



**Adolescent Domestic Battery:  
Responding Effectively to Families in Crisis**

**Illinois Models for Change Initiative**  
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The purpose of this document is to assist juvenile justice policy makers and practitioners in understanding the dynamics of “Adolescent Domestic Battery” and developing a range of programmatic and policy strategies to improve interactions with families in crisis. It can be of use to a range of juvenile justice stakeholders, including law enforcement, detention practitioners, probation officials, judges, service providers and others in identifying and addressing the factors underlying ADB in ways which improve outcomes for young people and their families.

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**December 2012**

*Dear Juvenile Justice Stakeholder:*

*Every day, in every community across Illinois, families experience crisis. These crises arise from varied and complex roots: the loss of a job, the breakup of a marriage, physical or mental illness of a child or parent, drug or alcohol abuse, school problems, violence in the home or community or even normal, everyday teenage angst. Sometimes, families can weather these storms on their own or with support of extended family and community. At other times, the crisis erupts in such a way that families enter the juvenile justice system, when a young person is arrested for battering or otherwise harming a family member.*

*Having served as a judge for more than twenty years, I know that the justice system is often the only available response to families in crisis. I also know that police officers, prosecutors, defenders, judges, probation officers and service providers work tirelessly to keep our communities safe and support young people and their loved ones. But I also know that, too often, the traditional responses to families in crisis fail to take into account that family's needs and strengths and instead focus on punishment or sanctions for a young person's behavior. Other times, justice systems lack the specialized tools to address complex family dynamics and functioning. As a result, traditional justice system approaches may fail to achieve the outcomes we hope for and -- sometimes -- make things worse for a young person, his or her family and the community as a whole.*

*This monograph describes three communities' efforts to improve the way the juvenile justice system and its partners respond to families in crisis when youth are charged with domestic battery. In some circumstances, diverting a family from justice system involvement into informal supports or structured programs produces the best outcomes. In others, specialized services or probation strategies are required to help families change the way they solve problems or address conflict.*

*Individually and together, these three sites have successfully utilized Models for Change resources and ongoing funding through the Illinois Juvenile Justice Commission to create new models for working with families in crisis, new ways of responding to adolescent domestic battery, and new tools and programs to improve the outcomes for young people and their families. We hope that other communities and justice system practitioners from all fields can learn from these models and contribute their own expertise and perspectives to join the growing effort to improve Illinois' juvenile justice system and foster positive outcomes for young people, families and communities across the state.*

*Very truly yours,*

*Hon. George W. Timberlake, Retired  
Chairperson, Illinois Juvenile Justice Commission  
Illinois Models for Change Initiative Coordinating Council*

## **Adolescent Domestic Battery: Responding Effectively to Families in Crisis**

### **Introduction**

This monograph describes how the Illinois Models for Change (MfC) projects in Cook, DuPage and Peoria counties developed policy, practice, and programs to respond to adolescent domestic battery. In this context, the term “adolescent domestic battery” (ADB) encompasses family crisis or violence that results in police contact and possible delinquency system involvement for a young person. Youth may be charged with domestic battery against a parent, caregiver or sibling, or the youth may be charged with a different offense connected to the family conflict. The strategies outlined in this monograph provide guidance for working more effectively with both of these groups using an individualized, restorative approach fully in line with the purpose of the Illinois Juvenile Court Act.

From the outset of the initiatives, stakeholders in each site reported similar frustrations with the status quo:

- **Focusing on a youth’s behavior alone didn’t resolve the underlying family needs or dynamics;**
- **Assuming a youth was a “domestic batterer” in development wasn’t always accurate or useful;**
- **Too little was known about what was actually occurring in families in crisis;**
- **Too few alternatives were available to avoid formal system involvement or secure detention; and**
- **Some of these youth and families didn’t belong in the “delinquency” system at all.**

But while there were obvious indications that the traditional one-size-fits-all justice system response wasn’t helping these youth and families, there was no clear roadmap for making the changes necessary to produce more positive outcomes.

Coupled with this lack of evidence-based-practice in ADB cases were concerns that Illinois’ domestic violence laws could limit options for changing the way these cases are handled. Stakeholders saw first-hand how these laws – which were written primarily to protect victims of adult “intimate partner” domestic violence -- were being inappropriately applied to youth and families. This resulted in some youth being arrested and detained unnecessarily because viable, community-based alternatives were either not available or not authorized for use in ADB cases. Further, once involved in the justice system, the focus was typically on the youth’s isolated behavior rather than the complex family issues giving rise to that behavior, yielding poor outcomes for the youth and the family.

To ensure the changes in policy, practice and programming effectively addressed these challenges, the sites researched the issues underlying adolescent domestic battery and began working with these youth and families differently. In doing so, they demonstrated that:

- **Intimate partner violence and adolescent domestic battery may be “processed” the same way in the justice system, but are different issues requiring very different responses;**
- **Adolescent domestic battery presents unique challenges at every stage of the juvenile justice system - from law enforcement and arrest to probation and parole from juvenile corrections facilities;**
- **Traditional justice-system responses to adolescent domestic battery do not address the immediate or long-term needs of youth or families, nor do they enhance community safety;**
- **“Front end” crisis intervention, community-based support and family-focused strategies are more effective with families and youth in adolescent domestic battery cases;**
- **Analysis of the underlying dynamics or "typologies" of families in crisis can produce enhanced knowledge, more effective intervention and support, and better results; and**
- **Strategic partnerships between juvenile justice systems and community-based organizations deliver better outcomes with adolescent domestic battery and families in crisis.**

## *The Dilemma*

Every weekend night shift at the 9-1-1 call center is different with calls on everything from fender benders to medical emergencies to shots fired and much worse. Friday night, April 13<sup>th</sup>, was no exception. At 11:10 p.m., an agitated female caller sounded both angry and frightened at the same time, reporting that her teenage son was fighting with her and her boyfriend. The dispatcher could hear yelling in the background, but before any details could be confirmed, the caller had hung up. While one dispatcher was sending the closest squad car to the scene, another tried repeatedly to make contact again with the caller.

At 11:17 p.m. red and blue lights bounced off the white frame house, and the responding officer moved quickly to the front porch with little knowledge of what awaited him. He knew he was about to walk into some sort of “domestic disturbance,” and he knew that these situations could turn out to be a relatively minor family argument or could be a dangerous powder keg beyond the control of even the most experienced police officers. This call would require some split second decision-making.

Shortly after announcing himself at the screen door, the officer was in the front living room where three people were talking, sometimes yelling, at the same time. Out of the corner of his eye, he could see two pre-school boys in pajamas curled up in the corner of the couch, shaking and crying. His stern warning to mother and boyfriend quieted both adults as the teenage son slipped into a bedroom and slammed the door behind him.

Mother and live-in boyfriend told essentially the same story: 16-year-old David was causing trouble again. He argues every night. The screaming matches usually are about his attitude around the house, his hatred of the boyfriend, sassing his mother, late nights away from home and calls from the principal’s office.

Tonight, David’s cell phone tipped the balance. When the argument with the boyfriend became more heated, the boyfriend grabbed David’s cell phone and threw it against the kitchen wall. Bouncing off the refrigerator and down to the tile floor, the screen cracked, the phone was dead, and David was enraged. David exploded, cursing at his mother and pushing the boyfriend into the kitchen table, causing it to tip over and spill broken dishes and the remains of a meal all over the floor. When his mother tried to hold him back, David pushed her away. That’s when 9-1-1 was called.

Another squad arrived at the home. While the second officer talked to the adults, the first responder cornered David, who told a different story – one that centered on his mother’s erratic behavior and her boyfriend’s mean streak. As his story unfolded, David became more and more agitated. The officers knew they needed to calm things down and to find a way to make the home safe for the adults and the children, at least in the short-term. All options had a downside.

Arresting the boyfriend would leave mother and son home alone in a volatile environment that could bring them back yet again later that same night. Removing the mother was out of the question, as the officers knew that moving the preschoolers to a foster home would be complicated and traumatic for all involved.

Arresting David would move him into the juvenile justice system, with unknown consequences. But arresting David also could provide a cooling-off period for the rest of the family and the possibility that David and his family would get some court-ordered counseling. The officers handcuffed David and led him to the squad car as his mother and little brothers sobbed on the porch. David’s neighbors looked on curiously as it pulled away and David took his first step into the juvenile justice system.

## A Lack of Alternatives for Responding to ADB

*Despite having alternatives to detention for many youth entering the juvenile justice system, finding appropriate diversion options for youth charged with domestic battery remained a significant problem.*

The above scenario presents a fictional example of a problem that cuts across each MfC community. While specific incidents and local system processes varied, the sites found that they responded similarly to youth committing domestic battery, relying on adult domestic violence protocols and an arrest / removal approach to respond to families in crisis. These approaches produced less than ideal outcomes, including:

- Youth being arrested, removed from their homes, and detained to “cool off”- with little or no follow up with the family;
- Missed opportunities to address the immediate family crisis;
- Young people and/or their siblings cycling through the system repeatedly;
- Limited emphasis on the unaddressed mental health and substance abuse treatment needs of youth and parent(s)/caregivers;
- Little attention paid to the family dynamics that contribute to youth behavior;
- Children from homes with adult domestic violence offenders entering the system for domestic battery of a parent;
- Failure to foster long-term positive changes in youth behavior; and
- Lack of response to victims’ needs.

*This overreliance on detention persisted despite sound research showing that diverting low-risk offenders is sound policy and that, conversely, pulling young people into the system unnecessarily increases their risk.*

When examining their policies, practices and data, sites realized that they over-relied on detention and failed to employ effective front-end responses to address the immediate crisis. A significant number of youth were detained for domestic battery on “overrides,” meaning that law enforcement requested the youth be placed in detention even though the youth did not meet the required “risk score” on a standardized detention screening tool adopted by the jurisdiction. Stakeholders reported utilizing overrides due to safety concerns over sending the youth home or a parent/caregiver being unwilling to allow their child back into the home.

In many instances, low-risk youth were being arrested and detained simply because there were no other alternatives. While Cook, Peoria and DuPage Counties had previously developed a variety of detention alternatives through participation in the Juvenile Detention Alternatives Initiative (JDAI), ADB continued to present a challenge. This overreliance on detention persisted despite sound research showing that diverting low-risk offenders is sound policy and that, conversely, pulling young people into the system unnecessarily increases their risk.<sup>12</sup> As importantly, the traditional approaches missed opportunities to

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<sup>1</sup> A 2007 study of over 40,000 youth offenders in Florida found that those assessed as low risk who were placed into residential facilities not only re-offended at a higher rate than similar youth who remained in the community, they also re-offended at a higher rate than high-risk youth placed into correctional facilities (Baglivio, 2007). A 2011 Montreal study tracked 779 low-income boys from the time they were kindergartners (1984) up through age 25. Involvement in the juvenile justice system proved by far to be the strongest predictor of adult criminality of all the

engage the family and foster more positive, sustainable changes in the family dynamic that may have contributed to the youth's behavior.

### Strategic Partnerships to Better Understand ADB

*Local juvenile justice systems and community-based agencies in Illinois have learned more about youth who commit domestic battery and their families.*

**CCBYS:** *Primarily funded by the Illinois Department of Human Services, CCBYS agencies provide immediate crisis assistance to youth ages 11 to 17.*

*CCBYS programs serve runaways, lockouts, homeless youth or young people with other significant needs. The mission and purpose of the CCBYS agencies uniquely position them to work with law enforcement agencies and with families experiencing domestic battery.*

*Trained staff can step in quickly to stabilize the situation and help families develop safety plans, reunify, and build skills. Providing this emergency help can divert youth from the juvenile justice system when appropriate.*

*CCBYS agencies are critical partners in these efforts even though most do not have designated resources to serve youth charged with domestic battery and their families.*

Because these traditional approaches were not working, stakeholders in each site agreed that a more effective response to adolescent domestic battery was needed. Even though the local systems and their key stakeholders were different, the sites were able to establish common goals:

- Employ more immediate, “front-end” interventions that de-escalate the pressing crisis;
- Divert youth from detention and formal court involvement, when possible;
- Promote accountability for harmful behaviors;
- Plan for victim safety; and
- Teach both youth and adults new ways of thinking and solving conflicts to reduce or eliminate violent behavior patterns.

To do this, each site initiated or strengthened collaboration among local agencies such as Comprehensive Community-Based Youth Services (CCBYS) providers (see Sidebar), probation and detention leaders, law enforcement, prosecutors, defenders, judges and domestic violence advocacy and service agencies.

Stakeholders in each site then studied the issue by collecting and analyzing available data on the prevalence of adolescent domestic battery and its impact on their own local juvenile justice systems as well as state-operated juvenile correctional

facilities in Illinois. Sites found that over the last 10 years, adolescent domestic battery arrests across

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many variables examined, with incarcerated juveniles were **38 times more likely** than youth with equivalent backgrounds and self-reported offending histories to be sanctioned for crimes they committed as adults.

<sup>2</sup> The 2010 Pathways to Desistance Study conducted by the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (OJJDP) found that longer stays in juvenile institutions do not reduce recidivism. In fact, the study found that some youth who had the lowest offending levels reported committing more crimes after being incarcerated (Mulvey, 2011).

Illinois have increased slightly and that the use of secure detention as an initial response to ADB has remained consistent, despite Illinois' participation in JDAI. (See Appendix B). In fact, in the three demonstration sites, youth charged with domestic battery were overridden into secure detention settings at nearly twice the rate of youth charged with other offenses. During this same period, girls comprised 38 percent of statewide detention admissions for ADB. For all other offenses, girls constitute 10 percent of admissions.

On the state level, a relatively small number of youth (388 youth from 2000-2011) were committed to the Illinois Department of Juvenile Justice (IDJJ) specifically for domestic battery charges, although a history of ADB charges may be seen as an aggravating factor, giving rise to IDJJ commitment in other cases. A majority of those commitments were for misdemeanors.

In addition to obtaining state and local data to identify the scope of the problem, stakeholders studied the available literature on adolescent brain development, domestic violence and adolescent domestic battery. They learned that youth charged with domestic battery often did not possess the intent, planning capacity or resources (access to money or control over family functions, for example) to engage in the systematic patterns of abuse, isolation and intimidation often seen in adult intimate violence.

***Meeting the Needs of Victims: By definition, the victims of adolescent domestic battery are family or household members of the youth charged. This means – among other things – that victims may want and need very different responses in ADB cases than for other matters handled by the delinquency system. In each of the three sites, practitioners observed that ADB victims were seeking help in a time of crisis, a refuge from conflict in the home, appropriate accountability for harmful behavior, ways to prevent and resolve future conflicts and safety for themselves and others in the home. Practitioners also heard from victims that arresting, detaining and punishing a youth seemed to offer a short term solution to a crisis, but failed to provide longer-term solutions and support for their families.***

They also took note of familial risk factors that contribute to these incidents, such as ineffective parenting strategies, mental health and substance abuse problems, and violence among adults in the home. They reviewed literature clearly demonstrating that adolescents who have been exposed to violence or experienced maltreatment are more susceptible to perpetrating domestic violence, but that not all youth who experience family violence become perpetrators of domestic violence themselves.<sup>3</sup>

As a whole, the literature review revealed that, when family risks, needs and dynamics are ignored, youth are often erroneously labeled as “the problem,” leaving underlying factors unaddressed.

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<sup>3</sup> *The relationship between child maltreatment and delinquency has been well researched; however, it is beyond the subject of this paper. For more on the topic, see for example: Widom, C.S. (1989). Child abuse, neglect, and violent criminal behavior. Criminology, 27, 251-71. Jonson-Reid, M. (1998). Youth violence and exposure to violence in childhood: An ecological review. Aggression and Violent Behavior, 3, 159-79. Wiig, J., Widom, C.S., with Tuell, J.A. (2003) Understanding child maltreatment and juvenile delinquency: From research to effective program, practice, and systemic solutions. Washington D.C.: Child Welfare League of America Press*

## Typologies of Youth Who Commit Domestic Battery

*Research to develop a promising screening and assessment tool to classify youth and their families into various typologies of ADB can help match risks and needs with effective resources and services.*

It was clear from experience and research that youth charged with domestic battery often came from families with volatile relationships or unusual stressors. These families often struggled with poor communication skills, a lack of problem-solving strategies and sometimes, unaddressed mental health and / or substance abuse needs of family members.<sup>4</sup> These distinct dynamics required different responses to keep families safe and to prevent future violent behaviors.

To develop more informed, individualized responses to families experiencing ADB, site leaders launched an innovative process to map the dynamics and characteristics of families experiencing ADB and establish a “typologies” tool to aid in case management, treatment planning, training, and development of a continuum of services for youth and families in crisis. This typology matrix (see Appendix A) relies on several key historic, emotional, behavioral, situational and other factors present in families experiencing ADB, and includes five distinct categories.

1. **Isolated incident domestic battery:** a likely one-time event born out of atypical family or individual stress.
2. **Defensive domestic battery:** an event in which the youth is defending him/herself from abuse or is responding to abuse or maltreatment by a parent/caregiver.
3. **Acute/non-chronic domestic battery:** a pattern of events in which behavior escalates to the point of battery, characterized by unclear “power and control” family dynamics.
4. **Pre-chronic domestic battery:** a pattern of events in which youth experiments with violence as a method of control, characterized by a shift in “power and control” dynamics.
5. **Chronic domestic battery:** an on-going pattern of events in which youth clearly demonstrates “power and control”.

The classification scheme categorizes youth into a distinct typology using nine dimensions:

- Parent/youth relationship
- History of youth perpetrated domestic violence
- Retelling/recall of incident
- Emotional reaction of parties
- Triggers of event
- Behavioral intent
- Youth attitude toward violence
- Youth attitude toward change
- Parent’s priority

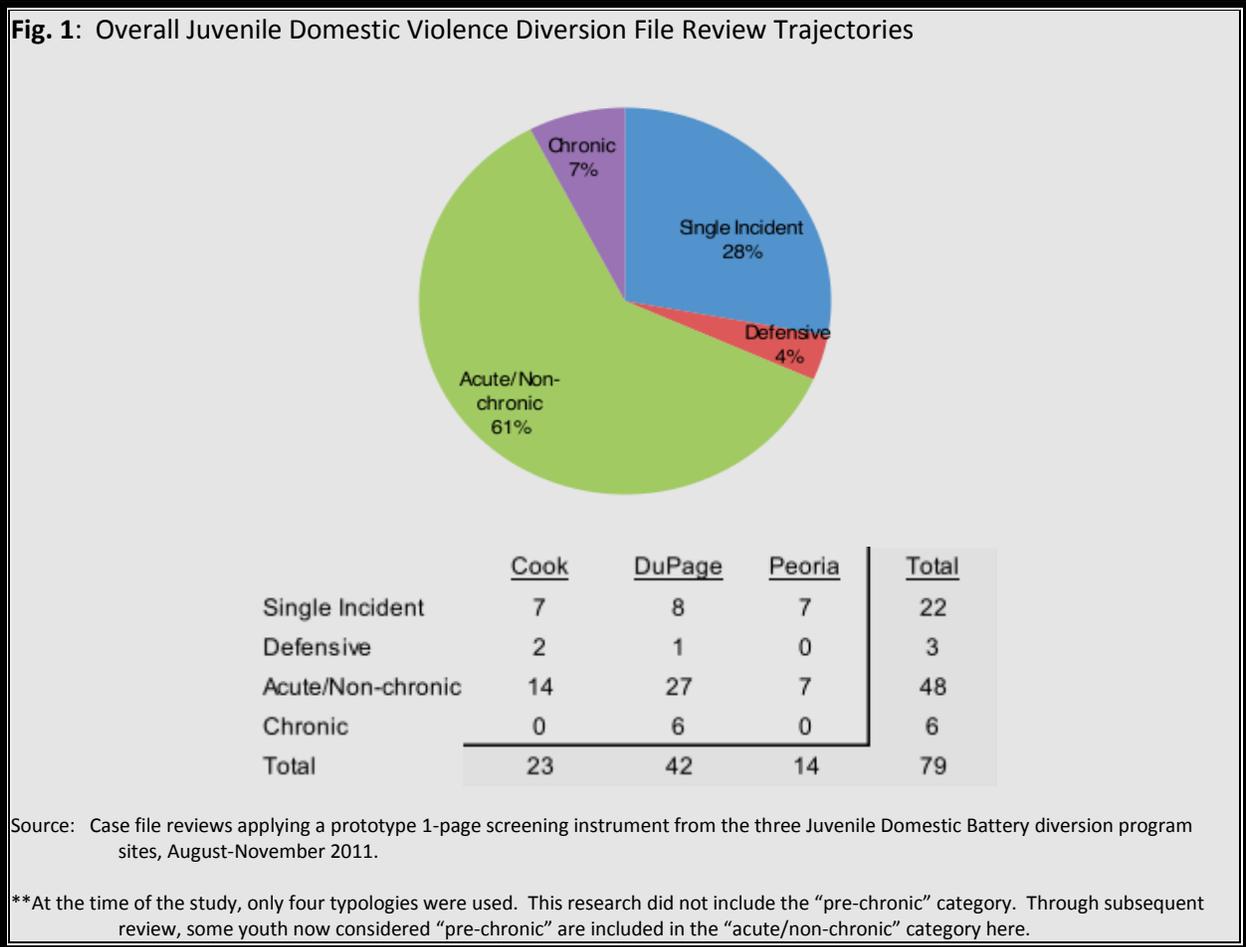
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<sup>4</sup> *Illinois probation departments and CCBYS providers utilize the Youth Screening and Assessment Instrument (YASI), which measures general risks and strengths such as compliance with parental rules, overall level of conflict within the home, degree of parental attachment, history of abuse/neglect, and parent discipline practices. The sites concluded that, while the YASI provides important information regarding a youth’s overall risks, needs and strengths, they needed more targeted information to effectively address the unique dynamics of ADB.*

A host of other contributing factors may be present, as part of the precipitating incident or within the family, to help explain the family dynamic and put the youth’s behavior into context. These include:

- Property damage
- Injury to victim
- Youth/parent mental health issues
- Youth/parent parent substance abuse
- School failure
- Use of weapon
- History of child abuse/neglect
- Sibling conflict
- Self-injuring behavior
- Chronic delinquency
- Chronic runaway
- Psychiatric hospitalization
- Gang involvement
- Single parent household
- Blended family
- Adoption
- Technology-related offense (altercation over use of cell phone, access to social media, video game, etc.)

To test the typologies, independent reviewers and site representatives reviewed police reports, treatment notes, social history reports, and other relevant documents of 79 youth charged with domestic battery from the three jurisdictions (Figure 1). These retroactive file reviews suggested that there are in fact some distinguishable categories of attitudes, behaviors and risk indicators among families experiencing ADB, as indicated in the graphic below.



While testing and validation of the typologies continues, it is important to note that, in its first application, **only 7 percent of youth studied presented as chronic domestic battery offenders**. This confirmed the sites' initial position that labeling and responding to the entire population of youth charged with ADB as "batterers," was not only inaccurate, but counterproductive.

This "classification" process has allowed the sites to foster a better understanding of the needs and strengths of the families in their systems. The ADB typologies are used by the sites to help communicate more effectively about ADB issues and develop consensus on the continuum of interventions necessary – from front-end, crisis response to more effective probation programming and aftercare – to work more effectively with families and youth (see Appendix A).

In July 2012, the sites began working with researchers from the National Youth Screening and Assessment Project (NYSAP) of the University of Massachusetts Medical School to determine whether and how this tool could be used to assess and identify family needs and to guide ADB policy and practice. Results of this validation process are anticipated in early 2013. The ultimate goal of this effort is to modify the typology tool for use as a specialized assessment and case planning instrument upon system entry.

### **Shifting the Focus; Shaping More Effective Responses**

*Armed with new and shared knowledge about the scope of ADB in their communities and the underlying needs and strengths of families in crisis, each site crafted more effective policy and practice.*

#### **Cook County**

##### *Planning and Implementation*

Youth Outreach Services (YOS) is a Chicago-based agency providing an array of prevention and intervention services such as foster care, transitional living programs, counseling, after-school programming, and juvenile justice diversion programs to youth and families. As the Models for Change demonstration site in Cook County, YOS is the leader of a strong collaborative that has developed a new way of responding to adolescents who act out violently against their families.

The first steps toward this strong collaboration were taken in 2006 when YOS and the Juvenile Probation and Court Services Department of the Circuit Court of Cook County (Juvenile Probation) noted the growing numbers of youth being detained on domestic battery and related offenses. Later, YOS began to explore the scope of the problem nationwide, and what types of alternative responses might be effective. After obtaining a grant from the MacArthur Foundation's Models for Change Initiative to develop a more effective response to this growing problem, YOS and Juvenile Probation convened additional system partners into a workgroup tasked with developing and implementing the Adolescent Domestic Battery Intervention Pilot Program. This workgroup presently includes: YOS; the Chicago Police Department (CPD), Juvenile Probation; the Cook

*The Cook County model highlights the use of respite care for families requiring separation due to family crisis or safety concerns.*

County State's Attorney's Office – Juvenile Division; and the Cook County Office of the Public Defender – Juvenile Division.

CPD, Juvenile Probation, and the State's Attorney's Office helped YOS identify the best point of intervention for piloting a new response, and the community areas of greatest immediate need. The Public Defender helped oversee the development of information sharing protocols and the assignment of roles and responsibilities. All partners convened regularly over the course of six months to develop and refine the program protocol and procedures.

The new response protocol and programming officially launched in September 2010. Under the original protocol, the Cook County Juvenile Detention Screening Unit identified eligible youth<sup>5</sup> and encouraged arresting officers to refer these youth to the YOS Adolescent Domestic Battery Program instead of detention.

The protocol has since expanded to allow arresting police officers, probation staff, and the State's Attorney to refer youth directly to the program. YOS utilizes its CCBYS resources to provide 24-hour crisis response, screening, and safety planning. (See Appendix A.) Youth and families are also provided with counseling, 24-hour family support and stabilization for up to 90 days, and short-term respite placement (up to 21 days) in host homes or shelters, if necessary. Depending on their needs, youth and families are linked to a wide range of longer-term therapeutic and supportive services during the 90 day stabilization period.

The resulting new response protocol and programming leveraged already-existing CCBYS resources, and required no changes to existing arrest, screening, or referral processes. Use of the CCBYS model provided for early intervention, safe placement options, ongoing family support and stabilization, and built upon already-existing relationships with police districts in Cook County.

### *Initial Outcomes*

From September 2010 through April 2012, 47 youth were referred to the Cook County program, and 33 participated. While the Step-Up program (see Sidebar) is available in Cook County, it has not been used as an intervention strategy for any of the youth referred to the YOS program. Over time, YOS staff discovered that very few participants in the diversion program could meet the Step-up program participation requirements, or would likely benefit from this type of intervention. Instead, YOS is now

***Step-Up:*** *Step-Up is a 22-week cognitive behavioral group intervention designed to help youth and their families stop using violent behaviors to resolve conflict within the family and teach parents strategies to support their child in avoiding these violent behaviors.*

*Step-Up was launched in 1997 in Seattle and was modeled after the Duluth (Minnesota) Domestic Abuse Intervention Project (DAIP) for adult male perpetrators. DAIP's primary objective is victim safety by promoting offender accountability and competency development.*

*Because of its success in other communities, Step-Up was piloted in each demonstration site as part of a continuum of services aimed at reducing youth and family conflict and violence.*

*Step-Up remains a core component of ADB programming in DuPage County.*

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<sup>5</sup> Under the original protocol, eligible youth included: 1) Youth residing in Chicago Police Districts 14, 15, 16, 17 and 25 (Chicago's West and Northwest sides); 2) who were arrested for an offense committed against someone in the home; and 3) for whom detention or out-of-home placement would otherwise be sought due to family volatility or the parents refusing to allow the child to return home.

piloting the use of Brief Strategic Family Therapy—an evidence-based, flexible, condensed, in-home family treatment approach—with this population.

The Cook County model highlights the use of respite care for families requiring separation due to family crisis or safety concerns. In fact, since the model’s official launch, 41 percent (eleven) of youth utilized temporary respite placement in host homes or shelters as an alternative to detention placement. YOS has also made inpatient psychiatric services available to youth that required intensive mental health stabilization. Nineteen percent (five) of youth required psychiatric hospitalization during this same time period. Additionally, YOS has a parent advocate on staff to help parents successfully navigate systems and secure services that meet their needs. Based on the work in Cook County, the DuPage and Peoria programs are exploring the addition of these types of intensive services for high risk youth and their families.

### *Looking Ahead*

The Cook County collaboration has also produced benefits beyond providing a more effective response for youth and families entangled in the cycle of family violence. For example, the partnership made possible through the Models for Change Initiative has spurred additional collaborations, and fostered a culture of openness to partnership and innovation within the system. In addition, the workgroup has laid the foundation for the establishment of a permanent Juvenile Justice Council in Cook County. Such a Council can, on an ongoing basis, develop proactive strategies to reduce juvenile crime and increase the safety and vitality of communities.

## **DuPage County**

### *Planning and Implementation*

DuPage County probation and detention administrators had long encountered challenges responding to youth and families experiencing domestic battery. Several internal committees were formed throughout the late 1990s and early 2000s to address the number of youth detained on overrides (placed in secure detention even though their risk scores do not indicate the need for that level of response) for domestic battery. While temporary foster placement or short-term therapeutic residential care seemed promising, these approaches were eventually determined to be impractical and unaffordable.

In September 2006, the DuPage County Department of Probation and Court Services received Models for Change funding. Because the Department had a strong history implementing alternatives to divert youth from system penetration, Models for Change resources provided a valuable opportunity for a multi-disciplinary workgroup to develop specialized approaches for youth charged with domestic battery. As in Cook County, DuPage County relied upon a strong partnership between the juvenile court system and a local CCBYS service provider, Northeast DuPage Family and Youth Services (NEDFYS) to reduce the number of domestic battery overrides into the detention center. Additionally, the group expanded the scope of its efforts to reduce the time youth spend in detention, if admitted for ADB, and to improve the outcomes of youth placed on probation for ADB offenses.

Before identifying an effective intervention for youth arrested for domestic battery, the workgroup sought to understand the scope of the problem in DuPage County by looking at local administrative data. Stakeholders found that youth charged with domestic battery represented on average 7-10

percent of juvenile arrests from 2000-2009, with the number rising to 12 percent in 2010 and 2011. They also found that these youth were overridden into detention at over twice the rate of overrides for other offenses. They also found that these youth were returning to the juvenile justice system more quickly than other youth, with approximately 25 percent of youth charged with ADB re-arrested within six months compared with approximately 15 percent for all other juvenile offenders in DuPage County.<sup>6</sup>

With this data in hand, the core Models for Change team brought together prosecutors, defenders, service providers and judges to identify more effective strategies to serve these youth and their families and determine the key decision points to target with these reforms. Because DuPage County encompasses more than 50 law enforcement agencies, it was not feasible to begin this work at the law enforcement contact stage, as YOS had done in Chicago.

Instead, stakeholders decided that a new approach could have a significant impact at the post-arrest / court referral stage by working with families to quickly and safely release youth from detention, divert them from formal court processing or provide enhanced probation services. This collaboration has produced specialized adolescent domestic battery policy and practice in DuPage County, including:

- **Diversion:** The new protocol provides diversion from formal court processing (delinquency petition filed in court) by allowing eligible families to participate in a preliminary conference premised on the successful, voluntary participation in the 22-week Step-Up program.
- **Detention release:** When youth are referred by law enforcement to secure detention based on an “override,” the revised protocol provides for the timely and safe release of youth from detention by offering families immediate safety planning and referral to the Step-Up program.
- **Specialized, family-focused probation services:** Youth adjudicated delinquent and placed on probation for domestic battery or related offenses are placed on a separate caseload and supervised by a caseworker specializing in adolescent domestic battery. These youth can be required to participate in the Step-Up program with their families as a condition of sentencing, or upon referral to the program by the domestic violence caseworker.

With technical assistance from the National Center for Juvenile Justice (NCJJ), the Department developed an automated data collection system to capture domestic battery case information. This enables the caseworker and program supervisors to generate individual and aggregate-level reports to track program referrals, offense history, Step-Up program performance, case status, completion rates, and recidivism. Other jurisdictions are currently exploring replication of this data system.

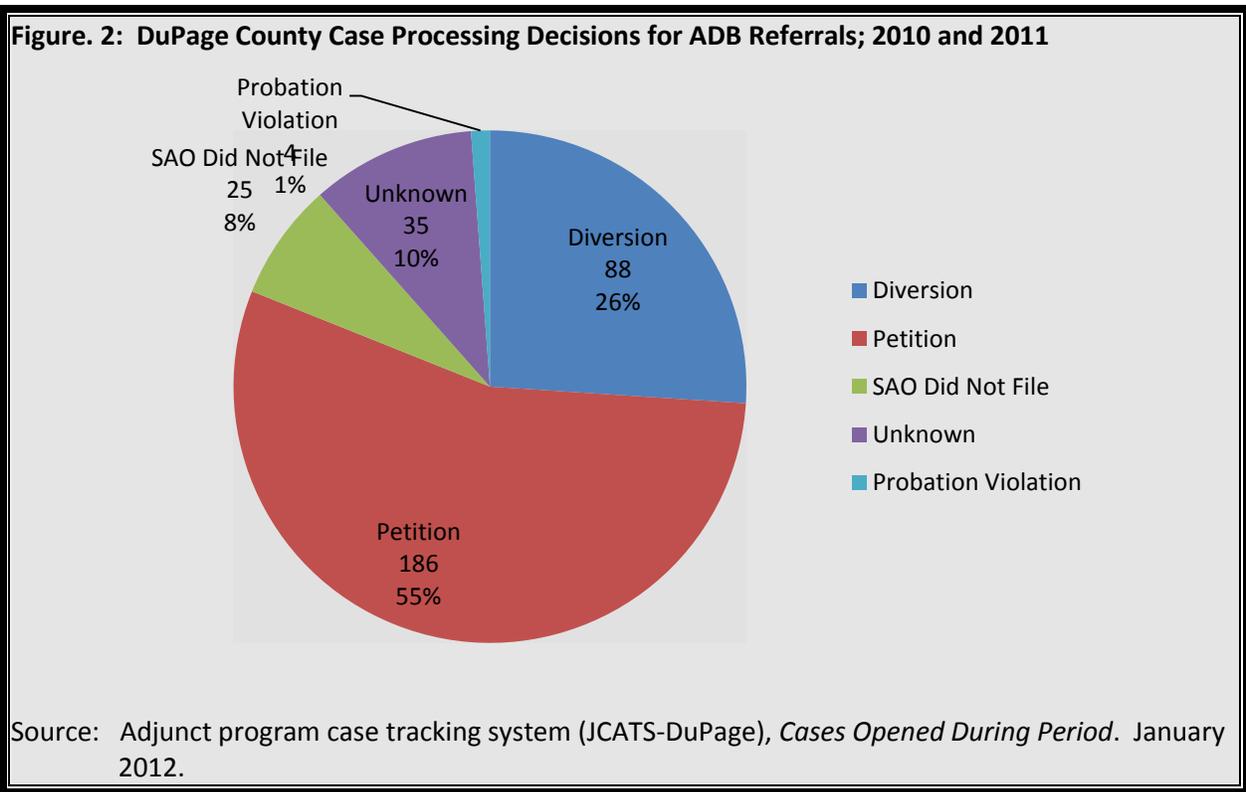
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<sup>6</sup> These findings are consistent with 2005 research by the National Center for Juvenile Justice, documenting a similar prevalence rate (9 percent) and even more pronounced quick-recidivism characteristic (54 percent domestic vs. 32 percent non-domestic) for the juvenile domestic violence population in Pima County, Tucson, Arizona.

*Initial Outcomes*

Probation screened approximately 338 youth for domestic violence cases in 2010 and 2011 (approximately 13 percent of all youth referred to probation). Just over one-quarter of these youth were diverted to the Step-Up Program for more rigorous eligibility screening and assessment (Figure 2.) For families for whom Step-Up was unnecessarily intensive or impractical, individualized interventions, diversions or probation strategies were crafted, based on the team’s new knowledge and understanding of ADB issues.

A majority those youth and families who were referred to Step-Up for intake and screening were accepted into the program (Table 1). During the first two years of the program, 53 percent (35) of all the youth and their families enrolled in Step-Up successfully completed the 22-week curriculum. Of those youth who successfully completed the program, only 5 percent have committed a subsequent offense (domestic battery and/or non-domestic battery).



*Looking Ahead*

Anecdotal reports and pre- and post-tests completed by youth and their parent/caregiver indicate the program has contributed to immediate positive behavior change and that Step-Up helps families communicate better and solve problems without using violence. To supplement these initial indications of success, the Department is working with researchers at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign to evaluate the program’s impact on intermediate and long-term youth and family outcomes.

**Table 1: DuPage County Step-Up Program; Feb 2010-Feb 2012**

Total ADB cases referred to Step-Up Program for Intake and Screening	88
<i>Number of Youth Accepted into Program</i>	66
<i>Number of Youth Referred to Other Services</i>	16
<i>Number of Youth/Families Refused Step-Up</i>	6

Source: Adjunct program case tracking system (JCATS-DuPage), *Statistics and Programs Referrals Opened During Period*. March 2012

## Peoria County

### *Planning and Implementation*

In Peoria County, Models for Change efforts have been led by the Children’s Home Association of Illinois, in close collaboration with the Peoria County Probation and Court Services Department and the County’s Juvenile Justice Council. Their early Models for Change work focused on young people and families in contact with both the child welfare and juvenile justice systems (dually-involved youth).

Data gathered by the local detention center on this population produced some unexpected findings: while the overall number of dually-involved youth in detention was lower than initially estimated, almost 70 percent of them were detained as a result of a domestic dispute. After working for over a year with the probation and detention center staff and the local office of the Illinois Department of Children and Family Services, an effective intervention was developed to meet the needs of dually-involved youth being arrested and / or detained. These strategies were founded on improved identification of dually-involved youth, cross-system information-sharing and coordinated case planning.

From there, Peoria County’s ADB efforts expanded to non-dually-involved youth and families and again, the data proved startling. The number of youth detained for ADB had nearly doubled in recent years, from 65 youth detained in 2003 to 121 admissions in 2008. In many of these cases, youth were released either prior to or at the initial detention hearing, indicating that the negative effects of detaining a youth could likely have been avoided, with appropriate alternatives or diversion strategies available. The data also revealed that most of these youth were returning home with the victim of the alleged domestic battery, with little or no intervention, services or counseling between the time of arrest and the return home. Stakeholders agreed that these patterns weren’t ideal for anyone – ADB victims and families, young people being arrested and detained, or the juvenile justice practitioners working with them.

To change this cycle of arrest / detention / release, Peoria developed a ground-breaking Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) among the Peoria Police Department, Peoria County State’s Attorney’s Office, Peoria County Juvenile Detention Center and Children’s Home in February 2010. This MOU delineated the role of the Children’s Home as the CCBYS provider and the roles of the other key partners in responding to Adolescent Domestic Battery cases.

### *Initial Outcomes*

In accordance with the MOU, the police department and the detention center began referring families for crisis intervention, assessment, safety planning, overnight respite, counseling, linkage to Step-Up programming and referrals to more appropriate services. In the first eight months under the new protocol, 25 families were referred, with 14 of them accepting the services offered. Most of those not receiving services had refused the assistance and/or could not be located by staff in follow-up efforts.

As time went on, local law enforcement responses to ADB evolved. Police requests for Children's Home crisis response decreased, and fewer youth were taken to police stations for ADB. While this change may have been a positive outcome of increased knowledge of the negative impact of unnecessary arrest and detention in ADB cases, the Models for Change group wanted to ensure that families had access to services and support, if needed. In response, the interventions available at the arrest stage were expanded to cover youth referred directly to the Peoria County Juvenile Detention Center, through an MOU executed in May 2011. Between May 2011 and June 2012, 33 youth were referred by the Detention Center, with 27 enrolled in services. Enrolled youth and families received a range of the following services: crisis intervention, assessment, safety planning, overnight respite, transportation, counseling (family and individual), referral and linkage to community resources, and aftercare planning.

### *Looking Ahead*

Perhaps even more significant than the programmatic improvements in Peoria – and the reduced number of young people arrested and detained for ADB – have been the gains in collaboration and shared knowledge. While Children's Home staff and leaders are experts in working with youth and their families, they realized early in the project that the issue of family violence brings additional challenges to providing services.

To strengthen their efforts, Children's Home engaged the local domestic violence service provider, Center for Prevention of Abuse, as a key partner in meeting the needs of these youth and families and in developing sound policy and practice. The Center provided training for the Children's Home staff and developed a safety planning process for use by Children's Home staff to decrease the likelihood of further incidents. The Center also has implemented Step-Up programming for youth and families referred by law enforcement or otherwise seeking help. This partnership is also providing a solid foundation to advance the way the community as a whole thinks about and responds to young people in conflict with their families.

When Peoria's ADB work began, one of the challenges was local law enforcement application of the Tri-County Domestic Violence Protocol, which governs first-responder and justice system practices in domestic violence cases in Peoria, Tazewell and Woodford Counties. Participants in the project soon realized that this protocol was well-intentioned, but had been developed to guide practices in adult domestic violence cases and was not written with adolescents in mind.

The data-sharing, research and collaboration fostered by the Models for Change projects illustrated the differences between ADB and adult or intimate-partner violence and, in turn, has helped police officers improve their understanding and handling many of these situations. Coupled with the new crisis intervention, respite, counseling and other supportive services now available, these improved formal

and informal responses have expanded the options available to families experiencing ADB in Peoria County.

To ensure that these changes are institutionalized and sustained, the leadership of the local Family Violence Coordinating Council<sup>7</sup> has recently convened a group of key stakeholders to draft and adopt Tri-County protocols to more effectively address domestic violence by adolescents. The group includes representatives of local law enforcement, Peoria County State's Attorney's Office, Peoria County Court Services, Peoria County Juvenile Detention Center, Peoria County Juvenile Probation, Center for Prevention of Abuse and Children's Home Association.

The group's charge is to include an adolescent section to the Tri-County Domestic Violence Protocol in 2013. When finalized, this protocol will be offered to other communities in the Illinois Family Violence Coordinating Council statewide network to enhance their interactions with families in crisis.

## **Conclusion**

As this monograph illustrates, adolescent domestic battery is a complicated issue that has not been addressed well by the traditional justice system approaches of arrest, detention and sanctions. These three Models for Change sites have worked collaboratively to understand the scope of the issue for families and justice systems, to delineate the dynamics underlying ADB and to develop a range of policy and program strategies to improve the outcomes of families in crisis (see Appendix A).

These models can provide guidance to juvenile justice stakeholders in communities both within and outside Illinois to analyze how ADB is addressed in their own communities, apply the lessons learned by these sites and improve interactions with and support for families experiencing ADB. Taken together, the lessons from the three sites can enhance interventions with families in crisis, address the issues bringing youth into contact with the justice system and improve outcomes for young people, ADB victims and their families.

A companion Guidebook to this monograph will be published in 2013 to serve as a step-by-step guide for developing local policy and programming to improve outcomes for youth and families involved in juvenile justice systems due to Adolescent Domestic Battery. It will be available at the Models for Change website ([www.modelsforchange.net](http://www.modelsforchange.net)). Additional information on each site's Models for Change projects can be found in their Transition Reports, at [www.modelsforchange.net](http://www.modelsforchange.net).

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<sup>7</sup> The Illinois Family Violence Coordinating Council (IFVCC) was convened by the Illinois Supreme Court in 1993 and subsequently transferred to the Illinois Violence Prevention Authority. Funded through an annual state appropriation, the IFVCC is comprised of a state-level Steering Committee; 28 local family violence coordinating councils, with jurisdictions covering the entire state. The purpose of the Family Violence Coordinating Councils, at both the state and local/circuit level, is to establish a forum to improve the institutional, professional and community response to family violence including child abuse, domestic abuse, and elder abuse; to engage in education and prevention; the coordination of intervention and services for victims and perpetrators; and, to contribute to the improvement of the legal system and the administration of justice.

## Appendix A

### Adolescent Domestic Battery Program Development Tools

#### Typologies of Adolescent Domestic Battery--Structured Decision Making Matrix

*This matrix is an innovative tool that organizes the unique characteristics of youth and families experiencing adolescent domestic battery into five typologies. This tool may be used to identify the risks and needs of youth entering the system for domestic battery as well as determine family dynamics that may contribute to the youth's behavior. When a youth and his/her family are classified into a "typology", they can then be matched with various treatment alternatives to meet their needs.*

#### Adolescent Domestic Battery Continuum of Services and Interventions

*This chart delineates examples of service options that can be used to intervene with youth and families experiencing adolescent domestic battery. These interventions are organized along a continuum and include: family-generated solutions or immediate crisis intervention that does not involve the juvenile justice system, court-based programs to develop problem-solving skills and other competencies, community-based or residential treatment options to address substance abuse or mental health needs, and residential placement or incarceration to treat youth who pose a significant threat to their family and/or community. It is premised upon the use of the ADB Typologies Decision Making Matrix to classify a youth and his/her family into a typology and then match them with the most appropriate intervention.*

#### Adolescent Domestic Battery Risk Safety Screen and Safety Contract

*The questions in this screening tool are based on the nine dimensions/characteristics described in the ADB Structured Decision Making Matrix. It is intended to generate discussion among juvenile justice professionals, the youth, and his/her family to gain a better understanding the incident, frequency of family conflict, family dynamics that may contribute to the youth's behavior, and any significant safety concerns that may prohibit the youth from returning home. Responses to these questions can help to classify a youth and his/her family into an ADB typology.*

*The Safety Contract creates a written plan to keep all family members safe. Youth and parents work together to identify specific behaviors and strategies to prevent conflict and/or violence in the home. It also establishes appropriate consequences should the youth's behavior violate the safety contract. Parents sign the plan and agree to support their child in utilizing the identified behaviors and strategies.*

#### Community-Based Interventions for Adolescent Domestic Battery in Illinois

*This table highlights the core components of each Illinois Models for Change site's approach to work more effectively with youth and families experiencing adolescent domestic battery.*

### Typologies of Adolescent Domestic Battery-Structured Decision Making Matrix\*

	Isolated Incident- DV (A)	Defensive DV (B)	Acute/Non-Chronic DV (C)	Pre-Chronic (D)	Chronic DV (E)
<b>Parent/Youth Roles</b>	appropriate balance of power and control	parent demonstrates power and control	power and control unclear	signs of shift to youth power and control	youth demonstrates power and control
<b>Intensity of Youth Perpetrated Aggression (YPA)</b>	only incident	isolated or infrequent	frequent and/or consistent level of low severity	frequent with increasing severity	frequent and severe
<b>Retelling of Incident</b>	parent/youth=same story	clear or same story- but vague	parent/youth=same story, details vary widely	stories vary widely	youth provides no details
<b>Emotional Reaction of Parties</b>	both parties surprised	relief and/or fear by youth, anger/surprise by parent	neither party surprised by predictable escalation	neither party surprised- parent is fearful	norm and expected (lack of emotion)
<b>Triggers to Violence</b>	non-typical stress	physical threat by parent	response to parental boundary/discipline	youth's pattern of anger/frustration	unclear/random
<b>Behavioral Intent</b>	impulsive-immediate remorse	protective	varies with each situation	attempt to control or intimidate- forethought is uncertain	controlling or intimidating as well as deliberate or pre-meditated
<b>Youth attitude towards violence</b>	accepts violence as inappropriate	accepts this incident of violence as justified	accepts violence if nothing else works-escalating behavior	accepts violence as sometimes appropriate	accepts violence as preferred response
<b>Youth Attitude Toward Change</b>	doesn't want repeat	hopes won't have to repeat	will repeat if other options not available- last resort	will do what I have to do	believes others should change
<b>Parents' Primary Concern</b>	want to get past/move on	transfer blame to youth	primarily a desire to regain control of situation	believes change is possible- but can't go on the way it is	concern for personal safety

\*Working draft pending NYSAP data analysis—anticipated early 2013.

**Adolescent Domestic Battery Continuum of Services and Interventions\***

	Isolated	Defensive	Acute	Pre-Chronic	Chronic
Family Generated Solution	x				
Mediation	x	x			
Diversion Conference/Contract	x	x	x	x	
Step-Up "Lite"	x	x			
Individual Step-Up	x	x		x	
Family Counseling	x	x	x	x	
Crisis Intervention	x	x	x	x	x
Safety Planning	x	x	x	x	x
Trauma Therapy		x			
Case Management		x			
Ind. Counseling		x			
Respite/Short term o/h placement		x			
Step-Up Program		x	x	x	
Step-Up Plus			x	x	
Family Advocate			x	x	
Facilitated Family team meetings			x	x	
Wrap Around Services*			x	x	
Out-of-Home or Relative Placement			x		
In Home Family Services			x	x	
Anger Management			x	x	x
Intensive Probation				x	x
Specialized Docket				x	x
Traditional Adult Therapy					x
Use of Restraining Orders					x
Residential Placement					x
Incarceration					x

\*Working draft pending NYSAP data analysis –anticipated early 2013

## **ADB Risk Safety Screen\***

- 1. Describe the incident that led to the current arrest:**
  - 1a. Frequency of similar incidents (please check one):**
    - Only Incident
    - Isolated or Infrequent
    - Frequent and/or Consistent Level of Low Severity
    - Frequent with Increasing Severity
    - Frequent and Severe
  - 1b. Do the youth and family's version of the stories match? Please note discrepancies.**
- 2. What is the child's reaction to the incident? The family's reaction?**
- 3. If the child becomes violent, what usually sets him or her off? What set him or her off this time?**
- 4. What is the child's attitude toward past violent behavior and/or future violent behavior?**
- 5. Is there concern or fear about the child returning home? Is there a worry he/she will hurt someone else?**
- 6. Does the child have access to any weapons in the home? What precautions will the family take to stay safe?**

*\*Working draft pending NYSAP data analysis—anticipated early 2013*

## **ADB Safety Contract\***

**I agree to the following plan to prevent abuse or violence:**

1. I will separate from my family or host home member/s when:

- I start to feel angry or upset and might become hurtful
- I start to use any hurtful behaviors including the following:

Yelling  
Name-calling/profanity  
Threats  
Intimidating behaviors  
Damaging property

Unwanted physical contact, such as:  
hitting, punching, pushing, kicking,  
slapping, grabbing, choking or other  
unwanted contact

2. I will inform the person I am separating from by saying: \_\_\_\_\_

3. I will separate from the person and go to one of the following places: \_\_\_\_\_

4. While I am separated I will do something to calm myself down, such as: \_\_\_\_\_

5. I will stay away from others for \_\_\_\_\_ minutes, or until I can be respectful to everyone in the house.

**I agree to the following rules:**

- I will not use this to plan as an excuse to leave the house, get out of chores or things I'm supposed to do.
- After my separation time I will return and make a plan with the other person about what to do next, (i.e., finish the discussion, plan a time later to talk about it, or let it go).
- If the other person separates from me I will respect their time alone and not bother them.
- I will stay away from the other person until they are ready to talk again.

**I understand if I am violent the consequences will be:**

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**Youth Agreement:**

**I agree to be non-violent at home.**

\_\_\_\_\_  
Youth Signature

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

**Parent Agreement:**

**I also agree to be non-violent and to support my child in following this plan.**

\_\_\_\_\_  
Parent Signature

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

*\*Working draft pending NYSAP data analysis—anticipated early 2013*

**Community-Based Interventions for ADB  
In Models for Change Sites**

	<b>Cook / YOS</b>	<b>DuPage</b>	<b>Peoria</b>
<b>CCBYS 24-hour crisis intervention</b>	√		√
<b>Temporary Respite/Out of Home Placement</b>	√		
<b>Safety Planning</b>	√	√	√
<b>Diversion from Court</b>	√	√	√
<b>Step-Up Program</b>	√	√	√
<b>Linkage to Other Community-Based Services</b>	√	√	√
<b>Parent Advocate</b>	√		
<b>Specialized Probation Caseload</b>		√	
<b>Automated Data System</b>		√	

## **Appendix B**

### **Adolescent Domestic Battery Data Appendix**

#### **National Scope of Adolescent Domestic Battery**

*Youth Arrests*  
*Victims*  
*Offenders*  
*Use of Weapons*  
*Seriousness of Injury*

#### **Data Summary on Youth Arrests for Domestic Battery Related Charges in Illinois**

*Statewide Youth Arrest Numbers and Trends for ADB*  
*Charge Types*

#### **Data Summary on Youth Admitted to Detention in Illinois for ADB**

*Average Number of Detention Admissions for ADB*  
*Use of Detention Overrides for ADB*  
*Girls Admitted to Detention for ADB*  
*Average Length of Stay for ADB vs. Other Offense Types*

#### **Data Summary on Youth Admitted to the Illinois Department of Juvenile Justice for ADB**

*ADB as Percent of Overall IDJJ Admissions*  
*Percent of Youth Committed to IDJJ on Misdemeanor Charges for ADB*

## Adolescent Domestic Battery Data

### National Prevalence and Scope of Adolescent Domestic Battery

National estimates indicate that between 7 and 13 percent of juvenile arrests are related to alleged violence against a parent or caregiver. National data findings also indicate:

- Most victims of ADB are female (67 percent). One-third of ADB offenders are females (35 percent)
- Half of juvenile domestic violence offenders victimized a parent (48 percent).
- Most ADB offenses do not involve a weapon (86 percent).
- Almost two-thirds of the reported incidents resulted in no injury (63 percent) and less than 2 percent registered a major injury.

Adapted from (Snyder and McCurley 2008) and (Adams, Puzanchera and Kang 2010).

### Illinois Arrest Data Summary for Youth Charged with Domestic Battery Related Offenses -- 2002 to 2009<sup>8</sup>:

- Arrest incidents for domestic violence offenses averaged about 2,700 offenses annually in Illinois, approximately 4 percent of all juvenile arrests statewide during that period and 4 – 9 percent of juvenile arrests in the three MfC sites.
- Over this eight-year period, ADB incidents increased 13 percent from 2,575 overall incidents in 2002 to 2,919 in 2009 (Fig.1).<sup>9</sup>
- Domestic battery charges comprised 95 percent of these arrests, with aggravated domestic battery, visitation interference and violation of order of protection comprising less than 5 percent of overall domestic violence arrests combined.

### Illinois Detention Data Summary for Youth Admitted for Domestic Battery Related Charges -- 2006 to 2010<sup>10</sup>:

- From 2006 to 2010, Illinois averaged between 900 to 1,000 youth admissions to detention for domestic violence related offenses each year (approximately 7 percent of overall youth detention admissions).
- Many of these youth were detained on “overrides”. In other words, the youth’s score on the standardized, objective juvenile detention screening instrument (developed locally by each

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*8 Studies have shown that family violence by children, including youth-on parent battering is the most common but least reported form of family violence. FBI supplemental arrest data collection flags domestic violence offenses regardless of the charge, providing a broader picture of offender, victim, and offense characteristics. For example, in 2009 there were over 3,900 juvenile arrests for domestic battery related offenses, including the most prevalent domestic violence offense types of domestic battery, battery, domestic violence, and criminal damage to property, but also includes aggravated battery, assault, and criminal sexual assault when the situation was domestic. In Peoria and DuPage counties, the most prevalent offenses are domestic battery and battery. However, a aggravated assault and disorderly conduct are frequent charges in those counties.*

*9 The prevalence of juvenile arrests for domestic violence offenses can be explored using arrest record information stored in the Illinois Criminal History Record Information system. Four offense types can be grouped as domestic offenses (aggravated domestic battery, domestic battery, Interference and violation of order of protection).*

*10 Admissions to secure detention are tracked in a statewide automated system in Illinois - JMIS.*

jurisdiction) indicating that detention was not necessary.<sup>11</sup> In many cases, the youth was detained because the parent refused to allow the child to return home or because law enforcement did not want to risk future violence in the home

- Girls were detained for ADB at much higher rates than for other offenses. Girls comprised 38 percent of statewide detention admissions for ADB. For all other offenses, girls constitute 10 percent of detention admissions.
- Youth charged with juvenile domestic violence offenses were more likely to have shorter detention stays (12.5 days vs. 17.9 days) than for other offenses, consistent with findings that youth cycle frequently in and out of detention for ADB offenses.

**Illinois Department of Juvenile Justice Data Summary for Youth Admitted for Domestic Battery Related Charges:**

- From 2000 to 2011, only 2 percent of overall admissions involved a committing offense of domestic violence (388 of 18,684 total admissions), but 88 percent of those were committed on misdemeanor charges.

*\*\*It is important to note that these data represent only those youth arrested, detained or committed on a charge of domestic battery. As discussed above, the number of youth involved in the justice system for offenses related to family conflict (disorderly conduct, criminal damage to property, etc.) is likely larger, but the state's data is not sufficiently detailed to provide this more complete information.*

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<sup>11</sup> In DuPage County, 29/64 (45 percent) youth were overridden into detention in 2011. 32/87 (37 percent) youth were overridden into detention in 2010.