

Systematic Review Title Registration Form

Title of the review

Cognitive behavioural therapy for violent men who batter female partners.

Contact details of reviewers

Name	E-mail address
1. Therese Dalsbø	tkd@shdir.no
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Roles and responsibilities

Task	Who has agreed to do the task? Give names / initials below
lead reviewer	Therese
draft the protocol	Therese
search for trials	Torill
obtain copies of trials	Therese
select which trials to include	Therese and Torill
extract data from trials	Therese and Torill
enter data	Therese and Torill
carry out the analysis	Asbjørn, Geir and Therese
interpret the analysis	Asbjørn, Geir and Therese
draft the final review	Therese
update the review	Therese and Torill

Background

Violent behaviour constitutes a serious problem in societies. The "hidden" spouse abuse in the private sphere, families, is a difficult area for intervention and help. Once the situation is discovered there are many ways of responding, one of which is the use of the criminal justice system. The system can respond by sentencing the abusers to prison and/ or some kind of therapy or treatment program. Our focus is on the effects of participating in such a program. What are the outcomes when convicted domestic violent offenders are taking part in therapeutic programs? Do they reduce their violent behaviour, improve their self-esteem, minimise any kind of depressions and use less drugs? Will the treatment have a better or poorer effect depending on mandatory instead of volunteer participation?

Objective

To determine if cognitive behavioural therapy (CBT) helps violent men stop (or reduce) battering their female partners.

Criteria for considering studies for this review

Included studies are those that focus on violent spouse abusers. Both sentenced, mandatory, and voluntary participation in a therapy program is included. The outcome measures in the studies must focus on recidivism concerning violent behaviour. Secondary outcomes could be self-esteem, substance abuse, anger management, and emotional distress.

Specify the intervention

Cognitive Behavioural treatment. Delivered either to voluntary or mandated participants.

Specify the control comparison

Randomly allocated to receive or not receive the CBT compared to other intervention or non-intervention. Wait-list control group will normally not be included because of the short follow-up period.