



RESEARCH AT A GLANCE

Domestic violence programs reduce recidivism odds by more than 60 percent

Completing a batterer intervention program reduced the odds of being re-arrested for domestic violence by 63 percent, according to a February 2005 study of 31 Cook County community and court-housed programs for convicted male batterers.

Nearly 75 percent of 899 offenders referred to a Cook County batterer intervention program completed a minimum of 24 weeks of programming, including therapy and anger management. Variables statistically associated with program completion included income, self-reported drug abuse, frequency of alcohol use, prior arrests, ethnicity, and employment.

The recidivism rate for offenders who dropped out of the program was 37 percent, more than twice the 15 percent rate for completers. Recidivism rates were measured for an average of 3.4 years following intake.

Full-time employment more than tripled the odds that the offender would complete the batterer program, while being Latino nearly doubled the chances of program completion. Prior violation of an order of protection reduced the odds of program completion by 61 percent.

Data was collected on individuals referred between Dec. 1, 2000, and Jan. 24, 2004, including males ages

Table 1
Batterer intervention program participant characteristics

Participant characteristic	Offenders who did not complete program	Offenders who completed program
Employment		
Retired/student	2%	7%
Unemployed	44%	20%
Employed	55%	78%
Monthly income (average)	\$1,308	\$1,963
Ethnicity		
Asian	0%	2%
Black	42%	26%
Latino	20%	34%
White	34%	35%
Other	4%	2%
Alcohol/drug use		
Frequency of alcohol use within the last 30 days (average)	4.6 days	3.3 days
Self-reported drug problem	8%	3%
Orders of protection		
Violated an order of protection	17%	10%
Arrests		
Total arrests (average)	6.6 arrests	3.2 arrests

17 or older who pleaded guilty or were found guilty of domestic violence and ordered by the court to undergo intervention subsequent to receiving either supervision or

conditional discharge for the offense. For comparison, data also were collected on non-participants during the study period.

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A study of 899 convicted batterers in Cook County showed:


- Completing a batterer intervention program reduces the odds of being re-arrested for domestic violence by 63 percent.
- Full-time employment more than triples the odds a man will complete a batterer program.

Table 2

Recidivism rates among Cook County Batterer Intervention Program participants and non-participants

Batterers Intervention Program status	Number of offenders	Number re-arrested	Domestic violence recidivism rate
Program completed	384	59	15%
Program not completed	119	43	36%
Participation never ordered	66	10	15%
Program deemed not appropriate by the court	20	4	20%
Case still open	258	67	26%

- Prior violation of an order of protection reduced the offenders' odds of batterer intervention program completion by 61 percent.
- The recidivism rate for offenders who dropped out of an intervention program was twice as high as for completers of the program.



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