A case control analysis of offenders issued with Domestic Violence Protection Orders (DVPOs) in Hertfordshire.
A retrospective and prospective study.

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Superintendent Clare Smith - Hertfordshire Constabulary.
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Research Questions

1. Is the National DVPN/DVPO policy being implemented appropriately for Hertfordshire’s domestic abuse cases?

2. Do offenders in cases in which a DVPO has been issued have a different prior criminal history when compared to a sample of similar cases in which a DVPO has not been issued?

3. Is there an association between the issuance of a DVPO and a subsequent difference in the prevalence, frequency and harm of domestic abuse, when compared to a sample of similar cases in which a DVPO has not been issued?
Research design, methods and data

• 2 groups DVPO group (n=74) non-DVPO group (n=148)

• Initial DVPO group (n=112) 24 cases that met criteria but rare circumstances removed and 14 error cases also removed

• Initial Non DVPO Groups (n=2,656) by matching criteria of DVPO sample, Cambridge Crime Harm Index (CHI) +/- 7 date of occurrence

• Incident and offender level matching
Results

Hertfordshire Constabulary's DVPO Usage

- 14 (12.5%) cases issued in errors,
- Incorrectly used DVPOs in 1 out of 8 cases
- 2,730 total cases which should have been eligible for DVPO yet only 74 (2.7%) did

The Herts Way
DVPO and non-DVPO sample prior arrests since 1st January 2012

**Prior Arrests**

- DVPO sample mean 4.040 prior arrests and non-DVPO sample 1.972
- Independent sample t-test, difference statistically significant (p=0.001) and effect size medium (d=0.522)
“Power Few” offending

![Graph showing the distribution of prior offences among offenders with and without DVPOs.](image)

- **Non-DVPO (n=148)**
- **DVPO (n=74)**
• As expected DVPO higher mean number and higher prevalence
• Independent sample t-test, difference statistically significant (p<0.0005) and effect size medium (d=0.586)
• Crime Harm not statistically significant so greater volume but no more harmful
• Independent sample t-test, difference statistically significant (p=0.031) and effect size is small (d=0.309)
• Observed difference in the opposite direction from what would expect if DVPOs successfully reduced offending
• DVPO group not only greater prevalence for re offending but arrested more often
• Independent sample t –test, difference statistically significant (p=0.002) and effect size is medium (d=0.485)
• No statistically significant difference in post crime harm
Conclusions

1. Is the National DVPN/DVPO policy being implemented appropriately for Hertfordshire’s domestic abuse cases? No low numbers, recording errors 12.5% incorrect applications, used incorrectly 1 out of 8 cases.

2. Do offenders in cases in which a DVPO has been issued have a different prior criminal history when compared to a sample of similar cases in which a DVPO has not been issued? Yes those in receipt of DVPOs had been arrested more and were more prevalent however they were no more harmful.

3. Is there an association between the issuance of a DVPO and a subsequent difference in the prevalence, frequency and harm of domestic abuse, when compared to a sample of similar cases in which a DVPO has not been issued? Those in the DVPO group were arrested more and more often post DVPO but the offending was no more harmful.
Thank you

Superintendent Clare Smith
Hertfordshire Constabulary
Mobile:07734068378
Email: Clare.Smith@herts.pnn.police.uk