

National Association of Forensic Counselors

2022 - Keynote Presentation

Demystifying the Complexities of the Male Batterer's Value System, His Criminality and the Status of Batterer Intervention Programs

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Goals and Objectives

- **Section 1**

- Goal #1: Demystify the Batterer's Value System**

- Objective: To provide information on how a batterer thinks and what he believes.

- Goal #2: Demystify the Batterer's Criminality**

- Objectives: To provide information on both similarities and differences with general criminals, the escalation of criminal behavior impacting the batterers themselves, the victims, law enforcement, intervention providers and society.

- **Section 2**

- Goal: Demystify the Status of Batterer Intervention Programs**

- Objectives: To provide information on the current trends of Batterer Intervention Programs including controversy over appropriate treatment, the effectiveness of Batterer Intervention Programs, and the challenges of evidence-based programming.

Section 1: Introduction-Research Based-What We Know About Batterers

1. Batterers use **power and control** over their partners.
2. Batterers want and need control over their intimate partners-We have **not empirically determined** the reasons or causes.
3. There is **no one theory** of intimate partner violence that explains battering.
4. The terms power and control must be redefined or defined clearly **according to scientific research.**
5. More research is needed on new research such as the **internal power theory.**
6. Bulk of batterers are characterized as using **instrumental violence** (usually only with partners). Batterers with Anti-Social Personality diagnosis (using violence in general not specific to partners) are seen as outliers.
7. Batterers have personality traits and **share anti-social** characteristics. **A small number** are clinically anti-social, borderline, etc.
8. Batterers establish an **ongoing abusive pattern** of behavior with a partner.

How Batterers Think and What Batterers Believe

Thinking:

1. All batterers think **deceptively** in order to control their partners.
2. Batterers have **negative expectations** of their partners that affect the relationship.
3. Batterers have **cognitive distortions** that are incorporated into their use of abuse.
4. Batterers utilize **concrete and abstract thinking** affecting how and why they use abuse.

Beliefs:

1. Batterers believe that violence is **not a choice**. Most believe that abuse or violence is necessary to keep the partner in line or in some cases where the batterer has been hit first, to react with more severe violence in self-defense.
2. Batterers believe that their behavior is **not that bad**. They think, “If my behavior is that bad, why doesn’t she leave?”
3. Batterers have the last word even when they know that the relationship should end, they believe that, “I can end the relationship but **you can’t leave** unless I say so”.
4. Batterers believe in **rules**-they employ their rules in a relationship articulated verbally or through their actions.
5. Some batterers don’t believe that they should **share** their lives-they use deception as a shield.

What Batterers Believe continued

6. Some batterers choose to spend every minute of their lives with their **partners-role of dependency** and expecting their partners to do the same.
7. Most batterers want to maintain an appropriate image in their communities; abuse and violence occurs **in the home only**.
8. Most batterers believe that they should make the decisions for their partners dictating the role that the partners should have in the relationship leading to an ongoing **loss of rights to make choices**. Also, batterers exercise power if partners question or challenge their authority-decisions.
9. Some batterers believe that **cheating is a mark of masculinity** and that they should partake in cheating.

Batterer Similarities and Differences with General Criminals

- Most research agrees that:
 - Batterers should be treated as general types of criminals rather than specific types of criminals.
- Most research finds that the majority of batterers have similarities with general criminals. Those are:

Prior criminal histories

Low self-control

Majority of violent crimes are committed by males

Dysfunctional thinking patterns

Adverse childhood experiences

Alcohol and/or drug abuse

Failure with family and/or marital relationships

Exposure to negative parenting practices

Anti-Social Personality traits

Desire for power

Batterer Similarities and Differences with General Criminals con't

- Specifically, batterers have similarities with general criminals in denial of their abuse or crime(s):

Denial of **responsibility**

Denial of **injury**

Denial of the **victim**

Condemnation

- Batterers have similarities with general criminals in risk factors correlated with recidivism:

Lack of education

Unemployment or problems with employment

Unstable lifestyle

Substance abuse

Low income

Lack of commitment to prosocial values

Prior criminal history

Young age

*Note-For both batterers and general criminals, personal distress has no link with abuse or crimes.

Batterer Similarities and Differences with General Criminals con't

- Batterers have differences with general criminals in risk factors correlated with recidivism:

Batterers – Usually the severity of abuse is related to recidivism. Family background and relationship problems are not linked to recidivism. Recidivism rate (2018)-60% of convicts rearrested within 2 years.

General criminals –Recidivism is linked with negative peer associations. Recidivism rate (2021)-about 43.1% of 3 year period for USA.

- Batterers have similarities and differences with general criminals in murder-suicide crimes:

Introductory information- 11 murder suicides occur each week in the USA, meaning 1,000 to 1,500 deaths occur in the USA. Majority of perpetrators are male 89%, 75% of the victims of all murder-suicides are former/current partners (Of those 94% are women victims or 429 women), 25% involve multiple victims. IPV by males –murder suicides account for 5% of all homicides in the USA. 21,000 murders in 2019, 3000 were women victims. With IPV, suicides occur immediately after the murder or within 24 hours or rarely can occur a week after the murder. No national statistics are gathered on murder-suicides.

Batterer Similarities and Differences with General Criminals con't

- Batterers have similarities and differences with general criminals in murder-suicide crimes:

Batterers-Murder-suicides have increased in 2021. Fourth leading cause of death of girls/women ages 1-19 is IPV and fifth leading cause of death for women 20-44.

Criminals-Murder- suicides are different from batterers. Murder suicides occur in various situations: suicide by cop (immediate), hostage takers (preference for suicide if they can't escape), mass murderers.

Batterers-Age of abusers who murder and commit suicide afterwards makes a difference in terms of batterer characteristics and motives:

20 to 35, possessive, off and on struggles in relationship, controlling;

35 to 55, personal crisis, jealousy, controlling;

over 55, clinically depressed and controlling.

Batterer Similarities and Differences with General Criminals con't

- Batterers have similarities and differences with general criminals in murder-suicide crimes:

Criminals-typical age, mixed research usually 40-50 year olds. Criminals' typical motive for murder suicides is retaliation.

Batterers-30% have prior domestic violence convictions. Underestimated-From interviews with victims' families, closer to 70% had perpetrated domestic violence but not been caught.

Murder-suicides, criminals and batterers both:

Usually premeditate the murder and suicide.

Some studies found a history of chronic depression.

Have poor self-control.

Use a firearm in the majority of cases on victims and themselves.

Both are linked with animal abuse. **Criminals-Number one risk factor.**

Batterers-Prior domestic violence is the number one risk factor for murder-suicide. Gun access is second highest risk factor. Prior criminal record (excluding prior IPV) is not a reliable predictor of murder-suicide for batterers and criminals.

Uncommon risk factors for both criminals and batterers-substance abuse and criminal record.

Batterer Similarities and Differences with General Criminals con't

- Differences: Majority of research takes position on mental illness, criminality and battering:

Criminality-3 positions and general perspective on mental illness

1. Mental illness directly causes criminal behavior – Few studies found serious mental illnesses with hallucinations have a relationship with criminality.

2. Mental illness does not cause criminal behavior - Some studies have found that mental illness is incidental to criminality and that there is no causal relationship between criminal behavior and mental illness

3. Mental illness indirectly causes criminal behavior – Some studies found that mental illness interferes with life, gravitates toward anti-social behaviors, etc.

General research perspective - The vast majority of violent acts are not due to mental illness. Most people with mental illness are not violent.

Battering, research findings support:

That specific mental health disorders are associated with battering as high risk factors but are not the cause of battering. Abusive behavior in an intimate relationship and mental illness are two separate entities.

Batterer Similarities and Differences with General Criminals con't

- Differences: Majority of research takes position on mental illness for general criminals and batterers:

Battering, research findings support:

In terms of mental health, the highest risk factor for battering is substance abuse followed by substance abuse with co-occurring with a mental health disorder. (co-morbid diagnosis)

Very few known results for successful mental health interventions for intimate partner violence.

The most prevalent type of mental health disorders found for batterers were mood disorders, anti-social personality disorder and borderline personality disorder.

Non-treated Bipolar Disorders are strongly connected to intimate partner violence.

- Differences: New research from neuroscience :

Criminals: There is a connection between amygdala functioning and risk for future violence.

Batterers: Poor performance on executive functioning, verbal skills, and vocabulary. ¹²

Batterer Similarities and Differences with General Criminals con't

- Batterer and General Criminal Thinking: Similarities and Differences:

Both:

- Making excuses
- Ignoring responsible actions
- Getting sidetracked
- Asserting power over others
- Sense of privilege or ownership
- Self-serving acts of kindness**

Criminal has:

- Lazy thinking
- Getting away with anything

Batterer has:

- Emotional dependence
- Usually some form of sexist thinking (1 of 6 types: Hostile, Benevolent, Ambivalent, Institutional, Interpersonal, Internalized))

Escalation of Criminal Behavior Impacting the Batterers Themselves, the Victims, Law Enforcement, Intervention Providers and Society

- Introduction to escalation:

Why is escalation important?

Predictions/Risk assessments

Most agreed upon definition of escalation by former and current research in accordance with specific IPV type-Intimate Terrorism (Patriarchal Violence; Coercive Control Violence and Coercive Control Non-Violence. Escalation is:

A Process by which controlling behavior becomes more frequent, less disguised and closer to being lethal over time.

Abuse and control become more severe over time.

Abuse gets worse, either **suddenly or gradually**.

A behavioral systematic **pattern** of increasing severity or frequency of aggression.

In comparison, few current studies have found that specific type of IPV Situational Couples Violence (Common Couples Violence) is an outcome of abuse or contextual where violence can occur with or without frequency or increasing severity. **This means that:**

Abuse may or may not have a pattern of escalation in terms of frequency and/or severity.

Abuse is unlikely to result in long term physical violence and/or homicide but can.

Escalation of Criminal Behavior Impacting the Batterers Themselves, the Victims, Law Enforcement, Intervention Providers and Society con't

. Introduction to escalation:

Abuse is not on-going, occurs only during a fight.

Abuse can be perpetrated by either party.

Other factors such as stress, financial problems are cause of abuse.

Neither party is trying to control the other person or relationship.

No feelings of being controlled or fear by either person in the relationship.

- 4 Patterns of escalation:**
1. Sequential escalation coupled with obedience-subduing - hoarding power. **Patriarchal violence.**
 2. Dr. Lenore Walker's Cycle of Abuse-predicting.
 3. Episodic-short periods and quicker resolution. Outcome violence.
 4. Narcissistic Abuse Cycle; idealization, devaluation and rejection.

Note: Sequential escalation associated with Coercive Control/Patriarchal Violence

verbal > emotional > physical and/or sexual > non-fatal strangulation >murder > murder-suicide

Section 1 Escalation of Criminal Behavior Impacting the Batterers Themselves, the Victims, Law Enforcement, Intervention Providers and Society con't

- Lethal escalation: When a batterer stops at nothing to gain power and control over his partner.

Former research, prevalent signs of lethal escalation

Escalation: More frequent, intense physical violence

Presence of firearms

Non-fatal strangulation

Extreme jealousy

Threats

Suicidal

Victim believes the batterer is capable of killing her

New research on signs of lethal escalation

Abusers follow eight-stage pattern:

1. A pre-relationship history of stalking
2. Development of romance quickly into a serious relationship
3. Relationship is dominated by coercive control

Section 1 Escalation of Criminal Behavior Impacting the Batterers Themselves,
the Victims, Law Enforcement, Intervention Providers and Society con't

- **Lethal escalation: When a batterer stops at nothing to gain power and control over his partner.**

New research on signs of lethal escalation

4. An event occurs that threatens the batterer's control (example: end of relationship)
5. **An increase in intensity or frequency of the batterer's control tactics**
6. Batterer changes his thinking-moves on either by revenge or homicide
7. Planning-the batterer might buy weapons or seek to get victim alone
8. Homicide-the batterer kills his partner

Accumulation of findings on predictors of homicide, escalation is third predictor

1. Separation – 83%
2. Substance abuse combined with another factor – 68%
3. **Escalation of abuse – 56%**
4. Stalking behaviors – 50%
5. Criminal history – 46%

Escalation of Criminal Behavior Impacting the Batterers Themselves, the Victims, Law Enforcement, Intervention Providers and Society con't

- Lethal escalation: When a batterer stops at nothing to gain power and control over his partner.

Other major studies, findings on predictors of homicide, escalation is third predictor

6. Threats to kill – 43%
7. Prior domestic-violence related charge – 36%
8. Child abuse, Threats of suicide – 33%
9. Batterer's mental illness – 31%
10. Batterer has a weapon – 29%
11. Threats with weapons – 25%
12. Violation of a protective order, property damage, previous serious injury – 23%
13. Sexual assault – 21%
14. Animal abuse – 8%

Escalation of Criminal Behavior Impacting the Batterers Themselves, the Victims, Law Enforcement, Intervention Providers and Society con't

- **Escalation; impact on the batterer – Escalation can make him more dangerous:**

Success in controlling the partner sensitizes the batterer to any lapse of control.

Escalation in frequency or severity may cause the batterer to create more excuses, justification and blame.

Escalation can lead to homicide.

- **Escalation; impact on the victims-Efforts to slow or stop escalation:**

Taking the batterer back after a break up.

Recanting statements.

Covering up for the batterer.

Changing their behaviors to submission. (Becoming depressed, alcoholism, suicide)

Using manipulation or deception (to limit escalation).

Surviving violence; defending herself leading to arrest, being hurt or killed.

- **Escalation; impact on law enforcement:**

Improve management in dealing with batterers and victims after lengthy escalation of violence in relationship.

Become involved with batterers who have perpetrated IPV multiple times.

Section 1 Escalation of Criminal Behavior Impacting the Batterers Themselves, the Victims, Law Enforcement, Intervention Providers and Society con't

- Escalation; impact on law enforcement:

Improve estimate/knowledge of the dangerousness of batterers and use Lethality Assessments.
Improve knowledge of safety threats to police.

- Escalation; impact on intervention providers:

Greater careful analysis of risks for injury and lethality.

New research on finding assortment of motives for IPV including stress factors.

Some utilize the “one size does not fit all” and therefore, led to an exploration of incorporating escalating factors into their programs.

Increased awareness that IPV escalation may not solely necessarily be based on power and control coupled with gender bias but in some cases may be situational.

- Escalation; impact on society:

Additional research needed; lack of studies on the understanding of escalation in IPV.

Confirmation that police intervention decreases escalation: In one study involving 140,998 IPV incidents, batterers in majority of cases who came to police attention did not commit a future crime against the partner in the next 2 years; batterers with repeat offenses did not escalate to more severe crimes.

Escalation of Criminal Behavior Impacting the Batterers Themselves, the Victims, Law Enforcement, Intervention Providers and Society con't

- **Escalation; impact on society:**

Review of differential treatment for batterers; they are criminals.

Examination of sentencing for first time offenders as opposed to repeat offenders.

Greater media focused on murder-suicides and IPV.

- **Escalation; Impact on Society, Confirmed by Research:**

Improve fairness to the victims: Repeat batterers are usually increasingly dangerous.

Improve justice: Disempower the batterer and educate the victim.

Discourage bias: Concentrate on the dynamic of “power over” rather than concentrating solely on male gender violence.

Recognize danger: The prevalence of escalating violence in IPV is much higher than is currently known. Non-fatal strangulation serves as a precursor to IPV homicide and is in line with sequential violence as a pattern.

Section 1: Research Summary and Conclusions

1. Batterers use power and control in their relationships.
2. More empirical evidence is needed to explain battering.
3. Batterers use a degree of deception.
4. Batterers take away a partner's rights in a relationship.
5. Cognitive distortions, concrete and abstract thinking play a part in the batterer's thought process.
6. Majority of batterers are similar to general criminals.
7. Both batterers and general criminals share that age and prior criminal history are risk factors for recidivism.
8. Batterers are different from others who commit murder-suicides in that they murder a current or former partner and that motives are grouped according to ages.
9. In most studies, mental illness is not the cause of criminal behavior but is another problem that adds to dysfunctional behavior for both general criminals and batterers.
10. Escalation of abuse sometimes does not occur and when it does occur, escalation can be explained through various patterns.
11. Escalation is the third highest risk-factor for murder.
12. Situational violence occurs in some abusive relationships.

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Section 2 To provide information on the current trends of Batterer Intervention Programs including controversy over appropriate treatment, the effectiveness of Batterer Intervention Programs (BIPs), and the challenges of evidence-based programming

- **Introduction:** **Specific research** on COVID resulting in uptick in IPV, current trends describing changes in BIPs, overview of national models, recommendations for effectiveness and evidence-based measures.
- **Uptick in IPV due to COVID:**

In some studies, findings

*Increase in the USA by 8.1% (2020-2021)

Increase in reported number and severity of abuse (2020-2022)

Decrease in face-to-face consults (2020-2021)

Increase in total number of consults (2020-2021)

Increase in number of calls (2020-2021)

Reasons for uptick during 2020-2021

Victims left shelters (due to pandemic) and returned home to abuser.

Most studies - Link between financial stress and IPV.

Section 2 To provide information on the current trends of Batterer Intervention Programs including controversy over appropriate treatment, the effectiveness of Batterer Intervention Programs (BIPs), and the challenges of evidence-based programming con't

- **Uptick in IPV**

Reasons for uptick during 2020-2021

Most studies-

Link between social isolation and IPV.

Link between increase in alcohol/substances and increase in IPV.

Link between families spending more time together and violence.

Increase in gun purchases linked with IPV increase.

Some studies-Other links to COVID and IPV-unemployment, **financial insecurity**, stress from childcare issues, homeschooling.

What have we learned according to research?

Orthopedic surgeons in Boston learn how to document fractures resulting from IPV (2020-2022).

Still unknown and mixed findings on pandemic's effects on IPV but should consider that stressors in a relationship caused by economics, health and society negatively impact a relationship and are risk factors for IPV.

During a pandemic-Boost public awareness and outreach.

- Increase mechanisms available for reporting abuse.

- Provide alternate housing options for victims during a pandemic.

- Foster economic independence.

- **Current trends describing changes in BIPS**

- 1. Names for BIPs**

- Intimate Partner Abuse Education

- Domestic Violence Perpetrator Intervention Program

- Domestic Violence Intervention Program

- Domestic Violence Offender Program

- Intimate Partner Violence Intervention

- Domestic Violence Accountability

- Abuse Intervention Treatment Program

- 2. Approved BIP models**

- Traditional:**

- Most BIPs are psychoeducational

- Not specific to name but usually based on 1 of the 3 or combination:

- cognitive-behavioral model, psycho-educational, pro-feminist

- Duluth, EMERGE, AMEND, Men Stopping Violence, NOMAS

- Most BIPs are eclectic

Section 2 To provide information on the current trends of Batterer Intervention Programs including controversy over appropriate treatment, the effectiveness of Batterer Intervention Programs (BIPs), and the challenges of evidence-based programming con't

- **Current trends describing changes in BIPs**

2. Approved BIP models

Non-traditional:

Adding: trauma treatment, batterer typology, Adverse Childhood Experience (ACE) to existing models.

Changing: traditional models to be in line with state STANDARDS or state statutes or DOC criteria.

Focusing: individualizing programs and diversity.

Other Focusing: monitoring and accountability.

Programs with added components empirically based:

Educational or psych-educational models revised on an ongoing basis such as NOMAS (Ex: NY)

Differentiated Domestic Violence Offender Treatment (Ex: CO)

Moral Reconciliation Therapy (Ex: WA)

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- **Current trends describing changes in BIPs**

2. Approved BIP models

Non-traditional:

Alternatives to Aggression (revised) (Ex: WI)

Coercive Control (Ex: CA)

Restorative Justice (Ex: Utah)

3. Certified BIPs and state STANDARDS for BIPs

More states moving towards certification of programs

Certified (minimum of 21 states: AL, AR, CA, DE, FLA, IN, KN, KS, MA, ME, MI, KE, OK, OR, RI, TN, TX, VA, VT, WA, W.VA)

More states in process of revision of STANDARDS with inclusion of evidence based practices

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- **Current trends describing changes in BIPs**

3. Certified BIPs and state STANDARDS for BIPs

A few states rethinking of having STANDARDS

4. Program monitoring: certified programs and state STANDARDS

Who does the monitoring ?

For certified programs via:

Specialized BIP units

Domestic violence clinical supervisors

Coalition against Domestic and Sexual Violence

Department of Public Health

Department of Corrections

Department of Children and Families

Combination of agencies

- **Current trends describing changes in BIPs**

4. Program monitoring

Majority of states have STANDARDS

Who does the monitoring for states with STANDARDS by statutes?

Programs are state approved via DOC, Advisory Councils, State Coalition Against Domestic and Sexual Violence, etc.

Relevant to monitoring for states with STANDARDS **with recommended guidelines...may not have any monitoring.**

States without STANDARDS

Section 2 To provide information on the current trends of Batterer Intervention Programs including controversy over appropriate treatment, the effectiveness of Batterer Intervention Programs (BIPs), and the challenges of evidence-based programming con't

- Current trends describing changes in BIPs

5. Evaluation of BIPS

Evaluation defined – Victim oriented or court oriented; different measures of success as criteria

Usually in connection with compliance of criteria of **certified BIPs or with compliance of state STANDARDS**

Summarized details on who/how for evaluations:

Some local or state agencies collect data from questionnaires previously sent to BIP providers.

Committees from state coalitions conduct an on-site evaluation.

BIP providers must submit annual report on completion, non-completion based on rearrest records.

Victim reports.

Comparison reports.

- **Current trends describing changes in BIPs**

6. Incorporation of evidence-based practices (EBP)

Definitions of EBP- American Psychological Association (APA)-"The integration of the best available research with clinical expertise in the context of patient characteristics, culture and preferences."

OR (summarized from DOC and offender research) - Outcome-focused approaches and interventions proven effective through scientific research.

More specific definition: EBP is based on 5 principles: risk, need, responsivity, treatment and fidelity.

Paradigm shift in process- Many states reviewing research and looking at modifications of STANDARDS for inclusion of evidence-based measures.

- Current trends describing changes in BIPs

6. Incorporation of evidence-based practices (EBP)

Community-centered approach

Motivational interviewing techniques

Differentiating batterers by risk or types

Use of scientific instruments-DVSTR

Monitoring of agreed upon contract terms

Moral Reconciliation Therapy

Additional referrals for batterers needing mental health or substance abuse

Acceptance and Commitment Therapy (ACT) approach

Structured and cognitive behavioral treatment

Evaluation of learning

Social learning techniques-role playing, problem solving, skill building

Qualified staff

Collection of data

Restorative justice-Hybrid model-BIPs with a restorative justice informed approach.

Section 2 To provide information on the current trends of Batterer Intervention Programs including controversy over appropriate treatment, the effectiveness of Batterer Intervention Programs (BIPs), and the challenges of evidence-based programming con't

- **Current trends describing changes in BIPs**

6. Incorporation of evidence-based practices (EBP)

Cognitive behavioral therapy

Other practices emerging

7. Analyses of national models

Meta-analysis research favored

Research on traditional models- Duluth-most studied above all models

Models incorporating EBP supported as successful by research

- **The effectiveness of BIPs**

What the research says

1. Evaluate the findings: Know your sources, understand the validity and reliability issues, be aware of the limitations of the findings, be aware of how to generalize the findings, be aware of **criteria for determining effectiveness, meanings of correlation or statistical significance**, assess selection criteria, data collection and analysis.

2. Findings generally derived from following research designs:

Meta-analyses and random assignment to conditions

Non-experimental (case studies and correlations)

Quasi-experimental design (pretest-posttest or controlled studies with or without randomization)

Descriptive or qualitative (clinical experience, observations)

3. Findings are mixed: Many findings are not statistically significant indicating that programs cannot be concluded as effective or ineffective.

Prior reviews: ***Davis and Taylor (1999)** BIPs successful in reducing future IPV. Research limitation: small number.

Section 2 To provide information on the current trends of Batterer Intervention Programs including controversy over appropriate treatment, the effectiveness of Batterer Intervention Programs (BIPs), and the challenges of evidence-based programming con't

- **The effectiveness of BIPs**

What the research says

3. Findings are mixed:

As early as **2000**, Feder and Forde studies on rearrest during participation in BIPS or after completion of BIPs showed little success.

***In 2001, Gondolf** found repeated assaults occurred at 20%.

***In 2004, flawed studies** provided mixed findings by Babcock et al; found that 5% less likely to reassault if batterer was arrested, sanctioned and participated in BIP over men who were arrested and sanctioned only.

***In 2005, CDC** found (840 batterers in 4 different states) that BIPs have moderate effect on re-offenses. At 4 years, 46% had been violent, more than half of the 46% occurred first 6 months of BIP; 90% of BIP participants remained violence-free at 3 year mark after completion of BIP.

In 2009, Stover et al found that BIPs had limited effect on repeat violence.

***In 2009, National Institute of Justice** found that completion of BIPs meant fewer re-offenses than those who failed BIPs.

- The effectiveness of BIPs

What the research says

3. Findings are mixed:

*In 2012, **Gondolf** found BIPs were moderately effective with studies using quasi-experimental designs.

In 2013, Eckhardt et al- studies mixed-little evidence that any BIP was more effective.

*In 2017, **Wagers et al** found that conflict between those who believe violence is a choice vs. those who believe battering is based on poor mental health accounted for mixed results on effectiveness.

*In 2017, **Battered Women's Justice Project** could not state which programs were more effective over another.

In 2018, Mazerolle et al found that BIPS were associated with reduced recidivism.

- The effectiveness of BIPs

What the research says

3. Findings are mixed:

*In 2019 and 2021, Cheng et al found that randomized controlled trials failed to find evidence of effectiveness but quasi-experimental studies collectively suggested small to moderate effectiveness of BIPs. (that is IPV reduced when reported by criminal justice system in conflict with reports by IPV survivors.)

*As of 2019, the US Attorney General's Task Force on Family Violence remains uncertain in determining if the BIPS are effective in reducing future IPV.

*As of 2020, Hamel found that effectiveness of BIPs are questionable in reducing recidivism because of outdated gender based models, insufficient individualization, limitations by state STANDARDS and lack of EBP.

*In 2021, Wilson, Feder and Olahere found that the BIPs especially pro-feminist and other psychoeducational models could not be proven effective nor ineffective in regards to recidivism.

- **The effectiveness of BIPs**

What the research says

4. Considerations specific to methods and philosophies:

A. Findings supporting emotional dysregulation and stress management in reducing recidivism

Batterers behavior based on the appropriate management of overwhelming feelings are effective. (Stover, 2009)

Nada Yorke, 2012, developed BIP based on ACE-regulations of emotions, mindfulness and relaxation techniques.

Buttell et al in 2016 found that stress management was effective in reducing recidivism.

B. Findings supporting focus on abuse relationship dynamics in reducing recidivism

Examples: treatment for attachment disorder, fear of abandonment, withdrawal from emotionally-laden situations, etc. for both unilateral and bilateral IPV. (Hamel, 2017)

- The effectiveness of BIPs

What the research says

4. Considerations specific to methods and philosophies:

C. Findings supporting emotional dysregulation combined with pro-feminist BIPs in reducing recidivism

Achieving Change Through Values-Based behavior (ACTV); rejects single cause of IPV; Battering is a coping mechanism for unpleasant emotions and sometimes used to preserve male dominance. States who have used ACTV-Vt, MN, TN, IA (In some cases, 50% less likely to be rearrested. (Zarling).

Generally, in this area, BIPS teaching batterers about mindfulness combined with patriarchy are effective.

Correlation between pro-violent attitudes and a need to dominate predict physical abuse for unilateral and bilateral battering. (Strauss, 2008)

- **The effectiveness of BIPs**

What the research says

4. Considerations specific to methods and philosophies:

D. Findings supporting pro-feminist BIPS –generally mixed results (Karakurt)

Gender stereotypes reflected in study by T. Breda, E. Jouini, and G. Thebault (2020)

Strong underrepresentation of women in math-related fields found in more developed countries due to stereotyping.

Batterers are motivated by a sense of entitlement. (Pence)

Duluth model marginally reduces recidivism. (Zarling)

E. Very few findings supporting anger management programs instead of BIPs in reducing recidivism

Mass. and ME studies showed higher rates of rearrest for those who completed anger management programs opposed to those who completed BIPs.

Washington study showed decrease in re-offense of those who completed anger management programs.

- The effectiveness of BIPs

What the research says

4. Considerations specific to methods and philosophies:

F. Other major findings consistently supporting

Outcomes from battering programs show less recidivism in communities with a coordinated response.

Use of EBP is critical.

Programs with an individual focus.

Programs using risk assessments and evaluation tools.

- The effectiveness of BIPs

What the research says

4. Considerations specific to methods and philosophies:

Other major findings consistently supporting

Programs using risk assessments and evaluation tools

The Danger Assessment (DA), Domestic Violence Screening Instrument (DVSI), Spousal Assault Risk Assessment (SARA), Ontario Domestic Assault Risk Assessment (ODARA), Domestic Violence Inventory (DVI), Lethality Screening.

A few examples of items on DA and DVI:

DA – “Does he own a gun?”, “Is he unemployed?”, “Has he threatened to kill you?”, etc.

DVI- 6 measures or scales-Truthfulness, Violence/Lethality, Control, Alcohol, Drugs, Stress Coping Abilities

- **Challenges of evidence-based programming**

1. Apparent **paradigm shift** based on overwhelming research of EBPs evolving from principles of effective intervention (**PEIs**) in corrections.
2. **Adopted** from correctional (DOC) programming and its successes with offenders in reducing recidivism.
3. **PEIs consist of principles:** risk, need, responsivity, treatment and fidelity.
 - Risk**- focus on risk assessments.
 - Need**- focus on criminogenic needs.
 - Responsivity**-focus on cognitive behavioral treatment, modalities and individual offender characteristics.
 - Treatment**- focus on structure and duration of BIPs.
 - Fidelity**- focus on integrity of program staff and BIP evaluations.

- Challenges of evidence-based programming

4. Learning through examples –INTEGRATION of principles -the Colorado Model

Known for -Use of empirically based risk assessments, the Domestic Violence Risk and Needs Assessment (DVRNA) and Spousal Assault Risk Assessment (SARA).

Overview of DVRNA:

Recognition that treatment should vary according to a batterer's needs. Allows for adjustment to a higher or lower level of treatment as a batterer's needs change.

Treatment teams work together to assess a batterer's level of risk.

Core competencies for batterer are established by DVRNA.

Batterer contract for accountability.

On-going treatment plan reviews.

- **Challenges of evidence-based programming**

4. **Learning through examples –INTEGRATION of principles -the Colorado Model**

Use of empirically based risk assessments, the Domestic Violence Risk and Needs Assessment (DVRNA) and Spousal Assault Risk Assessment (SARA).

Specifics of DVRNA – 14 Domain Risk Items. A-N

Prior domestic violence related incidents,

Drug or alcohol abuse,

Mental health issue,

Suicidal/Homicidal,

Use and/or threatened use of weapons in current or post offense or access to firearms,

Criminal history-nondomestic violence,

Obsession with the victim,

Safety concerns,

Violence and/or threatened violence toward the family members including child abuse,

Attitudes that support or condone spousal assault,

- **Challenges of evidence-based programming**

4. **Learning through examples –INTEGRATION of principles -the Colorado Model**

Use of empirically based risk assessments, the Domestic Violence Risk and Needs Assessment (DVRNA) and Spousal Assault Risk Assessment (SARA).

Specifics of DVRNA – 14 Domain Risk Items. A-N

Prior completed or non-completed domestic violence treatment,
Victim separated from offender within the previous 6 months,
Unemployed,
Involvement with people who have pro-criminal influence.

Overview and Specifics of SARA-

SARA given to batterer at end of program.

Involves both 10 general violence (ge) risk factors and 10 spousal violence (sp) risk factors

Examples of GP-Past assault of family members, past assault of strangers or acquaintances

Examples of SP- Past physical assault, past sexual assault/sexual jealousy, past use of weapons or credible threats of death

- **Challenges of evidence-based programming**

4. **Learning through examples –INTEGRATION of principles - the Colorado Model**

On-going treatment plan reviews.

Adherence to batterer contract and core competencies completed = discharge.

Focus of model is on using risk, need and responsivity principles-treatment and fidelity

The Domestic Violence Offender Management Board (DVOMB) – application and review process for DV providers.

Use of an **empirically based risk assessments**, the DVRNA and SARA sets treatment and curriculum.

5. **Learning through examples –INTEGRATION of principles-House of Ruth Maryland's Gateway Project**

Program focus: serving clients with serious life changes, high criminogenic needs.

A culturally competent curriculum with regard for limited literacy addressing power and control from batterers who have faced life's challenges.

Aligned with supportive services-provide co-occurring treatment for batterers and substance abuse.

Strong components of Motivational interviewing, empirical tools for clients' problems.

Bi-weekly meetings on what works.

Focus is on need and responsivity principles –risk, treatment and fidelity need better incorporation.

Section 2: Research Summary and Conclusions

- 1. Uptick in IPV from COVID period-reasons**-greater isolation for victims, more time together, greater substance abuse, greater financial stress, etc.
- 2. Current trends** - using more flexible names of BIPs with less stigma, greater emphasis on understanding that power and control can exist in IPV without that being necessarily gender-based, greater variability is needed with BIPs (one size does not fit all), empirical practices such as evidence based principles should be incorporated into BIPs and state STANDARDS, empirical studies or data collection needed to examine recidivism, greater use of risk assessments and evaluation of programs with empirically-based tools.
- 3. The effectiveness of BIPs** –in short, minimal effectiveness. Still mixed research with poor research methodology supporting or not supporting effectiveness.
- 4. Challenges of evidence-based programs** – integrating ALL principles into BIPs needs to be done, state STANDARDS need to be revised with evidence-based programs, belief that changes should be made according to scientific findings needs attention.

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