



BCS Thinking and Learning Exercises

#8: Exploring Work with Men who Batter

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Overview:

This exercise explores what the term “batter accountability” means and identifies opportunities to learn and think about your community’s response to violence by men who batter.

Group size:

If the group is larger than 10, consider having participants work in smaller groups then report back.

Time: 60 – 90 minutes

Leader preparation/instructions:

- Review BCS website section on “How can my partner’s violence be reduced or stopped?”
- Consider asking someone who works with men who batter to co-facilitate the exercise.

Activities:

1. Exploring the term “batterer accountability”

- Brainstorm – What change in their partners do adult want/ask for? What change in their parent who batters do child victims want/ask for?
- Brainstorm - What do we mean when we use the phrase “batterer/offender accountability?”
- Compare and discuss the 2 lists. Identify any phrases or words that describe the change in their partners/ex-partners that adult victims want and in their fathers that child victims want.

2. Learning and thinking about programs the work with men who batter:

- Brainstorm a list of programs in your community that work with men who batter to reduce/stop violent behavior.
- Brainstorm what you know about each program, including its goals, philosophy and approach to reducing/stopping violent behavior. [If you know little or nothing about the program, talk about why that is the case, then brainstorm a list of things you’d like to know and assign someone to find out and report back to your program.]
- Discuss whether these programs might provide men who batter from diverse cultures with the opportunity to make the changes that adult and child victims seek? (See list from brainstorm above). How? What is missing? For whom?

Consider using this information to facilitate on-going dialog and next steps for enhancing and/or creating additional community based interventions for men who batter.