

1) Nationally, research repeatedly indicates that recidivism rates are reduced for those who complete a batterer intervention program (BIP).

- a. Massachusetts study: Those who completed a certified BIP were significantly less likely to be rearraigned for any type of crime: 47.7% vs. 83.6%; any violent crime: 33.7% vs. 64.2%; violation of a protection order: 17.4% vs. 41.8%. (Bocko, S., C. Cicchetti, L. Lempicki, and A. Powell. *Restraining Order Violators, Corrective Programming and Recidivism*. Boston, MA: Office of the Commissioner of Probation, November 2004.)
- b. Dallas study: Twice as many program dropouts as completers were rearrested for any charge within 13 months: 39.7 vs. 17.9%; the difference for assaults was 8.1% vs. 2.8%. (Eckhardt, C. "Stages and Processes of Change and Associated Treatment Outcomes in Partner Assaultive Men." Final Report for National Institute of Justice, August 2003.)
- c. Chicago study: Of more than 500 court referred batterers to more than 30 BIP programs, recidivism rates after 2.4 years average were 14.3% for completers; 34.6% for noncompleters. (Bennett, L., C. Stoops, C. Call, and H. Flett. "Program Completion and Re-Arrest in a Batterer Intervention System." *Research on Social Work Practice*, 17(42)(2007): 42-54.)
- d. Florida study: The odds that completers would be rearrested were half those of a control group that were not assigned to a program. (Feder, L., and L. Dugan. "Testing a Court-Mandated Treatment Program for Domestic Violence Offenders: The Broward Experiment." Final report for National Institute of Justice, 2004.)
- e. Multi-state study: Abusers who completed their program reduced their risk of reassault in a range of 46-66%. (Gondolf, E. *Batterer Intervention Systems*. Thousand Oaks, CA: Sage, 2002.)
- f. Topeka study: A review by court services found that 81% of those who completed the Family Peace Initiative Program in a five year time frame were not charged with another crime and did not have another protection order placed against them in that county.
- g. "Abusers who complete batterer programs are less likely to reabuse than those who fail to attend, are noncompliant, or drop out. The difference can be substantial." (Klein, A. "Practical Implications of Current Domestic Violence Research: For Law Enforcement, Prosecutors and Judges. " Special Report for National Institute for Justice, June 2009: 68.)

2) When the effectiveness of BIPs is questioned, it is often due to the inclusion of everyone referred to the program rather than those who completed the program.

(Florida and New York studies) Effectiveness with noncompleters is often out of the hands of the program, and is reliant on the criminal justice system immediate response.

Programs cannot operate successfully in isolation. Numerous studies have found court monitoring, compliance hearings, supervision, and other criminal justice action can increase attendance rates. (Klein, A. "Practical Implications of Current Domestic Violence Research: For Law Enforcement, Prosecutors and Judges." "Special Report for National Institute for Justice, June 2009.)

3) Length of BIP program can make a difference.

- a. Brooklyn Study: This study compared an 8 week and 26 week program that used the same curriculum, the same number of hours. The 8 week program showed no significant difference from the control group. The 26 week program showed significant difference even though the most difficult cases were sometimes diverted from random assignment into the 26 week program. (Davis, R., B. Taylor, and C. Maxwell. "Does Batterer Treatment Reduce Violence? A Randomized Experiment in Brooklyn." Final Report to National Institute on Justice, January 2000.)

4) Anger management has not been found to be effective in reducing recidivism in those who batter.

- a. Massachusetts study: There was no difference in rearrest rates for those who completed anger management programs and those who failed to complete. Those who completed anger management recidivated at higher rates than those who completed BIPs even though those referred to the BIPs had significantly more criminal history, more past order violations, more longstanding substance abuse histories, and less education than those attending anger management. (Bocko, S., C. Cicchetti, L. Lempicki, and A. Powell. *Restraining Order Violators, Corrective Programming and Recidivism*. Boston, MA: Office of the Commissioner of Probation, November 2004.)

5) Some who batter are particularly resistant to change and will need additional or different responses.