

The Domestic Violence Intensive Supervision Unit (DVISU) was implemented at the Escambia County Probation Department in April 2006. DVISU is a pre-trial release program. Offenders are ordered to DVISU by a judge, usually in lieu of a cash or professional bond. The judge can order other special conditions in addition to supervision by DVISU. Special conditions include, but are not limited to, random urinalysis and/or breathalyzer tests at the defendant's expense, GPS monitoring, or attendance in anger management or the Domestic Violence Intervention Program. Defendants who were living with the victim at the time of the offense are frequently required to move out of the home while supervised by DVISU, and defendants are sometimes required to provide a statement from a family member or friend that the defendant is living with them. Special conditions often include "defendant must reside at XXX address" or "defendant must reside with XXX family member". Normally the victim's signature is required before a defendant can be sentenced to supervision by DVISU.

The length of supervision by DVISU varies from case to case. Some cases are not prosecuted and the defendant is therefore supervised by DVISU for a short period of time. Other defendants successfully complete DVISU and go on to a sentence of probation or pre-trial diversion. Many defendants complete DVISU unsuccessfully. Unsuccessful completion of DVISU can be for a number of reasons. The defendant may commit a new crime or fail to comply with the terms of his or her probation by contacting the victim, failing a urinalysis test, or failing to report to his or her DVISU officer as required.

The purpose of this study was to determine what the differences were between domestic violence offenders sentenced to traditional pre-trial release and domestic

violence offenders sentenced to DVISU. Race, sex, age, level of education, number of years of military service, relationship to the victim, offense, special conditions imposed by the court, number of check-ins with the pre-trial officer, self-report information about drug and alcohol use were all recorded, as well as how the pre-trial period was terminated (nolle pros, pre-trial diversion, probation, incarceration, off bond, etc). Previous criminal records were unable to be obtained, as was data on offenses committed once an offender had completed the pre-trial period.

Offenders ordered to DVISU ranged in age from 18 – 76, with a median age of XX while standard DV pre-trial offenders ranged in age from XX – XX, with a median age of XX. DVISU offenders were XX% Caucasian, XX% African-American, and XX% Hispanic, while standard DV offenders were XX% Caucasian, XX% African-American, and XX% Hispanic. DVISU offenders were XX% male and XX% female, while standard DV pre-trial offenders were XX% male and XX% female. The majority (XX%) of DVISU offenders were arrested for misdemeanor domestic violence battery, while most standard DV pre-trial offenders were arrested for X. XX of the DVISU cases were still active at the time the research was conducted. Of the XX cases that were closed at the time the research was conducted, case resolution was as follows: XX% were not prosecuted, XX% received a sentence of pre-trial diversion, XX% received a sentence of probation, X% received a verdict of not guilty, X% received an incarceration sentence, and XX% were dropped from the DVISU program for failing to comply with the terms of release. XX of the standard DV pre-trial cases were still active at the time the research was conducted. Of the XX cases that were closed at the time the research was conducted, case resolution was as follows: XX% were not prosecuted, XX% received a sentence of

pre-trial diversion, XX% received a sentence of probation, X% received a verdict of not guilty, X% received an incarceration sentence, and XX% were dropped from the DVISU program for failing to comply with the terms of release.

The DVISU program had more female domestic violence offenders in the pre-trial release program than any of the research conducted indicated that domestic violence probation programs traditionally had. It was noted that of female DVISU offenders, XX% were not prosecuted, XX% received a sentence of pre-trial diversion, XX% received a sentence of probation, X% received a verdict of not guilty, X% received an incarceration sentence, and XX% were dropped from the DVISU program for failing to comply with the terms of release. This was compared to the same standards for male DVISU offenders: XX% were not prosecuted, XX% received a sentence of pre-trial diversion, XX% received a sentence of probation, X% received a verdict of not guilty, X% received an incarceration sentence, and XX% were dropped from the DVISU program for failing to comply with the terms of release. XX% of female DVISU offenders were arrested for domestic violence on an intimate partner or former intimate partner, XX% of female offenders were arrested for domestic violence on a family member related by blood, and X% were arrested for domestic violence on a person not fitting either of those descriptions. This was compared to male DVISU offenders: XX% were arrested for domestic violence on an intimate partner or former intimate partner, XX% were arrested for domestic violence on a family member related by blood, and X% were arrested for domestic violence on a person not fitting either of those descriptions.

The number of visits DVISU offenders had with the pre-trial officer ranged from X – X, with a median number of XX. The amount of time spent in the DVISU program

ranged from X – X, with a median time of X. Domestic violence offenders on standard pre-trial had a range of visits with the pre-trial officer from X – X, with a median number of XX. Domestic violence offenders on standard pre-trial supervision spent from X – X (time) on pre-trial supervision with a median time of XX.

22 special conditions for pre-trial supervision were identified for DVISU and standard pre-trial release. The most common special conditions ordered were X (XX% of DVISU cases and XX% of standard cases), X (XX% of DVISU cases and XX% of standard cases), and X. (XX% of DVISU cases and XX% of standard cases).