



**CONTACT:** Tom Blomberg, Editor, Florida State University, [tblomberg@fsu.edu](mailto:tblomberg@fsu.edu), 850-644-7365  
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**DESPITE WIDELY-HELD BELIEF, COORDINATED COMMUNITY RESPONSES TO INTIMATE PARTNER VIOLENCE DO NOT REDUCE RECIDIVISM.**

TALLAHASSEE, Fla—In a series of studies published in the new issue of *Criminology & Public Policy* (CPP), researchers found that coordinated community responses (mental health counseling, substance abuse treatment, employment services...) to intimate partner violence do not reduce recidivism to the degree previously accepted by advocates. However, the research did suggest potential avenues for success among certain sub-groups.

Professors Christy A. Visher, University of Delaware, Adele Harrell, the Urban Institute, and Lisa Newmark, George Mason University, along with Jennifer Yahner at the Urban Institute, found that coordinated community responses to intimate partner violence, in the form of increasing offender accountability through the courts, failed to alter offender attitudes and behavior. The research indicated, however, that some strategies were successful with some sub-groups, such as younger offenders with fewer ties to the victim and offenders with extensive arrest histories.

Joel H. Garner at the Joint Centers for Justice Studies, Inc., and Christopher D. Maxwell of Michigan State University and the University of Michigan correctly point out that results are likely to change with improvements in research designs and conclusions may change with the accumulation of evidence. The authors' main point was that there is simply not enough adequate research at this time to make sweeping judgments or claims regarding effectiveness.

Richard Peterson, New York City Criminal Justice Agency, was not as optimistic, however. Instead he, along with Joanne Klevens and Pamela Cox, both at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, argue that the time has come for the scientific community to accept that attempts to reduce intimate partner violence are of very little use. These researchers suggest that more effort should be directed

toward the prevention of initial intimate partner violence offenses, rather than the reduction of recidivism.

As senior editor for this series, Professor Cassia Spohn, Arizona State University, suggests a more moderate approach. She agrees that the results of a single evaluation should not be considered definitive, yet she does not advocate the abandonment of efforts to reduce recidivism. Instead, she supports refining coordinated community responses to intimate partner violence until definitive evidence is obtained.

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