RADFORD UNIVERSITY
Radford, Virginia

An Evaluation of a Domestic Violence Court

Dr. Isaac Van Patten
Department of Criminal Justice
Radford University
Ms. Kathryn Van Patten, M.S.
Court Community Corrections Program
Roanoke, VA

Background

History:

- Violence Against Women Act of 1994
  - 4 year implementation
  - O.J. Simpson
- Specialized Courts first started popping up in early 80's

Review of the Literature

Key Practices:

- Hold perpetrator accountable
- Judicial leadership
- Systemic involvement
- Support for victims and families
- Concentration on children
  - NEW: www.ncjrs.gov document on impact on kids: NCJ 215347

Best Practices

- Judicial Behavior
  - Therapeutic jurisprudence
  - Leadership
  - Celerity

Best Practices

- Collaborative effort by involved agencies
  - Courts
  - Prosecutor
  - Community Corrections
  - Social services/SA & mental health services
  - Law enforcement
  - Victim services

Best Practices

Future:

- Everyone has to be on board
  - "Programs come down to the people behind them" –Judge Philip Trompeter
  - Changing embedded attitudes
- Support for Family Values
- Spread of specialized Courts

History Roanoke Valley DV Court

- Program started in 1998 by JDRC Judge
  - Convened the involved parties
    - Police
    - Prosecution
    - Child Protective Services
  - Concern for well-being of children
    - Especially from non-married couples

History Roanoke Valley DV Court

- A comprehensive "systemic" approach – everyone has an active role – Judicial leadership
  - Police
  - Prosecution
  - Community Corrections (adult probation services)
  - Child Protective Services
- Proactive – setting a community norm
- Reduction of repeat offenses

Sample

- Total N=308 batterers
- 210 closed cases from the County Juvenile & Domestic Relations Court
  - All closed cases referred since July 1998
- An additional 98 closed cases randomly selected from the City JDRC for a comparison group

Method

- Quasi-experimental design
  - Ex post facto comparison group
- File review of all closed cases from the study jurisdiction
- A random sample of closed cases selected from the comparison jurisdiction
- Use of survival analysis
  - …a family of statistical tools appropriate for understanding & modeling the time to an event

Description of the Sample

Batterer Gender

Gender	Count	Percent
Male	235	76.5%
Female	72	23.5%
Total	307	100%

Race/Ethnicity

Race*	Count	Percent
Caucasian	230	76.7%
African American	61	20.3%
Hispanic	7	2.3%
Asian	2	0.7%
Total	300	100%

*Collapsed into two categories for subsequent analyses

Relationship Status

Relationship	Count	Percent
Single, not living together	115	38.5%
Married	111	37.1%
Separated	35	11.7%
Single, living together	16	5.4%
Divorced	22	7.3%
Total	299	100%

Victim-Offender Relationship

Batterer was:

	Count	Percent
Spouse	109	39.8%
Girlfriend/Boyfriend	97	35.4%
Father/Mother	22	8%
Sister/Brother	10	3.6%
Son/Daughter	25	9.1%
Other	11	4%
Total	274	100%

Male Victims by Relationship

Victim was:	Count	Percent of Total
Husband	21	7.7%
Boyfriend	11	4%
Father	2	0.7%
Brother	2	0.7%
Son	11	4%
Total Male/Total	47/274	20.8%

Children Present

Children?

	Count	Percent
Yes	201	75.8%
No	64	24.2%
Total*	265	100%

* Continuing analysis indicates more than 700 affected children

Shared Children

Shared Children?	Count	Percent
Yes	23	67.6%
No	11	32.4%
Total	34	100%

Employment Status

Batterer Employed?	Count	Percent
Yes	215	70%
No	92	30%
Total	307	100%

Level of Education

Education	Count	Percent
Less than HS	93	30.7%
High School (GED)	150	49.5%
Some College	40	13.2%
Associates	4	1.3%
BS/BA	10	3.3%
Advanced Degree	6	2.0%
Total	303	100%

Prior Substance Abuse Tx

Treated for AOD?	Count	Percent
Yes	78	73.6%
No	28	26.4%
Total	106	100%

Prior Felony Arrest

Felony Arrest Record?	Count	Percent
Yes	116	37.9%
No	190	62.1%
Total	306	100%

Prior Misdemeanor Arrest

Misdemeanor Arrest Record?	Count	Percent
Yes	186	60.8%
No	120	39.2%
Total	306	100%

Crimes Against Persons

Prior Arrest for CAP?	Count	Percent
Yes	129	74%
No	45	26%
Total	174	100%

Prior Domestic Violence

Prior DV Arrest?	Count	Percent
Yes	78	63.4%
No	45	36.6%
Total	123	100%

Any Other Assault

Prior Arrest for Other Assault?	Count	Percent
Yes	59	66.3%
No	30	33.7%
Total	89	100%

Convictions

Any Prior Convictions?	Count	Percent
Yes	143	81.7%
No	32	18.3%
Total	175	100%

Mandatory Arrest

Reason for Arrest	Count	Percent
Witness to Assault	1	0.3%
Admission	1	0.3%
Evidence of Battery	306	99.4%
Total	308	100%

Who filed charges

Charging Party	Count	Percent
Police Officer	180	72.3%
Victim	69	27.7%
Total	249	100%

Batterer Intervention Program

BIP Ordered?

	Count	Percent
Yes	293	95.8%
No	13	4.2%
Total	306	100%

BIP Completion

Offender Complete BIP	Count	Percent
Yes	232	78.9%
No	62	21.1%
Total	294	100%

New Offenses During Program

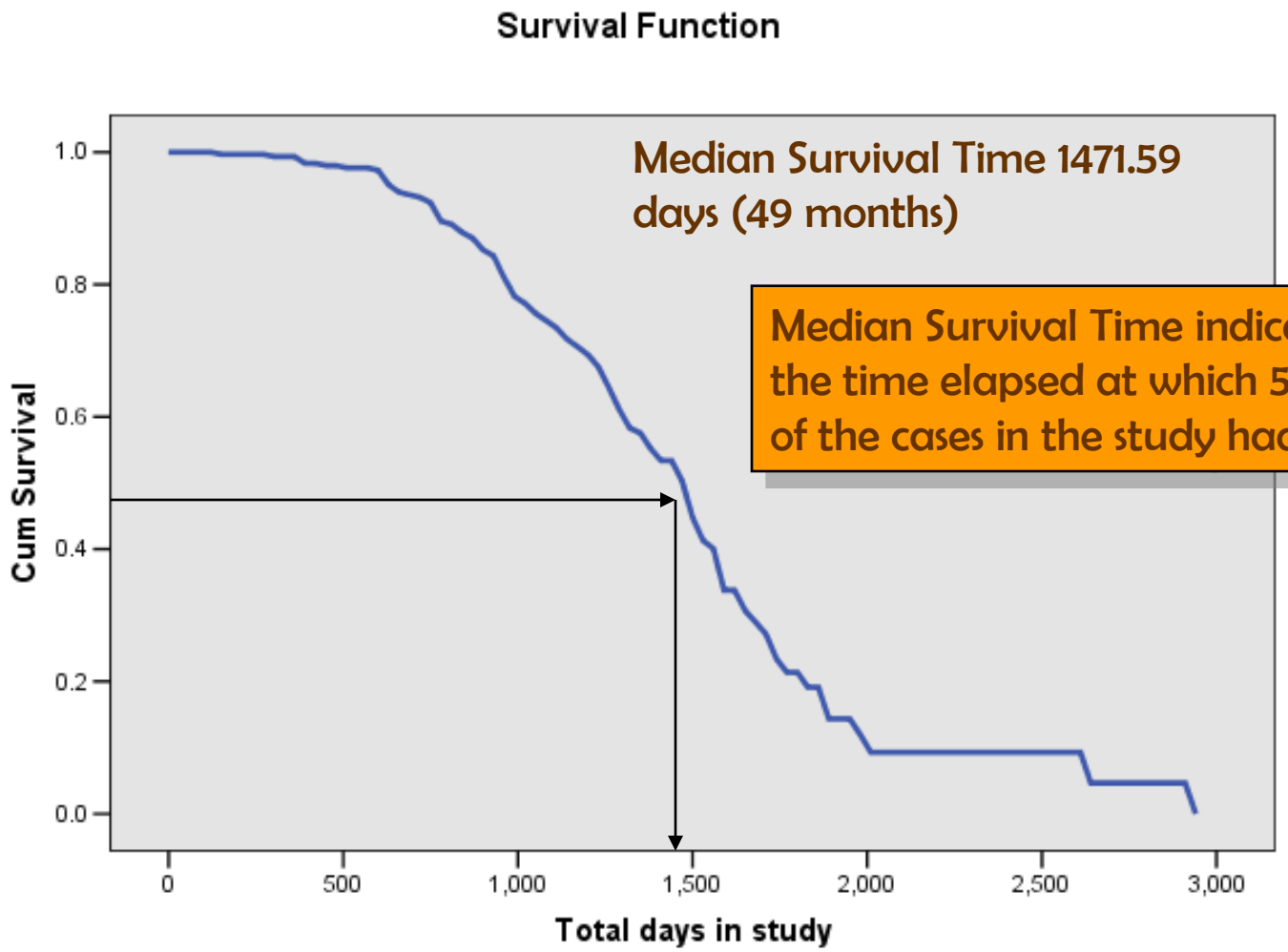
Any New Offenses During?	Count	Percent
Yes	56	29.5%
No	134	70.5%
Total	190	100%

New Offenses After Completion

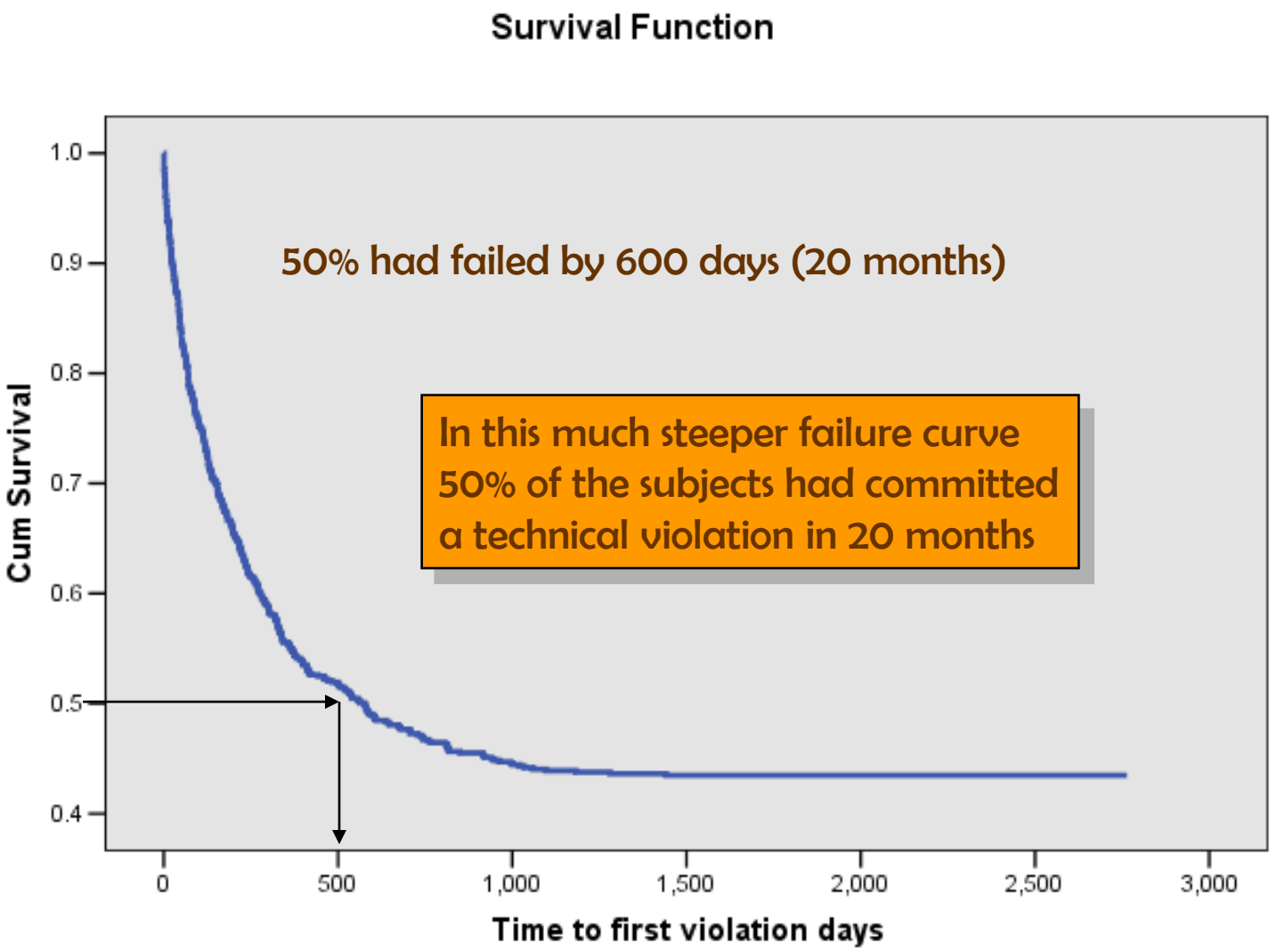
Any New Offenses After?	Count	Percent
Yes	14	10.1%
No	124	89.9%
Total	138	100%

Survival Analysis

Overall Survival Curve



Comparison Curve



"Failure" by Categories

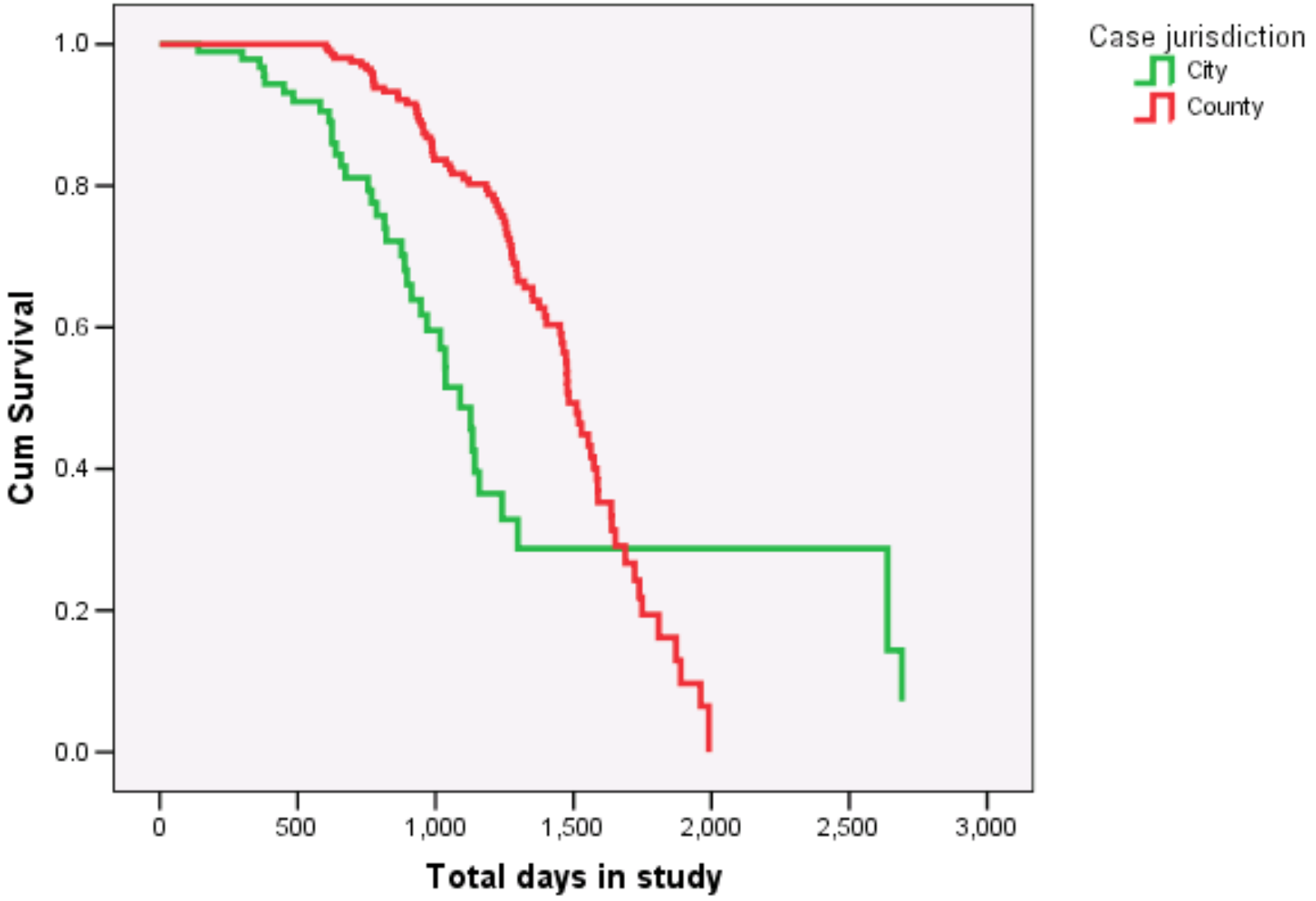
Category	Count	Percent
Success	185	60.1%
Violation of Protective Order	3	1.0%
New Domestic Violence Incident	19	6.2%
Other Law Violation	101	32.8%
Total	308	100%

Success by Jurisdiction

Jurisdiction	DV Court	Comparison
Success	59%	62.2%
Violation of Protective Order	0	3.1%
New Domestic Violence Incident	6.7%	5.1%
Other Law Violation	34.3%	29.6%
Total N	210	98

Chi Square = 7.256, NS

Survival by Jurisdiction



Median Survival by Jurisdiction

	Median	SE	95% Confidence Interval
Comparison	1088 (36.3 mo)	59.35	971.67 – 1204.33
DV Court	1482 (49.4 mo)	27.62	1427.86 – 1536.14
Overall	1472	41.9	1389.88 – 1554.12

Overall Comparison by Jurisdiction

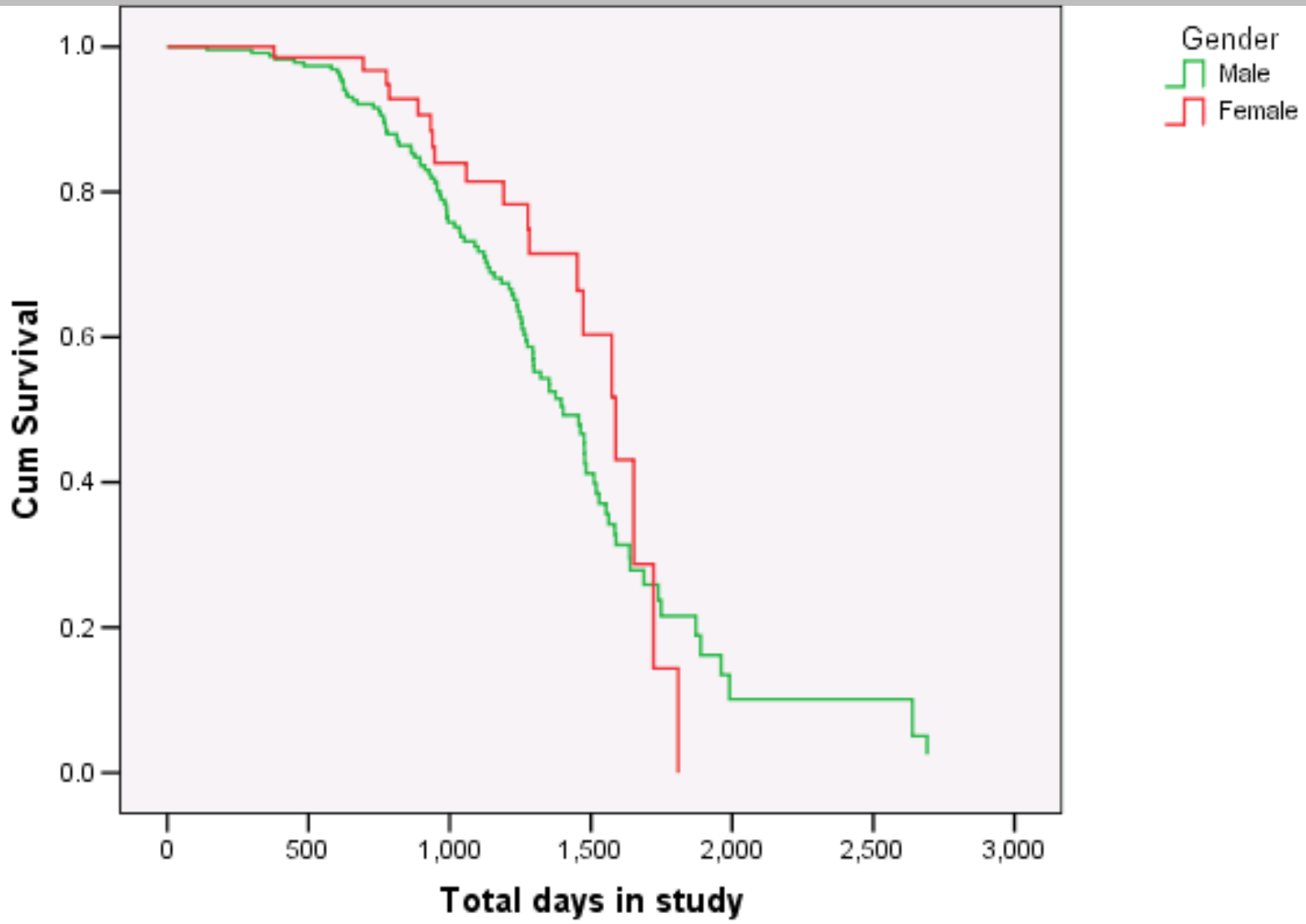
	Chi Square	df	Significance
Log Rank	11.71	1	p < .001
Breslow	35.685	1	p < .001
Tarone-Ware	29.351	1	p < .001

Success by Gender

Gender	Male	Female
Success	56.2%	73.6%
Violation of Protective Order	1.3%	0%
New Domestic Violence Incident	6.8%	4.2%
Other Law Violation	35.7%	22.2%
Total N	235	72

Chi Square = 7.417, p=.060

Survival by Gender



Median Survival by Gender

	Median	SE	95% Confidence Interval
Male	1401	69.301	1265.17 – 1536.83
Female	1587	82.465	1425.37 – 1748.63
Overall	1472	41.8	1390.07 – 1553.93

Overall Comparison by Gender

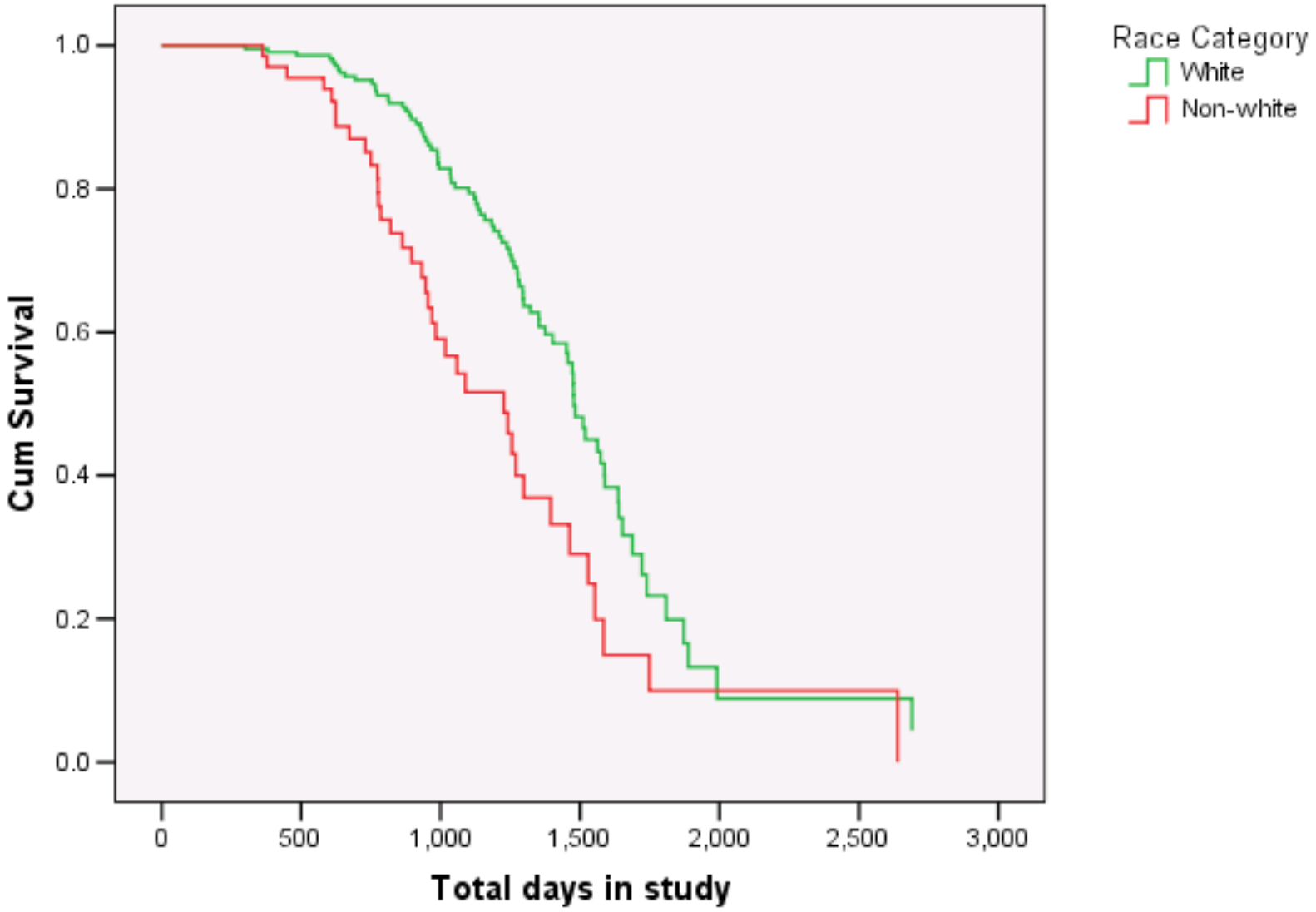
	Chi Square	df	Significance
Log Rank	2.123	1	p = .145
Breslow	3.59	1	p = .058
Tarone-Ware	3.485	1	p = .062

Success by Race

Race	Caucasian	African Am	Hispanic	Asian
Success	63.5%	45.9%	57.1%	50%
Violation of Prot. Order	0.9%	1.6%	0	0
New DV Incident	4.8%	9.8%	0	50%
Other Law Violation	30.9%	42.6%	42.9%	0
Total N	230	61	7	2

Chi Square = 14.707, p=0.099

Survival by Race



Median Survival by Race

	Median	SE	95% Confidence Interval
White	1477	42.74	1393.24 – 1560.76
Non-white	1226	128.89	973.38 – 1478.62
Overall	1462	46.23	1371.395 – 1552.61

Overall Comparison by Race

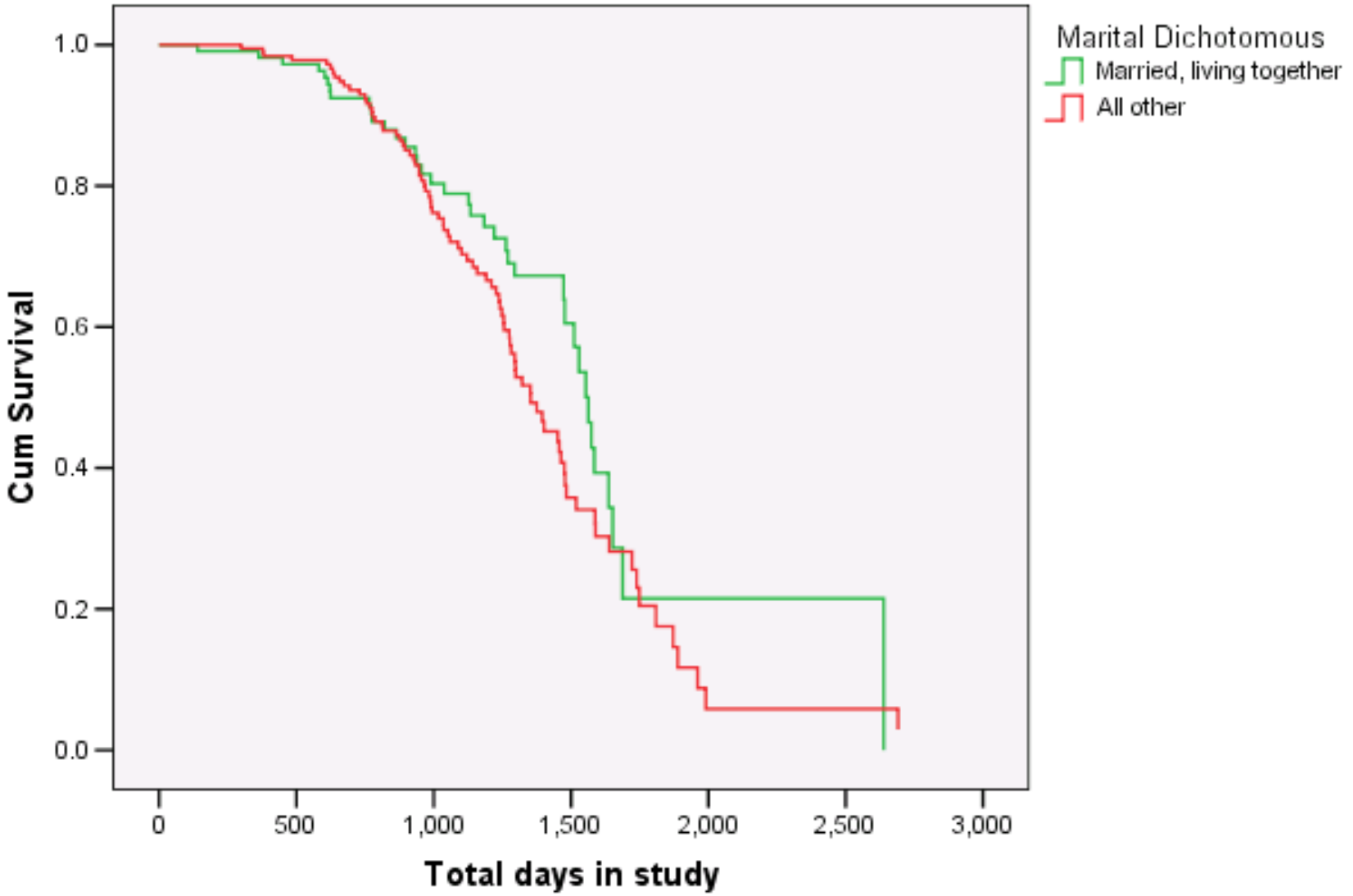
	Chi Square	df	Significance
Log Rank	13.36	1	$p < .001$
Breslow	18.56	1	$p < .001$
Tarone-Ware	17.7	1	$p < .001$

Success by Marital Status

Marital Status	Married	Single - NLT	Other
Success	65.8%	53%	61.6%
Violation of Prot Order	0.9%	0.9%	1.4%
New DV Incident	5.4%	7.0%	5.5%
Other Law Violation	27.9%	39.1%	31.5%
Total N	111	115	73

Chi Square = 4.196, NS

Survival by Marital Status



Median Survival by Marital

	Median	SE	95% Confidence Interval
Married	1562	35.67	1492.48 – 1631.52
All other	1352	66.72	1221.24 – 1482.76
Overall	1472	41.9	1389.88 – 1554.12

Overall Comparison by Marital

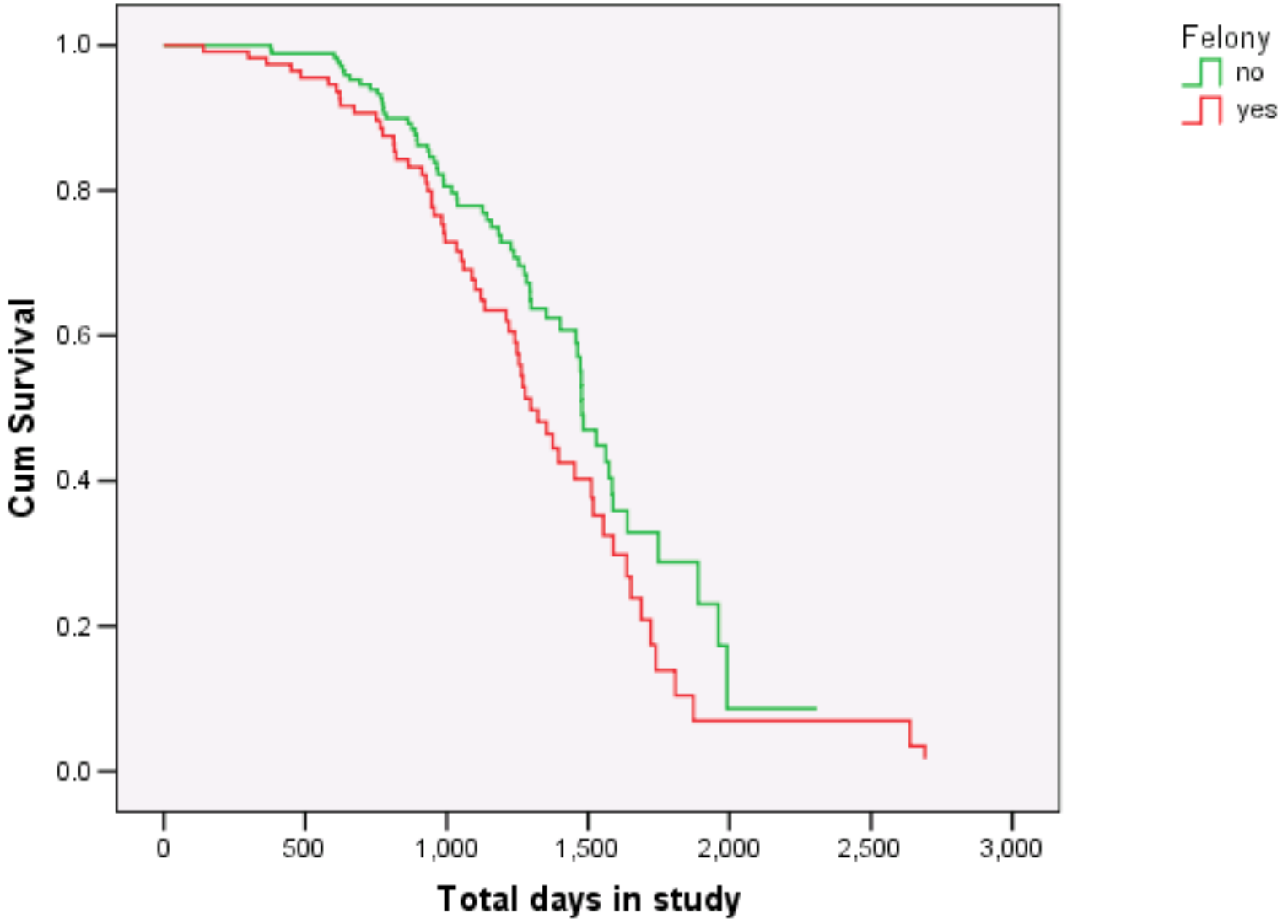
	Chi Square	df	Significance
Log Rank	2.494	1	p = .114
Breslow	1.157	1	p = .282
Tarone-Ware	2.04	1	p = .153

Survival by Prior Felony

Prior Felony	No	Yes
Success	66.8%	48.3%
Violation of Protective Order	0.5%	1.7%
New Domestic Violence Incident	4.2%	9.5%
Other Law Violation	28.4%	40.5%
Total N	190	116

Chi Square = 11.623, p=0.009, Cramer's V = .195

Survival by Prior Felony



Median Survival by Prior Felony

	Median	SE	95% Confidence Interval
No	1477	31.78	1414.71 – 1539.29
Yes	1296	59.86	1178.68 – 1413.32
Overall	1472	42.003	1389.67 – 1554.32

Survival by Prior Felony

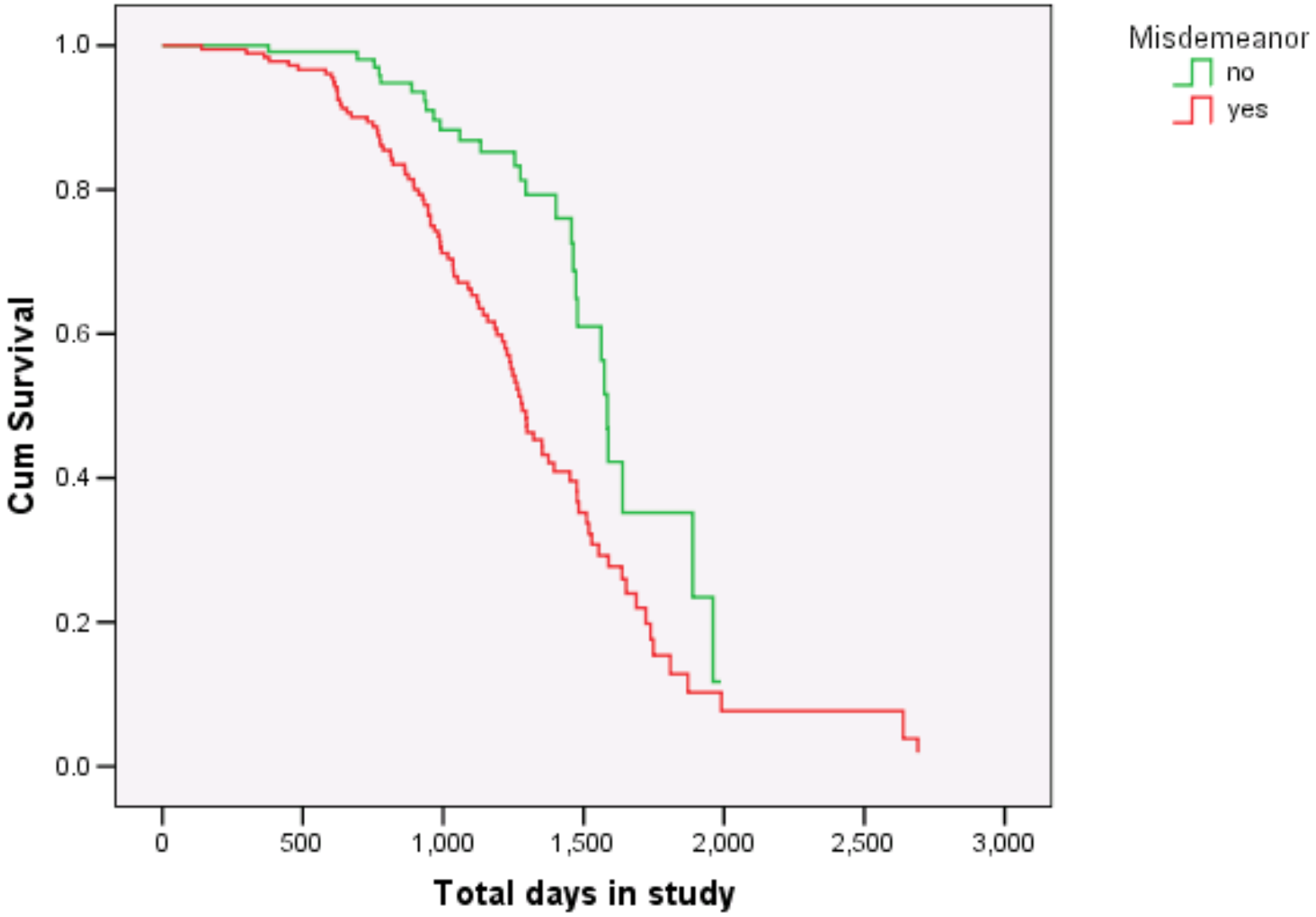
	Chi Square	df	Significance
Log Rank	4.705	1	p = .03
Breslow	4.621	1	p = .032
Tarone-Ware	4.949	1	p = .026

Survival by Prior Misdemeanor

Prior Misdemeanor	No	Yes
Success	77.5%	48.4%
Violation of Protective Order	0	1.6%
New Domestic Violence Incident	2.5%	8.6%
Other Law Violation	20%	41.4%
Total N	120	186

Chi Square = 26.766, p<0.001, Cramer's V = .296

Survival by Prior Misdemeanor



Median Survival by Misdemeanor

	Median	SE	95% Confidence Interval
No	1584	16.82	1551.03 – 1616.97
Yes	1281	46.45	1189.97 – 1372.03
Overall	1472	42.003	1389.67 – 1554.33

Overall Comparison by Misdemeanor

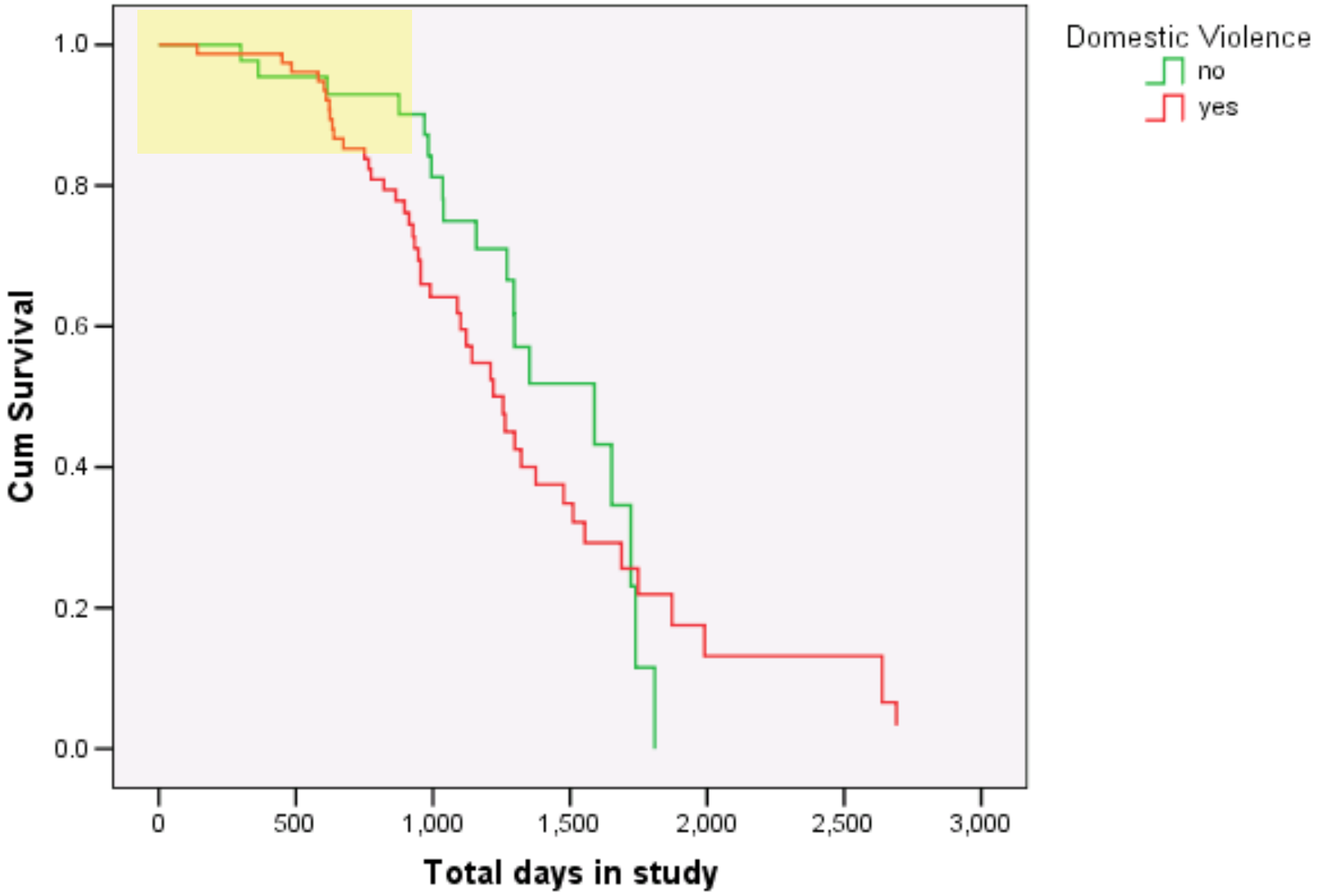
	Chi Square	df	Significance
Log Rank	15.304	1	p < .001
Breslow	18.327	1	p < .001
Tarone-Ware	18.906	1	p < .001

Survival by Prior DV Charge

Prior DV	No	Yes
Success	57.8%	43.6%
Violation of Protective Order	0	1.3%
New Domestic Violence Incident	4.4%	12.8%
Other Law Violation	37.8%	42.3%
Total N	45	78

Chi Square NS

Survival by Prior DV Charge



Median Survival by Prior DV

	Median	SE	95% Confidence Interval
No	1588	243.134	1111.457 – 2064.543
Yes	1255	84.537	1089.307 – 1420.693
Overall	1296	47.528	1202.846 – 1389.154

Overall Comparison by Prior DV

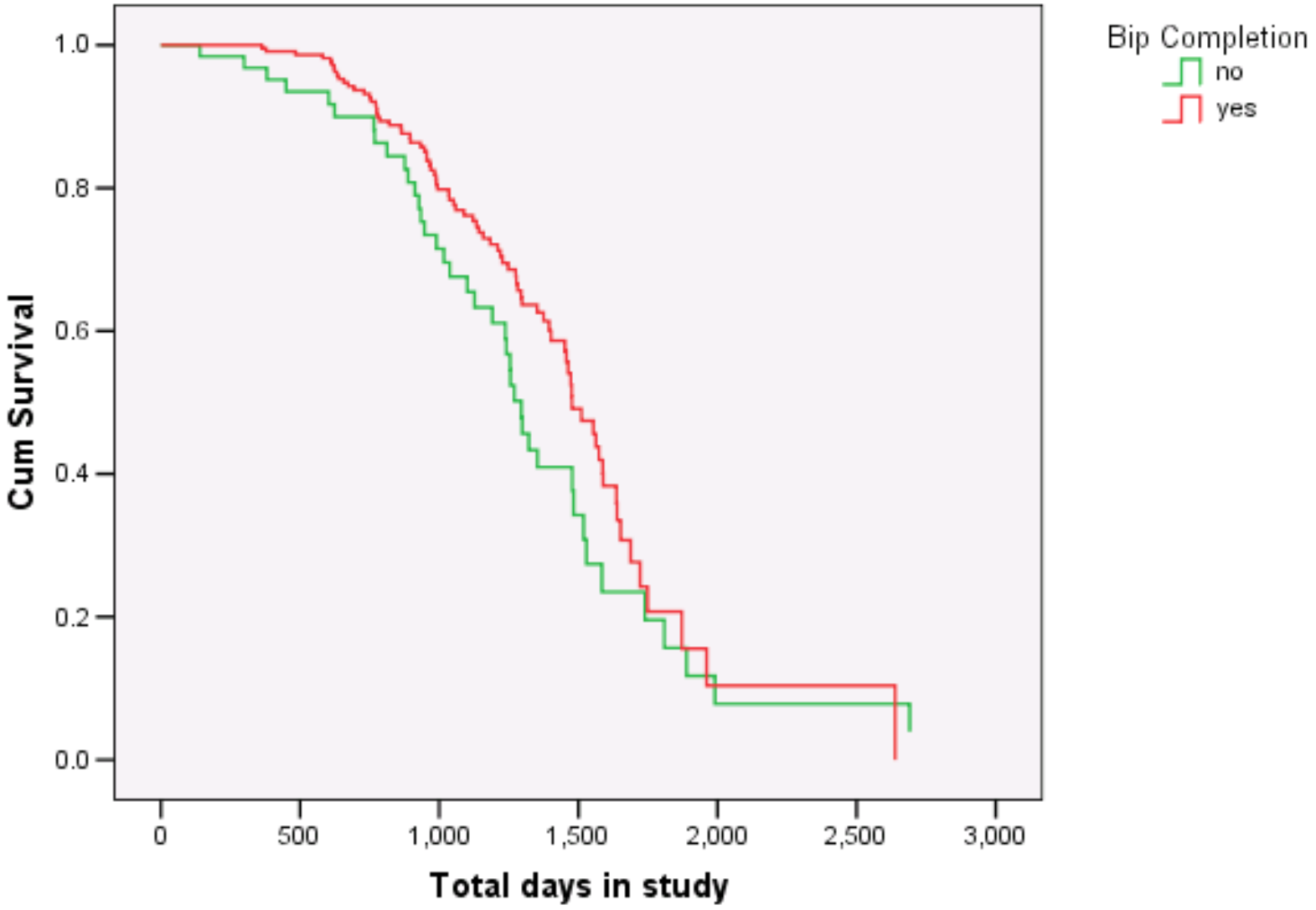
	Chi Square	df	Significance
Log Rank	.982	1	p = .322
Breslow	3.158	1	p = .076
Tarone-Ware	2.557	1	p = .110

Survival by Completion of Batters' Intervention Program

Completed BIP	No	Yes
Success	36.5%	65.5%
Violation of Protective Order	1.6	0.4%
New Domestic Violence Incident	4.8%	6.9%
Other Law Violation	57.1%	27.2%
Total N	64	232

Chi Square = 22.350, p=0.001, Cramer's V = .194

Survival by BIP Completion



Median Survival by BIP

	Median	SE	95% Confidence Interval
No	1294	43.069	1209.586 – 1378.414
Yes	1476	46.415	1385.027 – 1566.973
Overall	1472	47.56	1378.782 – 1565.218

Overall Comparison by BIP

	Chi Square	df	Significance
Log Rank	2.907	1	p = .088
Breslow	4.771	1	p = .029
Tarone-Ware	4.653	1	p = .031

Conclusions

- The integrated Domestic Violent Court program exhibits **more overall success, and for a longer period,** than does the similar, but non-comprehensive approach of the comparison system

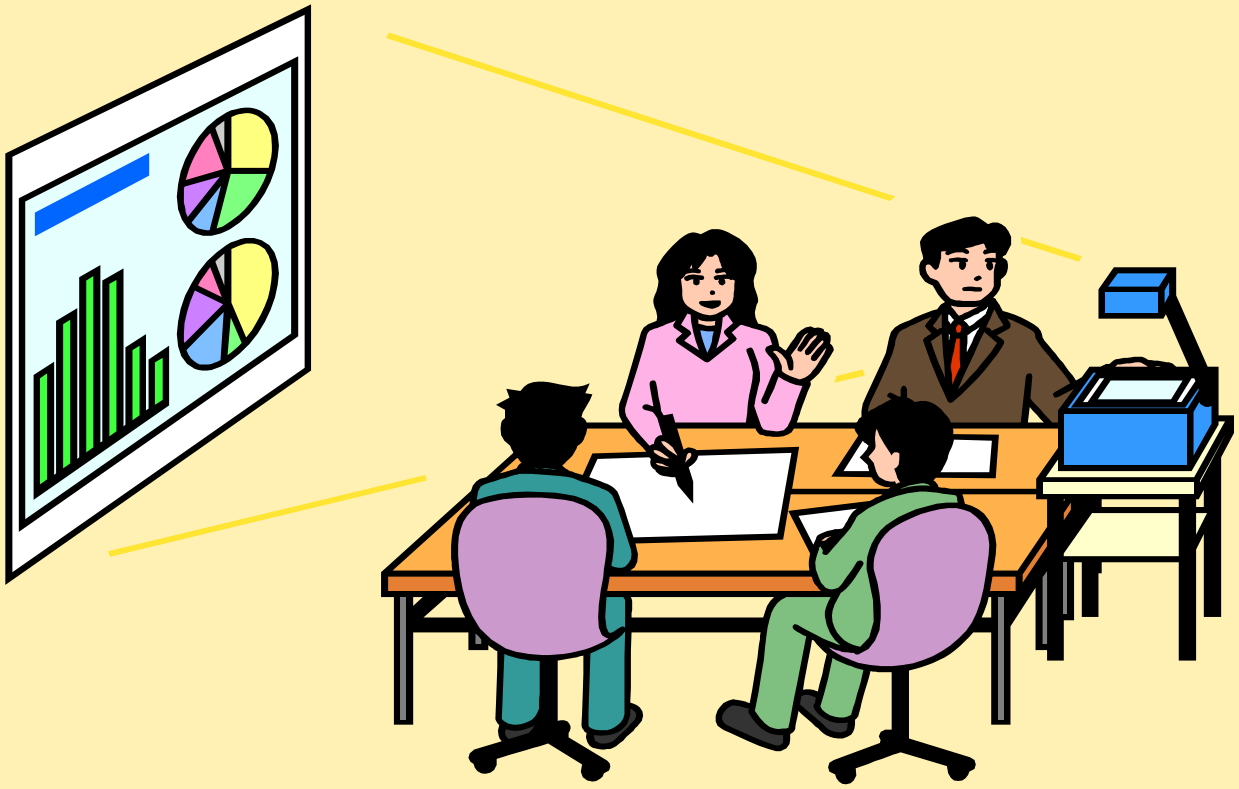
Characteristics of the DV Court

- Judicial leadership
- Systemic commitment
  - Law enforcement
  - Prosecution & defense bar
  - Social services
  - Community corrections case management
  - Batterers intervention program
- *The whole is greater than the sum of the parts*

Other Findings

- Women offenders do better than men
  - They succeed longer without a new offense
- White offenders do better than non-white
  - Not sure what this represents – further examination is warranted
- Marital status doesn't make much difference
  - Partner violence is partner violence

Other Findings

- The more prior felonies the greater the risk of failure
- The more prior misdemeanors the greater the risk of failure
- Prior DV charges don't make that much difference
- BIP makes a difference in offender success

Questions & Discussion