

A PROCESS AND OUTCOME EVALUATION OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE COURTS IN IDAHO



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Introduction

According to the National Coalition Against Domestic Violence (NCADV), one in three women and one in four men in the United States have experienced physical violence by a partner (NCADV, 2019). In Idaho, approximately a third of men and women have experienced intimate partner violence at some point in their lifetimes (NCADV, 2019). The COVID-19 pandemic only functioned to worsen these statistics, as a recent meta-analysis of 18 qualifying studies found that the pandemic increased rates by up to 8% (Piquero et al., 2021). This is disconcerting, as a systematic review of the literature has linked domestic violence exposure to several negative outcomes in victims and their children (Holt et al., 2008).

Domestic Violence's Impact

Research examining the impact of domestic violence on victims has consistently found that depressive symptoms and anxiety result from the experience (Maran & Varetto, 2018; Sediri et al., 2020). Not only does such victimization increase the rates of these mental health symptoms, but it also exacerbates symptom and impairments from preexisting conditions, including chronic pain and cardiovascular disorders (Riedl et al., 2019). Domestic violence's impact on victims notwithstanding, there is also evidence that exposing children to such violence increases their risk for a variety of negative outcomes. One of the leading risk factors for child abuse is domestic violence in the home, with estimated rates of co-occurring abuse ranging from 45% to 75% (Holt et al., 2008)—this has long been established in the literature (Appel & Holden, 1998). Not only is abuse against children more likely to occur in households with domestic violence, but the reverse is also true: Children who witness domestic violence may be more likely to use physical aggression against their parents. These statistics come from both qualitative self-reports (Jackson, 2003; Meyer et al., 2021) and from quantitative evaluations of such rates that control for various demographic and experiential factors (Ulman & Straus, 2003). Social and behavioral problems and greater difficulty developing empathy have also been reported in children who witness domestic violence (Holt et al., 2008; Lloyd, 2018).

There is a large body of evidence indicating that exposure to domestic violence in childhood is linked to both domestic violence victimization (Costa et al., 2015) and perpetration (Morelli et al., 2021; Song et al., In Press) in adulthood, which is colloquially known as the intergenerational transmission of violence. In a recent systematic review, prior exposure to domestic violence was found to be one of the most consistent predictors of both outcomes across 25 studies (Costa et al., 2015).

Responses to Domestic Violence

The prevailing wisdom in many spheres is that having both parents involved in the lives of the children is best for their development (Elizabeth et al., 2012). However, in the case of intimate partner violence, this one-size-fits-all approach may do more harm than good. Research examining the impact of post-separation child visitation has found that visitation between abusive fathers and their children is unwanted by the children and may harm the relationships between the children and their mothers (Holt, 2017). Such mandated contact has also been demonstrated to elicit fear on the part of parents and children and may endanger both parties if not effectively implemented (Lessard et al., 2010).

Further, mothers who report concerns about mandatory visitation often report secondary abuse by the justice system.

Often, the justice system puts mothers who escape domestic violence in a Catch-22 situation: On the one hand, they are blamed for endangering their children and for not acting quickly enough when abuse occurs in the household (Strega et al., 2008); on the other hand, they are accused of parental alienation when they voice their concerns about the harm their former partner can inflict or has threatened to inflict if visitation were to take place (Lapierre & Cote, 2016). For this reason, it is important to consider the context in which the parents voice their concerns (Elizabeth et al., 2010) and to take different forms of domestic violence (e.g., physical, financial, and psychological abuse) seriously (Holt, 2017) when working with these cases. If justice system actors are properly trained and informed about cases involving domestic violence, promising interventions can be put in place to improve public safety and decrease recidivism rates for offenders.

Promising Domestic Violence Interventions

Prior to programs and policies whereby information sharing took place, the social services, legal, and law enforcement systems operated independently, often providing contradictory recommendations and services (Buzawa et al., 2017). Studies examining the impact of information sharing have found that victims, children, and agency workers are safer (i.e., reduced rates of victimization) when all parties are apprised of the details involved in domestic violence cases; they are also better able to provide necessary resources (Robinson, 2006). One common means of providing such services is Family Justice Centers (FJCs).

Family Justice Centers grew out of the concept of women's shelters. Although women's shelters provide several resources to victims of domestic violence (Straka & Montminy, 2006), FJCs attempt to bridge the gap between social services and the justice system by providing room and board, credit recovery services, vocational training, medical services, and legal counsel all under one roof (Gwinn et al., 2007). In other words, FJCs are one-stop-shops for domestic violence responses in social and legal services. Research evaluating the effectiveness of the FJC model has found that victims report greater emotional well-being and hope for the future because of the program (Chan et al., 2021). In addition to improvements in well-being, FJCs increase the level of awareness victims of domestic violence have for the resources available to them (Simmons et al., 2016). Unfortunately, the relationships between the service delivery agencies involved in FJCs often break down quickly as they compete for funding and political value (Buzawa et al., 2017). For this reason, having a single authority in place with knowledge of the victim services, the facts of the case, additional cases involving the victim and offender, and the social dynamics involved in domestic violence is beneficial; this philosophy is reflected in Domestic Violence Courts.

Domestic Violence Courts

The first Domestic Violence Court was established in Brooklyn, New York, in 1996 in light of the fact that domestic violence constituted around 20% of criminal cases (Mazur & Aldrich, 2003). Handling solely felony domestic violence cases, the early New York model comprised a dedicated judge,

prosecutorial team, and additional staffing to increase offender accountability and victim assistance (Mazur & Aldrich, 2003). In accordance with the New York model, Domestic Violence Courts should include victim assistance and the provision of victim information: Resources should be available for victims and a relationship should be established between the court and service providers. Court procedures should be explained to victims and safety planning should take place for court appearances. Victims should also be made aware of the status of the case (e.g., the release of the offender, hearing dates and times, and potential risks). In addition, security should be in place to ensure victim safety while attending hearings. In terms of scheduling, cases should be handled promptly to ensure expedited disposition of cases.

Monitoring is a key component of Domestic Violence Courts: having dedicated judges and additional staff with domestic violence training to ensure effective monitoring and practices. Further, effectively supervising offenders by monitoring their progress in interventions and treatment and their adherence to court orders is necessary to ensure both offender accountability and compliance. Strong relationships should be built between treatment/intervention providers and court personnel to ensure the quality of programming and services. Finally, regular meetings should take place between Domestic Violence Court personnel, criminal justice system personnel, and social service partners (Mazur & Aldrich, 2003).

Since the inception of the New York model, approximately 208 Domestic Violence Courts have been established across the United States (Center for Court Innovation, 2010). In a national mixed methods study examining the characteristics of Domestic Violence Courts across the U.S., victim safety, offender accountability, victim services, offender assessment, offender compliance monitoring, stakeholder collaboration, and stakeholder training were ranked among the most integral pieces of Domestic Violence Courts (Labriola et al., 2009).

This Evaluation

The present evaluation comprises a process and outcome evaluation of Domestic Violence Courts across Idaho. The evaluation uses a convergent mixed methods design, integrating qualitative data in the form of interviews and focus groups and quantitative data in the form of survey results and administrative data analysis. Research questions were formulated based on discussions with the Administrative Office of the Court's Senior Court Programs & Services Administrator-Domestic Violence and Behavioral Health Manager, as well as the Idaho's 2010 Domestic Violence Court policies and guidelines. The research questions for the evaluation are as follows:

1. How do Domestic Violence Courts in Idaho compare to national trends?
2. To what extent do Domestic Violence Courts in Idaho operate with fidelity to Idaho's policies and procedures?
3. How do the goals of Domestic Violence Court coincide across Domestic Violence Court stakeholders?
4. How do Domestic Violence Courts in Idaho build communication and collaboration among stakeholders?
5. What types of evaluations are offenders in Domestic Violence Court receiving?
6. What types of interventions are offenders in Domestic Violence Court receiving?
7. What are offender and stakeholder perceptions of the usefulness of interventions?
8. Does Domestic Violence Court reduce domestic violence recidivism?
9. Does Domestic Violence Court decrease time to disposition?

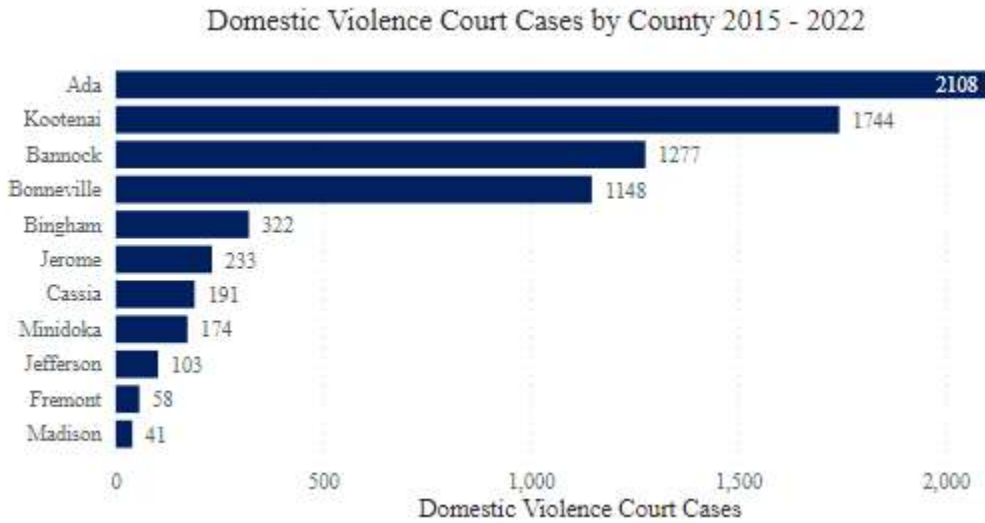
Evaluation Jurisdiction

Idaho Domestic Violence Courts comprise 10 unique courts across 5 judicial districts, serving a total of 12 counties. Over the past five years, these courts have processed an average of 1,208 cases each year, comprising just under 2% of all criminal cases filed. Domestic Violence Courts in Idaho are available to serve approximately 1,063,873 citizens, which makes up around 60.65% of the state’s population.

“Over the past five years, these courts have processed an average of 1,208 cases each year, comprising just under 2% of all criminal cases filed.”

By county, Ada (population 525,747), Kootenai (population 181,223), Bannock (population 88,272), and Bonneville (population 129,883) Counties process most Domestic Violence Court cases—roughly proportionate to population size. See Figure 1 for a breakdown of Domestic Violence Court cases by county.

Figure 1. Domestic Violence Court Cases by County 2015 - 2022.



Evaluation Model

The current study is a process and outcome evaluation of Domestic Violence Courts across Idaho.

Process

The process evaluation sought to understand the extent to which Idaho’s Domestic Violence Courts align with national trends and to create a logic model and theory of change.

Outcome

In the outcome evaluation component of this study, survey and administrative data were used to examine the extent to which Domestic Violence Courts reduce recidivism in offenders, align goals across stakeholder groups, and expedite criminal domestic violence cases.

Study Design

This evaluation utilized a convergent mixed methods design (Creswell & Plano Clark, 2018). In convergent mixed methods designs, both qualitative and quantitative data are collected and analyzed to answer research questions.

In convergent designs, quantitative and qualitative data are analyzed simultaneously—neither approach informs the other’s data collection efforts. This evaluation used the strengths of qualitative data to answer questions requiring rich detail and the strengths of quantitative data to answer questions requiring statistical tests. Further, when possible, qualitative and quantitative data were used to triangulate (i.e., confirm) the results of one another.

Qualitative Data

The qualitative data in this study were collected using interviews and focus groups. To answer process evaluation questions pertaining to the activities that take place in Domestic Violence Courts, fully structured interviews with each available Domestic Violence Court Coordinator were conducted. Coordinators were asked about the extent to which each component of Domestic Violence Court took place in their jurisdiction. They were also asked about their perceptions of the quality and content of the training they received. Domestic Violence Court Coordinators in districts 1, 4, 6, and 7 participated in the interviews. The coordinator position for district 5 was vacant at the time of the interviews.

To answer questions pertaining to the goals, logic, and philosophy behind Domestic Violence Court, three one-hour focus groups comprising Domestic Violence Court judges were held. The focus group covered topics pertaining to outcome priorities in Domestic Violence Court, component priorities in Domestic Violence Court, the information they would like to receive more frequently or in more detail, the level and quality of case coordination, perceptions of training quality, and next steps in Idaho’s Domestic Violence Court evaluation initiatives. At the conclusion of the focus groups, judges were provided with a summary of the focus group results for member checking to ensure accurate interpretations of their perspectives. A total of six Domestic Violence Court judges provided insight.

Finally, to gain insight into the practices and fidelity of review hearings, observations of Domestic Violence Court review hearings across every court took place. Observations took place via Zoom.

Quantitative Data

The quantitative data in this evaluation were collected from three surveys administered via Qualtrics: an offender survey, a stakeholder survey, and a Domestic Violence Court coordinator survey. Administrative data were also analyzed to examine case outcomes.

Offender Survey

From August of 2015 to June of 2020, those who successfully and unsuccessfully completed Domestic Violence Court were asked to complete a questionnaire via Qualtrics. The questionnaire included items pertaining to the usefulness of interventions, perceptions of fairness, experiences in Domestic Violence Court (e.g., judge, probation officer, treatment provider interactions), and demographic details about themselves and their case; the questionnaire was provided in English and Spanish. Ada County did not participate in the offender self-report survey, meaning that results may not generalize to that jurisdiction. Out of a total of 1095 possible respondents, 820 participated in the survey for a response rate of 74.92%.

Stakeholder Survey

From March of 2016 to October of 2017, stakeholders (e.g., treatment providers, victim services providers, judges, probation officers, Domestic Violence Court Coordinators) involved in Domestic Violence Court had the opportunity to complete a questionnaire via Qualtrics. The survey was distributed twice: Once in 2016 and once in 2017; two reminders to the stakeholders were sent after each initial solicitation. This questionnaire focused on the levels of collaboration and communication in Domestic Violence Courts, perceptions of victim and offender interventions, and common practices in Domestic Violence Courts. A total of 320 stakeholders completed the questionnaire over both distributions.

Court Coordinator Survey

To examine the extent to which Domestic Violence Court in Idaho aligns with national trends, Domestic Violence Court Coordinators were asked about the extent to which various components of Domestic Violence Court (e.g., offender treatment/interventions, victim safety, expedient disposition of cases, reducing offender recidivism) are emphasized in their districts. The questionnaire was distributed via Qualtrics in March of 2022; all active Domestic Violence Court Coordinators participated.

Administrative Data

Administrative data including offender charges, recidivism, probation violations, dispositions, and days to disposition were extracted from Odyssey. All cases that were initially filed as a misdemeanor or a felony domestic violence offense (i.e., battery—domestic violence, no contact order violations, violation of a protection order, stalking, and strangulation (attempted)) in or after fiscal year 2015 were included in the administrative data; recidivism and probation violations were tracked for the next five years. The fiscal year 2015 was selected to coincide with the offender stakeholder survey; this was also the first year reliable data were available for the analyses conducted in the study.

Process Evaluation

As mentioned previously, process evaluations seek to describe a program or policy, examine the logic behind the component parts, and examine the extent to which the program or policy operates with fidelity to the model. As this is the first statewide Domestic Violence Court evaluation to take place in

Idaho, it focuses on the program description and logic model; future evaluations will examine its fidelity to Idaho's Domestic Violence Court model outlined in the policies and procedures.

Dedicated Domestic Violence Court Staff

Each Domestic Violence Court has at least one dedicated judge and probation officer who oversee the Domestic Violence Court probationers. Domestic Violence Court Coordinators are assigned for each court; their responsibilities include tracking and managing funds, facilitating team meetings, coordinating with local agencies to provide services and security for victims, assisting with monitoring offender compliance, promoting and providing domestic violence training, and assessing the quality of treatment/intervention providers and domestic violence evaluations that are completed in their jurisdiction, among other tasks. The goal of each court coordinator is to ensure their Domestic Violence Court is operating effectively and with fidelity.

Domestic Violence Court Assignment Criteria

Courts in Idaho assign cases to Domestic Violence Court based on the charges filed. There are three routes through which an offender can be assigned to Domestic Violence Court:

Route 1. Filed as a misdemeanor and convicted of one of the charges in Table 1.

Route 2. Felony Remand. Filed as FE 18-918 (Domestic Violence), 18-923 (Attempted Strangulation), or 18-7905 (Stalking in the First Degree) and disposed as a misdemeanor domestic violence charge listed in Table 1.

Route 3. Filed as a misdemeanor listed in Table 1 and amended to a lesser charge (e.g., disturbing the peace).

Table 1. Assignment Criteria for Domestic Violence Court Across Idaho Districts.

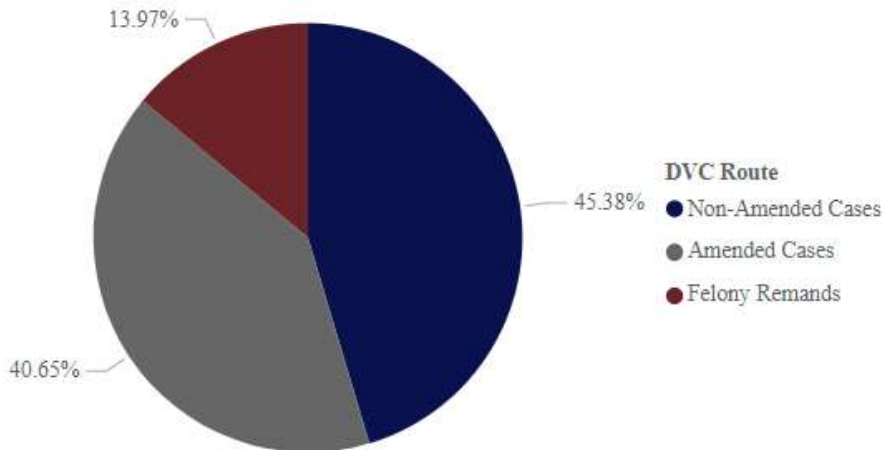
District	County	Criminal Code	Code Description
1	Bonner	18-918	Domestic Violence
	Kootenai		
4	Ada*	18-918	Domestic Violence
		18-920	Violation of a No Contact Order
		39-6312	Violation of a Protection Order
5	Cassia	18-918	Domestic Violence
	Minidoka	18-920	Violation of a No Contact Order
	Jerome	39-6312	Violation of a Protection Order
6	Bannock	18-7906	Stalking in the Second Degree
		18-918	Domestic Violence
		18-920	Violation of a No Contact Order
		39-6312	Violation of a Protection Order
7	Bingham	18-918	Domestic Violence
	Bonneville	18-920	Violation of a No Contact Order
	Jefferson	39-6312	Violation of a Protection Order
	Madison		
	Fremont		

Note. Ada County defines domestic violence as cases involving intimate partners relationships.

As shown in Figure 2, although cases are most frequently assigned to Domestic Violence Court based on Route 1 (non-amended cases), amended cases comprise 40.65% of those assigned to Domestic Violence Court, just under the percentage of non-amended cases (45.38%). Felony remands comprise 13.97% of cases processed through Domestic Violence Court.

Figure 2. Breakdown of Routes to Domestic Violence Court 2015 – 2022.

Breakdown of Routes to Domestic Violence Court 2015 - 2022



Domestic Violence Court Evaluations

Cases meeting these criteria are expedited relative to other criminal cases in the jurisdiction. Under Idaho Criminal Codes 18-918 and 18-923, offenders are mandated to comply with a domestic violence evaluation as described in Idaho Criminal Rule 33.3. The results of these assessments must be incorporated into their dispositions. Domestic Violence Court evaluations include: offender identifying information, a risk assessment, behavioral, mental, and physical health indicators, offender self-assessment of the offense and their treatment needs, collateral information about the offense (i.e., police reports, victim interviews, reviews of the offender’s past treatment records), clinical observations of the offender’s cognitive functioning, a disclosure of the evaluator’s contact with counsel for the state and the offender, and a summary of the evaluator’s treatment and intervention recommendations for the offender.

Domestic Violence Court Review Hearings

For those assigned to Domestic Violence Court, review hearings between the judge, probation officer, domestic violence victim advocates, treatment and intervention providers, and the offender take place. The frequency of review hearings is dependent on the combination of their charges, the results

of their domestic violence evaluation, their risk and needs, and their compliance in treatment and interventions. In the hearings, the Domestic Violence Court team discusses offender progress and compliance, acknowledges their progress or holds them accountable for noncompliance, addresses barriers to success or noncompliance, and answers questions and concerns the offender may have about their case.

Victim Experiences and Services

System and community-based victim advocates are available to victims in Domestic Violence Court cases. Victims can review the domestic violence evaluation, are apprised of events in cases (e.g., the dates and times of hearing and offender release), are accompanied to court, security measures are in place for each courthouse, and they are provided the opportunity to prepare a victim impact statement for presentation in court.

Judge Information

Domestic Violence Court judges in many of Idaho's jurisdictions hear all cases (e.g., subsequent divorce, child custody, civil protection order cases) involving the offender and the victim. In nearly all jurisdictions, the Domestic Violence Court judge is apprised of these cases to ensure contradictory orders are not made.

Domestic Violence Courts in Idaho play a monitoring role: They monitor the completion and quality of the domestic violence evaluation, the quality and qualifications of the treatment and intervention providers and evaluators, offender compliance with treatment and interventions and probation requirements, and the training of team members. Domestic Violence Courts also encourage victim access to case information updates through system-based advocates and ensure that judges are apprised of relevant cases involving the victim and the offender. Finally, they build relationships with treatment and intervention providers and community-based victim advocates.

Idaho Domestic Violence Court Theory of Change

Domestic Violence Courts in Idaho recruit highly qualified individuals to work with cases; these individuals are made aware of training opportunities both nationally and within the state. By ensuring that those on the Domestic Violence Court team and the Domestic Violence Court oversight committee are knowledgeable, more efficient and appropriate case processing takes place, resulting in timely dispositions and effective responses. Ensuring that victims are connected to system and community-based advocates assures that they are respected in the process, provided with appropriate referrals, and encouraged to utilize these resources. By ensuring that offenders receive a high-quality domestic court evaluation, are mandated to interventions and treatment based on the evaluation, and that the interventions and treatment they receive are high-quality, offenders can be held accountable, and recidivism is less likely to occur. Finally, clear, concise explanations of court expectations and requirements increase the likelihood that offenders will comply with these expectations and complete their interventions, which further reduces recidivism likelihoods. The logic model for Domestic Violence Court is provided in Figure 3.

Figure 3. Domestic Violence Court Logic Model.

Domestic Violence Courts in Idaho					
What We Do	What We Get	So That We Achieve	Intermediate	Long Term	Overall
DV Court Training	Trained staff specific to DV	Increased team knowledge	More efficient, appropriate, & effective case processing	Improved civil and criminal justice systems response to domestic violence	Enhanced victim and community safety
Caseflow Management	Hearings scheduled sooner as compared to other criminal cases	Timely disposition			
DV Court Team	DV cases assisted by dedicated DV staff	Reduce confusion, streamline case processing, and increase consistency			
Case Coordination	Minimized duplication of services				
	Efficient hearing scheduling				
	Address child safety, custody, & support				
	Identification of multiple cases				
DV Court Oversight Team	Barrier identification and response	Improved stakeholder communication and effectiveness			
	Stakeholder communication and collaboration				
Provision of additional information to Court	Informed judicial decisions	Enhanced protection for victims and families	Enhanced victim safety		
Victim assistance & coordination	Early and appropriate referrals for victims for assistance, resources, and services	Increased & early victim access to assistance, resources, & services			
Stakeholder collaboration w/ community agencies		Increased victim satisfaction			
Treatment intervention	Offenders assessed & ordered to treatment and intervention	Increased number of offenders receiving individualized & comprehensive treatment	Enhanced offender accountability	Reduced recidivism	
Offender monitoring & communication	Appropriate & immediate sanctions	Enhanced offender compliance			
	Address barriers & problem solve				
	Recognition of offender progress & encouragement to improve				
	Clear & concise explanation of court expectations & requirements	Improved offender employment/ education/ housing			
<i>Process Evaluation</i>			<i>Outcome Evaluation</i>		

How do Domestic Violence Courts in Idaho Compare to National Trends?

To assess the extent to which Idaho’s Domestic Violence Courts align with national trends, Labriola and colleagues’ (2009) survey was replicated with Domestic Violence Court Coordinators in Idaho. Domestic Violence Court Coordinators were asked about how important various factors were on a five-point Likert scale ranging from “not important” to “extremely important”.

Domestic Violence Courts in Idaho align with national trends on deterrence and offender accountability. Idaho’s Domestic Violence Courts place slightly more emphasis on consistency in dispositions and efficiency of case processing and place much more emphasis on offender rehabilitation components than national trends. Although Idaho Domestic Violence Courts are not treatment courts, they do monitor both the quality of the treatment and intervention providers and the treatment and intervention requirements of offenders; this monitoring is likely reflected in these results. Table 2 provides a summary of the percentage of cases in which respondents rated the domestic violence component as “extremely important” in their district.

Table 2. Domestic Violence Court Components Compared.

DVC Component	National Trends	Idaho Courts
Victim Safety	83%	100%
Offender Accountability	79%	80%
Detering Recidivism	68%	60%
Detering Noncompliant Offenders	60%	60%
Monitoring Offender Progress	---	60%
Offender Rehabilitation	27%	80%
Efficiency of Case Processing	40%	60%
Consistency in Dispositions	32%	60%
Correct Application of Statutes	---	80%

Note. National trends are from Labriola et al. (2009)’s national survey of Domestic Violence Courts.

“Domestic Violence Courts in Idaho align with national trends on deterrence and offender accountability. Idaho’s Domestic Violence Courts place slightly more emphasis on consistency in dispositions and efficiency of case processing and place much more emphasis on offender rehabilitation components than national trends.”

To What Extent to Domestic Violence Courts in Idaho Operate with Fidelity?

A key component of fidelity to program standards is ensuring that stakeholders agree on the program goals. Interviews with Domestic Violence Court Coordinators and judges revealed alignment with both the 2010 Domestic Violence Court policies and guidelines and the 2022 policies and procedures manual. Domestic Violence Court Coordinators described policies and procedures that conform to the 2010 guidelines and observations of Domestic Violence Court review hearings indicated that judges were provided with sufficient information about the offender's progress on probation and in treatment and interventions to make informed decisions. Judge focus groups revealed that they are satisfied with the updates they receive. To this end, Domestic Violence Courts are in the early stages of operating with fidelity to the model and are striving to align practices that may differ across jurisdictions (e.g., whether Domestic Violence Court evaluations take place before or after conviction). As stakeholders become familiar with the recently published policies and procedures, additional steps will be taken to align practices where variation exists.

Outcome Evaluation

Domestic Violence Courts in Idaho strive to increase the coordination among court staff, refer offenders to relevant interventions, treatment, and services, reduce domestic violence recidivism, and decreasing time to disposition for domestic violence cases.

How Do the Goals of Domestic Violence Court Coincide Across Court Staff?

As part of the judicial focus group, judges were asked about the goals of Domestic Violence Court. They cited the 2010 policies and guidelines for Domestic Violence Court as goals, including offender accountability, victim safety, and expedited case processing (efficiency of case processing). Judges also added community safety, well-being of children involved in domestic violence events, and the link between violence in the home and justice system involvement for youth. Finally, judges highlighted safe, stable, and violence-free homes as key Domestic Violence Court goals. Taken together with the court coordinator interviews and the court coordinator survey, high uniformity among stakeholders exists in terms of the goals and philosophy of Domestic Violence Court.

How Well do Domestic Violence Courts in Idaho Build Communication and Collaboration Among Stakeholders?

Not only must stakeholders communicate expectations to the offenders, but they must also communicate amongst themselves. In fact, one of the key goals of Domestic Violence Courts in Idaho is to increase collaboration and communication amongst team members; this is thought to procure decision alignment among stakeholders (e.g., probation, judges) and to ensure that case updates are conveyed in a timely manner. The stakeholder survey was used to investigate perceptions of collaboration and communication among stakeholders, community agencies, and offenders. Stakeholders were first presented with operational definitions for collaboration and communication. These questions were prefaced with the following statements: "Collaboration is the process of a team working together towards shared goals (e.g., attend meeting and trainings together, brainstorm and

troubleshoot, understand roles and responsibilities of team members)” and “Communication is the exchange and sharing of information.” Stakeholders were then asked to indicate on a six-point Likert scale ranging from one indicating very dissatisfied to six indicating very satisfied, how they felt about collaboration and communication between various groups. Those on the Domestic Violence Court oversight team were asked additional questions about collaboration within the team, the identification of barriers, and addressing barriers in Domestic Violence Court.

The modal response for collaboration and communication satisfaction ratings was that each stakeholder was at least somewhat satisfied. There was little variation across stakeholder, community agency, and offender communication and collaboration ratings. Table 3 shows overall ratings and results isolated to the oversight team, the Domestic Violence Court team, those working with offenders, and those who work primarily with the victims.

Table 3. Satisfaction Ratings for Collaboration and Communication by Stakeholders.

Variable	Mean (SD)
Overall (N = 320)	
Stakeholder Collaboration	4.71 (0.80)
Community Collaboration	4.54 (0.85)
Stakeholder Communication	4.71 (0.80)
Community Communication	4.52 (0.87)
Offender Communication	4.73 (0.73)
Oversight Team (n = 67)	
Oversight Team Collaboration	4.88 (0.71)
Oversight Team Identifying Barriers	4.76 (0.72)
Oversight Team Addressing Barriers	4.70 (0.74)
Stakeholder Collaboration	5.00 (0.53)
Community Collaboration	4.86 (0.59)
Stakeholder Communication	5.01 (0.55)
Community Communication	4.79 (0.60)
Offender Communication	5.02 (0.59)
DV Court Team (n = 262)	
Stakeholder Collaboration	4.64 (0.84)
Community Collaboration	4.50 (0.87)
Stakeholder Communication	4.70 (0.80)
Community Communication	4.48 (0.89)
Offender Communication	4.70 (0.74)
Stakeholders with Offender Interaction (n = 143)	
Stakeholder Collaboration	4.60 (0.86)
Community Collaboration	4.52 (0.89)
Stakeholder Communication	4.70 (0.72)
Community Communication	4.52 (0.80)
Offender Communication	4.74 (0.61)
Stakeholders with Victim Interaction (n = 44)	
Stakeholder Collaboration	4.45 (0.97)
Community Collaboration	4.23 (0.92)
Stakeholder Communication	4.43 (0.99)
Community Communication	4.19 (1.03)
Offender Communication	4.41 (0.96)

To assess whether stakeholders in Domestic Violence Court felt that they were receiving adequate information, stakeholders were asked to indicate on a five-point Likert scale with one indicating strongly disagree and five indicating strongly agree, the extent to which they agreed that evaluations were ordered when appropriate, adequate information was presented to the court, and adequate updates were provided by treatment, intervention, and probation personnel. Overall, most

respondents agreed that they were receiving adequate information. These results are presented in Table 4.

Table 4. Perceptions of Information Adequacy.

Variable	Mean (SD)
Oversight Team	
Evaluations Ordered When Appropriate	4.59 (0.53)
Adequate Information Presented	4.43 (0.62)
Treatment Updates	4.52 (0.70)
Probation Updates	4.78 (0.42)
DV Court Team	
Evaluations Ordered When Appropriate	4.21 (0.81)
Adequate Information Presented	4.13 (0.75)
Treatment Updates	4.16 (0.85)
Probation Updates	4.48 (0.70)
Judges	
Evaluation Ordered When Appropriate	4.56 (0.56)
Adequate Information Presented	4.24 (0.61)
Treatment Updates	4.31 (0.82)
Probation Updates	4.75 (0.44)
Court Coordinators	
Evaluations Ordered When Appropriate	4.54 (0.51)
Adequate Information Presented	4.64 (0.58)
Treatment Team Updates	4.77 (0.43)
Probation Updates	4.86 (0.35)

To assess the extent to which offenders felt they were listened to (i.e., communicated with) by probation officers, judges, and treatment providers, offenders were asked the extent to which they agreed that the judge, treatment provider, and probation officer listened to what they had to say on a five-point Likert scale ranging from one indicating strongly disagree to five indicating strongly agree. The modal response was that offenders agreed that all three stakeholders listened to what they had to say in Domestic Violence Court.

What Types of Evaluations are Offenders in Domestic Violence Court Receiving?

Data from the offender survey were used to summarize the types of evaluations that Domestic Violence Court offenders received. Most offenders (80.41%) received a domestic violence evaluation, while just under half (40.00%) received a drug and alcohol evaluation. A fifth of the sample (20.73%) reported having completed a mental health evaluation. Very few offenders received no evaluations at all (5.24%). On average, offenders in Domestic Violence Court completed at least one evaluation. As evaluations are ordered based on the charges filed and not whether the offender is assigned to

Domestic Violence Court, the 83.41% value does not necessarily indicate low adherence to the statute. The percentages of offenders completing various evaluations are presented in Table 5.

Table 5. Evaluations Received by Domestic Violence Court Offenders.

Evaluation Type	Percentage or Mean (SD)
Domestic Violence Evaluation	83.41%
Drug and Alcohol Evaluation	40.00%
Mental Health Evaluation	20.73%
No Evaluations	5.24%
Number of Evaluations	1.45 (0.80)

What Types of Interventions are Offenders in Domestic Violence Court Receiving?

Offenders were asked to indicate which services they received from a list of options: domestic violence interventions, parenting education, cognitive self-change, counseling services, drug treatment, and medication management. Offenders who reported receiving each service were asked to indicate how helpful it was to them on a four-point Likert scale with one being “not at all helpful”, two being “somewhat helpful”, three being “helpful”, and four being “very helpful”. Offenders were also provided the opportunity to list other interventions or treatments and rate their helpfulness. Most offenders (70.20%) received a domestic violence intervention. Of the non-domestic violence interventions, counseling (20.73%) and drug treatment (20.37%) were the most common, each comprising about a fifth of the sample. On average, offenders received at least one treatment or intervention.

What are Offender Perceptions of the Usefulness of Interventions?

On average, those who completed each treatment or intervention found them to be at least helpful, apart from medication management. It is important to note, however, that medication management was completed by less than one percent of the sample. Those in Domestic Violence Court found counseling to be the most helpful intervention, with 77% finding it to be very helpful to them.

“Those in Domestic Violence Court found counseling to be the most helpful intervention, with 77% finding it to be very helpful to them.”

When asked to indicate whether they felt the amount of intervention/treatment they received was about right, too little, or too much, 82.20% of the sample stated that it was about right. In addition, just under half (48.78%) of the sample stated that they are considering continuing with their treatment or interventions after completing Domestic Violence Court. Self-reported services received by offenders are provided in Table 6.

Table 6. Interventions/Treatment Received by Domestic Violence Court Offenders.

Intervention	Percent Received or Mean (SD)	Average Helpfulness Rating
Domestic Violence Intervention	77.20%	3.71
Counseling	20.73%	3.98
Drug Treatment	20.37%	3.63
Parenting Education	9.63%	3.54
Cognitive Self-Change	6.46%	3.63
Anger Management	2.44%	3.80
Medication Management	0.96%	2.86
No Interventions	1.30%	---
Number of Interventions	1.41 (0.83)	---

“Just under half (48.78%) of the sample stated that they are considering continuing with their treatment or interventions after completing Domestic Violence Court.”

Offenders were also asked to indicate which of these services they needed but did not receive. The modal response was that offenders did not feel that they needed additional services, as just over three quarters of the sample (77.07%) did not list one. Of the quarter that felt they needed additional interventions, the most requested was the domestic violence intervention, with a tenth (10.98%) of the sample stating that they would have benefited from it. Of those who stated they needed at least one additional service, the average respondent selected at least two of the options listed in Table 7.

Table 7. Offender Self-Assessment of Needed Interventions.

Requested Intervention	Percentage
Domestic Violence Intervention	10.98%
Counseling	5.84%
Drug Treatment	2.80%
Parenting Education	3.05%
Cognitive Self-Change	1.07%
Medication Management	0.98%
Number of Needed Treatment/interventions	2.10 (0.66)

Offenders in Domestic Violence Court were also asked about referrals for a variety of social services, including court assistance, employment, childcare, housing, and transportation. The most frequently self-reported referral need was related to employment, comprising 3.66% of the sample.

Does Domestic Violence Court Reduce Domestic Violence Recidivism?

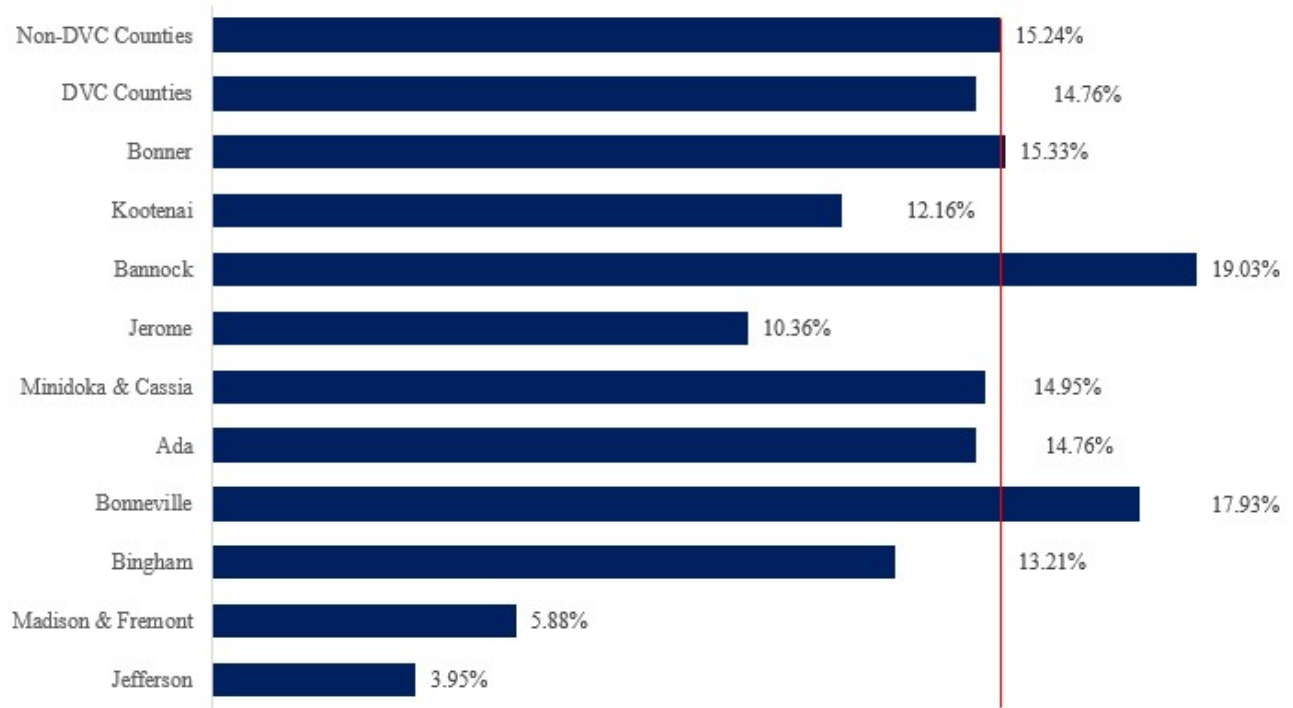
To determine whether involvement in Domestic Violence Court reduces domestic violence recidivism, logistic regression analyses were used. Domestic violence offenders in non-Domestic Violence Court counties were compared to domestic violence offenders in Domestic Violence Court counties, controlling for Domestic Violence Court route, age, and sex. Results indicated that Domestic Violence Court reduces the likelihood of domestic violence recidivism by 24% and 30% in the first and second year, respectively (i.e., the years in which the offenders are ordered to interventions and monitored by the court). Year 3 (i.e., the first year Domestic Violence Court offenders are not monitored by the court) sees decreases in domestic violence recidivism at a rate of 23%. Put differently, domestic violence offenders in counties with Domestic Violence Courts have lower recidivism likelihoods than those in counties without Domestic Violence Courts both while they are participating in relevant programming and one year beyond. Compared to amended cases (i.e., cases in which the offender was initially charged with a misdemeanor and ultimately convicted of disturbing the peace), those convicted of misdemeanor domestic violence and those who had their charges reduced from a felony to a misdemeanor had higher rates of recidivism. Due to statistical limitations, it was not possible to reliably assess the impact of domestic violence recidivism for each Domestic Violence Court (i.e., the effect each individual court has on recidivism). See Table 8 in the appendix for a statistical summary.

“Domestic violence offenders in counties with Domestic Violence Courts have lower recidivism likelihoods than those in counties without Domestic Violence Courts both while they are participating in relevant programming and one year beyond.”

In terms of raw recidivism rates, counties with Domestic Violence Courts have a recidivism rate of approximately 14.76%, while counties without Domestic Violence Courts have average recidivism rates of 15.24%. Recidivism rates for each Domestic Violence Court are provided in Figure 4. Results of a Chi Square test of goodness of fit indicated that there were no significant differences between counties in terms of recidivism rates alone.

Figure 4. Domestic Violence Recidivism Rates by County 2015 - 2022.

Three-Year Domestic Violence Recidivism Rates by County 2015 - 2022



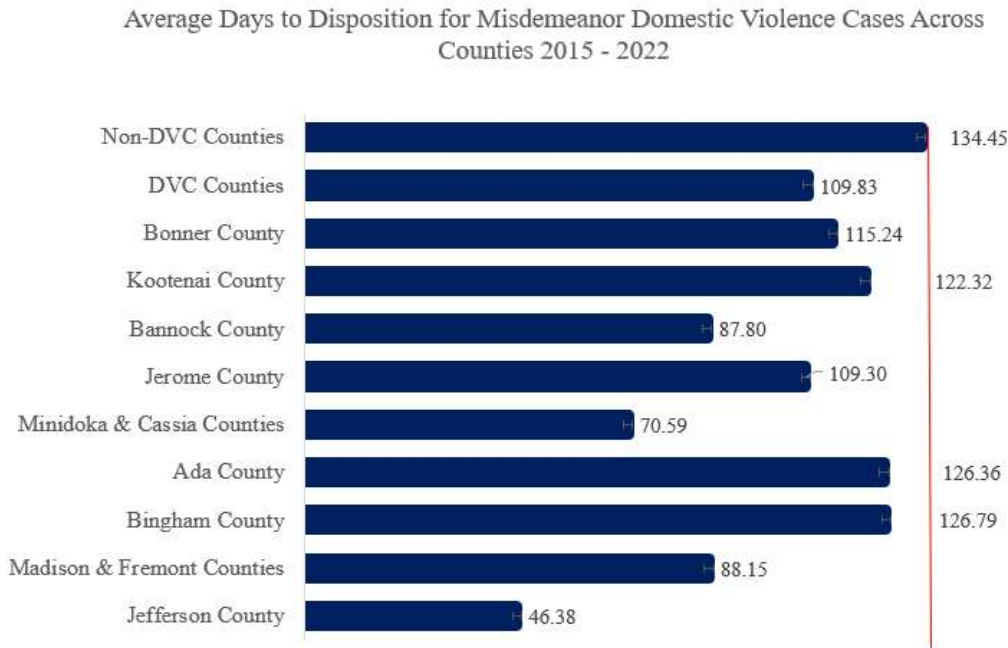
Note. Red line indicates the three-year domestic violence recidivism rate for non-Domestic Violence Court counties to aid comparisons. A chi-square test of goodness of fit indicated that Bannock and Bonneville County did not have significantly higher recidivism rates than the average DVC county.

Does Domestic Violence Court Decreased Time to Disposition?

One of the main goals of Domestic Violence Courts in Idaho is to decrease time to disposition in domestic violence cases; decreasing time to disposition is thought to increase victim safety by ensuring that key decisions are made in a timely manner and that offenders are monitored and ordered to interventions early. Timely resolution of cases is also thought to reduce offender recidivism by holding them accountable earlier. To determine whether Domestic Violence Courts expedite case resolution, Ordinary Least Squares (OLS) regression was used to predict the number of days from the date charges were filed to the disposition date. As felony cases are remanded to Domestic Violence Court (i.e., not processed by Domestic Violence Court until disposition) and infractions are often processed faster than misdemeanor or felony cases, these cases were removed from the case processing analyses where relevant.

In every Domestic Violence Court, domestic violence cases are processed faster than cases in non-Domestic Violence Court counties. Differences range from eight to 88 days. Average days to disposition across Domestic Violence Courts are provided in Figure 5 and in Table 9 in the appendix.

Figure 5. Average Days to Disposition Across Counties 2015 – 2022.



Note. Outliers for each county (i.e., those with $|Z| \geq 1.96$) were removed prior to analyses, as were felony cases. Red line indicates average value for non-DVC counties to aid comparisons. "DVC Counties" refers to the average values across all Domestic Violence Court counties, while "Non-DVC Counties" refers to the average values across counties without Domestic Violence Courts.

The results of the OLS regression analysis predicting days to disposition by Domestic Violence Court county indicate that eight of the 10 Domestic Violence Courts significantly reduce the time to disposition when controlling for the route through which they were assigned to the court. Since felony remands (Route 2) are not assigned to Domestic Violence Court until after case processing, they were removed from the analyses in a second model. Seven of the 10 Domestic Violence Courts reduced the time to disposition when compared to non-Domestic Violence Court domestic violence offenses. See Table 10 in the appendix for a statistical summary.

Not only do Domestic Violence Courts strive to reduce the time to dispositions for domestic violence cases relative to non-Domestic Violence Courts, but they also prioritize domestic violence cases for processing. T-tests comparing time to disposition for non-domestic violence offenders and domestic violence offenders in counties with Domestic Violence Courts indicated that Bonneville County, Ada County, and Bonner County processed domestic violence cases significantly faster than non-Domestic Violence Court cases. Jefferson County, Bingham County, Minidoka and Cassia Counties, Jerome County, and Kootenai County Domestic Violence Courts had the opposite effect: they processed

domestic violence cases slower than non-domestic violence cases; this was also true of counties without Domestic Violence Courts. See Table 11 in the appendix for a statistical summary.

Discussion

This evaluation comprised the first statewide process and outcome evaluation of Domestic Violence Courts in Idaho; the purpose of which was to understand Domestic Violence Court practices and to examine their effectiveness. Domestic Violence Courts in Idaho play a monitoring role: They monitor compliance to requirements outlined in the Idaho criminal codes and ensure high-quality, evidence-based services are provided to victims and offenders with the goal of reducing recidivism and increasing victim safety. Judges in domestic violence cases are apprised of additional court cases involving the victim and offender (e.g., civil protection order or divorce proceedings) and decrease time to disposition for domestic violence cases to ensure uniformity in case decisions and increased offender accountability.

“Idaho’s Domestic Violence Courts align with national trends in Domestic Violence Courts on most components, except for offender rehabilitation, the efficiency of case processing, and consistency in dispositions, which Idaho’s courts reported greater support for.”

Fidelity to the Domestic Violence Court Model

Agreed-upon gold standards had not been set for Domestic Violence Courts in Idaho at the time of this evaluation, but it was possible to examine how Idaho’s Domestic Violence Courts align with national trends. Idaho’s Domestic Violence Courts align with national trends in Domestic Violence Courts on most components, except for offender rehabilitation, the efficiency of case processing, and consistency in dispositions, which Idaho’s courts reported greater support for. Although Idaho’s Domestic Violence Courts are not treatment courts, the Idaho criminal rules requiring adherence to recommendations made in domestic violence evaluations likely contribute to support for rehabilitation, as just over 60% of offenders also receive a mental health or substance misuse evaluation, resulting in individualized recommendations. Domestic Violence Court Coordinator interviews and judge focus groups indicated a high degree of goal alignment—a key first step in ensuring fidelity to the program model. Stakeholder groups are satisfied with collaboration, communication, and information they receive from each other, evidencing levels of cohesion among team members that are necessary to establish and maintain fidelity to policies and procedures. Additionally, all research questions and program goals in this evaluation were drafted with Idaho’s 2010 Domestic Violence Court policies and guidelines and key stakeholder perspectives as a resource to ensure alignment with Idaho’s standards and goals.

Case Processing

Research shows that fatality risk in domestic violence cases is especially high within the first 90 days after victims leave their relationship (Johnson, 2010); for this reason, Domestic Violence Court strives

to hear and process cases in a timely manner. Hearing cases in a timely manner provides victims with earlier access to resources and services. Counties with Domestic Violence Courts process cases faster than counties without. On average, they take 30 fewer days from the initial filing to disposition; these differences were significant in seven of the 10 courts, controlling for the seriousness of the offense. Domestic violence cases were not processed faster than other misdemeanor offenses within the same jurisdictions, however.

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Recidivism

Counties with Domestic Violence Courts had lower rates of Domestic Violence Court recidivism compared to those without; this was true for both years in which probation and review hearings take place in Domestic Violence Court (i.e., years 1 and 2) and one year beyond. On average, recidivism likelihoods were around 25% lower across timeframes. Those in routes 1 (non-amended cases) and 2 (felony remands) were more likely to recidivate than those in route 3 (amended cases).

Policy Implications and Recommendations

Domestic violence has been linked to several negative outcomes, ranging from depression in victims to the perpetration of domestic violence on the part of children experiencing it in the home (Morelli et al., 2021). Domestic Violence Court is one approach to break the cycle of abuse and reduce domestic violence rates in the jurisdiction that has a high degree of public support (Thielo et al., 2019) and widespread use. If implemented well, Domestic Violence Courts improve communication between court stakeholders, ensure that judges are apprised of additional cases involving the victim and the offender, hold offenders accountable, decrease recidivism, and decrease time to disposition. Over the course of this evaluation, stakeholders suggested several action steps that Domestic Violence Courts in Idaho may consider.

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Idaho Risk Assessment of Dangerousness

According to the judges who attended the judicial focus group, completing the Idaho Risk Assessment of Dangerousness (IRAD) early in the case would be beneficial for decision-making on the case. Policies pertaining to the implementation and communication of information on the IRAD would help to standardize this practice. Judges also mentioned that little is known by the judiciary about POST (Peace Officer Standards and Training). To ensure that the information on the IRAD is provided to the court when necessary, clear communication should be established regarding domestic violence training in POST and the value police add to Domestic Violence Court cases. Judges described police as meaningful contributors to domestic violence response in Idaho and valued their efforts.

Training Opportunities

Judges who participated in the focus group also mentioned the importance of training for magistrate judges presiding over cases that may have links to domestic violence cases. Ensuring that magistrate judges involved in such cases (e.g., child protection, civil protection orders, divorce, custody disputes) have access to domestic violence training is crucial, as this helps to avoid contradictory case decisions and encourages that judges to take domestic violence situations seriously, a common concern among victims (Holt, 2017). Further, establishing buy-in from sitting magistrate judges is important prior to training, as training is only useful if trainees are engaged (Sitzmann & Weinhardt, 2015) and utilize the material in practice. Judges lauded Comings and Goings, a training focused on the fluctuating relationships between domestic violence victims and offenders (i.e., reasons for staying, leaving, and returning to the relationship) for its ability to break down biases and preconceptions about domestic violence relationships. Implementing this or a similar training for magistrate judges may help procure buy-in if this is identified as a concern.

“In the judicial focus groups, judges emphasized the unique opportunity review hearings provide to increase offender compliance and facilitate behavior change. Judges mentioned the importance of building rapport with the offenders to encourage them to make the most out of interventions, treatment, and probation services; speaking in a manner that improves their capacity to see themselves as capable of change.”

In the judicial focus groups, judges emphasized the unique opportunity review hearings provide to increase offender compliance and facilitate behavior change. Judges mentioned the importance of building rapport with the offenders to encourage them to make the most out of interventions, treatment, and probation services; speaking in a manner that improves their capacity to see themselves as capable of change. In accordance with this, the visual and interactive aspect of the court is relevant: something described as the “theater of court”. Judges are provided with training on the technical components of court (e.g., relevant laws, rules of decorum), but they do not systematically

receive training on communicating the values of Domestic Violence Court (i.e., successful completion, safe and healthy families) to victims and offenders or interaction strategies with participants (e.g., handling recalcitrant offenders). Judges mentioned the value of a how-to guide on effective strategies to resolve common courtroom events, likening it to a playbook. Additionally, the placement of those in the courtroom (e.g., prosecutor, probation, defense, victim) and the interactions offenders and victims observe between each agent of the court may greatly impact the behavior of the victim and offender. Training on such interactions and the impact it can have was recommended by focus group attendees.

Domestic Violence Court Coordinators mentioned the importance of training on cyberstalking and animal abuse, both of which are prevalent in domestic violence situations. Research indicates that animal abuse is prevalent in domestic violence relationships and that victims often report the safety of their pets as a concern when deciding whether to use shelter resources (Faver & Cavazos, 2013). Cyberstalking is a constantly-evolving phenomenon that can take many forms—ensuring that those involved in Domestic Violence Court cases are apprised of this may help them contextualize requests for civil protection orders, no-contact orders, and other Domestic Violence Court edicts. Finally, Domestic Violence Court Coordinators felt that site visits to other Domestic Violence Courts might help them better understand what is working well across the state. Coordinating site visits to jurisdictions of a similar size or with similar populations may help and utilizing the national mentor court—Kootenai County Domestic Violence Court—share their practices. Judges also mentioned the importance of interacting with other sitting Domestic Violence Court judges to the same effect.

Limitations and Future Directions for Evaluations

Limitations

Although this evaluation reported that Idaho’s Domestic Violence Courts are in line with national trends in foci, process evaluations examine fidelity to a program model. As it stands, there is no gold standard for Domestic Violence Courts. As policies and procedures were recently published, future evaluations should examine fidelity to the model once approved. If Domestic Violence Court guidelines necessitate changes in current court practices, a formative evaluation to institute these changes smoothly may be necessary. Often implemented in new programs or programs where policies and procedures have been newly implemented, formative evaluations involve collecting data to provide guidance or resources to help establish continuous quality improvement efforts and fidelity in practices. Data collection procedures (i.e., modified stakeholder and court coordinator surveys) should be considered to this end.

Unfortunately, sample size limited our ability to predict one to three-year domestic violence recidivism by county for all 10 Domestic Violence Courts individually. This is disconcerting, as although courts share many practices, the population and geographic region vary; it is possible that effectiveness varies by court based on these variables. The data pertaining to case processing time measurement were similarly limited—that Domestic Violence Courts process cases to disposition more expediently is positive but ensuring Domestic Violence Court cases are initially heard before judges in a timely manner is crucial as well. This first appearance may be used to increase offender accountability and

establish the terms of no-contact orders. As data quality is assessed for first appearance data, this analysis will be possible.

Additionally, risk assessment data (e.g., IRAD, LS/CMI) were not available for domestic violence offenders in this evaluation. For this reason, it was not possible to assess whether offenders were ordered to treatment or interventions based on risk and need, as outlined in Idaho’s criminal codes. Domestic Violence Court Coordinators and judges reported this taking place, but quantitative data were not available to corroborate this directly for the process evaluation. Analyses of the offender self-report data revealed variability in the interventions they received, indicating at least some level of individualization in plans.

Finally, the offender self-report survey encountered several challenges in its administration: it was often difficult for offenders who had their probation revoked to participate, as they were transported to the jail immediately after this determination was made. Additionally, Ada County did not participate in the offender self-report survey, meaning that results gleaned from these data may not generalize to Ada County.

Future Evaluations

According to analyses from the offender self-report survey, those with prior military experience were twelve times more likely to report having multiple Domestic Violence Court cases. Future evaluations should conduct needs assessments of veterans in Domestic Violence Court to identify relevant resources for this group.

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Domestic Violence Courts are intended to improve community and victim safety through their practices. To avoid the potential for secondary victimization (Laing, 2016) and to ensure that victims are provided with resources that are relevant and useful to them (Altschuld & Watkins, 2014), future evaluations should seek victim perspectives. Victim perspectives can be sought in the form of surveys examining their satisfaction with Domestic Violence Court interactions (e.g., communication with victim advocates/assistance programs, the judge, the prosecutor, court security), court decisions (e.g., no-contact orders), and services provided. Needs assessments can be conducted to better understand which resources victims would benefit from and utilize effectively to better serve this population. Building an understanding of the precursors to victim nonparticipation in Domestic Violence Court hearings would help improve practices to encourage their participation where their insight is

beneficial. Measures of victim experiences of procedural justice may lead to practices to facilitate their participation as well.

A major correlate of problem-solving court completion is procedural justice (Dollar et al., 2018). Surveying offenders in Domestic Violence Court to measure the extent to which they feel they had an opportunity to speak in court, were treated as innocent until proven guilty, and were listened to may help ensure practices are optimized to procure offender cooperation with court orders. Revising and reinstating the offender survey is not the only approach to learning more about their characteristics: Information pertaining to the Idaho Risk Assessment of Dangerousness and risk assessments such as the Level of Service/Case Management Inventory would help optimize Domestic Violence Court practices. With these data, it may be possible to examine which group(s) Domestic Violence Court is most effective for and which practices are best suited for various groups (e.g., domestic violence interventions may be most helpful for moderate and high-risk offenders).

Finally, the stakeholder survey should be revised and reinstated to examine the extent to which judges are aware of additional cases involving the offender and the victim. Judges reported that they were satisfied with communication and Domestic Violence Court Coordinators reported that judges are usually aware of additional cases, but more thoroughly assessing the extent to which this occurs and areas of improvement would prove useful.

When asked about the goals of Domestic Violence Court, judges in the focus group cited the then-drafted, but recently published policies and procedures; they also added the importance of family health and the generational transmission of violence. Judges mentioned that they often see the children of families experiencing interpersonal violence in the juvenile justice system; this observation is corroborated by research (Morelli et al., 2021; Song et al., In Press). Future evaluations should consider outcomes relevant to juvenile justice system involvement in experiencing interpersonal violence.

As mentioned previously, Domestic Violence Court has laudable goals and appears to meet many of those goals in Idaho. Despite this, it is important that Domestic Violence Courts refrain from facilitating secondary victimization for those involved in the court. Examining the extent and context in which this occurs in the Idaho courts is one step to prevention. To this end, communication with victims in Domestic Violence Court is a crucial next step in continuous quality improvement. If secondary victimization occurs, a needs assessment with victims may help alter practices to reduce its occurrence and better facilitate victim safety and family well-being.

“Communication with victims in Domestic Violence Court is a crucial next step in continuous quality improvement.”

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Appendix

Table 8. Logistic Regression Predicting New Domestic Violence Conviction 2018 – 2022.

Variable	Year 1		Year 2		Year 3	
	β (SE)	OR	β (SE)	OR	β (SE)	OR
DVC	-0.28 (0.10)**	0.76	-0.36 (0.09)***	0.70	-0.26 (0.10)*	0.77
DVC Route						
Route 1	0.49 (0.11)***	1.63	0.54 (0.11)***	1.72	0.49 (0.12)***	1.63
Route 2	0.62 (0.13)***	1.86	0.50 (0.14)***	1.65	0.46 (0.16)**	1.58
White	0.13 (0.07)	1.14	0.01 (0.06)	1.01	-0.01 (0.07)	0.99
Male	0.22 (0.08)**	1.25	0.28 (0.08)***	1.32	0.43 (0.10)***	1.54
Age	0.009 (0.003)***	1.009	0.005 (0.003)	1.005	0.007 (0.003)*	1.007

Note. The reference group for the model is non-DVC domestic violence offenders. Route 3 (amended cases) was highly correlated with sex, so it is not reflected in the model;

* indicates $p < .05$; ** indicates $p < .01$; *** indicates $p < .001$

Table 9. Average Days from Charge to Disposition Without Outliers by County 2015-2022.

County	Average Days to Disposition (SD)	Difference from Non-DVC DV
Jefferson County	46.38 (63.57)	-88 Days
Madison & Fremont Counties	88.15 (99.41)	-46 Days
Bingham County	126.79 (119.08)	-8 Days
Bonneville County	123.15 (111.68)	-11 Days
Ada County	126.36 (121.83)	-8 Days
Minidoka & Cassia Counties	70.59 (93.96)	-65 Days
Jerome County	109.30 (110.42)	-25 Days
Bannock County	87.80 (98.09)	-47 Days
Kootenai County	122.32 (113.31)	-12 Days
Bonner County	115.24 (99.99)	-19 Days
DVC Counties	109.83 (103.83)	-25 Days
Non-DVC Counties	134.45 (106.76)	---

Note. Outliers for each county (i.e., those with $|Z| \geq 1.96$) were removed prior to analyses.

Table 10. Ordinary Least Squares (OLS) Regression Predicting Days to Disposition by County using 2015-2022 data.

County	Days to Disposition (SE)	Days to Disposition (SE)
	Including Route 2	Excluding Route 2
Jefferson County	-58.62 (6.45)***	-56.14 (15.08)***
Madison & Fremont Counties	-66.57 (12.71)***	-59.75 (14.13)***
Bingham County	-4.32 (8.36)	2.23 (9.05)
Bonneville County	-48.53 (7.02)***	-50.63 (7.33)***
Ada County	-49.34 (6.62)***	-43.72 (6.97)***
Minidoka & Cassia Counties	-58.61 (8.38)***	-56.76 (8.72)***
Jerome County	-11.81 (9.44)	-8.21 (10.08)
Bannock County	-57.72 (6.80)***	-59.18 (7.05)***
Kootenai County	3.30 (6.67)***	-0.32 (6.99)
Bonner County	-45.21 (8.95)***	-47.70 (9.64)***
Route 2	17.92 (3.81)***	---
Route 3	10.80 (2.69)***	10.95 (2.67)***

Note. Reference Group is Non-DVC domestic violence offenders. Outliers for each county (i.e., those with $| Z | \geq 1.96$) were removed prior to analyses; * indicates $p < .05$; ** indicates $p < .01$; *** indicates $p < .001$.

Table 11. Comparing Time to Disposition Across Offense Types within Counties.2015 – 2022.

County	T-Stat (p-value)	Day Difference
Jefferson County	T = -4.21 (p < .001)	+40
Madison & Fremont Counties	T = -0.99 (p = .61)	+10
Bingham County	T = -3.80 (p < .001)	+32
Bonneville County	T = 7.42 (p < .001)	-24
Ada County	T = 5.82 (p < .001)	-9
Minidoka & Cassia Counties	T = -4.79 (p < .001)	+25
Jerome County	T = -4.20 (p < .001)	+34
Bannock County	T = 0.02 (p = .99)	0
Kootenai County	T = -7.12 (p < .001)	+19
Bonner County	T = 2.92 (p < .001)	-15
Overall DVC	T = -1.29 (p = .20)	-4
Non-DVC	T = -14.45 (p < .001)	+15

Note. Outliers were removed prior to analyses, as were Route 2 offenders and infractions.