Insufficient evidence to determine the effectiveness of court-mandated interventions for men convicted of domestic violence

Intimate partner violence affects roughly 1 in 4 women in an intimate relationship, although estimates vary by country. Intimate partner violence also accounts for roughly 11% of all homicides in the USA. Men are also victims of intimate partner violence, but male victims are not the focus of this review.

One approach to addressing this problem common in the USA is a court-mandated group-based batterer intervention program for male batterers.

What is this review about?
The objective of this review was to determine if court-mandated group-based batterer intervention programs are effective at reducing intimate partner violence among male batterers.

What studies are included?
The review summarizes the evidence from 11 high-quality studies, including four randomized controlled trials and eight quasi-experimental comparison group studies.

Eight studies were conducted in the USA, two in Canada and one in Australia.

What are the main findings of this review?
The studies we included do not support the effectiveness of court-mandated batterer intervention programs. There are two important caveats.

First, there is not enough evidence to draw a strong conclusion that these programs do not work. The evidence is insufficient to conclude that they do work.
Second, there is a new generation of these programs that have incorporated new elements, such as motivational interviewing. Meta-analyses have established that motivational interviewing improves in-program outcomes, such as attendance and other indicators of compliance, but there is insufficient evidence to establish whether these newer generation programs reduce post-program intimate partner violence.

**What do the findings of the review mean?**
The classic batterer intervention program that relied solely on a feminist framework, a cognitive-behavioral model, or a mix of the two, is unlikely to provide a meaningful solution to the problem of intimate partner violence. New programs and/or entirely new approaches to this important social problem should be explored.