts has only been a part of the grant since the year 2000. The process objective of this goal is tracking how many inmate listeners and staff have received suicide prevention training. Quarterly reports have noted how many train-

ing sessions have been offered and how many subjects have been trained.

Because of difficulties outside of the control of the facility, the outcome of these measures have as yet not been tracked. Therefore it is unknown whether suicide attempts have gone down since the program has focused on this area. However, the program manager is aware of the need to gather data, and should be coming up with possible sources for this information in the future.

Overall Outcome of the Domestic Violence Class for Female Offenders:

The rest of this report will analyze the results of an inquiry into whether the class has had an effect on the recidivism rate of female offenders. It is the assumption of the project that after release from prison, female offenders will regress into criminal behavior if they are involved in violent intimate relationships. Therefore, if women are educated about domestic violence in prison, they will be less likely to get involved with violent partners, and as a result, will not be re-arrested or return to prison for similar or higher crimes. Tracking individuals to see if they get involved again in abusive relationships is outside the scope of this review. However, the recidivism rate can help to determine how well the inmates are learning and incorporating the material into their everyday lives. Also, by looking at if the inmate is re-arrested or returns to prison, and for what offenses, a needs assessment can be developed that will help in future curriculum decisions.

Recidivism Methodology

For the purpose of this study, recidivism is defined as any subsequent re-arrest of an offender after release from imprisonment for a similar or more serious crime. Reincarceration rates were also compiled to help compare the rate of recidivism to other studies that have been done.

Characteristics of Re-arrestees:

The following analysis was done on 358 women who had either taken part or all of the domestic violence class between the years 1999 to 2000. Criminal history records were obtained from the Bureau of Criminal Identification of the Idaho State Police, and were studied to obtain any ensuing re-arrest dates after release from prison. The precise prison release date was obtained from the Department of Corrections.

283 (79%) of the 358 women completed the course. Those who didn't complete the class were tracked as well because the grant application for the domestic violence class states that all will benefit whether the inmates complete the course or not. The following lists various results from the study:

- ◆ Average age of the women recidivating was 32 (Average age of class was 31).
- ◆ 75% had been previously arrested for other law violations before the arrest which sent them to prison.
- ◆ 8% had served a previous sentence in prison before the current sentence.
- ◆ 26 individuals had prior domestic violence related arrests. Only one of the

26 was arrested after prison on other domestic violence charges. 5 other individuals with no history of domestic violence arrests, were arrested for domestic violence after.

- ◆ 37 women had prior child injury related arrests before going to prison. 3 of the 37 were re-arrested on charges of injury to a child, and 1 was re-arrested who had no history of child injury arrests.
- ◆ 63% had prior drug related arrests, and 18% had drug related arrests after release from prison. Of those rearrested for drugs, 92% had previous drug charges, 8% had no previous history of drug offenses.
- ◆ Over half (58%) scored above 75% on the post test upon exit from the domestic violence class.

Type of Crime: Table 9 indicates the offenses women taking the domestic violence class during the calendar years of 1999 to 2000 were in prison for. Approximately 48% were in

prison for charges related to illegal use or possession of drugs, and another third had a property related arrest (burglary, grand theft, fraud). This provides insight for PWCC case managers into what types of individuals the domestic violence class is attempting to rehabilitate and can help them focus their efforts on related areas of need. For instance, from information taken from Table 9, it is apparent that a significant amount of time in the class should be (and is) allotted to cover problems dealt with by substance abusers since 47.7% of the female classmates were in prison on illegal drug charges.

Table 9. Type of Crime Committed by Offender

Type of Crime:	Total	%
Illegal Drug related charge	169	47.7
Property related charge	118	33.4
Person violence	24	6.8
Probation violation	18	5.1
Driving Under the Influence	18	5.1
Attempted escape	3	0.8
Other	4	1.2
Total	354	100

Chart 8. Time Before Recidivating:

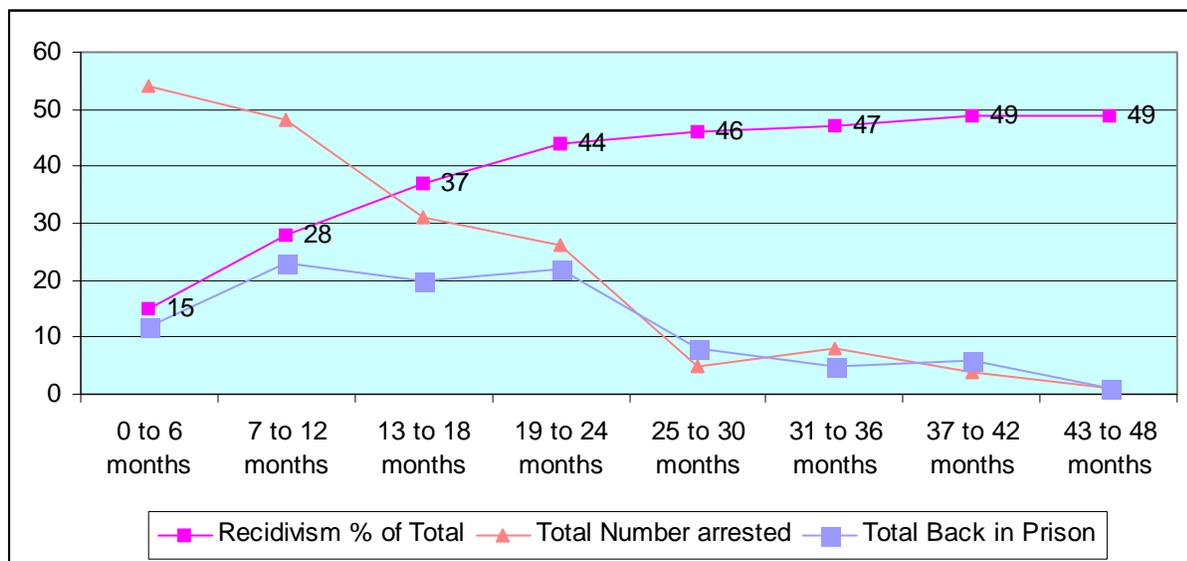


Table 10. Time After Release Before Recidivating:

Quarter Inmate Recidivated:	Total	%	Cumulative %
0 to 3 months	34	19.2	19.2
4 to 6 months	20	11.3	30.5
7 to 9 months	18	10.2	40.7
10 to 12 months	30	16.9	57.6
13 to 15 months	16	9	66.7
16 to 18 months	15	8.5	75.1
19 to 21 months	14	7.9	83.1
22 to 24 months	12	6.8	89.8
25 to 27 months	1	0.6	90.4
28 to 30 months	4	2.3	92.7
31 to 33 months	3	1.7	94.4
34 to 36 months	5	2.8	97.2
37 to 39 months	4	2.3	99.4
45 to 48 months	1	0.6	100
Total	177	100	

Recidivism: 49% of the inmates who took the domestic violence class between 1999 - 2000 recidivated by being arrested again after release from prison (Chart 8). Also, almost one-third (26.6%) of the inmates who took the class returned to prison again. However, the total number of inmates returning to prison is lower than the overall recidivism rate for PWCC. 33.8% of all female offenders who left PWCC during the year 1999 have returned to prison, and 35.4% of those who left during the year 2000 have since returned (Sali, 2003).

Of those who were re-arrested, almost one third of the arrests (30.5%) happened in the first six months, and 57.6% happened in the first 12 months. The total number of inmates recidivating dropped considerably after two years. Thus, the longer the offender is able to go without being re-arrested, the higher the chances are that they will not recidivate.

Comparisons:

Comparing those who took the class versus those who only completed part yielded the following results: 52% were re-arrested (138/265) who completed the course versus 42% (39/92) who didn't. Individuals who completed part of the class actually fared better than those who completed it. Because of the many intervening relationships that exist, however, this result can only be listed as what happened with this group. The completion or not of the class cannot be seen as the sole reason why an individual returns to prison, but is worthy of note.

To account for some of the differences between inmates taking the class and those not, additional data was gathered. A control group of 83 individuals who were in the rider unit during the year of 2000 were tracked and compared to those who took the class during the same year. The control group was similar among many characteristics, including marital status, race, family income, hours employed before incarceration, and educational level. However, there were differences among the number reporting any previous physical or emotional abuse. 51.8% of those who didn't take the class said they had never experienced physical abuse (compared with 14.5% of those who took the class). Also, 47% of those who didn't take the class reported never being in an emotionally abusive relationship, compared with 11.6% of the class.

After tracking the inmates using the Department of Corrections database, it was found that 25.3% of the control group who didn't take

the class during the year of 2000 returned to prison, while only 20% of those who took it returned. The difference between the groups is noticeable, but not significant. However, it is good for the program that there is a relationship between taking the course and not returning to prison. This is good news, as anything that might help inmates not return to prison is a worthy endeavor.

Correlations:

Of those who were arrested again, 60% scored below 75% on the post test given at the end of the domestic violence course. Also, of those returning to prison, the majority (67%) scored below 75% on the post test. Although other factors are most likely involved (such as the amount of education needed to score well on the test and how overall reading and writing ability affects whether someone returns to prison) it is interesting to note that a relationship exists between scoring over 75% on the post-test and not returning to prison. Some other interesting relationships exist among the data gathered on the women who took the domestic violence class between 1999 to 2000.

- ◆ 65% of those who recidivated by being re-arrested had illegal drug arrests prior to taking the domestic violence class.
- ◆ Of those with previous domestic violence charges, 67% were re-arrested. Also, the majority (79%) of those who had previous domestic violence charges, scored below 75% on the pre-test (Table 10). This indicates how much the information offered in the domestic violence class was needed by them. However, the high re-arrest rate shows that they have additional problems that must to be dealt with in the prison setting.
- ◆ 94% of those with charges related to the injury of a child scored below 75% of the pre-test. This, again, shows how much the information given in the program is needed, as information about the effects of abuse on children is also taught.

Table 11 gives an indication of the need of the domestic violence program within the prison setting. The fact that the majority of individu-

Table 11. How well the following groups advanced on their pre/post tests

Scores on pre/post tests for the following groups:	Total	Pre-test		Post-test	
		Percent Below 75%	Percent Above 75%	Percent Below 75%	Percent Above 75%
Total Class	330	70.6	29.4	42.1	57.9
Re-Arrested	163	81.0	19.0	60.3	39.7
Returned to Prison	88	87.5	12.5	67.1	32.9
Prior Domestic Violence Arrest	24	79.2	20.8	59.1	40.9
After Domestic Violence Arrest	6	83.3	16.7	60.0	40.0
Prior Child Injury Arrest	34	94.1	5.9	73.3	26.7
After Child Injury Arrest	4	100.0	0.0	100.0	0.0
Prior Drug Related Arrest	208	79.8	20.2	56.0	44.0
After Drug Related Arrest	61	88.5	11.5	58.3	41.7

als with previous arrests involving child injury, domestic violence, and illicit drug use score low on the pre-test shows that the curriculum available in the class is needed and can be very helpful. In addition, the fact that over half of all those with domestic violence, child injury, and drug related arrests after prison scored low on the post test shows that they missed out on much the class was capable of providing and they may need alternative learning opportunities. It is possible that additional classes outside of prison could provide great benefits to the parole population once released from prison.

Table 12. Arrest Associated with Original Term in Prison, Versus Whether the Inmate Recidivates

Type of Crime	Recidivated		Total	%
	No	Yes		
Illegal Drug	90	79	169	47%
Property related charge	57	61	118	52%
Person Violence	14	10	24	42%
DUI	7	10	17	59%
Probation Violation	4	14	18	78%
Other	4	3	7	43%
Total	176	177	353	

Characteristics of Those Who Recidivate:

Table 12 looks at the relationship between various types of crime originally committed by individuals, and whether they return to prison. This helps to understand the types of criminals who are recidivating. For instance, 47% of those who initially had arrests involving illegal drugs, were later rearrested. 52% of those who initially had arrests associated with property were later rearrested.

Many categories were similar among those who recidivated versus the demographics of the class. The following highlights of few of the similarities and differences:

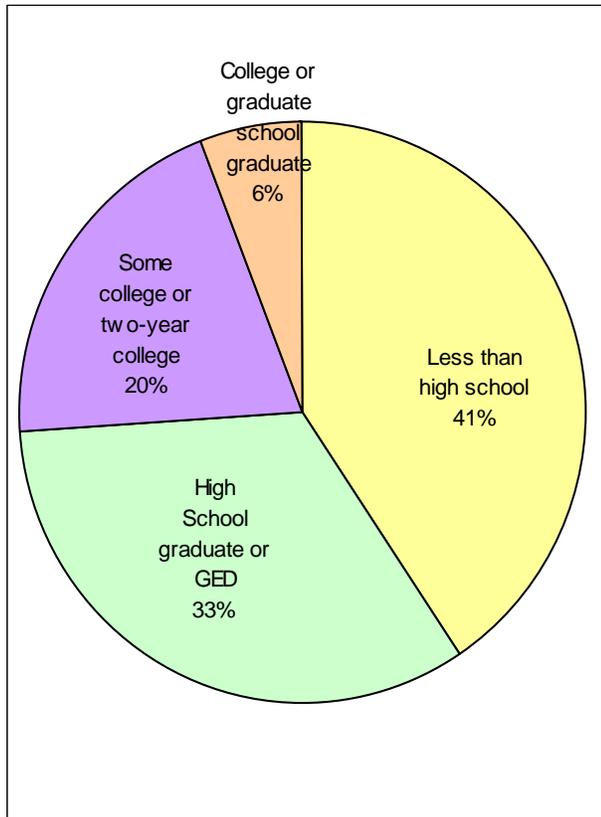
Of those who recidivated by being re-arrested, 45.6% made less than \$5,000 per year before going to prison (Chart 9). Inmates making less than \$5,000 before incarceration comprised 37.7% of the total population from 2000. This indicates that there is a slight tendency for individuals who have lower family incomes to be rearrested upon release.

Those working in the health care profession before incarceration had a slightly greater tendency to become rearrested after release. Comprising 10% of the class population, they made up 15.8% of rearrestees. Service positions dropped slightly, comprising 49% of the population, they composed 43.9% of rearrestees.

Overall, a slightly higher proportion of inmates with less than a high school diploma were re-arrested (Chart 10). 34% of the original class had less than a high school diploma, while 40.5% of those who were re-arrested did. Also, a slightly less proportion of those who had some college or had a two-year college diploma were rearrested than went through the program; 25% were college educated who went through the program versus 20.2% who were rearrested.

Just because they had previously been a victim of domestic violence did not have an effect on whether they were rearrested. In fact,

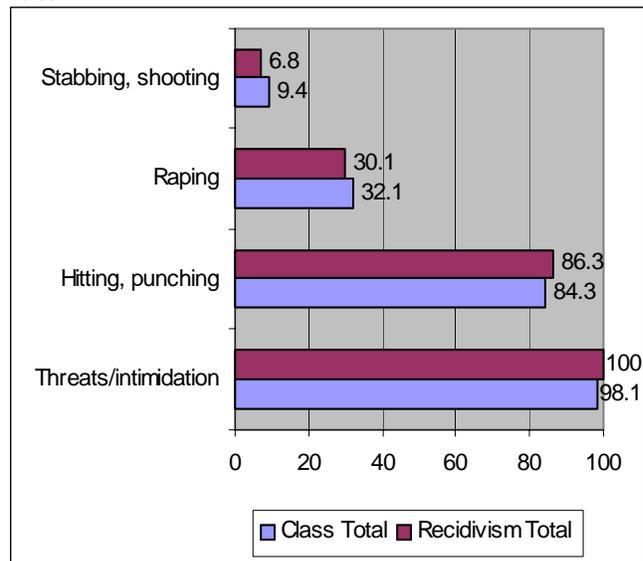
Chart 10. Educational Level of Re-arrestees



those who reported no previous physical or emotional abuse were actually represented less among those who recidivated. Those saying they had *never* been physically abused comprised 14.5% of the class, versus 20.7% of those rearrested. Those saying they had no previous emotional abuse comprised 11.6% of the class participants and 18.6% of the rearrestees.

Chart 11 represents the differences between the degree of previous abuse experienced by those who took the class, versus those who later recidivated. As shown, the levels are very similar. 32% of those who have experienced some form of abuse have been raped, and 43% say they were touched sexually by an adult or older child before the age of 13. Addi-

Chart 11. Level of Abuse Experienced by All Taking the Class versus those who Recidivate.



tionally, only 21% have ever sought counseling due to domestic violence. The Domestic Violence class has taught many women coping skills to deal with the shattered self-images they may possess.

Tables 12 and 13 address the relationship between the perpetrator of abuse among those who recidivate by being arrested and by going back to prison versus the total in the class. From this it is clear that the percent who say their emotional abuser was their parents make up a slightly larger proportion of those who recidivate than those who took the class (52% versus 43%). However, among those going back to prison, the percent experiencing emotional abuse by their parents is closer to the class total (48.7% versus 43%). The remaining categories, even among those involving physical abuse are fairly similar.

Conclusion:

The Domestic Violence class taught at the Pocatello Women’s Correctional Center has provided a needed service to the female inmate population. From looking at the data that has been collected regarding the severity of previous abuse, it is apparent that 88% of all rider inmates have experienced emotional abuse and 85% have experienced physical abuse. This number is higher than the national average of between 40 to 80%.

The domestic violence class has helped the offenders feel that they are not alone; other survivors are around to help. It has also given them needed information about what to do if they happen to get in an abusive relationship again. From the positive array of evaluation forms, to the increase in pre to post tests, it is apparent that the inmates enjoy the information they are receiving and are learning a great deal.

This outcome evaluation has also looked at the recidivism of women who have taken the domestic violence class and found the rate to be lower than the general population of female inmates (27% versus 34%). It is also good for the class to note that a lower percentage of domestic violence victims compose the population of re-arrestees versus those taking the class. Perhaps those with histories of victimization are gaining enough knowledge in the prison environment that they don’t recidivate at the same levels as non-victims. In addition,

Table 12. Emotional Abuse

Perpetrator: of Emotional Abuse	Class Total	%	Rearrested Total	%	Prison Total	%
Boyfriend/Partner	91	57	44	60.3	22	56.4
Former Spouse	78	45	33	45.2	19	48.7
Parents	69	43	38	52.1	19	48.7
Current Spouse	92	16	10	13.7	6	15.0
Other Family Member	22	14	8	11.0	4	10.2
Other	10	6.3	5	6.8	2	5.1

Table 13. Physical Abuse

Perpetrator: of Physical Abuse	Class Total	%	Rearrested Total	%	Prison Total	%
Boyfriend/Partner	91	57	42	57.5	20	51.3
Former Spouse	69	43	28	38.4	16	39.0
Parents	44	27	21	28.8	10	25.6
Current Spouse	22	14	9	12.3	5	12.8
Other Family Member	11	6.8	3	4.11	2	5.1
Other	8	5	1	1.37	1	2.5

of the 26 individuals with previous histories of domestic violence arrests, only one has been re-arrested on a charge associated with domestic violence since taking the class.

Another positive about the domestic violence class is that the individuals who don’t do as well are more likely to be re-arrested later.

Recommendations:

A few recommendations must be made at the end of any evaluation. The following is a list that will help resolve issues relating to the Domestic violence class.

1. In the grant application, the needs assessment statement about domestic violence and its relationship to female criminal activity is not clear. Using previous studies compiled by others about the relationship between domestic violence and criminal activity, devise a needs

assessment that clearly states the relationship domestic violence has upon crime and the best strategies available to stop women from getting into violent relationships again. Then corroborate that this information is being used in the class to change criminal behavior.

2. After a clear needs assessment has been developed, it will be much easier to come up with clearly stated program expectations. Perhaps rather than just listing the number of individuals taking the class each quarter, and their overall demographics, the program could give a detailed account of what attributes the class taught the inmates, and how successful the lesson plan was. Such information would go over and beyond the simple accounting of

whether the inmates like the course. This information would document how well received lectures were, how the curriculum has changed in scope since its beginning and why such changes have been made. This would help uncover why the program is successful so that if wanted the program can be replicated in other prison environments.

3. Acquire results about the number of suicide attempts over the last few years (since before the suicide prevention portion was initiated). This will be a baseline, and then chart progress from this number to be provided with future grant reports. Having a baseline will help in determining the impact of the program.

References:

Sali, G. (2003) Idaho State Corrections Website: Press Release: www.corr.state.id.us

Women's Action Coalition WAC Stats: The Facts About Women (New York: The New Press, 1993). This report can be downloaded at www.ntb.stanford.edu/data.html#WomenPrisonor

U.S. Department of Justice. Reentry Trends in the United States. This report can be downloaded at www.ojp.usdoj.gov/bjs/reentry/reentry.htm

Other sources:

Women in Prison Project: Correctional Association of New York. This report can be downloaded at www.correctionalassociation.org/images/Fact_Sheets_2002.pdf

In 1999, a study conducted at the Beford Hills Correctional Facility found that more than 80% of female inmates had a history of childhood physical and sexual abuse, and more than 90% had experienced battering or sexual assault during their lifetime.

Douglas, B. (2000). West Virginia Division of Corrections. (2000). Adult Female Inmates - Crime and Demographics. This report can be downloaded at www.state.wv.us/wvdoc/female.pdf.

67% of survey inmates (111) reported that they had been sexually or physically abused at some point in their lives. 53% reported that this victimization occurred before the age of 18.

Office for Victims of Crime. (2001). Victimization Study. This information can be downloaded at www.ojp.usdoj.gov/bjs/cvict.htm