

Vermont Poll 2006 Results - Domestic Violence Task Force
Presented to the DVTF April 18, 2006

Total persons surveyed = 726, 95% confidence, +-4% Margin of error (Appendix A)

Interventions for Domestic Violence Offenders

Table 1 shows all responses given on how persons would like a neighbor who committed domestic violence (DV) to be dealt with by the community. The top five responses given include: putting them in jail (43%), arresting them (41%), sending them to general counseling (30%), or batterer's intervention/rehabilitation or education program (21%), and placing them on probation (14%). A total of 4% did not know of specific services for offenders of DV.

Table 1. Ways respondents would like a neighbor who committed domestic violence dealt with by community (n=705)

Intervention	n	%
Jail/prison	305	43%
Arrest	286	41%
General counseling	208	30%
Batterer's intervention/rehabilitation/education	147	21%
Probation	96	14%
Family intervention	52	7%
Support groups	45	6%
Marital counseling	41	6%
Parenting class	37	5%
Depends on nature of crime	36	5%
Court system/trial	30	4%
Death	22	3%
Non-family/professional location to visit children	20	3%
Counseling by a religious person	16	2%
Severe punishment	16	2%
Punished to the maximum extent of the law	13	2%
Refused	12	2%
Punishment	8	1%
Publicize offense	7	1%
Remove from family	7	1%
Focus on services for the victim	7	1%
Quickly and appropriately	6	1%
Counseling	5	1%
Call the police	4	1%
Restraining order	4	1%
Anger management	3	0%
Beat them up	2	0%
Castration	2	0%
Punished fairly	2	0%
Make them take responsibility	2	0%

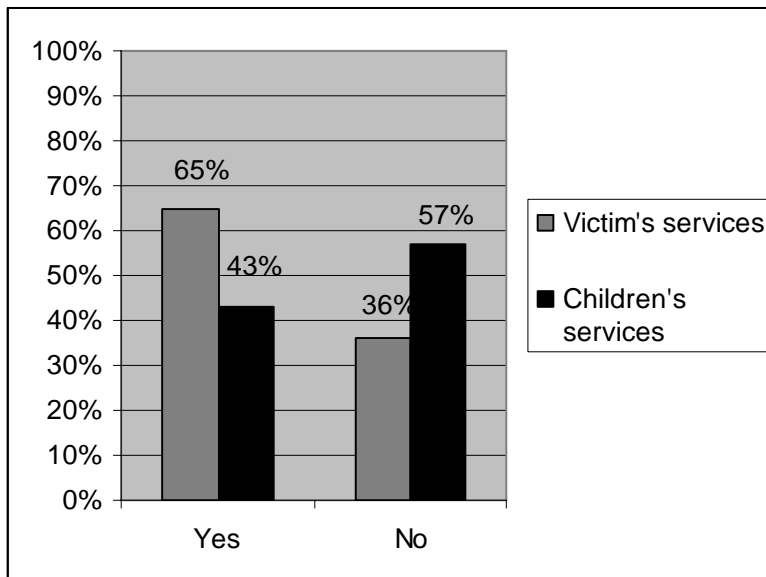
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Psychiatric treatment	2	0%
Substance abuse treatment	2	0%
Community service	1	0%
Refer to community services	1	0%
Fine them	1	0%
Place in isolation	1	0%
Judge decision	1	0%
Mild punishment	1	0%
Nothing can be done	1	0%
Remove guns in house	1	0%
Social services	1	0%
Surveillance	1	0%
Don't know	26	4%

Awareness of Services for Victims and Children

Figure 1 shows that more respondents, 65% (437), reported being aware of services for victims of DV in their community, while only 43% (273) were aware of services for children who witness or experience DV. Overall, between one third and one half of respondents were not aware of services in their community for victims or children who experience DV.

Figure 1. Awareness of services in community for victims and children who witness or experience DV



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Respondents who were *significantly more likely* to be **aware of DV services for victims** include:

- Having more than a high school education (69%)
 - HS education or less (54%)
- Having children at home (72%)
 - No children at home (61%)
- Higher income >\$50,000 (69%)
 - <\$20,000 (51%)
 - \$20,000-\$34,999 (65%)
 - \$35,000-\$50,000 (60%)
- Female (73%)
 - Male (56%)
- Being younger (average age 54 yrs)
 - Average age 56
- Having lived in VT for fewer years (average number of years 34)
 - Average number of years 39

Geographic location was *not a significant predictor* of awareness of DV services for victims

- Chittenden County (63%)
- NEK (75%)
- Rest of Vermont (63%)

Respondents who were *significantly more likely* to be **aware of DV services for children** include:

- Having more than a high school education (48%)
 - HS education or less (30%)
- Having children at home (48%)
 - No children at home (41%)
- Living in the NEK (58%)
 - Chittenden County (41%)
 - Rest of Vermont (41%)
- Female (51%)
 - Male (34%)

Age, years lived in Vermont, and income were *not significant predictors* of awareness of DV services for children.

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Services for Victims

Figure 1 shows that 65% of Vermont Poll respondents were aware of services for victims of DV in their community. Table 2 shows the responses provided when asked what services they were aware of in their community for these individuals. Over half of those surveyed reported that they were aware of battered women's services in their community (53%). Other top answers included: crisis hotline (19%), general counseling (16%), social service or welfare (16%), shelter (16%), and police services (11%). A total of 10% did not know of specific services for victim's of DV.

Table 2. Awareness of services in community for victim's of DV (n=437)

Service	n	%
Battered women's services	233	53%
Crisis hotline	84	19%
General counseling	69	16%
Social services/welfare	69	16%
Shelter	68	16%
Police services	50	11%
Support groups	32	7%
Housing/new place to live	29	7%
Family intervention	20	5%
Counseling by a religious person	18	4%
Court/judicial services	13	3%
Marital counseling	13	3%
Medical services - hospital, ER	6	1%
Non-family/professional location to visit children	6	1%
Family physician	4	1%
Mental health services	4	1%
School services	3	1%
Assist them/listen to them	2	0%
Education	2	0%
Local organizations	2	0%
Behavioral health center	1	0%
DAEP	1	0%
Local advocate	1	0%
Community Action Agency	1	0%
New Beginnings	1	0%
Planned Parenthood	1	0%
Provide a free vehicle	1	0%
Rehabilitation	1	0%
United Way	1	0%
Victim's rights	1	0%
Don't know	43	10%
None	3	1%

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Services for Children

As indicated in Figure 1, 43% (273) of respondents to the Vermont Poll were aware of services for children who have witnessed or experienced DV. Of those who were aware of services, Table 3 depicts all categorized responses provided. The top services reported include: social services/welfare (26%), general counseling services (22%), battered women's services (22%), police services (11%), shelter (11%), school services (8%) and the crisis hotline (8%). A total of 14% did not know of services for children who witness or experience DV.

Table 3. Awareness of services in the community for children who witness or experience DV (n=273)

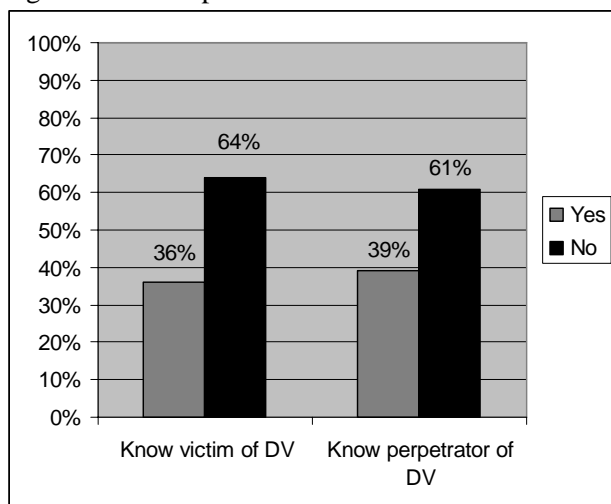
Intervention	n	%
Social services/welfare	70	26%
General counseling	61	22%
Battered women's services	59	22%
Police services	31	11%
Shelter/safe place to stay	29	11%
School services	23	8%
Crisis hotline	23	8%
Family intervention	18	7%
Support groups	16	6%
Religious services	11	4%
Court/judicial services	9	3%
Non-family/professional location to visit children	10	4%
Community services	11	4%
Mental Health services	8	3%
Medical services – hospital or ER	5	2%
Head Start	3	1%
Family physician	3	1%
Baird Center	2	1%
United Way	1	0%
Online	1	0%
Foster program	1	0%
Boys and Girls Club	1	0%
Don't know	37	14%
None	2	1%

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Know Victim or Offender of Domestic Violence

Figure 2 shows that one third or 36% of respondents know a victim of DV and 39% know a perpetrator of DV.

Figure 2. Know person who is a victim of DV or has committed DV



Respondents who were *significantly more likely* to **know a victim of DV** include:

- Having children at home (40%)
 - No children at home (33%)
- Being younger (average age 52 yrs)
 - Average age 56

Demographic variables that were *not significant predictors* for knowing a victim of DV include education, geographic location, gender, income and number of years having lived in VT.

Respondents who were *significantly more likely* to **know a perpetrator of DV** include:

- Living in the NEK (47%)
 - Chittenden County (32%)
 - Rest of Vermont (40%)
- Being younger (average age 53 yrs)
 - Average age 56

Demographic variables that were *not significant predictors* for knowing a victim of DV include education, having children or not, income, gender, and number of years having lived in VT.

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Appendix A. Methodology

The data used in this report were collected by the Center for Rural Studies at the University of Vermont as part of the annual Vermont Poll. The survey was conducted between the hours of 4:00 p.m. and 9:00 p.m. beginning on February 6, 2006 and ending on February 10, 2006. The telephone polling was conducted from the University of Vermont using computer-aided telephone interviewing (CATI). The sample for the poll was drawn through random digit dialing and used all of the telephone exchanges in the state of Vermont as the sampling frame. Only Vermont residents over the age of eighteen were interviewed. The poll included questions on a variety of issues related to public policy in the state of Vermont. There were 701 respondents to the 2006 Vermont Poll (Version I). The results based on a group of this size have a margin of error of plus or minus 4 percent at a confidence interval of 95 percent.