

Thompson Domestic Violence Court 2018-19 Report

Submitted to:
The Court Administration Committee
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Introduction

Violence is a growing issue across Canada. It is particularly a concern of the northern regions of provinces where a disproportionate number of violent crimes are reported each year. For example, a recent report by Stats Canada found that Northern Manitoba had the second-highest rate of violence against women and girls in comparison to other parts of northern Canada (Rotenberg, 2019). In 2018, and for the second year in a row, Thompson had the highest violent crime severity rate with a score of 569.85, a staggering 60-point increase from the previous year (Darbyson, 2019).

A study done in 2011 looked specifically at domestic violence in Thompson. It found that approximately 25% of criminal court cases that year were for domestic violence offenses and that the minimum estimated selected annual global cost of Intimate partner abuse in Thompson was \$3,989,648 (Thompson, 2011).

The Thompson Domestic Violence Court (TDVC) project began in 2011. The following description gives a general overview of the current model:

The Thompson Domestic Violence Court is a specialized court providing rehabilitative services to offenders who have been charged with events of domestic violence within the City of Thompson. All offenders charged with domestic violence offences are summonsed to appear in the Thompson Domestic Violence Court, where they have the option to admit their responsibility and receive rehabilitative services before the charges are disposed of. Offenders must make this decision on their 1st appearance. Those who are not prepared to accept responsibility are remanded back to the ordinary courts for adjudication and if found guilty, sentencing. Those who wish to receive treatment, admit their responsibility and are then referred to rehabilitative service, currently provided by Men are Part of the Solution (MAPS) for male offenders and to Manitoba Métis Federation for female offenders. Upon successful completion of programming, the offender is referred back to the Thompson Domestic Violence Court for disposition of the charge (Manitoba Courts, 2014).

Background

The Manitoba Prosecution Policy Directive for Domestic Violence states that:

Crimes of domestic violence provide unique challenges for the criminal justice system. Manitoba Prosecution Service's policy concerning domestic violence has two primary objectives; first, to provide protection and support to victims and their families and

second, to ensure that offenders face meaningful consequences for their actions. In accordance with Manitoba Justice's Restorative Justice and Diversion Policy(5:COM1.1), meaningful consequences can include participation by the offender in treatment programs with the goal of reducing the risk of re-offending (Manitoba Department of Justice Prosecution, 2015).

Manitoba has a long history of working with domestic violence treatment programs. In 1990 the Winnipeg Provincial Court became the first court in Canada to develop a specialized response to family violence cases, known as the Winnipeg Family Violence Court (Ursel, 1995; Comack & Balfour, 2004; Ursel, 2013). Pointing to the weakness of the one-dimensional adversarial model based on 'outcome' rather than 'process,' this new court was seen as "redressing dangerous power imbalances (a complex process of empowerment)" (Ursel, 2002, p. 48). The 'Winnipeg model' introduces a delay of proceedings until the individual completes a treatment program. Successful completion will result in a stay of proceedings (Ursel, 2006). The specialized treatment court model follows a growing emergence of restorative justice and community peacemaking initiatives across Canada (Bonnycastle, 2007).

In June 2004, one of Thompson's judges attended a symposium on domestic violence sponsored by the Canadian Association of Provincial Court Judges in Whitehorse, Yukon. One session involved a presentation on the Whitehorse domestic violence initiative involving the establishment of a specialized domestic violence court in the Yukon. The 'Yukon model' takes the form of a treatment court in which offenders sentenced to treatment report back to the court regularly during the treatment program (Hornick, Boyes, Tutty, Bertrand & Paetsch,2004). While the Yukon is very different from northern Manitoba, both places shared specific attributes (including isolation from southern Canada and a sparse but youthful population) and social problems (a high incidence of drug and alcohol abuse, deprivation and lack of social resources).

Questioning whether the Whitehorse initiative might provide some useful guidance in addressing the issue of family violence in northern Manitoba, the judge invited the Director of Probation Services to meet with the local Court Administration Committee. This committee consisted of Provincial Judges and representative of the defence bar, Crown Attorney's Office and Court Services) to consider a specialized domestic violence court in Northern Manitoba. Those attending the meeting expressed an interest in investigating the proposal further and identified various organizations and groups who would potentially have an interest in such a project. The follow-up meeting that occurred on May 20th, 2005 took the form of a ½ day brainstorming session at which the group addressed four questions, namely:

1. Are there any shortcomings in the system presently used to address events of domestic violence?
2. What improvements can be made to address those shortcomings?
3. What resources existing within the community might be available to implement the improvements?
4. What can we do to access those resources effectively?

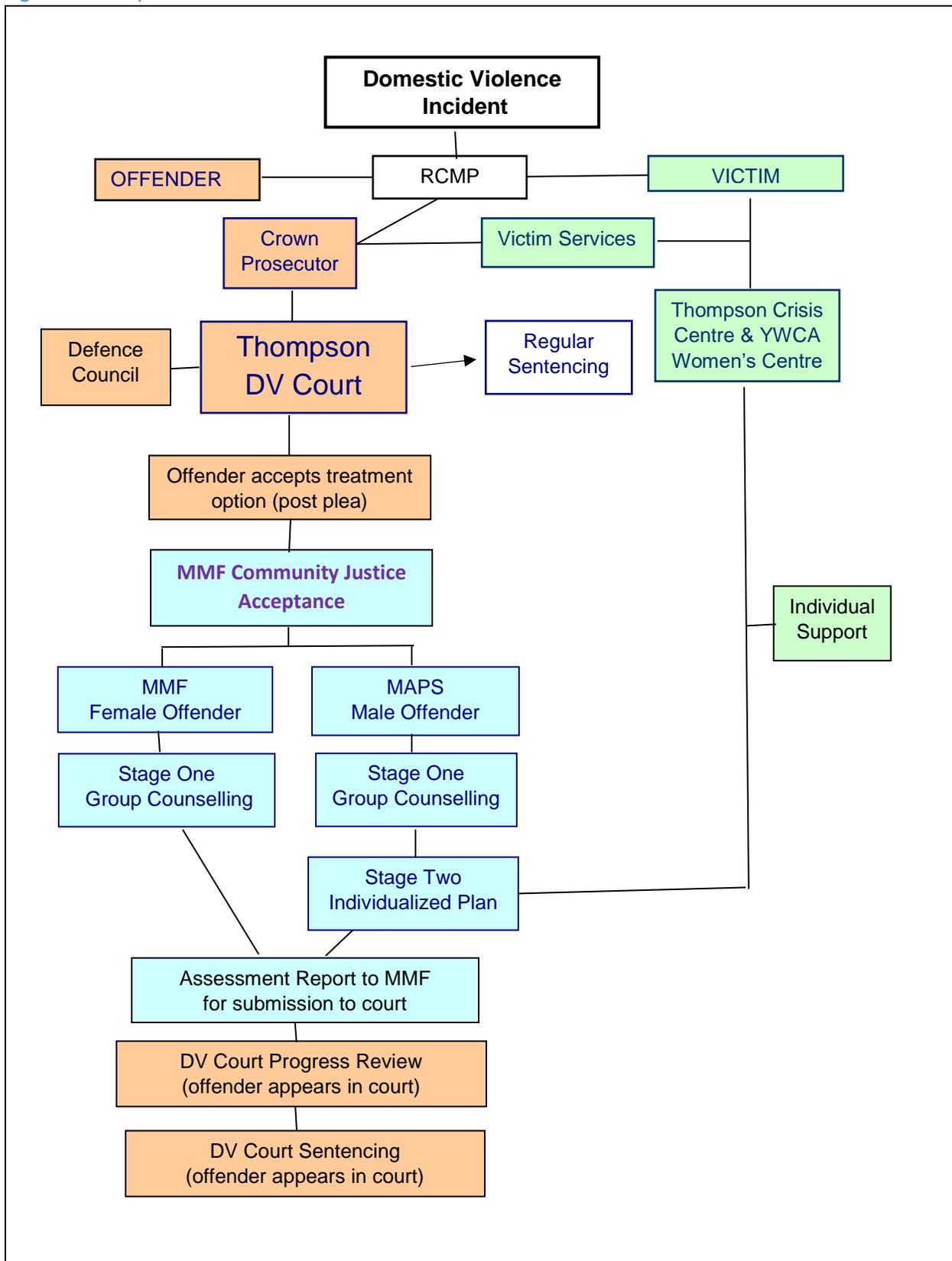
That group, consisting of representatives from Probation Services, Legal Aid Manitoba, Crown Attorney's Office, the Crisis Centre, Addictions Foundation of Manitoba, Northern Restorative Justice Committee, the Burntwood Regional Health Authority and the Provincial Bench, reached a consensus that improvements are needed and that resources within the community could be utilized to make those improvements. A subcommittee made up members representing Legal Aid Manitoba, the Crisis Centre, and the Burntwood Regional Housing Authority was struck to investigate and make recommendations on a model for intervention in events of domestic violence.

Over the next number of years, the subcommittee developed a model that, like the Whitehorse initiative, emphasized early intervention for the offender, but placed more emphasis on the victim. The result was the production of a report recommending the establishment of the TDVC project for the City of Thompson and a support program for victims of domestic violence (Bonnycastle, 2010). The letter that accompanied the report, submitted to the Minister of Justice in May of 2010, stated that that the committee anticipated that it could operate this court and the offender programming associated with it by coordinating existing resources and without the need for additional dollars from Government. It further stated that the committee was not, though, in a position to establish the Victim Support Program, which the subcommittee considered to be essential to the model, without allocation of additional resources.

Domestic Violence Intervention Model

The original model consisted of two components. A domestic violence court would ensure that offenders, who take responsibility for their abusive behaviour, would receive early access to rehabilitative programming. The victim support program envisaged a team of specialists (the family violence intervention team) providing timely support services to victims of family violence in all reported cases. The adequate provision of early intervention services to victims would also make a significant difference to children in families experiencing domestic violence. The model for the TDVC went through several modifications during its development stages. Limited funding caused the scaling back of the model to one with a focus primarily on early intervention and support for offenders (see figure 1).

Figure 1: Thompson Domestic Violence Court Model



The RCMP start the process with their investigation of all domestic violence incidents that occur in Thompson. Using a similar protocol to that used in the Yukon model, the RCMP attempt to provide a Prosecutor Information Sheet with basic facts, record and charges to the Crown Prosecutor before the next TDVC sitting. For those arrested, there will need to be some exceptions to this rule, resulting in a few cases having to appear in general court.

Unlike several specialized courts, such as the Winnipeg model (Ursel, 2006), the TDVC does not provide a form of diversion in its model. It is fashioned more after the Yukon model (<http://www.yukoncourts.ca/courts/territorial/dvtoc.html>), and Saskatchewan model (<https://sasklawcourts.ca/index.php/home/provincial-court/adult-criminal-court/domestic-court>), where accused persons are offered treatment only after they have pleaded guilty, and their sentencing withheld until after they have had a chance to complete the treatment program. Therapy based on the psychoeducational group counselling model, and the power and control wheel developed under the Duluth Model of Intervention is generally followed (Mederos, 1999).

The principles which the original committee considers to be the incentives for the accused to consider an early guilty plea are as follows:

1. **Best Interests of the Client.** Receiving the assistance, they need to develop and maintain healthier lifestyles and make better choices is in their best interest and the best interests of their families. This incentive is the case whether the family decides to remain together or to move on.
2. **Testimony bargaining.** Under the model, there is an increased incentive to “cut a deal.” With public knowledge that there are treatment options available to the offender, the victim may be more willing to testify. It may also improve the prosecution’s case and reduces collapse rates. As a result, the defence will be more inclined towards ‘testimony bargaining,’ which in turn increases the likelihood of a guilty plea at first appearance.
3. **Early intervention.** The TDVC is only available to those pleading guilty. With fast-tracking of cases and open intakes into the psycho-educational group counselling (Stage One of the program), the offender can obtain services quickly. The committee holds the belief that the sooner the offender becomes involved in the treatment, the more likely it is for that person to work on their feelings of remorse. The more genuine the remorse, the more likelihood there is that change will occur.
4. **Problem-solving.** Shifting the focus of the court towards problem-solving increases the incentive of the offender to take responsibility, show remorse, and seek treatment. In the proposed model, each family member can receive the help they need expeditiously. This process may act as an incentive for the offender to plead guilty.

5. **Personalizing responsibilities** - Treatment requires individuals to take responsibility for both the charges that brought them before the court and their violence. The TDVC model allows the accused to make such a choice, to work at healing and positive change or to be involved in the traditional system.
6. **Culturally Sensitive.** The model fits with the cultural component of our demographics, which holds to the restoring of relationships and truth-telling. With its focus on being more responsive to needs, it offers the accused something different than “innocent until proven guilty.”

Analysis

In the development stage of the TDVC, an emphasis was placed on the importance of program evaluation. Though there has been some gathering of data in subsequent years, there has yet to be a comprehensive study of the effects of the TDVC. Initially, the subcommittee recommended gathering data from several sources (Bonnycastle, 2010). In terms of offenders, evaluation could come from three quantitative sources:

1. The number of domestic violence cases each year in Thompson. Comparing such yearly RCMP statistics would give us some idea as to whether the number of domestic violence cases is increasing or decreasing in Thompson over a specified time frame (e.g., five years).
2. The number (and percentage) of DV charges, stay of proceedings, guilty pleas, trials, and sentences each year. These numbers include both those who go through the TDVC and those who go through regular court sentencing. Comparing these figures to similar numbers taken from previous years would give insight into the program’s overall effect.
3. A Manitoba comprehensive search of the Justice PRISM database to determine how many TDVC offenders have re-offended in the year following completion of their sentence. Along with this measure of recidivism, the search may also be able to expand to compare recidivism rates in those who have gone through the TDVC to those charged with domestic violence that did not.

Many of these sources of data have been proven to be hard to get at, due primarily to time and human resources issues within the various agencies involved. In 2018, a decision of the Thompson DV Court Committee to do a more straightforward analysis of the Thompson Domestic Violence Court was agreed on, using data for the fiscal year starting April 1, 2018, and ending March 31st, 2019. Data for this analysis would come from three sources: RCMP records, Domestic Violence Court dockets, and DV Treatment Program records (MAPS and MMF).

A. RCMP Records

Initially, the RCMP agreed to supply information on domestic violence incidents in Thompson for the 2018-19 fiscal year, broken down in terms of month and gender. What was received was a breakdown for the 2018 calendar year into five (unequal) periods and shown in Table 1.

Reported Periods	Months	D.V. Incidents	Average per Month
01-01 to 03-31	3	51	17
04-01 to 06-30	3	78	26
07-01 to 08-30	2	51	25.5
09-01 to 10-31	2	55	27.5
11-01 to 12-31	2	56	28
Year Total	12	291	24.25

Table 1: Thompson RCMP Domestic Violence Incidents - 2018

As shown there were 291 domestic violence incidents recorded by the RCMP in Thompson during 2018. It also shows an average of 24.25 cases per month (low 17; high 28). In their report, the RCMP stated that “There may be some that were missed, as these are the ones that are flagged as family violence. If that gets missed, then it will only show up as an Assault and not as a domestic”.

For comparative purposes, a 2011 report by the Thompson RCMP Detachment “reported that they had handled 176 ‘strictly domestic violence’ cases in 2011” (Thompson, 2012, p. 4). Comparing the two recorded year totals shows a rise of 65% in reported cases and an increase in average monthly incidents from 14.7 to 24.25 incidents. It is unknown if this reflects a growing trend over the past seven years or understood as just a bubble – a single year. It does, in some ways, show similarities to the province-wide pattern regarding increases to the total number of violent crime violations for 2014-2018 (Stats Canada, 2018). Also, the increase in reported incidents may reflect changes in attitudes towards domestic violence in Thompson and with Department of Justice policy (for example, see Manitoba Dept. of Justice, 2015). As such, people may just be coming forward more. Joy Thompson reminds us that “We know from numerous studies that only 22% of incidents of intimate partner abuse are reported to police” (2012, p. 4).

Data is not available to help know exactly how many of the domestic violence incidents reported by the RCMP in 2018 were brought forward into the TDVC, how many were brought forward in regular provincial court and how many were dismissed for lack of evidence or other circumstances. That said the next section provides some insights into the DV Court docket.

B. Domestic Violence Court Dockets

The following information is based on a review of 18 TDVC dockets for the fiscal year 2018-19.

Table 2 provides data on the number of people placed on the court docket for each sitting.

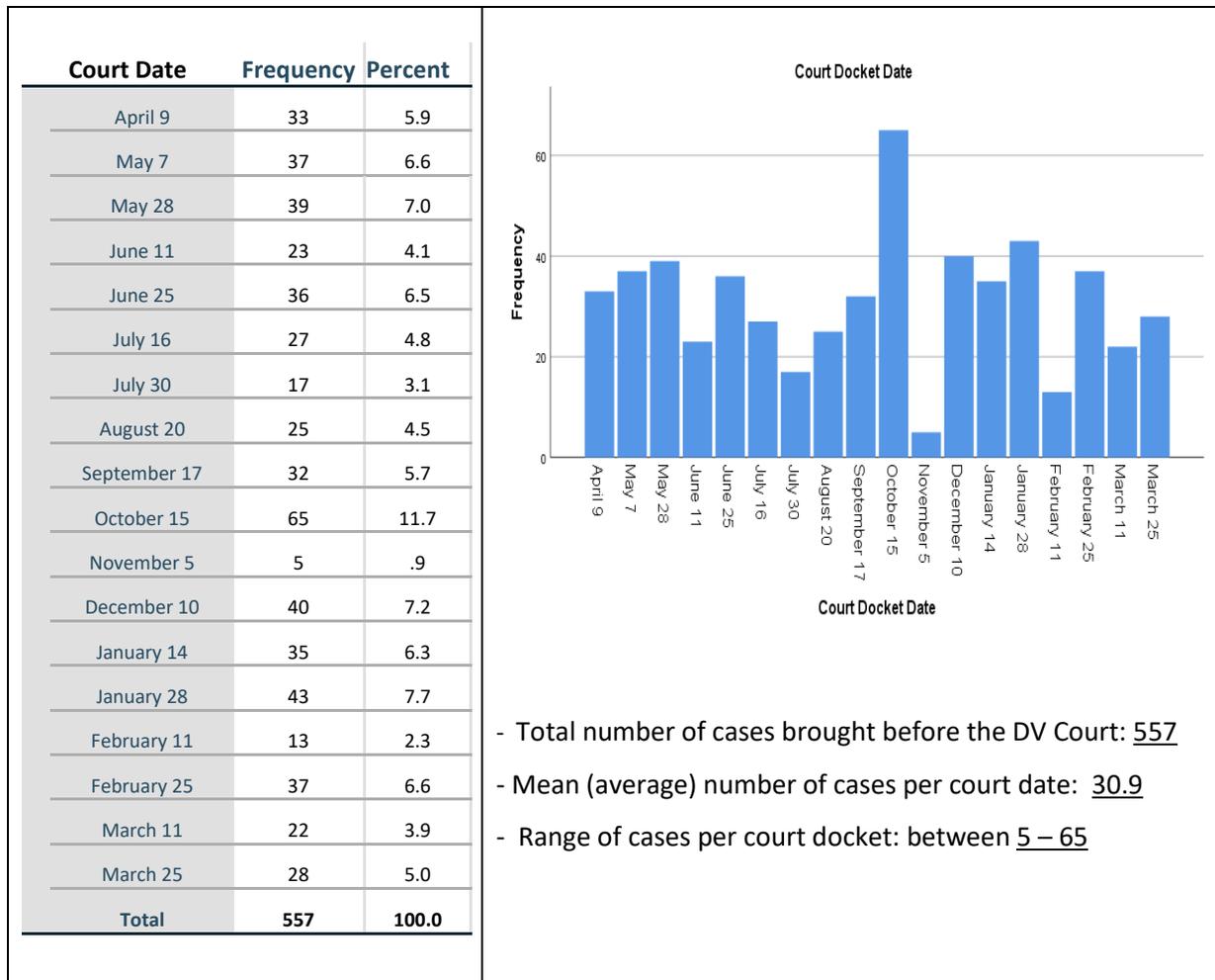


Table 2: Court Dates – Number of Cases Between April 9th, 2018 and March 25th, 2019

The average number of cases brought before the TDVC was 30.9 with a range between 5 cases on November 5th and 65 cases on October 15th. The graph shows that there is no pattern regarding high and low seasons in the year. It is important to remember that the total number (557) does not represent the total number of individuals that appeared before the Thompson DV court in the one year. Rather it represents the number of appearances. Many individuals were seen multiple times over the year in review.

Further analysis is needed to get an accurate number of individuals that appeared before TDVC in the year under review. That numbers may reflect closer to the RCMP stats shown in Table 1, though we also have to take into consideration that there is a screening process to help determine eligibility to enter the TDVC. Some cases would have been dealt with in regular

provincial court. The court dockets do provide the date of the offence and the date of the first appearance. From that comparison, the following numbers were ascertained (see Table 3).

Category	Frequency	Percent
Yes	201	36.1
No	320	57.5
Brought Forward	3	.5
In Custody	4	.7
For Justice Committee Update	28	5.0
For PA	1	.2
Total	557	100.0

Table 3: First Appearances Before the Thompson DV Court

Of the 557 cases recorded, there were 201 (36.1%) who could be considered entering the DV Court for the first time relating to a new charge(s) within the 12 months. This figure may give a rough estimate of the number of people who seen before the TDVC during the year. The table also shows that 320 (57.5%) had been before the court previously. Four other categories occasionally showed up on the court docket. Together they make up 36 or 6.4% of the cases.

A vital aspect of the TDVC process is early intervention. Common sense would say that the quicker an individual appears before the TDVC, the more responsibility they will take for their actions. Table 4 (below) looks at the time between the incident and the court date.

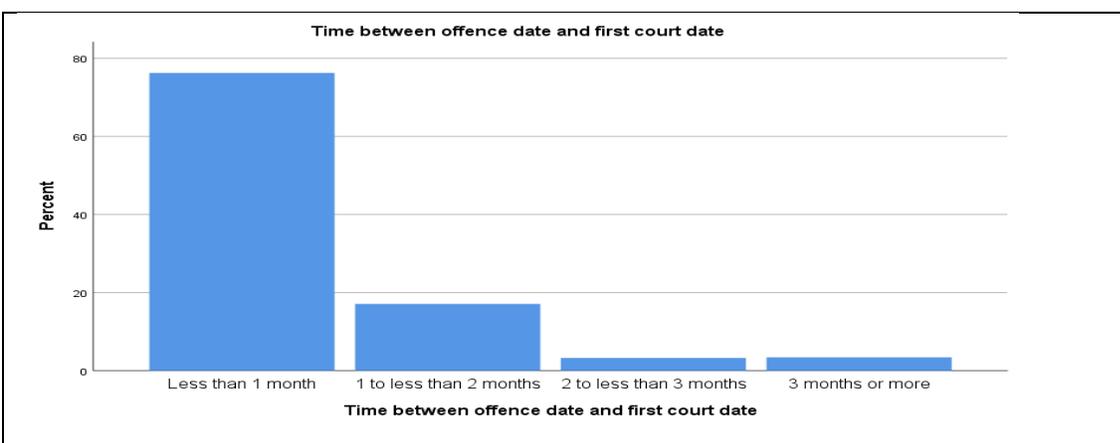


Table 4: Time Between Offence Date and First Thompson DV Court Appearance

It shows that 76.1% (424) of the individuals brought before the TDVC in a time of less than one month of the incident. An additional 17.1% (95) were brought before the TDVC in a time of one

month to less than two months. A further 3.2% (18) took two to less than three months, and 3.4% (19) took three months or more.

Comparing these figures to the average time it takes to enter regular Provincial Court would determine if there are any differences. That said, it is acknowledged that the Thompson Court is currently struggling with needs for improvements after complaints of long delays and limited court time (see <https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/manitoba/thompson-court-house-justice-system-plagued-systemic-issues-1.5162525>).

Another critical area that is important to look at in terms of TDVC statistics is gender. Table 5 shows the number of and percentages of male and female individuals coming before the TDVC.

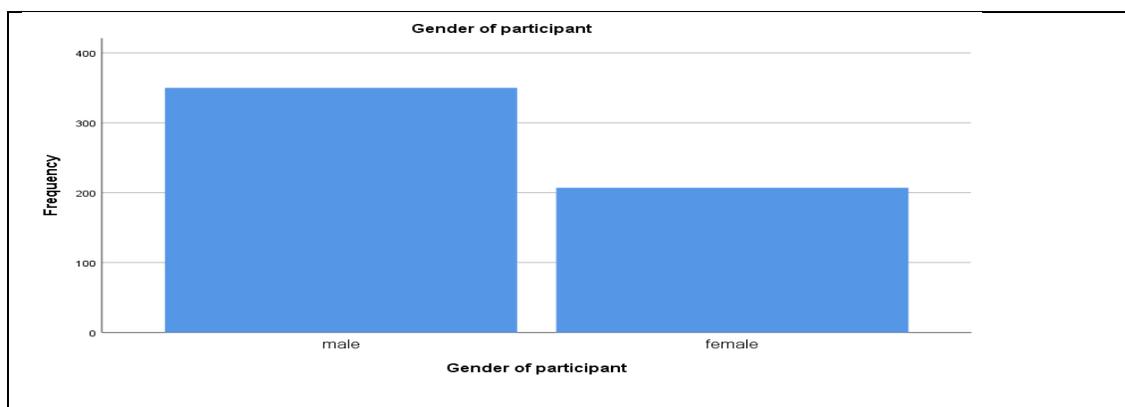


Table 5: Gender Breakdown of Participants

Though often perceived as strictly a male offence, the above table challenges that notion somewhat, showing that approximately 2/3rds (350/62.8%) of the participants in the DV Court identified as male, while the other third (207/37.2%) identified as female. These numbers fit with the Canadian average where “Females are twice as likely as males to be victims of police-reported family violence” (Burczycka and Conroy, 2017, p. 36).

Though it is essential to acknowledge that the number of women being charged with domestic violence offence is increasing over time, it is also vital that we be careful with how we talk about women as perpetrators, as the following denotes:

Women who use violence and hurt their male partners are generally the women who are completely isolated and have no one to “watch their back!”. Women’s prisons are filled with (Indigenous) women who were protecting themselves from violence and in the process their aggressor died. Therefore, it is really important to not mutualize violence and articulate the difference between violence and self-defence. Many Indigenous women are labelled as aggressors when they defend themselves (Richardson, 2019, p. 5).

Gender analysis was also done to look if there were differences in the time of the incident and male and female participants having their first appearance in TDVC. Cross tabulations regarding gender and first appearance found no differences emerging. Men made up 62.5% (125) of those attending for the first time, while women made up 37.8% (76).

The last part of the analysis done on the court dockets focused on the number and type of offences brought before the TDVC during the one year. Table 6 shows a breakdown of the first criminal charges gathered from the court dockets.

Criminal Code Offence	Frequency	Percent
ASLT 266	376	67.5
ASLT W/WEAP 267(A)	44	7.9
ASLT - CBH 267(B)	11	2.0
UTTER THRT 264.1(1)	11	2.0
FAIL COMP COND UTPO/OIC - NO CONTACT 145(5.1)	39	7.0
FAIL COMP P A - ATTEND CRT 145(5)	36	6.5
FAIL COMP P O - NO CONTACT 7333.1(1)	13	2.3
FAIL COMP COND UTP/OIC - ABSTAIN 145(5.1)	8	1.4
MISCHIEF PROP UNDER 430(4)	2	.4
HSEBRK ENT W/INT 348(1)(A)	1	.2
AG ASSAULT 268(2)	2	.4
OPER ALCOHOL BLD-MV 253(1)(B)	1	.2
THEFT UNDER 334(B)	5	.9
THEFT OVER 334(A)	1	.2
OBSTRUCT/RESIST P O 129(A)	1	.2
ROBBERY	1	.2
FORCIBLE CONFINEMENT 279(3)	1	.2
HSEBRK ENT - MISCHIEF 348(1)(B)	1	.2
CRIMINAL HARRASSMENT 264	1	.2
APPL ORD DISP	1	.2
FAIL COMP COND RECOG - NO CONTACT 145(3)	1	.2
Total	557	100.0

Table 6: 1st Criminal Code Charge

Again, it is crucial to understand the repetitive aspect here. Like the actual number of participants spoken of earlier, the numbers regarding types of charges shown here are affected

by the number of times participants appeared before the TDVC. Table 6 list 22 different 1st Criminal Code charges found in the review of the 18 TDVC dockets for the year. Two-thirds (376/67.5%) of the charges were for ASLT 266, often called common assault. Beaupré (2015), looking at the period 2005/2006 to 2010/2011, found a national average of 43% of Intimate Partner Assault charges being ASLT 266. The findings for the TDVC are 24.5% higher than this average. The higher number shown for Thompson might reflect the Crown prosecutor screening criteria used for eligibility into the TDVC. Forty-four people (7.9%) were charged with the next highest Criminal Code offence, ASLT W/WEAP 267(A). The third highest used charge was FAIL COMP COND UTPO/OIC - NO CONTACT 145(5.1), with 39 (7%) individuals charged.

A number of the individuals who came before the court had more than one charge. Table 7 shows the breakdown of second charges taken from the TDVC dockets.

Criminal Code Offence	Frequency	Percent
FAIL COMP COND UTJ - NO CONTACT 145(5.1)	10	8.4
FAIL COMP COND UTPO/OIC - ABSTAIN 145(5.1)	24	20.2
FAIL COMP P O KPBGB 733.1(1)	2	1.7
ASLT 266	24	20.2
FAIL COMP UTJ - NOT ATTEND COURT 145 (5.1)	6	5.1
FAIL COMP P O - NOT ATTEND 733.1(1)	5	4.2
MISCHIEF -PROP UNDER 430(4)	8	6.7
OPER IMP-MV 253(1)(A)	4	3.4
UTTER THRT 264.1(1) (A)	7	5.9
FORCIBLE CONFINEMENT 279(2)	9	7.6
THEFT UNDER 334(B)	2	1.7
ASLT W/WEAP 267(A)	6	5.1
DISOBEY CRT ORD 127(1)	3	2.5
OBSTRUCT/RESIST PO - LAW EXECUTION 129(A)	1	0.8
OPER DANG - MV - 249(1)(A)	2	1.7
WEAP OFF - POSS FOR DANG PURP 88(1):WEAP 88(2)	2	1.7
CSE - DRUNK/FIGHT/IMPEDE/SWEAR 175(1)	2	1.7
ASLT - CBH 267(B)	2	1.7
Total	119	100

Table 7: Second Criminal Code Charge

The table shows that 119 individuals or 21.4% of the 557 participants had a second charge. Of those charges, FAIL COMP COND UTPO/OIC - ABSTAIN 145(5.1) and ASLT 266 were the most common, both at 24(20.2%) each. Also, some individuals came forward with three charges. Table 8 provides details on those charges.

Criminal Code Offence	Frequency	Percent
ASLT 266	10	34.5
FAIL COMP COND UTPO/OIC - NOT ATTEND 145(5.1)	1	3.4
FAIL COMP PO NO CONTACT 733.1(1)	1	3.4
FAIL COMP COND UTPO/OIC - NO CONTACT 145 (5.1)	1	3.4
FORCIBLE ENTRY 73	2	6.9
UTTER THRT PROP 263.1(1)	3	10.3
OBSTRUCT/RESIST PO - LAWFUL EXECUTION 129(A)	2	6.9
MISCHIEF - PROP UNDER 430(4)	5	17.2
DISOBEY CRT ORD 127(1)	1	3.4
THEFT UNDER 334(B)	2	6.9
FAIL COMP COND RECOG - ABSTAIN 145(3)	1	3.4
Total	29	100

Table 8: Third Criminal Code Charge

This table shows a total of 29 individuals or 5.2% of the 557 participants had listed a third charge on the dockets. Of those charges, ASLT 266 was the most frequent (10/34.5%), followed by MISCHIEF - PROP UNDER 430(4) (5/17.2%). Four cases (0.7%) on the dockets showed a person having a fourth charge. Half of these were for MISCHIEF - PROP UNDER 430(4).

We now will move onto our third set of statistics. The two treatment programs utilized for the DV Court provided this information.

C. DV Treatment Program records (MAPS and MMF)

As previously shown in the DV Court model (see Figure 1), referrals to the DV treatment programs first go through the Manitoba Metis Federation (MMF) Community Justice Program. Statistics provided by the MMF show a total of 69 clients were referred to the DV Treatment program by the courts during the year surveyed (see Table 9).

Gender	Referred	Successful	Not Completed	Ongoing
Male	43 (62.3%)	9 (13%)	3 (4.3%)	31 (44.9)
Female	26 (37.7%)	13 (18.8%)	0 (0%)	13 (18.8%)
Totals	69 (100%)	22 (31.9%)	3 (4.3%)	44 (63.8%)

Table 9: Treatment Program Referrals

Comparative stats from the previous year showed 76 participants referred to the two programs (Bonnycastle, 2018). These statistics do not include the number of individuals that were assigned to programs the previous year and were still active in the two programs.

Of the 69 individuals referred, 43 (62.3%) were male, and 26 (37.7%) were female. These numbers show a gender reversal from the previous year, where 45 (59.2%) were female, and 31 (40.8%) were male (Bonnycastle, 2018). The above table further shows that close to one third (31.9%) had completed the program and nearly two thirds(63.8%) of the referrals were still in the programs as of March 31st, 2019. Only three people (4.3%) had not completed the program and would have been referred back to the TDVC for regular sentencing.

The above table shows that 50% of the women referred were able to complete the program in the year. In comparison, only 21% of the men were able to complete the program in the year. This higher completion number for females likely reflects the time differences between the two programs. The MAPS program takes a much longer time to complete.

Information obtained on 54 males in the MAPS program show an age range from under 20 years of age to 60 years and older (see Table 10). The vast majority of these men were in the 20-29 and 30-39 age range. Note that these statistics include 11 males, either self-referred or referred from Manitoba Probation Services.

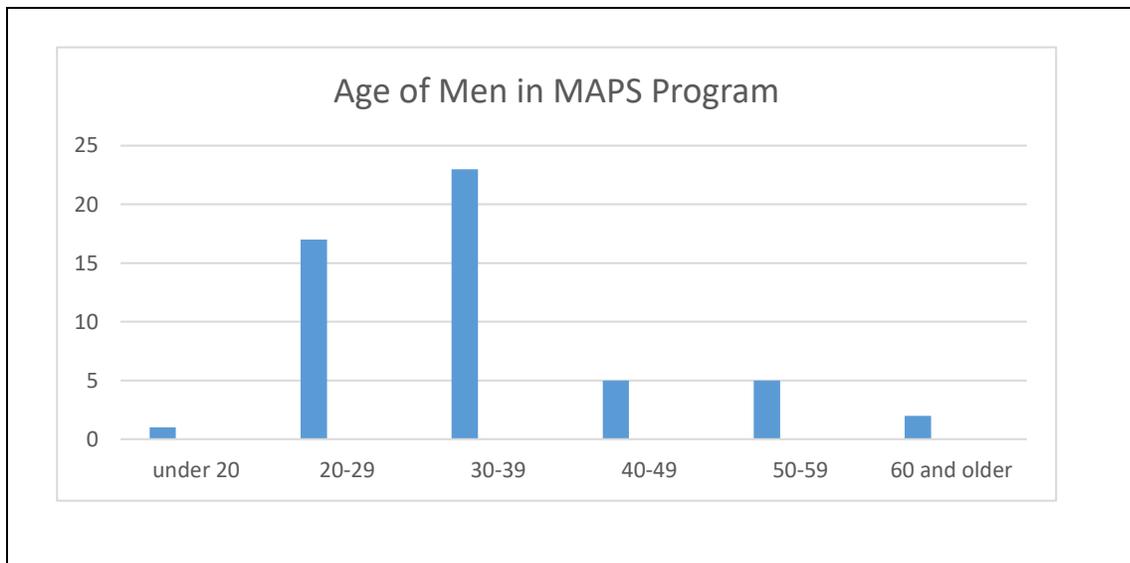


Table 10: Age of Men Enrolled in the MAPS program 2018-19

Information on female participants for the same period was not made available by MMF. Looking at the overall stats from the previous year we find a similar mix, though this time 43.7% of the participants were in the 20-29 year age group, 25% were in the 30-39 year age group, and 23.7% were in the 40-49 year age group. This difference reflects the inclusion of females in

last years count, with approximately 50% of them located in the 20-29 year age category (Bonnycastle, 2018).

Data on identity was not included in the overall Treatment Program statistics this year. The previous year report showed 78.9% of the participants identified as Status. This number consists of both male and female participants (Bonnycastle, 2018). The following pie-chart (table 11) does show a breakdown of information on five categories gathered on the men enrolled in the MAPS program during 2018-19. From the diagram, you can see that over 50% of the males in the program identified as Status, while Anglo Canadian and Aboriginal shared the next two significant percentages.

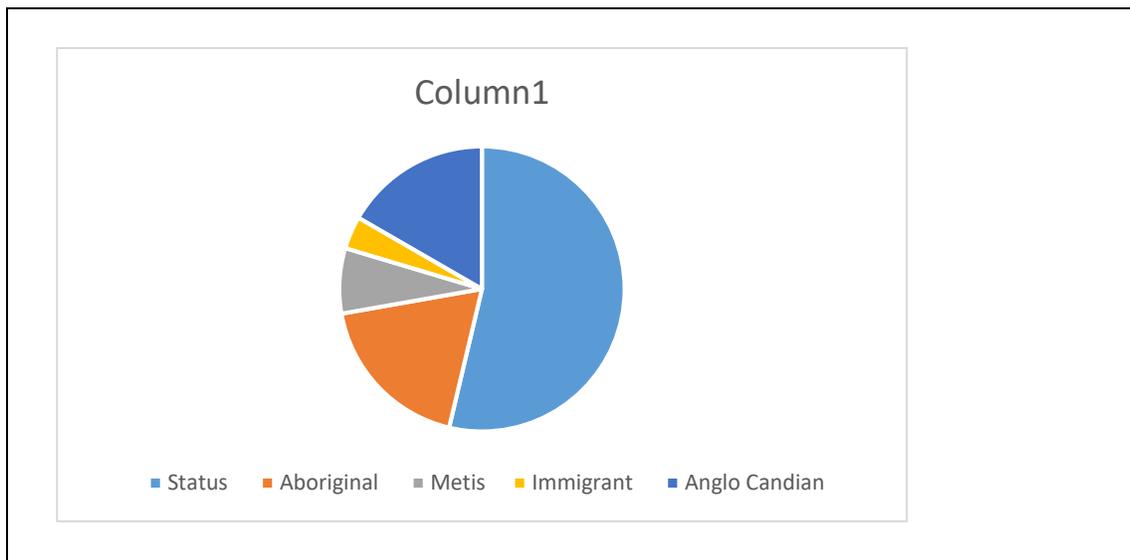


Table 11: Identity of Men Enrolled in the MAPS program 2018-19

In addition to the quantitative data provided, the two treatment programs did provide some qualitative data gathered from client evaluation forms (See Appendix A & B). Appendix A includes input from 28 participants through the MMF Thompson Community Justice Program Client Evaluation Form. It is cautioned that “Some of the forms may have been filled in by none domestic violence clients.” The feedback also represents individuals in both the male and female treatment programs. Appendix B provides feedback from MAPS Anger Management Group Member Evaluations. As such, it focuses on responses from male participants. As the program includes some men who attend the sessions voluntarily or through probation orders (not DV Court ordered) there is caution recommended in reading these also. Both of the two evaluation tools show many positive comments about the programs and their staff.

Discussion

This report did not set out to evaluate the Thompson Domestic Violence Court project in terms of its success in both rehabilitating offenders of domestic violence (often measured in terms of recidivism rates) nor in terms of overall reductions of domestic violence incidents in the City of Thompson. It merely measures the activities of the participating agencies (RCMP, DV Court, two community justice agencies) through the gathering and analysis of three sets of data provided.

The numbers do show a high prevalence of domestic violence in Thompson and one that may be growing each year. This fact should concern all that are involved in the justice system, from the RCMP to the courts, from the agencies involved in the TDVC treatment to services such as the Thompson Crisis Centre. It is probably easy to state that they all could use increased funding in order to provide adequate supports and programming. The high numbers also reflect increased needs for victims, such as increased spaces in DV shelters and transitional housing along with the availability of more affordable housing in Thompson and across the North (Bonnycastle, Hughes, Bonnycastle, Nixon & Groening, 2019).

In concluding this section, it is essential to acknowledge that there are differences between the two programs, particularly in terms of required time in the treatment programs. Female participants have a much shorter participation time than their male counterparts. They usually complete the DV program in a weekend as compared to multiple weeks for the men (both in the group and individual sessions). This difference is due primarily to resources – the MMF program does not receive any direct funding to run its DV program. Further funding is a necessary equitable requirement to correct this distinction.

Recommendations

The above analysis reflects the participants that were involved in the Thompson DV Court Project between April 2018 and March 2019. It is suggested that improvements could be made in data gathering by other components of the criminal justice system involved in order to get a more detailed picture. The following data categories are suggestions for a more robust annual analysis of the project in the future:

1. The number of DV investigations that come before Thompson RCMP each month, broken down by gender.
2. The number of DV cases that come to the Crown's office.
3. The number of these cases that are determined eligible for DV Court.
4. Examples of possible reasons for not being eligible.
5. The number of cases placed on the DV Court docket each month.
6. The number of clients that agreed to enter a guilty plea.

7. The number of cases that were successfully accepted by Judge and referred to MMF Community Justice.
8. Examples of possible reasons for not being accepted.
9. The number of cases referred to the MAPS (men) and MMF (women) programs.
10. The number of successful completions and the time spent by each of these persons in each program (from referral date to date of the report back to MMF Community Justice.)
11. The number of unsuccessful completions and the time spent by each of these persons in each program (from referral date to date of the report back to MMF Community Justice).
12. Examples of possible reasons for unsuccessful completions.
13. The number of cases still ongoing and the time spent by each of these persons in each program (from referral date to date of statistical report completion).
14. The number of cases MMF Community Justice referred back to the courts for sentencing.
15. Recidivism rates measured by whether the individual has been charged with further events of domestic violence. Including a determined time on this would also be helpful.

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Appendix A: Comments from MMF Thompson Community Justice Program Client Evaluation Forms

1. How was your experience working with the Community Justice Worker?

- Good
- I like working with Leanne. She is very nice lady and patient. Sometimes I'd get my days mixed up but she will find a way to squeeze me in
- Chris is helpful and she did a good job. Information provided opened my eyes. I recommend couples to take this program.
- Very helpful and has all information on hand, great experience.
- All good. Very helpful.
- Helpful.
- This experience has been eye opening, and also very helpful.
- It was an eye opener for me. And that I understand a little better.
- It was very good and understanding very helpful.
- It was simple and an eye opener for some things. I really enjoyed going to Babies Best Start.
- Working with him really good and realize this program it's good to learn everything that I never known.
- It helped me lots.
- Good. Having to help me with my case.
- I learned a few different steps to deal with crazy situations
- Good, all topics discussed were helpful. Justice worker was experienced and very good to listen to.
- My experience was good, they keep you on track.
- Good.
- My worker was very informative and easy to talk to, all around a good guy.
- Chris Kruger is doing an awesome job and very helpful.
- It was good – very helpful.
- Was good.
- It was experience working with the community justice work. My first time beginning healing.
- My experience working with the community services was understanding about relationships in violence.
- Very good, understanding all about abuse and types of abuse.
- Pleasant, educational.
- It was ok interesting understanding violence and behaviours.
- There were good information in the program. I learned a few things about myself I didn't know. She was a good teacher.
- A great, positive experience.
- My experience working with the community worker was great. She taught me things I didn't know.

2. What Sanctions were you required to complete as part of your case plan?

- Domestic violence
- Take counselling; stay away from partner; come to each court date.
- To complete the Anger Management Program for Women.
- Domestic violence programming. Community hours.
- Finishing the course.
- Defence mechanism, understanding anger. Alternatives to violence, patterns of violence. E.P.R.D socialization, values and beliefs, C.S. Assertiveness. C.S. Conflict Resolution, realistic relationships, impact on children. Planning for the future.
- Counselling (domestic violence)
- Up to session #8 of them.
- Community hours. Babies Best Start Sessions. Apology letter. Anger Management course.
- Good
- Start a new road and make new plans.
- To finish this program.
- Domestic violence program.
- I had to do AFM, community hours and apologize letter.
- DV counselling. NO contact.
- AFM Assessment. 10 hours community service at the Humane Society. And, a letter of self-reflection.
- Community Service; apology letter; sessions with futures; AFM with Cheryl.
- How to control my anger.
- 8 individual sessions and 12 group sessions (MAPS).
- All of them.
- Domestic violence programming.
- I was required to take this for domestic violence.
- I was required to complete the sanctions of domestic violence.
- Further my education on how to be a better person.
- Taking this program "Domestic Violence".
- 10 hours community service; violence domestic training; 12 sessions of good parenting; apology letter to victim.
- To take Domestic Violence Program.

3. Of all the things undertaken, what was the most helpful? What was least helpful?

- Everything was helpful
- I'd have to say impact on children was the most helpful because I don't want my kids repeating the things I've done. All the topics were very helpful to me.

- Getting these resources and having this workshop in our community.
- The Domestic Violence Course was helpful. It opened my eyes to things that I had never thought of. Community hours – didn't see how cleaning up helps.
- Effects of violence on children.
- The most helpful has got to be conflict resolution.
- Most helpful would be flight or fight. Taking time out and talking with someone other than relative or friend. Counselling would be better.
- Understanding anger.
- Babies Best Start was helpful to me. Community hours I did not enjoy.
- Understanding of everything. It means a lot to me, helps a lot.
- Talking about where I was in my thoughts.
- To finish this program.
- All the sessions we listened to were all understandable. Very understandable.
- Most helpful was dealing with anger. Least – None. All topics were interesting, informative and helpful.
- The most helpful was community hours and AFM.
- All was helpful.
- Most helpful was the insight from AFM. Least probably the letter.
- Most helpful would be with Cheryl. Community Service the least.
- Communication was very helpful and the least was trust.
- I think the individual sessions were the most helpful.
- It was the hardest advice.
- The difference about abuse and how it is not right.
- It was all helpful.
- Alternatives to violence was definitely the most helpful. I didn't find either topics least helpful.
- Understanding myself, how I act on my problem, to become better person not always mad.
- The things about children involved in family violence.
- #10 Assertiveness helpful.
- The thing that helped me the most was children and violence.

4. Do you feel that your diversion to the program will help to deter you from future contact with the Justice System?

- Yes, I'm going to think before I act because I don't want to be involved in the system again.
- Very helpful.
- Yes, definitely.
- Yes, positively.
- Yes.
- Yes it has.
- Yes.
- Yes.
- Yes.

- Yes! In the future it will help the others be proud to help one another.
- This made me more aware of where I stand.
- Hopefully.
- Yes, don't hurt anyone because it gets you nowhere.
- Yes.
- Yes, I'm thankful for another chance to deal with my situation.
- 100% don't want to do this again. Glad to get 2nd chance.
- I'm very sure the diversion program will help me deter from future contact with the justice system. Helped me deal with anger and stress.
- Yes, it taught me how easy it is to get your charge dropped. I now know not to mess with the law.
- Yes.
- Definitely.
- It help me a lot to understand my better person avoids arguments.
- Yes, I do think so.
- Yes, absolutely.
- Yes

5. Additional comments:

- Thanks so much!
- Thank you for the wonderful experience.
- No comment.
- Thank you.
- I love the programs and let it go on.
- I'm glad to have taken this course today. Topics discussed will help me and my family. Thank you!!
- Thankful for the program.
- Without this program my bad decision could have affected the rest of my life.
- It helped me.
- This program was helpful. Thanks so much in making me understand.
- Class was good and helpful and understanding.
- Thank you for coming North for this.
- Was very interesting.
- Thank you.
- I learned new things. Thanks Guys.

Notes: Reviewed 28 Evaluation Forms. Some of the forms may have been filled in by none domestic violence clients.

Appendix B: MAPS Anger Management Group Member Evaluation

Group 1 Anger Management

Evaluation

By: Group Members



Q.1. What was it like for you to be in the group?

"It was good, learned a lot, know how to control my anger also learn rights from wrong."

"I enjoyed being part of the group."

"It was good, meet new friends."

"Good, liked it, hearing similar stories from other guys was helpful."

"Found it to be enjoyable, I got to get a lot of my chest....I learned right from wrong and I see things differently."

"At first very scared and vulnerable, but as time and sessions went on I was relieved in knowing I'm not alone and there is help and I will get better."

"At first I was uncomfortable and nervous, but after I felt more relaxed and comfortable."

"Difficult facing my wrongs in front of others. Enjoyed the fact that I was not alone with my problems."

"At first was not a big fan of it but I never came into it with an open mind, I love it now."

"It was good for me and it helped me get everything that was on my mind and listening to other stories from the other group members and made me think about what I want for my family and how I want to live."

"For me it was very frightening although I many times now realize how often I tried to overshadow everyone with my own problems, but now realize I was not the only one caught amid ship with trouble."

"A lot because it gave me respect for myself and other people."

"I like being in group because you see other and hear other problems other men deal with. And it feels good you're not alone."

Q.2. What aspects of the group did you find the most helpful?

"When I was having a bad day, I would come to MAPS and chat with the group and leave happy."

"Learning what other people went through and the way the facilitators helped give me a better understanding about the topics being discussed."

"Open discussions were most helpful."

"Program Director helped me to identify my goals and individual needs."

"I was able to say everything on my mind. It was nice to have someone to trust. Confidentiality is important to me...I am so thankful that nobody knows my problems except my counsellor."

"Be able to go to a safe place and talk openly."

"The one on one was more beneficial for me than group and being able to talk to a neutral person was appreciated."

"I found that others are going through the something. I liked the sharing."

"Just talking to other people with the same problems."

"I found being able to talk about my problems and just that someone listened and gave me ideas and ways to deal with my problems."

"The opportunity to share and listen to one another's stories. The bonds of friendship have also been very helpful."

"Other people information and the counselling they provided."

"Discussions and interacting with other troubled men."

Q. 3. What aspects of the group did you find the least helpful?

"Everything was helpful."

"I found that every aspect of the group was helpful."

"Nothing."

"Everything was good, the information was good.."

"Outside of waiting which was about two minutes I have nothing to say wrong here."

"Nothing so far."

"Thinking it over nothing comes to mind."

"Did not like the whiney people, same problems over and over again."

"For me I like all of it. That's just for me."

"Nothing."

"The early stages of fear when I first arrived to MAPS."

"When people did not show up for their group or meeting."

"There wasn't really anything I thought that wasn't helpful."

Q. 4. What feedback do you have for the facilitators?

"The facilitators got me through my anger problem."

"The facilitators not only helped me through these sessions but also took their own time to help with personal problems,"

"The facilitators helped me lots about my problems."

"Their good they helped me and my family."

"Very positive experience."

"The Director did what was necessary for me and provided a great understanding of my situation."

"Good easy going approach towards clients. Down to earth, not on a power trip."

"Keep up the good work. You do make a difference, you help lots of people."

"My feedback for the facilitators is that the program is good and more men should start coming to deal with their problems instead of taking it out on everyone else."

"As for the positive I am in a much better place mentally than I have ever been. As a negative the drawback is that I have lost my wife, but it sends me back to the positive because I am now better off. There are no negatives."

"I would say to people who has (have) angry (anger) issues to go to maps because it (it's) excellent and provides good information."

"Doing a good job, I myself feel like my partner also needs counselling which we talk about her getting. So we both know how to cope with family situations."

Q. 5. What changes would you recommend for future groups?

"Don't lose control on anybody, be strong and respect others problems."

"I think it is good the way it is."

"No changes."

"Everything was good."

"No changes."

"So far none comes to mind."

"I can honestly say I can't think of any."

"More time to share and vent."

"Not sure."

"Nothing it seemed good to me."

"None because I came here very destroyed and by making friends and listening to facilitators. I have found that no matter what the problems we can and do survive to grow strong once again."

"None it is excellent."

"None."

Q.5(a). What individual/group counselling has done for me?

"The individual counselling got me through my anger problem. At group I was always leaving happy at the end of the night."

"Individual counselling has helped me to better understand the topics that were discussed in group."

"Individual counselling really helped me a lot, I found open discussion in group really helped."

"Before I came to counselling I was an asshole, rude, I didn't think before I said anything, I was selfish." Counselling has changed me to think before I speak, to treat my partner as an equal, to calm myself down before I get angry. With counselling I am a better boyfriend, I have learnt to talk with my partner respectfully and not argue in front of my son."

"Group counselling has helped me to open up to people. I don't care what other people think about me, I am comfortable to talk about what I did....before I was ashamed of what I did without getting the help and things could have got worst."

"Individual counselling has allowed me to realize the problems and deal with them, to be able to talk to someone and not feel vulnerable."

"Let me voice my feelings without judgement, I can ask for help without fear."

"It has completely turned me around back to the happier man I once was and I am slowly beginning to enjoy life again."

"Can speak more openly about things. Things that you are not comfortable talking about in front of others."

Q. 5 (b). How have your relationship change for the positive and /or negative since counselling?

"The counselling made our relationship better between me and my partner."

"My relationship was always good, but it is now even better... after learning different ways to cope with stress and anger."

"My relationship is more positive since counselling."

"By getting help, our relationship is for the better."

"Definitely positive, I'm able to talk to my partner and show her my emotions. I'm not so negative and critical of her, we make decisions together."

"Being able to communicate better, rather than yelling and swearing."

"As for the positive I am in a much better place mentally than I have ever been. As a negative the drawback is that I have lost my wife, but it send me back. To the positive because I am now better off."

"It's been positive for me, but I still think we both need counselling. Not just me."

Q. 6. What other services would you like to see offered at MAPS?

"Don't need nothing, program good."

"None."

"Have two group sessions a week"

"More individual sessions and couple counselling."

'More counsellor's it would be nice to see someone for drop ininstead of waiting for appointments.'

"Family,couple,financial counselling as well as the individual... maybe daycare service."

"Programs designed for toxic work environment, that includes supervisors."

"I think I got what I needed. Not sure what other people need."

"Nothing."

"I don't know because I went to other counsellors whom had no people skills and was very surprised as to how well MAPS knew the best ways to reach out and make me understand what I went through."

"Maybe in the future a place bigger for maps where men can go."

"I enjoy coming to MAPS so it has been positive for both Director and Clinician. They come across being real, not phoney. I am not afraid to speak to any which one."

Q.7. Please provide any comments that you may have on the MAPS Program, Program Director and Clinician.

'Everything is good, good job!' "The Program Director was easy to open up too. The clinician is a good guy to talk too. I have nothing negative to say."

"I really enjoyed being part of the group and would like to take part in anything else MAPS has to offer. "The Program Director and clinician both did an excellent job with leading the program and helping me to keep a positive attitude when all was going wrong. They made me happy knowing that there is someone on my side; they gave me hope when things couldn't get any worse."

"MAPS was an excellent program, it was very helpful. "My feelings towards the Program Director /Clinician have been positive."

"MAPS program provided good information, tools that i would use in the future. The Director was very helpful, she was the greatest. " "I felt comfortable with the clinician, I will continue to comeback once I'm done."

"The Program Director was positive, very easy to talk with she listens and offers great advice, offers no B/S."

"The Director is professional and considerate which I greatly appreciate."

"Easy to talk to, very approachable, felt comfortable in their presence. Spoke with me as if I were a real person and not simply a client or client number."

"I love it. Just wish I did the program way earlier in life."

"It's a good program, it helps to talk."

"The MAPS program is well run, broken down over a good period of time and gets to the root of the problem through well thought out communication and practices. The program director and clinician are well versed in people skills and abilities to recognize warning signs as to when someone is distraught. VERY HELPFUL!"

"I have none it help me a lot it (it's) a good place to go to get angry (anger) out."

"Myself, I am aboriginal, so the clinician being aboriginal I can be more comfortable speaking about things."

Q. 8. On a scale to 1 to 10 (1-no stress, 10-very stressful) how would you rate your anger?

"1."

"On a scale 1 to 10, my stress level is a 1."

"1."

"Today, with the program I am able to reduce my anger level. The tools help me reduce my anger to 1-2."

"1-3."

"7-Seven"

"I would have to say 1 or a 2 for myself."

"I would rate my anger a 2 from before I started I was more than ten."

"2- Slight stress because I always carry a little stress whenever I pick up or drop off my boys off. There is always the stress of ending up in fights with my ex."

"No stress in my life anymore because MAPS show me how to deal with it."

"5."

MAPS

Group Member Satisfaction Questionnaire

Q.1. How would you rate your experience in the group?

Options	Response
Excellent	90%
Good	10%
Fair	0%
Poor	0%
Total	100%

Q.2. Did you get the kind of help you wanted from the group?

Options	Response
No, definitely not	0%
No not really	0%
Yes, generally	0%
Yes, definitely	100%
Total	100%

Q.3.To what extent has this group met your needs?

Options	Response
Almost all of my needs have been met.	76%
Most of my needs have been met.	24%
Only a few of my needs have been met.	0%
None of my needs have been met.	0%
Total	100%

Q.4. If a friend were in need of similar help, would you recommend a group like this to him?

Options	Response
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No, definitely not.	0%
No, I don't think so.	0%
Yes, I think so.	10%
Yes definitely	90%
Total	100%

Q5. How satisfied are you with the total number of hours you met with this group?

Options	Response
Quite dissatisfied	0%
Indifferent or mildly dissatisfied	0%
Mostly satisfied	33%
Very satisfied	67%
Total	100%

Q6. Has attending this group helped you to deal more effectively with your problems?

Options	Response
Yes, it helped a great deal	76%
Yes, it helped.	24%
No, it really didn't help	0%
No, it seemed to make things worse	0%
Total	100%

Q7. In an overall general sense, how satisfied are you with this group?

Options	Response
Very satisfied	98%
Mostly satisfied	2%
Indifferent or mildly dissatisfied	0%
Quite dissatisfied	0%
Total	100%

Q 8. On the basis of your experience in this group, if you were to seek help again, would you come back to MAPS?

Options	Response
No, definitely not	0%
No, I don't think so	0%
Yes, I think so	0%
Yes, definitely	100%
Total	100%

Q 9. Do you have any suggestions for how we can improve groups like this in the future?

"Don't lose control on anybody, be strong and respect others problems.")

"Offer family, couple counselling as well as the individual. Possibly child care (daycare), so when in session the children are close and looked after, also look into offering financial counselling."

'As of now, I can't really think of anything.'

"More Ads so other men know there is help out there."

"Not too sure. I got what I needed from group."

"Nothing because it's good the way it is."

"No because these groups are very close knit, this has made it easy for me to become accepted and also accepting of problems I had and the bonds of group friendship I received made my experience here that much more effective, accepting and beneficial to my own healing.

"I would like maybe have a session where family can come in and meet staff. Maybe sit down with individual family and see what more to work on."