

The Disproportional Use of Detention Following a Parental Assault and the Risk of Re-offending

Midwest Sociological Society
Annual Meeting

Jesse J. Helton, PhD March 26, 2011



Background

16% of all juvenile arrests

About 50% self-report

Juvenile justice system is not specifically designed to address family disputes

These youth may require a different type of system response compared to other types of offenses in order to reduce the likelihood of re-arrest

Currently several states, counties, and major cities are merging CW and JJ services



Research Questions

- 1. Are youth who are arrested for domestic battery different in terms of demographic characteristics and court outcomes compared to youth arrested for other types of offenses?
- 2. Are these youth more likely to re-offend compared to youth arrested for other offenses?
- 3. Due to the nature of their offense (i.e., family dispute), are these youth more likely to be placed in detention rather than returned home to their parents?
- 4. Has the child welfare system been involved with families of youth arrested for domestic battery prior to the arrest, and does the involvement reduce the likelihood of re-offending?



Methods

Several administrative sources

Probation

Offense type

Race

Arrests

Disposition

Age

Detention

Time in Detention

Gender

Child Welfare

Dually Involved

- January 2000 to July 2009
- First-time offenders, ages 10 to 17
- N=7250



Results

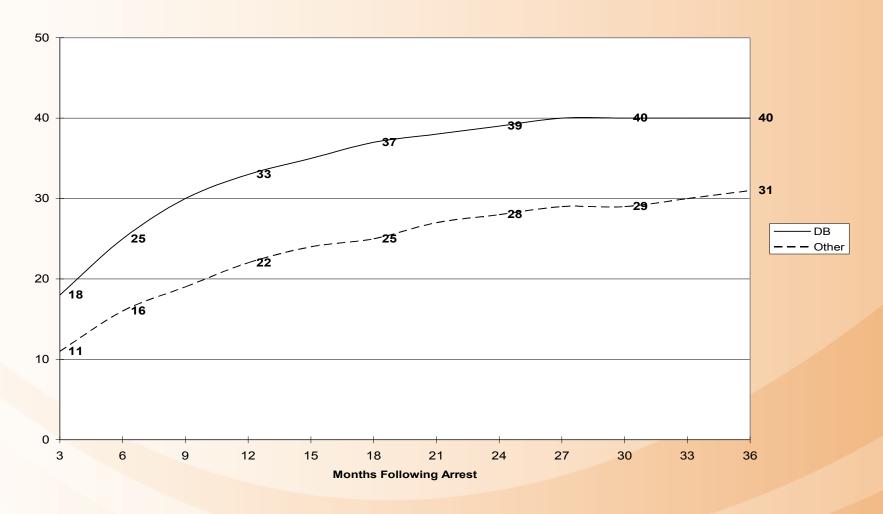
Domestic Battery represented 8% of all initial arrests

Bivariate relationships:

- More DB were charged at disposition (56% vs. 45%)
- More DB had a history of CPS involvement (18% vs. 9%)
- More DB were placed in detention (16% vs. 2%)
- More DB were rearrested (40% vs. 30%)



Time to Re-Arrests Comparing Domestic and Non-Domestic Battery Arrests





Cox Regression Model for Re-Arrest

_ <u></u>		
	Hazards Ratio	SE
DB	1.31**	.10
Charged	2.00**	.09
Detention	.84	.09
CPS	1.41**	.09
Age	1.10**	.02
Male	1.09	.05
Race		
Black	1.01	.05
Hispanic	1.04	.06
Other	1.12	.15
DB*Age	.97	.04
DB*Charge	.85	.13
DB*Det.	1.61*	.37
DB*CPS	.72	.13



Conclusion

Results show that once a youth is arrested for a domestic dispute their juvenile justice experience is *disproportionately punitive*, leading to a greater risk of reoffending and further system penetration.

- Formally charged, forgoing less punitive forms of supervision
- Placed in detention compared to other offenders
 - These youth were even more likely to reoffend

Limitations

- No record of MH or socioeconomic status
- Severity of battery
- Who are the victims?

Implications

JJ system response: court monitor + family-level interventions

Must intervene before DB arrest

Station adjustment

Family crisis counselor



Contact Information

Jesse J. Helton

Children and Family Research Center School of Social Work University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign Jhelton2@illinois.edu

Research funded by:

The John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation Illinois Models for Change