

Data and Studies Related to Efficacy of DV Accountability Program Curricula used in Vermont

Curricula	Studies	Significant Results
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Currently, 7 programs in Vermont use the Duluth model Curriculum “<i>Creating A Process of Change for Men Who Batter</i>” • The Duluth model is an educational intervention, deliberately not described as treatment, focusing on “exploring and understanding power relationships and the effects of violence and controlling behavior on domestic partners.”¹ • “Treatment” implies a psychological condition that results in violence; an “intervention” assumes men are capable of stopping violence, regardless of past traumas or current psychological problems, and are responsible for doing so.² • Most importantly, the Duluth model is based on a coordinated community response of law enforcement, prosecution, and advocacy of which BIPs are only one component. • Trained facilitators lead groups through a 26 or 52-week curriculum including didactic presentations, dialogic exchange of ideas, videos, role playing 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Researchers in Scotland found that offenders ordered to counseling using the Duluth curriculum who were threatened with immediate consequences for failure to participate—the Duluth Model—had a success rate of 73 percent as opposed to only 33 percent for those offenders who were simply placed on probation (Dobash and Dobash 1999)⁴ • In a seven-year, multi-site evaluation (Gondolf 2003) concluded that “well established batterer intervention programs with sufficient reinforcement from the courts do contribute to a substantial decline in re-assault. • Studies criticizing the efficacy of the model have gained attention, however, researchers cited in the National Institute of Justice Report “<i>Batterer Intervention Programs: Where Do We Go From Here?</i>” admit to flaws and limitations of study • The NIJ report examines only the “Batterers treatment” component of the 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Babcock, Green and Robie do state that we shouldn’t abandon traditional treatment programs if there is a strong coordinated community response, the centerpiece of the Duluth Model: “Based on partner reports, treated batterers have a 40 percent chance of being successfully nonviolent, and without treatment, men have a 35 % chance of maintaining nonviolence.⁵ • At the 30-month follow up, less than 20% of the men had re-assaulted their partner in the previous year (in Gondolf’s multi-site evaluation). • At the 48 month follow up approximately 10% had re-assaulted in the previous year • Over two-thirds of the women said their quality of life had improved

¹ Paymar & Barnes 2013, p. 7.

² Ferraro, Kathleen J. PhD, Current Research on Batterer Intervention Programs and Implications for Policy

Data and Studies Related to Efficacy of DV Accountability Program Curricula used in Vermont

<p>and homework assignments</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Used in all 50 states and 17 countries and is identified in nearly all state standards and guidelines³ 	<p>Duluth Model and the researchers do not indicate to what extent, or even whether, the two treatment sites were part of a “coordinated community response (CCR), a core element of the Duluth Model</p>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 2 programs in Vermont use the Emerge Curriculum Emerge was the nation’s first batterer intervention program Largest program in New England Nationally and internationally recognized as a training and resource center on domestic violence Model replicated across the world Consulted with many states on development of certification standards for programs 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Independent outcome study of Emerge, conducted in 2015 by MaryRose Mazzola of the Kennedy School of Government at Harvard University found evidence of Emerge's effectiveness in terms of abuser recidivism as indicated by re-arrest and the issuance of new protective orders Findings part of a larger study of three batterer intervention programs commissioned by the Massachusetts Department of Probation 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Recidivism rate was 11.6% for program completers compared to a recidivism rate of 29.9% for noncompleters and an overall rate of 20% for all program participants. Program completers were 2.6 times less likely to re-offend than non-completers.⁶
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 3 programs in VT piloting ACTV Achieving Change through Value-Based Behavior (ACTV) adapted from evidence-based acceptance and commitment training techniques, a therapeutic modality used to address a multitude of psychological and emotional disorders ⁷ 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Research on the general criminal population suggests that cognitive-behavioral skills-based programming can reduce recidivism.⁸ Initial research on the effectiveness of (ACTV) showed a decrease in recidivism and lower rates of psychological, physical, and sexual aggression.⁹ 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Evaluation of 3,696 men arrested for domestic assault in Iowa who were court-mandated to treatment from 2011-2013 showed participants in ACTV had half the recidivism rates for domestic assault and two-thirds less violent charges than those who participated in treatment as usual (a combination of Duluth and CBT)

⁴ Ferraro, Kathleen J. PhD, Current Research on Batterer Intervention Programs and Implications for Policy

⁵ Paymar, Michael and Barnes, Countering Confusion About the Duluth Model, Battered Women’s Justice Project

³ (Gondolf 2012, p. 113).

⁶ www.emergedv.com

⁷ Iowa Department of Corrections

⁸ Latessa, E., Listwan, S. Koetzle, D. 2014. What Works (and Doesn't) in Reducing Recidivism.

⁹ Lawrence, Erika. University of Iowa, 2013.

Data and Studies Related to Efficacy of DV Accountability Program Curricula used in Vermont

- Goals of ACTV are to reduce or end psychologically, emotionally, and physically abusive and controlling behaviors, and to increase respectful, adaptive, and healthy behaviors
- Modules focus on: barriers to change, emotion regulation skills, and cognitive and behavioral skills.
- 24-week program with each session lasting 90 minutes.

- ACTV participants who were re-arrested had significantly fewer charges than those in treatment as usual.
- Results held for both people who completed the ACTV program and those who left before completion¹⁰

¹⁰ Zarling, A., Lawrence, E., & Marchman, J. (2015). A randomized controlled trial of acceptance and commitment therapy for aggressive behavior. *Journal of consulting and clinical psychology, 83*(1), 199.