

## **Batterer Program Effectiveness Studied**

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The National Institute of Justice has released a new report, "Batterer Intervention Programs: Where Do We Go From Here," that examines the effectiveness of batterer intervention programs by analyzing the results of two different studies of batterer intervention programs in Broward County, Florida and Brooklyn, New York. Evaluations of both programs call into question the effectiveness of such programs in changing either batterer attitudes or behaviors.

Researchers in the Broward study did find that batterers who were employed, married, owned their own homes, or otherwise had a stake in the community were less likely to re-offend. Although the Broward study was marred by low victim response rates, the collection of information from multiple sources reached similar conclusions, bolstering researchers' confidence in the results.

The Brooklyn study showed that men who attended treatment sessions for a longer period (26 weeks compared with 8 weeks) committed fewer new violent acts; however, batterers were more likely to complete the shorter program. The study left open the question of whether batterer intervention programs alter batterers' attitudes and behaviors or merely suppress violent behavior for the duration of the study.

Adapted from the National Institute of Justice's website, available on the web at <http://www.ojp.usdoj.gov/nij/>.

To view the report, visit the web at <http://www.ojp.usdoj.gov/nij/new.htm#195079>.