

Outcome Evaluation of the Moderate Intensity Family Violence Prevention Program (MIFVPP)

Iowa Department of Human Rights
Division of Criminal and Juvenile Justice Planning
Statistical Analysis Center

Sarah Rabey, MA
Paul Stageberg, Ph.D., Administrator

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Diversion of abuse is essential in the protection of domestic abuse and assault victims. The Moderate Intensity Family Violence Prevention Program (MIFVPP) is a prison based intervention aimed at reducing subsequent violent behavior of inmates. The purpose of this evaluation is to examine the extent to which participation in MIFVPP is associated with lower rates of subsequent violent assault convictions.

The data consists of offenders who exited prison or work release supervision by way of parole or sentence expiration from January 1, 2009 through December 31, 2011. Offenders who successfully completed MIFVPP and closed supervision were included in the program participant group while offenders with a prior domestic abuse conviction who closed supervision during the timeframe and did not receive MIFVPP, were included in the comparison group. Eligibility for program participation is determined by court order and/or correctional staff discretion based on prior convictions, disclosure of domestic abuse behavior, and offender attitudes reflecting a desire to reduce abusive behavior. Staff discretion influences program placement and explains why not all inmates with domestic abuse convictions receive MIFVPP. Offenders were grouped in cohorts by the year in which they completed supervision. The data set drawn from the Justice Data Warehouse (JDW) consisted of 871 inmates, including 532 program participants and 339 non-program participants.

Recidivism was tracked from January 1, 2009 through December 31, 2012 and defined as any new violent assault conviction (simple misdemeanor or greater) following an offender's supervision status end date. Recidivism was tracked one, two, and three years following prison exit. The summary of findings is below.

- MIFVPP participants released on 2009 and 2011 had lower one-year recidivism rates than the comparison group.
 - Recidivism rates for the 2011 MIFVPP participants were significantly lower than the comparison group (4.7% vs. 11.6%).
 - Recidivism rates for the 2009 MIFVPP participants were slightly lower than the comparison group but failed to reach statistical significance (2.3% vs. 3.7%).
- The 2009 MIFVPP participants had significantly higher recidivism rates than the comparison group at two-year recidivism (34.3% vs. 17.2%) and three-year recidivism (43.4% vs. 22.4%).
- The length of time between intervention completion and supervision closure did not influence recidivism for MIFVPP participants.
- MIFVPP participants who were African American had significantly higher two-year recidivism rates than the African American comparison group (26.2% vs. 13.2%). However, MIFVPP participants who were Caucasian and African American had similar rates of recidivism.
- MIFVPP participants with the lowest two-year rates of recidivism were between the ages of 30-39 (25.0%) and over 50 (10.5%).

MIFVPP participants and the comparison group were comparable in demographic characteristics. There were slight differences between the MIFVPP and comparison group but these differences failed to reach statistical significance.

Table 1: Demographics

Race	MIFVPP		Comparison		Significance
	N	%	N	%	
Caucasian	320	60.3%	206	60.8%	No
African American	190	35.8%	127	37.4%	No
Other Minorities	21	03.9%	06	01.8%	No
Total	531	100%	339	100%	

Ethnicity	MIFVPP		Comparison		Significance
	N	%	N	%	
Non-Hispanic	509	95.9%	319	94.1%	No
Hispanic	22	04.1%	20	05.9%	No
Total	531	100%	339	100%	

Age	MIFVPP		Comparison		Significance
	N	%	N	%	
18-29	185	34.8%	133	39.4%	No
30-39	203	38.2%	120	35.7%	No
40-49	104	19.7%	63	18.3%	No
50+	39	07.3%	23	06.6%	No
Total	531	100%	339	100%	
Mean Age-years	34		28		
Median Age-years	32		32		

**Statistical significance was calculated at a 95% confidence interval*

Key Findings

1.) 2011 and 2009 MIFVPP participants had lower one-year recidivism rates than the comparison group.

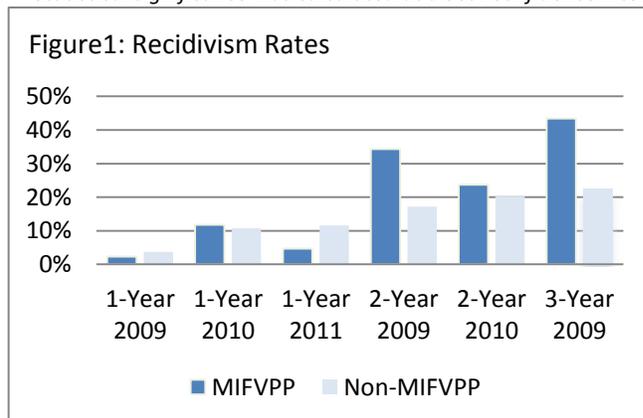
- The 2011 MIFVPP participants had significantly lower one-year recidivism rates than the comparison group (4.7% vs. 11.6%).
- The 2009 MIFVPP participants had slightly lower, but not statistically significant one-year recidivism rates than the comparison group.
- The 2010 MIFVPP participants had slightly higher, but not statistically significant one-year recidivism rates than the comparison group.
- At two-year recidivism the 2009 and 2010 MIFVPP releaseses had significantly higher rates of recidivism than the comparison group (27.1% vs. 18.3%) with similar results reflected at year-three. This effect may be attributable to longer tracking lengths for this particular cohort.

Findings seem to suggest that in 2009 and 2010, MIFVPP participation was associated with increases in recidivism over time. In 2011 however, it appears that sufficient changes were made to the program which have contributed to lower one-year recidivism rates. It is recommended that an evaluation specifically tracking this cohort for longer periods of time be performed to determine the long-term outcomes of MIFVPP.

Table 2: Violent Assaults, One Year Following Supervision Closure

	MIFVPP			Comparison			
	N Total	N Recid	% Recid	N Total	N Recid	% Recid	Significance
One-Year Recidivism							
2009	99	12	02.3%	134	05	03.7%	No
2010	211	25	11.8%	84	09	10.7%	No
2011	221	25	04.7%	121	14	11.6%	Yes
Total	531	62	11.7%	339	28	08.3%	No
Two Year Recidivism							
2009	99	34	34.3%	134	23	17.2%	Yes
2010	211	50	23.7%	84	17	20.2%	No
Total	310	84	27.1%	218	40	18.3%	Yes
Three Year Recidivism							
2009	99	43	43.4%	134	30	22.4%	Yes

**Statistical significance was calculated at a 95% confidence interval*



Findings Cont...

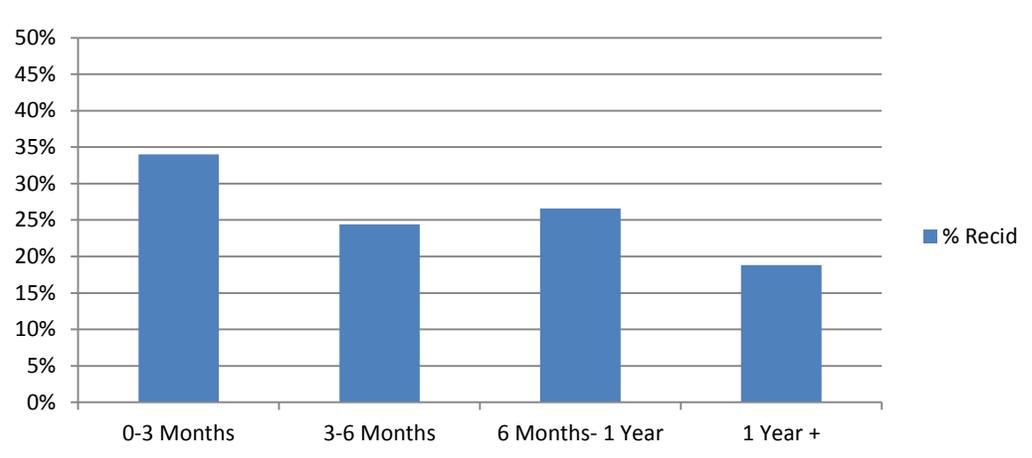
2.) Duration between MIFVPP completion and supervision closure do not influence recidivism.

Some prison based interventions assume that the closer to release an intervention is received the greater its impact. The results of this analysis suggest that this assumption is not true for MIFVPP participants. While it would appear that shorter periods of time between intervention closure and prison exit are associated with higher rates of recidivism, this finding is **not** statistically significant. The time in which MIFVPP is received during prison stay may not be a critical component in reducing recidivism.

Table 3: 2009 and 2010 MIFVPP Participant Two-Year Recidivism, by Months between Intervention and Prison Exit

2009 and 2010, Two Year Recidivism			
Months to Release Following Intervention Closure	N Total	N Recid	% Recid
2009			
0-3 Months	22	09	40.9%
3-6 Months	15	05	33.3%
6 Months – 1 Year	62	20	32.3%
1 Year +	00	00	00.0%
Total	99	34	34.3%
2010			
0-3 Months	28	08	28.6%
3-6 Months	26	05	19.2%
6 Months – 1 Year	141	34	24.1%
1 Year +	16	03	18.8%
Total	211	50	23.7%
Collapsed 2009 and 2010, Two Year Recidivism			
Months to Release following Intervention Closure	N Total	N Recid	% Recid
0-3 Months	50	17	34.0%
3-6 Months	41	10	24.4%
6 Months – 1 Year	203	54	26.6%
1 Year +	16	03	18.8%
Total	310	84	27.1%

Figure 2: 2009 and 2010 MIFVPP Participant Two-Year Recidivism, by Months between Intervention and Prison Exit



Findings Cont...

3.) *Recidivism rates for MIFVPP participants vary by race, ethnicity, and age.*

There were significant differences in reoffending rates by race, ethnicity and age comparing the MIFVPP and comparison groups.

- 2009 and 2010 MIFVPP participants who were African American, Non-Hispanic, or between the ages of 18-29 or 40-49 had significantly higher recidivism rates than the comparison group.
- The two-year recidivism rates for Caucasian and African-American MIFVPP participants were relatively similar.
- Recidivism rates for Caucasians in the MIFVPP and comparison group were fairly similar. African American MIFVPP participants had statistically significant higher recidivism rates than the comparison group (26.2% vs. 13.2%). This may suggest variations in assault reoffending patterns for the African American comparison group. This finding warrants further investigation.

Table 4: Two Year Recidivism for the 2009 and 2010 Cohort, by Demographics

Race		MIFVPP			Comparison			
		N Total	N Recid	% Recid	N Total	N Recid	% Recid	Significant
	Caucasian	194	52	26.8%	129	28	21.7%	No
	African Americans	103	27	26.2%	83	11	13.2%	Yes
	Other Minorities	13	05	38.5%	06	01	16.7%	No

Ethnicity		MIFVPP			Comparison			
		N Total	N Recid	% Recid	N Total	N Recid	% Recid	Significance
	Non-Hispanic	296	81	27.4%	204	38	18.6%	Yes
	Hispanic	14	03	21.4%	14	2	14.3%	No

Age		MIFVPP			Comparison			
		N Total	N Recid	% Recid	N Total	N Recid	% Recid	Significance
	18-29	103	32	31.1%	82	14	17.1%	Yes
	30-39	128	32	25.0%	79	19	24.1%	No
	40-49	60	18	30.0%	43	06	14.0%	Yes
	50+	19	02	10.5%	14	01	07.1%	No
Total		310	84	27.1%	218	40	18.3%	Yes

**Statistical Significance was calculated at a 95% confidence interval*

Summary of Program Observation

The MIFVPP course that this researcher observed contained practical, applicable and behaviorally focused information, inconsistent with Duluth models focusing on shaming and non-behaviorally focused information. Inmates were well engaged and responded to the information presented positively. Further evaluation is necessary to determine the impacts of this program.

Summary and Conclusion

The analysis revealed a variety of interesting findings for the MIFVPP intervention.

- Recidivism rates between MIFVPP and the comparison group varied by cohort and recidivism tracking lengths.
- The duration between MIFVPP completion and prison exit did not significantly influence recidivism, suggesting that the time in which MIFVPP is received within supervision is not a critical component in recidivism reduction.
- Recidivism rates between MIFVPP and the comparison group varied by race, ethnicity, and age with similar rates of recidivism for White and African American MIFVPP participants.

The 2011 MIFVPP participants had significantly lower one-year recidivism rates than the comparison group but at this time we are unable to analyze this group at two- or three-year recidivism. It is recommended that we examine this group by race, age, and ethnicity at longer tracking periods to further evaluate the effects of program completion.

Future evaluations should incorporate the following:

- Examination of prior criminal history for the MIFVPP group to ensure a comparison group which has similar proportions and levels of prior domestic abuse conviction history.
- Examination of offenders who received MIFVPP but did not complete the program to ensure that recidivism results are not simply the result of following inmates who succeed in institutional programming.
- Separately examine reoffending patterns of MIFVPP vs. comparison group releases by institutions with similar security levels; minimum, medium, maximum, and work release.

It is recommended that further decisions pertaining to MIFVPP effectiveness are not made until further evaluations are performed.