



JANET T. MILLS
GOVERNOR

STATE OF MAINE
DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS
111 STATE HOUSE STATION
AUGUSTA MAINE
04333-0111

RANDALL A. LIBERTY
COMMISSIONER

Memo

To: Suzanne Salisbury, House Chair, Criminal Justice and Public Safety Committee
Anne Beebe-Center, Senate Chair, Criminal Justice and Public Safety Committee

From: Randall A. Liberty, Commissioner, Maine Department of Corrections

Cc: Maryanne Turowski, Senior Policy Officer, Governor Mills

Date: February 12, 2024

Re: Annual Report on the Domestic Intervention Program in accordance with 34-A MRSA§1214.

Dear Senator Beebe-Center, Representative Salisbury and Members of the Criminal Justice and Public Safety Committee,

The Maine Department of Corrections submits this annual report on the Domestic Violence Intervention Programs to you in accordance with 34-A MRSA§1214.

Should you have any questions or request further information related to the report, please contact my office.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'RAL'.

Randall A. Liberty,
Commissioner

RAL/keb

MDOC's Mission Statement:

Making our communities safer by reducing harm through supportive intervention, empowering change, and restoring lives.

Maine Domestic Violence Intervention Programs

This annual report regarding Maine Domestic Violence Intervention Programs (DVIPs) is provided by the Maine Department of Corrections (DOC) Office of Victim Services (OVS) and is presented to the Second Regular Session of the 131st Maine Legislature (Title 34-A M.R.S.A. §1214(5)). This is the thirteenth annual Domestic Violence Intervention Program report (previously called the annual Batterer Intervention Program report). This particular report includes a brief overview of DVIPs in similar but collapsed form to the report provided to the Legislature by the Maine Coalition to End Domestic Violence (MCEDV), which provides a detailed overview of the progress made in 2023 referred to below.

A DVIP operating in the State of Maine must be certified by the DOC in order to receive court referrals (Title 17-A M.R.S.A. § 1804(6) and Title 19-A M.R.S.A. § 4116, previously § 4014). The current DVIP certification process is outlined under DOC rule (found on the Secretary of State website, section 03-201, Chapter 15). This rule outlines the procedures and standards governing the certification and monitoring of the DVIPs, pursuant to statute. Attachment A lists the currently certified DVIPs across the State.

The statute and rule require that the DOC, in consultation with the Maine Commission on Domestic and Sexual Abuse, develop and, on a biannual basis, review a certification process for DVIPs. The review process may include input from various agencies and organizations listed in the rule and any others deemed appropriate by the DOC. Since 2022, the standards review committee has met every month working towards recommended changes. The standards were reviewed thoroughly, each topic discussed in detail, all voices heard, and final recommendations were made through this process. This review was completed in the fall of 2023 and the draft document has been submitted to the DOC, which will submit it to the Attorney General's Office for legal review in accordance with the rule-making process, as well as being put out for public comment. The new rule is very likely to be implemented in 2024.

Since 2019, the DOC has contracted with the Maine Coalition to End Domestic Violence (MCEDV) to implement a plan for the partial reimbursement of DVIPs for indigent participation fees, training programs to sustain and expand the accessibility of DVIPs, and the reimbursement of mileage expenses for DVIP programs. Due to this continued funding, a third annual report titled "Annual Report on CDVIP Statewide Coordination, Training, and Technical

Assistance” was provided for the 2023 overview and submitted by MCEDV at the year end of 2023. Attachment B reflects the MCEDV’s report.

The OVS collects yearly data from each DVIP across the State, and the data is compiled into a statewide total. The 2023 enrollment and completion data includes: number of males reported to have enrolled in the DVIPs, males reported to have completed the programs, females reported to have enrolled in the DVIPs, and females reported to have completed the programs. The York County program Violence No More closed unexpectedly in 2023 and so data was not able to be obtained prior to the submission of this report. The statewide combined male and female data submitted is reflected in Attachments C and D.

As well, yearly data on probation conditions for 2023 was collected using the same criteria as used since the 2018 report. It consists of offenders with a conviction for a domestic violence related charge as identified in statute and with a period of probation and has been obtained from the DOC offender records database (CORIS). The data includes a comparison of the probation conditions imposed as part of the sentence. Probation conditions compared were (1) anger management counseling, anger management evaluation and/or domestic abuse counseling, (2) certified DVIP and (3) psychological counseling. The DOC is not able to provide data regarding those ordered to attend DVP due to court-ordered deferred disposition, as mandated by DHHS, or by way of a referral source other than the DOC.

The chart and graph below reflect the current (as of the end of 2023) 560 male clients on probation with a domestic violence conviction statewide with a total of 690 conditions.

Condition	Count	Approx. Percent
Anger Management Counseling & Evaluation and Domestic Abuse Counseling	23	3%
Domestic Violence Intervention Programs	517	75%
Psychological Counseling	150	22%
Total Male Conditions	690	100%
Total Male Probationers	560	

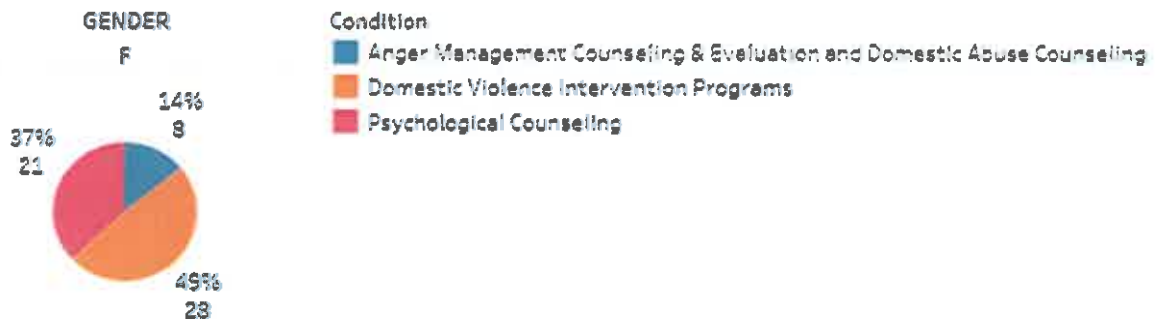
The chart below reflects the five-year percentage comparison of each condition according to each condition ordered for males by percentage.



Condition	Count 2019	Count 2020	Count 2021	Count 2022	Count 2023
Anger Management Counseling & Evaluation and Domestic Abuse Counseling	6%	7%	8%	4%	3%
Domestic Violence Intervention Program	69%	69%	69%	74%	75%
Psychological Counseling	25%	24%	23%	22%	22%
Total Male Conditions	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%

The chart and graph below reflect the current (as of the end of 2023) 47 female clients on probation with a domestic violence conviction statewide with a total of 57 conditions.

Condition	Count	Approx. Percent
Anger Management Counseling & Evaluation and Domestic Abuse Counseling	8	14%
Domestic Violence Intervention Programs	28	49%
Psychological Counseling	21	37%
Total Female Conditions	57	100%
Total Female Probationers	47	



The chart below reflects the five-year percentage comparison of each condition according to each condition ordered for females by percentage.

Condition	Count 2019	Count 2020	Count 2021	Count 2022	Count 2023
Anger Management Counseling & Evaluation and Domestic Abuse Counseling	15%	13%	28%	15%	14%
Domestic Violence Intervention Program	42%	39%	35%	44%	49%
Psychological Counseling	42%	48%	37%	40%	37%
Total Male Conditions	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%

17-A MRSA §1807, sub-§ 6, requires a court to provide justification when participation in a DVIP is not ordered as a condition of probation in sentencing a person for a domestic violence crime. This same provision requires a prosecuting attorney to provide justification when participation in a DVIP as a condition of probation is not recommended in a plea agreement for a person convicted of a domestic violence crime.

As reported since 2019, the Judicial Branch has a “Statement of Prosecuting Attorney Regarding Domestic Violence Intervention” form. Below is the number of forms submitted to the Court by prosecuting attorneys since 2019.

	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
Statement of Prosecuting Attorney Regarding Domestic Violence Intervention	65	29	24	16	14

As stated in previous reports, DOC is not able to provide additional data regarding those not ordered to attend DVIP.

For additional information from the 2022 annual report refer to the Department of Corrections Office of Victim Services website at www.maine.gov/corrections/victimservices

This concludes this year’s report.

ATTACHMENT A

Certified Domestic Violence Intervention Programs

Program	Meeting Time	Meeting Location
Androscoggin		
Alternatives to Abuse (Safe Voices) (Male Program) Director: Courtney O'Brien P.O. Box 713 Auburn, ME 04212 (207) 207-212-6827 (Certified until 9/14/2025)	Please come fill out the Intake form to learn more	To Enroll in class, please fill out Intake form at https://safevoices.org/get-help/certified-batterer-intervention-program
Alternatives to Abuse (Safe Voices) (Female Program) Director: Courtney O'Brien P.O. Box 713 Auburn, ME 04212 (207) 207-212-6827 (Certified until 9/14/2025)	Please come fill out the Intake form to learn more	To Enroll in class, please fill out Intake form at https://safevoices.org/get-help/certified-batterer-intervention-program
Aroostook		
Northern New England Community Resource Center (Male Program) Director: Charles Moody P.O. Box 164 Houlton, ME 04730 (207) 694-3066 (Certified until 5/4/2024)	Monday, 6:00 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. Wednesday, 6:00 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. Thursday, 6:00 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.	Chamber of Commerce, Presque Isle, ME Houlton Regional Hospital Cary Medical Center, Caribou, ME

<p>Choices (Female Program)</p> <p>Director: Desfree Chasse</p> <p>Contact: (207) 728-3199</p> <p>(Certified until 9/9/2024)</p>	<p>Call for details</p>	
<p>Cumberland</p>		
<p>A Different Choice (Male Program)</p> <p>Director: Matthew Perry</p> <p>P.O. Box 704</p> <p>Portland, ME 04104</p> <p>(207) 233-5997</p> <p>(Certified until 7/11/2025)</p>	<p>Monday 5:00 - 6:30 p.m. & 7:00 - 8:30 p.m.</p> <p>Wednesday 4:00 p.m. - 5:30 p.m. & 6:00 p.m. - 7:30 p.m.</p> <p>Thursday 5:30 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.</p> <p>Friday 8:30 a.m. - 10:00 a.m.</p>	<p>All classes held in person at: 655 Riverside Street, Portland</p>
<p>Brunswick & Harpswell Only:</p> <p>Alternatives to Abuse (Safe Voices)</p> <p>(Male Program)</p> <p>Director: Courtney O'Brien</p> <p>P.O. Box 713</p> <p>Auburn, ME 04212</p> <p>(207) 207-212-6827</p> <p>(Certified until 9/14/2025)</p>	<p>Please come fill out the Intake form to learn more</p>	<p>To Enroll in class, please fill out Intake form at https://safevoices.org/get-help/certified-batterer-intervention-program</p>
<p>Franklin</p>		

<p>Alternatives to Abuse (Safe Voices) (Male Program) Director: Courtney O'Brien P.O. Box 713 Auburn, ME 04212 (207) 207-212-6827 (Certified until 9/14/2025)</p>	<p>Please come fill out the Intake form to learn more</p>	<p>To Enroll in class, please fill out Intake form at https://safevoices.org/get-help/certified-batterer-intervention-program</p>
<p>Alternatives to Abuse (Safe Voices) (Female Program) Director: Courtney O'Brien P.O. Box 713 Auburn, ME 04212 (207) 207-212-6827 (Certified until 9/14/2025)</p>	<p>Please come fill out the Intake form to learn more</p>	<p>To Enroll in class, please fill out Intake form at https://safevoices.org/get-help/certified-batterer-intervention-program</p>
<p>Hancock</p>		
<p>Choice V (Male Program) Supervisor: Astor Gillis 59 Franklin St., B Ellsworth, ME 04605 (207) 667-2730 (Certified until 12/15/2026)</p>	<p>Tuesday, 5:00 p.m. to 6:30 p.m.</p>	<p>Online</p>
<p>DV Turning Points (Female Program)</p>	<p>Wednesday, 10:00 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.</p>	<p>Online</p>

<p>Supervisor: Astor Gillis</p> <p>59 Franklin St., B</p> <p>Ellsworth, ME 04605</p> <p>(207) 667-2730</p> <p>(Certified until 02/22/2024)</p>		
<p>Kennebec</p>		
<p>ChangeWork (Male Program)</p> <p>Violence Intervention</p> <p>Director: Richard Langley</p> <p>ChangeWork</p> <p>P.O. Box 304</p> <p>Augusta, ME 04332</p> <p>(207) 623-8637 ext. 304</p> <p>(Certified until 7/14/2025)</p>	<p>ChangeWork offers 12 classes, in-person and virtual on-line, Monday through Saturday each week.</p>	<p>For more information, or to enroll in class, please fill out the intake packet request here: https://www.familyviolenceproject.org/changework/</p> <p>or contact Richard Langley via email: rlangley@familyviolenceproject.org text: 207.200.5131 phone: 207.623.8637 ext. 304</p>
<p>Respect ME (Female Program)</p> <p>Director: Robert Rogers, KBH;</p> <p>Michelle LeClair, FVP; Skyla Littlefield</p> <p>Contact: rrogers@kbhmaine.org or 207-474-8368 ext. 3607, cell phone: 207-861-2465;</p> <p>5 Commerce Drive Skowhegan, ME 04976 (207) 873-2136 x 3607</p> <p>(Certified until: 8/9/2025)</p>	<p>Monday, 9:00 a.m. – 10:30 a.m</p> <p>Tuesday, 3:30 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.</p> <p>Wednesday, paused until in-person can happen</p>	<p>Kennebec Behavioral Health 66 Stone Street Augusta, ME</p> <p>Kennebec Behavioral Health 67 Eustis Parkway Waterville, ME</p> <p>Kennebec Behavioral Health 5 Commerce Drive Skowhegan, ME</p>
<p>Knox</p>		

<p>DV Classes for Men (Male Program)</p> <p>Temporary Director: Aimee Kerrigan</p> <p>262 Harlow Street</p> <p>Bangor, ME 04401</p> <p>(207) 802-3081</p> <p>(207) 973-3699 (fax)</p> <p>For intake call (207) 270-2963</p> <p>(Certified until 10/20/2024)</p> <p>*For class information and to schedule an Intake call: Stephen Madera 207-270-2963 or Serena Buday 207-659-0736.</p>	<p>Monday, 5:15 p.m. - 6:45 p.m.</p> <p>Tuesday, 1:00 p.m. - 2:30 p.m., 4:30 p.m. - 6:00 p.m., 6:30 p.m.- 8:00 p.m.</p> <p>Wednesday, 4:30 p.m. - 6:00 p.m. & 6:30 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.</p> <p>Thursday, 5:30 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.</p>	<p>262 Harlow Street, Bangor, ME 04401</p> <p>And</p> <p>50 North Street, Dover- Foxcroft, ME 04426.</p>
<p>Time for Change Women's Group (Female Program)</p> <p>Director: Susanna Norwood, LSW</p> <p>P.O. Box A</p> <p>Rockland, ME 04841</p> <p>800-522-3304</p> <p>Certified until: 7/21/2025</p>	<p>Call for more details</p>	
Lincoln		
<p>Alternatives to Abuse (Safe Voices) (Male Program)</p> <p>Director: Courtney O'Brien</p> <p>P.O. Box 713</p> <p>Auburn, ME 04212</p> <p>(207) 207-212-6827</p> <p>(Certified until 9/14/2025)</p>	<p>Please come fill out the Intake form to learn more</p>	<p>To Enroll in class, please fill out Intake form at https://safevoices.org/get-help/certified-batterer-intervention-program</p>
<p>Time for Change Women's Group (Female Program)</p>	<p>Call for more details</p>	

<p>Director: Susanna Norwood, LSW</p> <p>P.O. Box A</p> <p>Rockland, ME 04841</p> <p>800-522-3304</p> <p>Certified until: 7/21/2025</p>		
<p>Oxford</p>		
<p>Alternatives to Abuse (Safe Voices)</p> <p>(Male Program)</p> <p>Director: Courtney O'Brien</p> <p>P.O. Box 713</p> <p>Auburn, ME 04212</p> <p>(207) 207-212-6827</p> <p>(Certified until 9/14/2025)</p>	<p>Please come fill out the Intake form to learn more</p>	<p>To Enroll in class, please fill out Intake form at https://safevoices.org/get-help/certified-batterer-intervention-program</p>
<p>Alternatives to Abuse (Safe Voices)</p> <p>(Female Program)</p> <p>Director: Courtney O'Brien</p> <p>P.O. Box 713</p> <p>Auburn, ME 04212</p> <p>(207) 207-212-6827</p> <p>(Certified until 9/14/2025)</p>	<p>Please come fill out the Intake form to learn more</p>	<p>To Enroll in class, please fill out Intake form at https://safevoices.org/get-help/certified-batterer-intervention-program</p>
<p>Penobscot</p>		
<p>DV Classes for Men (Male Program)</p>	<p>Monday, 5:15 p.m. - 6:45 p.m.</p>	<p>Penquis</p> <p>262 Harlowe Street</p>

<p>Temporary Director: Aimee Kerrigan</p> <p>262 Harlow Street</p> <p>Bangor, ME 04401</p> <p>(207) 802-3081</p> <p>(207) 973-3699 (fax)</p> <p>For Intake call (207) 270-2963</p> <p>(Certified until 10/20/2024)</p> <p>*For class information and to schedule an intake call: Stephen Madera 207-270-2963 or Serena Buday 207-659-0736.</p>	<p>Tuesday, 1:00 p.m. - 2:30 p.m., 4:30 p.m. - 6:00 p.m.</p> <p>& 6:30 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.</p> <p>Wednesday, 4:30 p.m. - 6:00 p.m. and</p> <p>6:30 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.</p> <p>Thursday, 5:30 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.</p>	<p>Bangor, ME</p> <p>262 Harlow Street, Bangor, ME 04401</p> <p>And</p> <p>50 North Street, Dover- Foxcroft, ME 04426.</p>
<p>Piscataquis</p>		
<p>DV Classes for Men (Male Program)</p> <p>Temporary Director: Aimee Kerrigan</p> <p>262 Harlow Street</p> <p>Dover-Foxcroft, ME 04426</p> <p>(207) 802-3081</p> <p>(207) 973-3699 (fax)</p> <p>For intake call (207) 270-2963</p> <p>(Certified until 10/20/2024)</p>	<p>Monday, 5:15 p.m. - 6:45 p.m.</p> <p>Tuesday, 1:00 p.m. - 2:30 p.m., 4:30 p.m. - 6:00 p.m.</p> <p>& 6:30 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.</p> <p>Wednesday, 4:30 p.m. -</p>	<p>Penquis</p> <p>262 Harlow Street</p> <p>Bangor, ME</p> <p>262 Harlow Street, Bangor, ME 04401</p> <p>And</p> <p>50 North Street, Dover- Foxcroft, ME 04426.</p>

<p>*For class information and to schedule an intake call: Stephen Madera 207-270-2963 or Serena Buday 207-659-0736.</p>	<p>6:00 p.m. and 6:30 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.</p> <p>Thursday, 5:30 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.</p>	
<p>Sagadahoc</p>		
<p>Alternatives to Abuse (Safe Voices) (Male Program)</p> <p>Director: Courtney O'Brien P.O. Box 713 Auburn, ME 04212</p> <p>(207) 207-212-6827</p> <p>(Certified until 9/14/2025)</p>	<p>Please come fill out the Intake form to learn more</p>	<p>To Enroll in class, please fill out Intake form at https://safevoices.org/get-help/certified-batterer-intervention-program</p>
<p>Time for Change Women's Group (Female Program)</p> <p>Director: Susanna Norwood, LSW</p> <p>P.O. Box A</p> <p>Rockland, ME 04841</p> <p>800-522-3304</p> <p>Certified until: 7/21/2025</p>	<p>Call for more details</p>	
<p>Somerset</p>		
<p>ChangeWork (Male Program)</p> <p>Violence Intervention Director: Richard Langley</p>	<p>ChangeWork offers 12 classes, in-person and virtual on-line, Monday</p>	<p>For more information, or to enroll in class, please fill out the Intake packet request here: https://www.familyviolenceproject.org/changework/</p> <p>or contact Richard Langley via email: rlangley@familyviolenceproject.org</p>

<p>ChangeWork</p> <p>P.O. Box 304</p> <p>Augusta, ME 04332</p> <p>(207) 623-8637 ext. 304</p> <p>(Certified until 7/14/2025)</p>	<p>through Saturday each week.</p>	<p>text: 207.200.5131 phone: 207.623.8637 ext. 304</p>
<p>Respect ME (Female Program) Director: Robert Rogers, KBH; Michelle LeClair, FVP; Skyla Littlefield</p> <p>Contact: rrogers@kbhmaine.org or 207-474-8368 ext. 3607, cell phone: 207-861-2465; 5 Commerce Drive Skowhegan, ME 04976 (207) 873-2136 x 3607 (Certified until: 8/9/2025)</p>	<p>Monday, 9:00 a.m. – 10:30 a.m.</p> <p>Tuesday, 3:30 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.</p> <p>Wednesday, suspended until in- person can happen</p>	<p>Kennebec Behavioral Health 66 Stone Street Augusta, ME</p> <p>Kennebec Behavioral Health 67 Eustis Parkway Waterville, ME</p> <p>Kennebec Behavioral Health 5 Commerce Drive Skowhegan, ME</p>
<p>Waldo</p>		
<p>DV Classes for Men (Male Program)</p> <p>Temporary Director: Aimee Kerrigan</p> <p>262 Harlow Street</p> <p>Bangor, ME 04401</p> <p>(207) 802-3081</p> <p>(207) 973-3699 (fax)</p> <p>For intake call (207) 270-2963</p>	<p>Monday, 5:15 p.m. - 6:45 p.m.</p> <p>Tuesday, 1:00 p.m. - 2:30 p.m., 4:30 p.m. - 6:00 p.m., 6:30 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.</p> <p>Wednesday, 4:30 p.m. - 6:00 p.m. &</p>	<p>262 Harlow Street, Bangor, ME 04401</p> <p>And</p> <p>50 North Street, Dover- Foxcroft, ME 04426.</p>

<p>(Certified until 10/20/2024)</p> <p>*For class information and to schedule an intake call: Stephen Madera 207-270-2963 or Serena Buday 207-659-0736.</p>	<p>6:30 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.</p> <p>Thursday, 5:30 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.</p>	
<p>Time for Change Women's Group (Female Program)</p> <p>Director: Susanna Norwood, LSW</p> <p>P.O. Box A</p> <p>Rockland, ME 04841</p> <p>800-522-3304</p> <p>Certified until: 7/21/2025</p>		

Washington

<p>Step Forward, Leaving Violence Behind (Male Program)</p> <p>Director: Missy Fairfield</p> <p>P.O. Box 1466</p> <p>Ellsworth, ME 04605</p> <p>(207) 255-4934</p> <p>(Certified until: 12/10/2025)</p>	<p>Thursday, 5:00 p.m. – 6:30 p.m.</p>	<p>Online</p>
<p>DV Turning Points (Female Program)</p> <p>Supervisor: Astor Gillis</p> <p>59 Franklin St., B</p> <p>Ellsworth, ME 04605</p> <p>(207) 667-2730</p> <p>(Certified until 02/22/2024)</p>	<p>Wednesday, 10:00 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.</p>	<p>Online</p>

ATTACHMENT B



MCEDV.

The Maine Coalition
to End Domestic Violence

Annual Report on CDVIP Statewide Coordination, Training, and Technical Assistance

January 1 through December 31, 2023

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Overview

Maine's CDVIPs help make Maine safe, respectful, and free – for survivors, their children, and our communities. Maine's CDVIP staff members commit their time and energy to sitting in rooms week after week with people who have harmed those closest to them. There are too few people willing enough, skilled enough, and dedicated enough to do this courageous and important work. Educators must hold their belief in the possibility of transformative change alongside their clear-eyed understanding of the harm that has been done. They must ask difficult questions and respond to the answers. They must always attend to the risk of collusion in the abusive choices of participants and do all they can to avoid it. These educators use trusted tools to help participants examine and change their bedrock beliefs so that their behaviors will change to ones of respect and care. They invite participants to an accountability process, and they call them to be better versions of themselves through it. They encourage positive change through dialogue and critical inquiry, and they do it with respect, care, and sensitivity. Their work deserves to be acknowledged and funded. Maine should look for opportunities to support their good work.

There are currently 7 men's and 6 women's certified Domestic Violence Intervention Programs (CDVIP) in Maine. Earlier this year, the men's and women's programs in York County closed due to staffing shortages and lack of sustainable operational funding, leaving one of the most populous parts of the state without the intervention recognized in Maine statute as "most effective and appropriate."¹ In recognition of this need and emerging needs in other areas, MCEDV secured \$10,000 in funding from donors to support these vulnerable coverage areas. While this will not fully meet the need, it is an important step toward funding these valuable and cost-effective programs.

Enrollment in DVIP varies, but it hovers around 1,100 men enrolled per year and under 100 women enrolled per year. One of the accomplishments we are particularly proud of is the dramatic reduction in courts ordering those who abuse their partners to "anger management," and the attendant increase in ordering to CDVIPs. In 2016, approximately 70% of people sentenced to a term of probation for committing domestic abuse were referred to anger management. In 2022, only 4% were sent to anger management, and 74% to DVIP - a dramatic change in the desired direction! This ensures appropriate interventions and helps to correct the common misconception that anger causes DV; survivors regularly share that this is not true of their partners. Their abusive behaviors stem from their beliefs that support their perceived right to control their partners, not from anger. Anger, and the false notion that they cannot control their behavior when angry, is an excuse to avoid responsibility for abusive actions.

Most participants in DVIP attend as part of conditions imposed on them through probation, deferred disposition, or child protective services. Ongoing communication with these referral sources is an essential part of the DVIP's work to ensure that victim safety is attended to and that DVIPs are not alone in their efforts to encourage accountability. This collaborative approach is called a "Coordinated Community Response to DV" and is outlined in the standards that all Maine DVIPs follow.

¹ [M.R.S.A. Title 17-A § 1501, Chapter 61, 9.](#)

During the 2023 calendar year, the Maine Coalition to End Domestic Violence (MCEDV) and the Maine Department of Corrections (MDOC) continued their collaborative efforts to support the work of Maine's Certified Domestic Violence Intervention Programs (CDVIPs) toward victim safety, offender accountability, and a consistent coordinated community response statewide. Maine's 130th legislature appropriated continued and increased funds to support the statewide coordination, training, and technical assistance, including the partial reimbursement of reduced fees for very low-income participants in CDVIP. This funding is now included in the Maine DOC budget, and MCEDV is grateful for the MDOC's partnership and support.

Statewide Coordination and Technical Assistance

MCEDV and MDOC have continued to work in concert with Maine's CDVIPs, Domestic Violence Resource Centers, and partnering organizations to respond to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic effectively. This response has included full network meetings twice monthly, periodic updates to system partners, and strategic technical assistance when challenges arise.

MCEDV engages in a variety of policy work that both directly and indirectly connects with Maine's CDVIPs, including efforts to implement restorative practices safely and responsibly in Maine, supporting informed and trauma responsive prosecution practices, policy improvements at Maine's DHHS Office of Children and Family Services, and criminal legal system reforms such as earned time, firearm relinquishment, community confinement practices, and judicial monitoring in cases involving domestic abuse.

MCEDV continues to work to promote the work that Maine's CDVIPs are doing to ensure victim safety and offender accountability by featuring this work in organizational publications, like our recent [Impact Report](#).

Reduced Fee Reimbursement

MCEDV has continued to provide partial reduced fee reimbursement to Maine's CDVIPs to support equitable access and outcomes for participants who are income eligible (<138% of Federal Poverty Levels; \$34,307 for a family of 3). Statewide, an average of 236 CDVIP participants qualify for reduced fees each month with eleven programs typically requesting reimbursement. Approximately 90% of participants in women's CDVIPs are eligible for reduced fees, while roughly 30% of participants in men's CDVIPs are eligible. These numbers indicate a significant over-representation of people with low income in these programs. Additionally, while the intention is for fees to be part of holding offenders accountable, these funds often come from budgets shared with survivors and their children.

In 2022, through regular meetings with the CDVIP network, MCEDV identified a need to increase the reimbursement rate to keep pace with the costs of offering CDVIP classes. The MDOC agreed, and the new contract included a reimbursement rate increase while also lowering the cost to participants, further reducing barriers to participation and completion which are connected to improved victim safety.

Biennial Standards Review

MCEDV collaborates with MDOC in the monthly facilitation of the biennial Standards Review Team which started in November of 2021 and held their final meeting in September of 2023. The proposed standards are now with the MDOC for review. Once that process is completed, the proposed standards will be sent to the Attorney General's Office as the next step in the rule-making process.

Proposed changes range from minor updating and corrections to major substantive changes. The proposed changes reflect several themes:

- The growth in trust and collaboration between victim advocacy organizations, CDVIPs, the MDOC, and MCEDV since the last review;
- Recognition of the need for clear statewide standards and local flexibility and autonomy; and
- Increased clarity and alignment with existing statutory language.

Some of the most significant proposed changes are:

- Videoconferencing will be allowed but not required.
- Opportunities to seek waivers from the MDOC have been added to balance the needs for flexibility in responding to local needs and for statewide oversight. Examples include expansion of class size maximum to 17, requirements for co-ed facilitation, and training timelines.
- DVIPs may, but are not required to, charge fees.
- Restrictions on hiring staff (Section 4.5) were revised to promote equity and to support programmatic discretion. Prohibitions remain in place for those with histories of certain violent crimes.

In addition to the substantial progress the Standards Review Team made on the standards through this review process, several issues were identified as likely needing review and attention but were set aside for future work to not unduly delay this round of revisions. These included research and data; organizational structure of the standards; and the best way for CDVIPs to respond to the gendered nature of domestic abuse and the context in which it occurs.

MCEDV is grateful for the leadership and collaboration of the MDOC and the dedicated and thoughtful work of the multi-disciplinary team from across the state. The team spent many Tuesday mornings on Zoom carefully considering how to make Maine safer and more responsive to domestic abuse.

Technical Assistance and Site Visits

MCEDV observed classes and completed monitoring reports at 12 programs. Some of the women's programs were not holding classes, and some scheduling difficulties prevented observations within the fiscal year. MCEDV's annual monitoring is in addition to the quarterly monitoring of each facilitator pair done by Domestic Violence Resource Center (DVRC) or 3rd party monitors.

In addition to annual observation of classes, MCEDV conducted virtual site visits with staff from 9 programs and has more scheduled for the new year. These focused on programmatic and administrative issues for each program and informed MCEDV's assessment of need and program planning. As part of this

process and the ongoing work related to building capacity and consistency in systems advocacy and Coordinated Community Responses (CCR), MCEdV will be combining some of the data from these visits with a recent CCR survey of our membership to advance our understanding and ability to map existing response efforts, identify areas of need, and work toward greater safety and accountability statewide.

MCEdV continues to respond to requests for consultation and Technical Assistance from programs. Examples of the kinds of TA requests received include assistance with training needs, assistance with local Coordinated Community Response efforts, clarification on best practices related to program administration and class facilitation, and specific victim safety and offender accountability challenges. In 2023, MCEdV provided at least 180 hours of technical assistance related to Maine's CDVIPs.

MCEdV participates in national conversations about DVIP programming and policy, including the National BIP Network, a workgroup at the Battered Women's Justice Project focused on criminalized survivors in DVIPs, and the AQUILA listserv. MDOC Victim Services Director, Tessa Mosher, has also participated in the National BIP Network. Due to other professional demands on her time, Tessa is stepping back from that involvement, and MCEdV and MDOC are seeking participation from the network of Maine's CDVIP directors. As part of these national conversations, MCEdV is exploring safe and responsible strategies for the further incorporation of restorative practices in domestic violence intervention efforts in partnership with both the Department of Corrections and the Maine School Safety Center.

CDVIP Network Updates

Women's CDVIPs

Respect ME, the women's CDVIP serving Kennebec and Somerset Counties, learned of the resignation of their co-facilitator, a skilled advocate and educator from their partner, Family Violence Project. Due to the capacity challenges facing DVRCs statewide, Family Violence Project and Respect ME had to do some creative problem-solving to staff the program. Co-facilitation between the programs has been an important way to fully support the needs of participants in these programs, who they have found are most often referred for their use of force in response to the ongoing abuse and violence they experience from their partners. Family Violence Project did not have staff with time and capacity to step into co-facilitation. Respect ME was able to locate a qualified co-facilitator, but they didn't want to lose the connection to advocates. The program decided to increase the frequency of its monitoring visits from Family Violence Project from quarterly to monthly, allowing them to maintain the close-knit relationship and connection to safety and victim advocacy without the same demand for FVP staff time.

Midcoast Men's CDVIP

2023 was the first full calendar year in which men's CDVIP in this region was provided by either Penquis' DV Classes for Men or Safe Voices' Alternatives to Abuse after the closure of Volunteers of America Northern New England's Choices program. Safe Voices administers classes in the southern part of the area

(Bath/Brunswick/Topsham), and Penquis administers the northern area (Belfast/Rockland). New Hope Midcoast is the partnering DVRC for both CDVIPs in this region.

Closure of York County Programs Highlights Funding Need

In March 2023, Caring Unlimited made the difficult decision to discontinue their Turning Points program, the women's CDVIP in York County, which consistently had 6–12 participants. Caring Unlimited worked closely with local partners, including the District Attorney's Office and Probation Officers, to ensure as seamless a transition as possible with no adverse impacts on the women enrolled in the program. Respect ME, A Time for Change, and Turning Points Hancock County offered enrollment in their virtual classes to York County Turning Points participants as capacity allowed. This supportive collegial response was made possible due to the strong relationships built through consistent meeting and collaboration of the CDVIP Network led by MCEDV, which has only been possible through the general fund support allocated to the MDOC in the 130th Legislature.

In August 2023, one of Maine's largest CDVIPs for men, Violence No More in York County, which served over 120 participants each year (roughly 10-15% of the state's total participants), also made the difficult decision to close. The timing of this was particularly challenging as it coincided with an influx of enrollments statewide that resulted from the Judicial Branch's intentional efforts in several districts across the state to clear the pandemic driven criminal case backlogs. The state's network of men's CDVIPs wanted to step in to provide class space to the participants as the women's CDVIPs had, but they could not. Programs had no room in classes, even with waivers from the MDOC to increase class size. Normally, as participants enroll, others complete, which provides consistent and timely availability of programming to those who need it. The influx of so many cases at once meant that CDVIPs were full and had few timely anticipated openings. CDVIP staff, advocates at DVRCs, and community partners are concerned about what this gap in services in one of Maine's most populous counties means for the safety of survivors and their children and for the successful rehabilitation and support of participants looking to comply with their ordered requirements. Local programs report that they are hearing more instances of offenders having conditions removed from their probation and deferred disposition agreements, not because the programming is determined to be not needed, but merely because of this gap in services.

Unfortunately, CDVIPs rely on participant fees to run their programs. While there is a range across the state, the average cost of a weekly DVIP class to participants is \$40 - \$60, with reduced fees available to verified low-income participants. Assessment of program fees does not fully cover the total operational cost for running these programs, and yet increasing fees would create significant accessibility challenges and equity concerns. DVIPs attempt to make up the difference between what participant fees cover and the true cost of program operation through the generosity of parent agencies who may have some additional cash flow to leverage, or, in the case of smaller independent programs, facilitators going without pay themselves, essentially volunteering, to ensure ongoing operation. It has become clear that this is not a sustainable structure to ensure the availability of domestic violence intervention programs in

Maine. If action is not taken to address the deficits in the funding structure for these programs soon, the state will likely experience further reductions in programming availability.

While a new provider of DV intervention programming has not yet surfaced in York County, MCEDV is grateful to the staff at Penquis' DV Classes for Men who opened an additional virtual class to meet some of the need for York County participants. In 2024, MCEDV looks forward to continuing to meet with Caring Unlimited and other York County partners to explore long-term solutions to this important need.

Addressing Fatherhood with Men who Abuse

The facilitators of Maine's CDVIPs for men regularly observe that men's desire to parent their children well can be a motivating factor in choosing to engage in the difficult work of belief and action change that CDVIP asks of them. While there are opportunities to address their roles as fathers and the impact of their abuse on children, many CDVIPs wish there was more they could do to leverage this opportunity. This comes up with all participants who are parents and is particularly present for fathers who are sent to CDVIP as part of Child Protective Services involvement.

MCEDV has been working with Maine's DHHS Office of Children and Family Services to strengthen the policy that guides Child Protective Services workers in responding to cases that involve intimate partner violence by one parent against the other. This work includes directives, aligned with Maine's existing statutory language, to refer a parent who has been abusive to their co-parent to one of Maine's CDVIPs, rather than other interventions. Some challenges have been identified, including:

- Establishing responsibility for payment and a reliable payment process among participants, DHHS, and CDVIPs;
- Navigating the misalignment between the average length of a CPS case and the length of the CDVIP programming;
- Aligning expectations of communication and information-sharing between CDVIPs and OCFS staff.

In addition to this collaborative effort to strengthen CDVIPs as an available intervention for those who've used intimate partner violence and who are involved in the Child Protection System, two of Maine's CDVIPs serving men are trying new ways to address fatherhood among their participants. Penquis' DV Classes for Men, in close collaboration with Partners for Peace, is piloting a class specifically for fathers referred through Child Protective Services, using the Caring Dads curriculum, which is specifically designed for fathers who abuse their children's mothers. Along similar lines, Family Violence Project's ChangeWork program will begin a CDVIP class specifically for fathers referred through Child Protective Services. This class will be co-facilitated by experienced advocates who are also trained and experienced intervention educators.

At the beginning of the class, I didn't think I deserved to be here but, in the end, I know now where I was in the wrong. I was extremely verbally abusive, and I made [her] feel unsafe... Now my goals are to raise my son differently, so his views

aren't like that and to change the future a little... I did deserve this class. I made people feel unsafe and that is not healthy for my child or for anyone to see.

- Men's CDVIP Participant

These efforts are intentionally structured as pilot projects within existing CDVIPs to ensure that they are in alignment with Maine's ongoing effort to recognize those as "the most effective and appropriate" intervention for domestic abuse and violence.

Training

MCEDV provided 41 hours of CDVIP related training in 2023 over 11 training sessions. These sessions occurred as part of two series of training, the Systems Advocacy Learning Lab (SALL) and Critical Principles and Practices. A total of 58 people were trained in one or both series, which represents 13% of MCEDV's direct training hours.

MCEDV has also continued to reimburse the cost of foundational training for DVIP staff and monitors in nationally recognized DVIP models created in Duluth, Minnesota at the Domestic Abuse Intervention Program, *Creating a Process of Change for Men who Batter* and *Turning Points* curricula. This cost-effective model of foundational training for new staff has provided flexible means for timely training and compliance with certification standards. Three staff members, representing Safe Voices and Northern New England Community Resource Center, received training in the Duluth *Creating a Process of Change* curriculum. Nine staff members, representing Partners for Peace, Safe Voices, and Hope and Justice Project, received training in *Turning Points* curriculum.

Peer Learning

MCEDV and the CDVIP Network designated the first CDVIP Network meeting of each month to be focused on peer training topics, and the MDOC has agreed that those meetings count toward the training required of CDVIP staff by Maine's standards. The chart below outlines topics covered in each month's training and business meetings. Topics range from the nuts and bolts of administration and compliance with standards to the nuances of dealing with sensitive topics like religion and faith in class. Some topics, like non-fatal strangulation, are a result of class observations about topics coming up in multiple regions.

CDVIP Network Meetings – 2nd and 4th Mondays from 1pm to 2pm			
Training Focused – 2nd Mondays		Business Focused – 4th Mondays	
Date	Topic	Date	Topic(s)
January 9	Overview of Legal Systems	January 23	Communication with DVRC staff, volunteers, and boards about DVIP

February 13	Overview of Child Welfare	February 27	CPS Debrief
March 13	Religion & Faith in CDVIP	March 27	Data Dive! Future Training Priorities
April 10	Absences & Leave Resource Question Out of County Waiver Process MJB Conference Update	April 24	NBIP Network Update DVIP Conditions Removed
May 8	Multiple Generations in DVIP	May 22	Probation discussion follow up Forms discussion
June 12	Q & A Probation RCAs	June 26	NO MEETING
July 10	Monitoring Summary Drawing the Line between Good & Bad (Hannah Gadsby video)	July 24	Contract Updates Co-Facilitation Language from Amanda McCormick
August 14	NO MEETING	August 28	VNM Closure
September 11	Melissa Scaia – When They Tell You What They Really Think	September 25	Media Messaging & Spokespeople Monthly Data Update
October 9	NO MEETING – INDIGENOUS PEOPLES DAY	October 23	Reimbursement Update & Income Verification Confidentiality & Licensure
November 13	Non-Fatal Strangulation	November 27	2024 Schedule
December 11	2023 Look Back & Learnings Forecast for 2024	December 25	NO MEETING - CHRISTMAS

This emphasis on ongoing peer learning opportunities has resulted in identification of considerable in-state expertise, and MCEdV plans to build on this in the spring of 2024 when MCEdV hosts an in-person training for CDVIP staff that features trainers from our state's CDVIPs.

Systems Advocacy Learning Lab: Understanding Survivor-Defendant Experiences

In jurisdictions across Maine, women are arrested and prosecuted for domestic abuse crimes. In areas where women's DVIPs exist, they are often ordered to attend those programs in accordance with state

statute. Most of these participants are women who have used resistive or reactive violence against their partners.

The Systems Advocacy Learning Lab (SALL) provided an opportunity for advocates and intervention program staff to work with Melissa Scaia and Amanda McCormick, global experts in survivors' use of force, to gather data, map system responses, and analyze cases to better understand and improve how our systems impact the lives of survivors and their children. Maine is a national leader in investing in exploration of this specific issue and strengthening the systems advocacy skills of women's CDVIP facilitators and DV victim advocates.

The SALL was an extended training project with a cohort of women's DVIP educators to better understand the experiences of women who have used resistive or reactive violence against their partners and the systems with which they interact. Over nine months, the cohort met online for 3-hour sessions each month and then gathered for a two-day in-person data review session, followed by a final online meeting. Objectives included mapping Maine's Coordinated Community Response efforts, increasing system navigation and systems advocacy skills, and strengthening understanding of the experiences and needs of women who are arrested and prosecuted for the use of resistive or reactive violence against their partners. Additional details about the SALL and findings from it can be found in the Related Documents section of this report.

Critical Principles & Practices Training Series

MCEDV contracted with Ulester Douglas and Lee Giordano, two independent consultants and experts in DV intervention with men, to offer a two-part training series that built upon last year's CDVIP "Change" series of trainings. Topics covered in the series were split into four parts:

1. The Spectrum of Intimate Partner Violence
2. Effective Facilitation Practice
3. Keeping Your Cool (lesson demonstration)
4. Dealing with Difficult Scenarios

CDVIP facilitators continue to reference the value of several parts of this training series, even now, a year later. The Spectrum of Intimate Partner Violence provided a helpful framework for addressing legal and illegal abuse with participants in classes.

FY 2024 Budget Update

MCEDV renewed its contract with MDOC in June 2023. Calendar year 2023 included part of both state FY 2023 and state FY 2024. The closure of one of Maine's largest CDVIPs, Violence No More in York County, will likely result in lower-than-expected requests for participant fee reimbursement. MCEDV plans to explore with MDOC how these funds may be accessed to support the funding needs of Maine's CDVIPs.

Administration	ACTUAL TOTAL SPENT	TOTAL IN BUDGET	Remaining
State FY23 (7/1/22-6/30/23)	\$74,753.13	\$76,481.76	\$1,728.63
State FY24 (7/1/23-6/30/24)	\$38,259.79	\$62,500.00	\$24,240.21
As of 12/31/23			\$25,968.84
Training	ACTUAL TOTAL SPENT	TOTAL IN BUDGET	Remaining
State FY23 (7/1/22-6/30/23)	\$19,161.96	\$30,061.00	\$10,899.04
State FY24 (7/1/23-6/30/24)	\$19,672.94	\$25,000.00	\$5,327.06
As of 12/31/23			\$16,226.10
Participant Reimbursement	ACTUAL TOTAL SPENT	TOTAL IN BUDGET	Remaining
State FY23 (7/1/22-6/30/23)	\$208,825.00	\$269,825.00	\$61,000.00
State FY24 (7/1/23-6/30/24)	\$113,950.00	\$200,000.00	\$86,050.00
As of 12/31/23			\$147,050.00
TOTAL	ACTUAL TOTAL SPENT	TOTAL IN BUDGET	Remaining
As of 12/31/23	\$474,622.82	\$663,867.76	\$189,244.94

Recommendations

MCEDV makes the following recommendations related to Maine's Certified Domestic Violence Intervention Programs:

1. Identify and pursue ongoing, operational funding to ensure consistent, equitable access to Certified Domestic Violence Intervention Programming across all of Maine. Funding is critically needed to sustain this vital work to protect victims of domestic abuse, their children, and the people of Maine.
2. Support MCEDV's collaboration with member programs, MDOC, and Maine's CDVIP providers to provide statewide coordination, training, and technical assistance has strengthened the statewide response to those who use abuse and violence against their partners and should continue, with particular focus on strengthening connections between victim advocacy organizations and their local CDVIP providers.

3. Support effective, ongoing training responsive to program and community needs to sustain a skilled DV intervention workforce. Future CDVIP training efforts should be focused on:
 - a. Skillful facilitation that centers victim safety and offender accountability and is responsive to the population served,
 - b. Development and maintenance of Coordinated Community Response efforts to improve victim safety and offender accountability,
 - c. Building capacity, knowledge, and skill of CDVIP providers to identify and address systemic challenges in collaboration with their CCR partners,
 - d. Supporting monitors of CDVIPs to provide constructive and meaningful feedback.
4. Where safe and responsible intervention programming relies on Coordinated Community Response and effective systems advocacy, MCEdV recommends continued work to build capacity for systems advocacy and meaningful participation in CCR efforts. This work should incorporate findings from a variety of statewide recommendations, including the SALL Final Report and the Maine Domestic Abuse Homicide Review Panel report.

Summary

The state CDVIP Network and, this year, the Standards Review Team, identified not only issues that need to be addressed, but also strategies for addressing them in ways that safeguard safety and accountability and build a stronger and more consistent statewide Coordinated Community Response.

Maine benefits from a strong collaborative approach to the work of Certified Domestic Violence Intervention Programs. MCEdV observes more communication between DVIPs and their partnering DVRCs, among DVIPs, and with community partners. This brings increased hopes for greater safety and autonomy for survivors, meaningful accountability for those who commit abuse, and the potential transformation of our communities into places where respect and equality are the norms.

MCEdV is grateful for the partnership of the Maine DOC and looks forward to our ongoing work together.

Related Documents

MCEdV 2023 [Annual Report](#) highlights the full scope of MCEdV's work, including work with Maine's CDVIPs.

MCEdV CDVIP Virtual Site Visit Topics: [CDVIP - Annual Info Update.pdf](#)

MCEdV FY 2022 Impact Report features the important work of Maine's CDVIP Network on the first page: [Final FY 22 Impact Report.pdf](#)

Systems Advocacy Learning Lab: Understanding Survivor-Defendant Experiences Final Report: [SALL Final Report Dec 2023.pdf](#)

ATTACHMENT C

STATEWIDE DOMESTIC VIOLENCE INTERVENTION PROGRAM MALE STATISTICS

January 1, 2023 to December 31, 2023

2023 Statewide Totals

Number of men who were enrolled in the program	1078
Number of men who completed the program (48 weeks)	277
Number of men who left without completing the program (voluntarily, their choice)	62
Number of men who left without completing the program (discharged, expelled)	273
Number of men who re-offended due to a non-DV related incident and went to jail while attending	41
Number of men who re-offended due to a DV related incident and went to jail while attending	73
Number of men who completed but were required to attend again after completion	6
Number of referrals from MDOC probation	762
Number of referrals resulting from filings or condition of release	1
Number of referrals from DHHS	60
Number of protection from abuse referrals (PFA)	0
Number of self-referrals	37
Transfers from other Domestic Violence Intervention Programs	29
Number of other referrals	3
Number of deferred dispositions	170
Number of men with special needs	123
Number of men referred to another provider for mental health services	20
Number of men referred to another provides for substance abuse	5
Number of men referred to another provider for literacy services	0
Number of men referred to another provider for parenting services	14
Number of men referred to another provider for vocational services	2
Number of men referred to another provider for employment services	13
Number of men referred to another provider for financial services	5

ATTACHMENT D

STATEWIDE DOMESTIC VIOLENCE INTERVENTION PROGRAM FEMALE STATISTICS

January 1, 2023 to December 31, 2023

2023 Statewide Totals

Number of women who were enrolled in the program	99
Number of women who completed the program (48 weeks)	27
Number of women who left without completing the program (voluntarily, their choice)	11
Number of women who left without completing the program (discharged, expelled)	9
Number of women who re-offended due to a non-DV related incident and went to jail while attending	5
Number of women who re-offended due to a DV related incident and went to jail while attending	5
Number of women who completed but were required to attend again after completion	1
Number of referrals from MDOC probation	28
Number of referrals resulting from filings or condition of release	1
Number of referrals from DHHS	12
Number of protection from abuse referrals (PFA)	0
Number of self-referrals	1
Transfers from other Domestic Violence Intervention Programs	8
Number of other referrals	0
Number of deferred dispositions	36
Number of women with special needs	14
Number of women referred to another provider for mental health services	17
Number of women referred to another provider for substance abuse	14
Number of women referred to another provider for literacy services	0
Number of women referred to another provider for parenting services	1
Number of women referred to another provider for vocational services	10
Number of women referred to another provider for employment services	10
Number of women referred to another provider for financial services	16