

*Batterer Intervention Programs' Response to State Standards*  
Ashley L. Boal, M.S.

The study entitled *Batterer Intervention Programs' Response to State Standards* aims to build on previous research to better understand the impact of state legislation directed at batterer intervention programs (BIPs) and examine program directors' responses to this policy. While many studies of intimate partner violence (IPV) focus on victims of abuse, this study aspires to inform efforts to prevent IPV, increase social justice, and avoid victim-blame by focusing on the perpetrators of abuse. This will be achieved through the investigation of interventions for offenders of IPV known as BIPs. Though studies have been conducted examining individual outcomes for participants in these programs, fewer studies have considered the context in which these individual outcomes occur. The proposed study not only aims to understand the context of BIPs by examining programs' current practices and policies, but also attempts to understand how the larger climate of state policy affects these programs.

In order to achieve these goals, this study will utilize a mixed-methods design developed through collaboration with key stakeholders. During the first phase of the study the program director of each BIP in the state of Oregon ( $n = 47$ ) was contacted and asked to participate in a survey. The purpose of the survey was to examine the extent to which the policy of state standards has been successfully implemented in Oregon. Survey responses were successfully collected from 35 program directors (74%) across the state. This information is currently being utilized to develop a better understanding of practices and characteristics of BIPs in Oregon, as well as the degree to which programs are adhering to the standards. Further, this phase has produced a tangible resource, the 2012 Oregon Batterer Intervention Program Directory, which serves as the only statewide listing of BIPs across the state.

During the second phase extensive interviews will be conducted with a subset of program directors ( $n = 14$ ) who have had varying success in implementing the state standards. The in-depth interviews will aim to gather information necessary to identify and describe the process of implementation and program directors' perceptions of the standards. The interviews will attempt to gather information regarding implementation, including: the process by which programs became aware of standards; their experiences related to implementation of the standards; current program functioning in relation to the standards; barriers and/or facilitators of compliance with the regulation; perceived control over the content and scope of the standards; perceptions of how absolute or flexible the standards are; program directors' views of standards overall; and, program directors' opinions about specific aspects of the standards.

This study will be the first to go beyond examining compliance with standards and instead investigate the entire process of and experience with policy implementation in a BIP setting. Further, the proposed study will focus on dissemination of findings and utilize a social action research approach. The use of this approach will create a platform for communication among policymakers and program directors to facilitate discussion and encourage a united effort towards their common goal of eliminating IPV.