

# The Need for a Holistic Approach to Specialized Domestic Violence Court Programming: Evaluating Offender Rehabilitation Needs and Recidivism

By Wayne J. Pitts, Eugena Givens, and Susan McNeeley

## ABSTRACT

This quasi-experimental historical outcome study is based on the Domestic Violence Repeat Offender Program (DVROP) housed within the Bernalillo County Metropolitan Court in Albuquerque, New Mexico. The treatment group includes data for 100 male domestic violence offenders collected between July 1, 2004 and November 30, 2006. A strictly matched group of 100 males who were technically eligible but who were not served by the DVROP made up the comparison. Using NCIC data as an outcome measure, the results of the study show that DVROP participants are significantly less likely to receive subsequent charges for domestic violence, other violent offenses, or any other criminal offense. The study draws conclusions about the extensive collateral needs of the offender population and draws attention to the need for a holistic approach to special offender populations.

## INTRODUCTION

Over the past 35 years, two types of criminal behavior have emerged as major burdens within the American criminal justice system. The first is domestic violence (DV), specifically intimate partner abuse, and the second is illegal drug possession. Both behaviors and the crimes associated with them have not only monopolized an unprec-

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