

Social Networks and Relationships Study: Summative Report
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Background

Social networks are groups of people whose relationships to each other are, or can be, known, or individuals who are linked to each other through interpersonal relationships¹. Social networks maintain characteristic norms and values^{1,2}, which shape their members' attitudes and behaviors through processes of influence^{3,4}.

Social network factors have been linked to intervention program outcomes, individuals' participation in antisocial behavior, and the perpetration of abuse against one's intimate partner:

- Having social network members who support abstinence^{5,6} and having larger social networks⁷ are related to better outcomes for participants in alcohol treatment programs.
- Among youth, friends' delinquency⁸ and laughter during conversations about breaking rules and antisocial behavior^{9,10} are related to their own participation in antisocial behavior. Specifically, friends' laughter during these conversations is related to youths' later drug use^{11,12}, risky sexual activity¹⁴, arrests¹⁴, and perpetration of violence¹³. Within

¹ Wasserman, S., & Faust, K. (1994). *Social network analysis: Methods and applications*. New York: Cambridge University Press.

² Wellman, B. (1982). Studying personal communities. In P. V. Marsden & N. Lin (Eds.), *Social structure and network analysis*. Beverly Hills: Sage. pp. 61 – 80.

³ Borgatti, S. P., Mehra, A., Brass, D. J. & Labianca, G. (2009). Network analysis in the social sciences. *Science*, 323, 892 – 895.

⁴ Erickson, B. H. (1988). The relational basis of attitudes. In B. Wellman & S. D. Berkowitz (Eds.), *Social Structures: A network approach* (pp. 99-121). Cambridge, UK: Cambridge University Press.

⁵ Beattie M.C. & Longabaugh R. (1997). Interpersonal factors and posttreatment drinking and subjective well-being. *Addiction*, 92, 1507-1521.

⁶ Beattie, M. C. & Longabaugh, R. (1999). General and alcohol-specific social support following treatment. *Addictive Behaviors*, 24, 593 – 606.

⁷ Zywiak, W. H., Longabaugh, R., & Wirtz, P. W. (2002). Decomposing the relationships between pretreatment social network characteristics and alcohol treatment outcome. *Journal of Studies on Alcohol and Drugs*, 63(1), 114.

⁸ Haynie, D. L. (2002). Friendship networks and delinquency: The relative nature of peer delinquency. *Journal of Quantitative Criminology*, 18(2), 99-134.

⁹ Dishion, T. J., Andrews, D. W., & Crosby, L. (1995). Antisocial boys and their friends in early adolescence: Relationship characteristics, quality, and interactional process. *Child Development*, 66(1), 139-151.

¹⁰ Dishion, T. J., Patterson, G. R., & Griesler, P. C. (1994). Peer adaptation in the development of antisocial behavior: A confluence model. In L. R. Huesmann (Ed.), *Aggressive behavior: Current perspectives* (pp. 61-95). New York: Plenum Press.

¹¹ Dishion, T. J., Capaldi, D. M., Spracklen, K. M., & Li, F. (1995). Peer ecology of male adolescent drug use. *Development and Psychopathology*, 7, 823-834.

¹² Patterson, G. R., Dishion, T. J., & Yoerger, K. (2000). Adolescent growth in new forms of problem behavior: Macro-and micro-peer dynamics. *Prevention science*, 1(1), 3-13.

the corrections field, having friends who are criminal offenders considered a criminogenic need^{13,14}.

- Exposure to abuse within men's families of origin predicts their own perpetration of partner abuse¹⁵. However, parents' general antisocial behavior, aggression, and parenting skills are stronger predictors of their sons' perpetration of abuse than abuse within parental relationships¹⁶, and much of the influence of parental abuse is due to the mediating impact of their sons' friends. Parental guidance about which peers their sons should befriend determines boys' exposure to peer influences regarding abuse¹⁷. College-age men who have witnessed abuse among their parents are more likely to select network members who perpetrate abuse and who provide explicit advice to do so¹⁸.
- The perpetration of partner abuse among adolescent boys' friends and abuse within their parents' relationships are both correlated with their own concurrent perpetration of abuse¹⁹. However, only friends' perpetration of abuse significantly predicts boys' own perpetration two years later¹⁹. The extent of adolescent boys' hostile conversations about women with their three best friends significantly predicts their perpetration of abuse in late adolescence and early adulthood²⁰.
- Among adult men, affiliating with violent male peers is related to the perpetration of partner abuse²¹. Individuals' actual perpetration of sexual assault, specifically, is predicted by their peers' attitudes towards that behavior²². Adult men who indicate that at least one of their friends perpetrates abuse also report greater beliefs that battering is justified and that perpetrators are less responsible for their behavior than men who do not

¹³ Bonta, J., & Andrews, D. A. (2007). Risk-need-responsivity model for offender assessment and rehabilitation. *Rehabilitation*, 6.

¹⁴ Andrews, D. A. & Bonta, J. (2010). Rehabilitating criminal justice policy and practice. *Psychology, Public Policy, and Law*, 16 (1), 39.

¹⁵ Dumas, D., Margolin, G., & John, R. S. (1994). The intergenerational transmission of aggression across three generations. *Journal of Family Violence*, 9, 157-175.

¹⁶ Capaldi, D. M., & Clark, S. (1998). Prospective family predictors of aggression toward female partners for at-risk young men. *Developmental Psychology*, 34, 1175-1188.

¹⁷ Collins, W. A., Maccoby, E. E., Steinberg, L., Hetherington, E. M., & Bornstein, M. H. (2000). Contemporary research on parenting: A case for nature and nurture. *American Psychologist*, 55, 218-232.

¹⁸ Silverman, J. G., & Williamson, G. M. (1997). Social ecology and entitlements involved in battering by heterosexual college males: Contributions of family and peers. *Violence & Victims*, 12, 147-164.

¹⁹ Arriaga, X. B., & Foshee, V. A. (2004). Adolescent dating violence: Do adolescents follow in their friends' or their parents' footsteps? *Journal of Interpersonal Violence*, 19, 162-184.

²⁰ Capaldi, D. M., Dishion, T. J., Stoolmiller, M., & Yoerger, K. (2001). Aggression toward female partners by at-risk young men: The contribution of male adolescent friendships. *Developmental Psychology*, 37, 61-73.

²¹ Raghavan, C., Rajah, V., Gentile, K., Collado, L. & Kavanagh, A. M. (2009). Community violence, social support networks, ethnic group differences, and male perpetration of intimate partner violence. *Journal of Interpersonal Violence*, 24, 1615 - 1632.

²² Abbey, A., McAuslan, P., Zawacki, T., Clinton, A. M., & Buck, P. O. (2001). Attitudinal, experiential and situational

report that any of their friends perpetrate abuse¹⁸. Men who perpetrate abuse also tend to overestimate the extent of their peers' perpetration²³.

Despite evidence of interpersonal transmission of messages about abuse within perpetrators' social networks, we don't know who belongs to BIP participants' social networks, or how messages about abuse are communicated therein. The purposes of this study were to identify the people that belong to batterer intervention program (BIP) participants' social networks, the abuse-relevant messages they convey to BIP participants, and the abuse-relevant messages BIP participants convey to them.

Methods

Procedure

During the summer and fall of 2013, focus groups with (1) BIP facilitators from the Portland-metro area, (2) a group of voluntary participants at Allies in Change, and (3) a group of mandated participants at Allies in Change were conducted to develop a survey instrument. Each successive focus group provided feedback on two inventories of behaviors: those that BIP participants may engage in and those that their social network members may engage in, to communicate about abuse. The inventories were revised after each focus group, with the intention of making them exhaustive and relevant lists of the ways that participants at Allies in Change and the members of their social networks communicate about partner abuse.

The resulting survey was administered to participants in 22 groups at Allies in Change during the fall of 2013. A final focus group was conducted with a group of advanced voluntary participants at Allies in Change, to solicit their perspectives on the survey data.

Participants

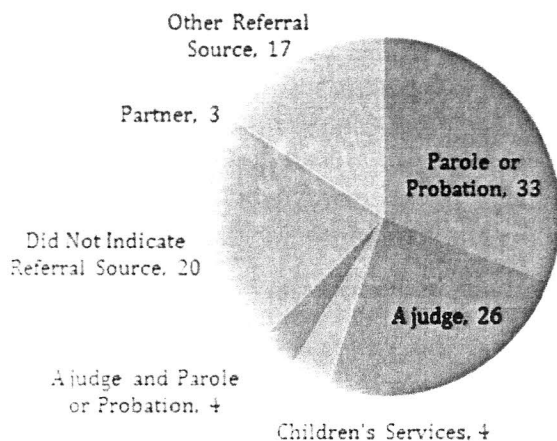
The survey was completed by 107 male Allies in Change participants. These 107 participants represent an 86.3% overall response rate: between the 22 Allies in Change groups that were surveyed, a total of 124 men were given the opportunity to participate in the study. Participants self-reported having an average age of 36.7 ($sd = 10.2$, $min = 20$, $max = 65$) and a median annual income of \$25,000 - \$50,000. The most common level of education that participants reported having obtained was some college/an Associates' degree/a technical degree.

Program attendance: Depending on whether participants' self-reports or Allies in Change's records were considered, participants' average program attendance was either 25.14 group meetings ($sd = 27.16$), or 23.76 group meetings ($sd = 18.91$), respectively.

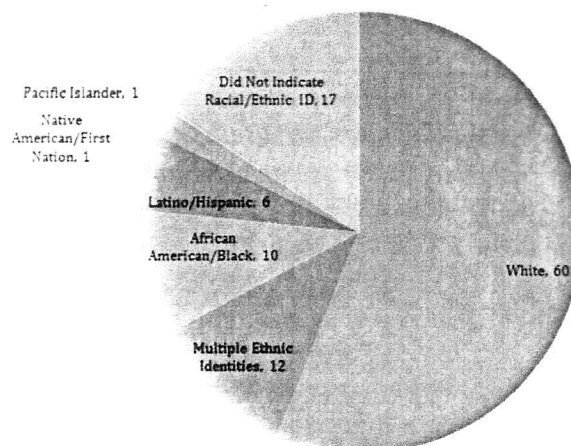
Participation in criminally oriented groups: Four of the 22 groups were designated for criminally oriented participants; 17 participants from these four groups completed surveys.

²³ Neighbors, C., Walker, D., Moynihan, L., O'Rourke, A., Edleson, J. L., Zegree, J., & Rothman, R. A. (2010). Normative misperceptions of abuse among perpetrators of intimate partner violence. *Violence Against Women, 16*, 370-386.

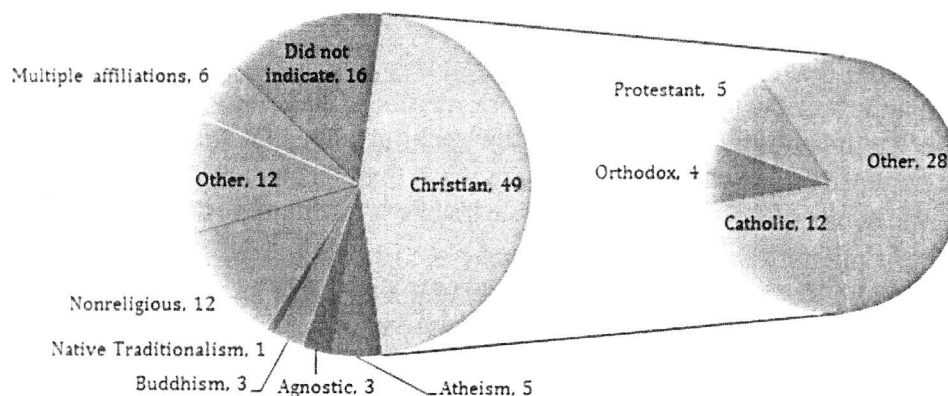
Participants' self-reported referral source:



Participants' self-reported race/ethnicity:



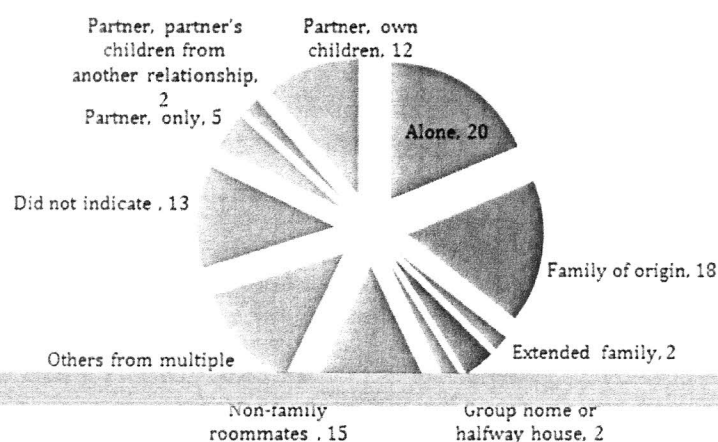
Participants' self-reported religious affiliation:



Note. Additional options for religious affiliation, which were listed on the survey but which were not indicated by any participants, included Hinduism, Judaism, Islam, and Sikh.

Fifty-seven participants were in a romantic relationship, though 5 of them indicated that they "never" had contact with their partner. Only 38 participants nominated their partners among their network members, while 19 did not. Nine of these 57 participants indicated that their partners had no-contact orders against them.

Participants' self-reported living situation:



Measures

Network members: Participants were given the prompt that “this survey will ask you some questions about the people you have spent the most time with in the past **three months**... Please answer the following questions for as many people as you think would be relevant for you.” Space was provided for participants to nominate up to 8 network members. For each network member, participants were asked to identify their gender, their relationship to that person [“What is your relationship to this person? (for example, are they your parent? Your boss or coworker? A friend from high school?)”], and how frequently they had contact.

For each network member that they nominated, participants completed 3 measures:

Relationship quality: 7-item scale assessing participants’ satisfaction with their relationship with each network member (ex.: “I like this person a lot,” “I hope that this person will stay in my life”)²⁴.

Network members’ abuse-relevant communication: 15 discrete behaviors and one open-ended behavior, that participants’ network members may have engaged in, that would have conveyed their support for either perpetrating abuse (pro-abuse behaviors) or avoiding the perpetration of abuse (anti-abuse behaviors). Participants indicated the approximate number of times that each network member engaged in each behavior during the prior three months: 0 times, 1 – 5 times, 6 – 10 times, 11 times or more, or not applicable.

Participants’ abuse-relevant communication: 15 discrete behaviors and one open-ended behavior, which participants may have engaged in, which would have conveyed their support for avoiding the perpetration of abuse (anti-abuse behaviors). Behaviors fell into four categories: intervening in network members’ pro-abuse behaviors, theoretical discussions about abuse, making abuse-relevant self-disclosures, or sharing information or resources about abuse. Participants indicated the approximate number of times that they had engaged in each behavior with each network member during the prior three months: 0 times, 1 – 5 times, 6 – 10 times, 11 times or more, or not applicable.

²⁴ McGill Friendship Questionnaire – Respondent’s Affection; Mendelson, M. J. & Aboud, F. E. (1999). Measuring friendship quality in late adolescents and young adults: McGill Friendship Questionnaires. *Canadian Journal of Behavioural Science*, 31 (2), 100 – 102.

Findings

1. **What are the characteristics of participants' social networks?** (Note. *M* indicates average, *sd* indicates standard deviation)

1. How many social network members do BIP participants report?	<i>M</i> network members = 3.5																
2. What are the genders of participants' reported network members?	Approximately equal numbers of male and female network members: <i>M</i> male network members = 1.8, <i>M</i> female network members = 1.7																
3. What are the relational ties that connect participants to their network members?	<table> <tr> <th>Relational Tie</th><th>Average # nominated by each participant</th></tr> <tr> <td>Friends/roommates</td><td>.98 (<i>sd</i> = 1.3)</td></tr> <tr> <td>Family of origin</td><td>.81 (<i>sd</i> = 1.0)</td></tr> <tr> <td>Partners/former partners</td><td>.51 (<i>sd</i> = .6)</td></tr> <tr> <td>Bosses/Coworkers</td><td>.40 (<i>sd</i> = .8)</td></tr> <tr> <td>Children</td><td>.31 (<i>sd</i> = .7)</td></tr> <tr> <td>In-laws</td><td>.12 (<i>sd</i> = .4)</td></tr> <tr> <td>Other relational ties</td><td>.09 (<i>sd</i> = .3)</td></tr> </table>	Relational Tie	Average # nominated by each participant	Friends/roommates	.98 (<i>sd</i> = 1.3)	Family of origin	.81 (<i>sd</i> = 1.0)	Partners/former partners	.51 (<i>sd</i> = .6)	Bosses/Coworkers	.40 (<i>sd</i> = .8)	Children	.31 (<i>sd</i> = .7)	In-laws	.12 (<i>sd</i> = .4)	Other relational ties	.09 (<i>sd</i> = .3)
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2. **How do BIP participants perceive the quality of their relations with their social network members?**

2. What is the quality of participants' relationships with their network members overall?	Participants were most often "somewhat" satisfied or "very much" satisfied with relationships with network members (<i>M</i> = 2.4 on a scale of -4 to 4)
3. What is the quality of participants' relationships with their male and female network members?	No significant differences were found in participants' satisfaction with male and female network members: <i>M</i> satisfaction with relationships with male network members = 2.5, <i>M</i> satisfaction with relationships with female network members = 2.3 (on a scale of -4 to 4)
4. What is the quality of participants' relationships with network members to whom they have various relational ties?	Participants were most satisfied with relationships with friends/roommates (<i>M</i> = 2.8) and least satisfied with relationships with current/former partners (<i>M</i> = 1.8) and in-laws (<i>M</i> = 1.8)

3 How do network members communicate about abuse with BIP participants?

The specific behaviors that network members used significantly more often than others were:

- supported you in being more accountable ($M = 4.3$ times during the last 3 months)
- did or said something that supported your participation at Allies in Change ($M = 3.2$ times during the last 3 months)
- told you that your current/former partner was taking advantage of you or disrespecting you ($M = 3.2$ times during the last 3 months)
- accused your current/former partner of trying to harm your relationship with your kids ($M = 2.1$ times during the last 3 months)
- told you that they wouldn't let their own partner get away with the things that your current/former partner does to you ($M = 1.9$ times during the last 3 months)
- supported you in taking legal action against your current/former partner ($M = 1.9$ times during the last 3 months)
- blamed their partner for their own problems ($M = 1.7$ times during the last 3 months)
- been abusive towards their partner in front of you ($M = 1.5$ times during the last 3 months)

3. How do BIP participants' network members communicate about abuse?	<p>Network members used:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • anti-abuse behaviors ($M = 2.6$ uses of each) • pro-abuse behaviors ($M = 1.0$ use of each) <p>Overall, $M = 22.1$ behaviors with participants during the prior 3 months each</p>
Are network members' abuse-relevant behaviors related to participants' attendance?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Network members' use of anti-abuse behavior was positively related to participants' attendance. • Network members' use of pro-abuse behavior was negatively related to participants' attendance.
Are network members' abuse-relevant behaviors related to participants' enrollment in a criminally oriented group?	<p>Network members of participants in criminally oriented groups used more behaviors (both anti-abuse and pro-abuse) than network members of men in other groups.</p>
2. Is the type of relational tie that participants have to their network members related to the number of times that the network members use abuse-relevant behaviors?	<p>Current/former partners ($M = 32.4$ times) and family of origin ($M = 25.5$) used abuse-relevant behaviors most often.</p>
Is this relationship moderated by participants' attendance?	<p>Participants' children's use of behavior was negatively related to participants' attendance.</p>

Is this relationship moderated by enrollment in a criminally oriented group?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Participants' family of origin used more behaviors when participants were enrolled in criminally oriented groups ($M = 54.2$), than when they were not ($M = 24.0$). • Participants' children used more behaviors when participants were enrolled in criminally oriented groups ($M = 47.2$) than when they were not ($M = 11.4$).
Do network members to whom participants have different relational ties use different abuse-relevant behaviors?	Participants' friends/roommates, bosses/coworkers, family of origin, partners/former partners, and "other" relational ties all used each anti-abuse behavior significantly more frequently than they used each pro-abuse behavior. This was <i>not</i> the case for participants' in-laws and children.

How do BIP participants communicate about abuse with their network members?

The specific behaviors that participants used significantly more often than others were:

- told this person that you go to Allies in Change ($M = 4.6$ times during the last 3 months)
- shared your story about abuse with this person ($M = 4.1$ times during the last 3 months)
- shared information about abuse, and/or resources for victims of abuse with this person ($M = 2.9$ times during the last 3 months)
- challenged this person about their controlling behavior ($M = 2.2$ times during the last 3 months)
- apologized to this person for demonstrating abusive behavior in the past ($M = 2.4$ times during the last 3 months)
- talked with this person about the consequences of being abusive ($M = 2.4$ times during the last 3 months)
- talked with this person about the effects of abuse on children ($M = 2.3$ times during the last 3 months)
- called this person out if you saw them ignoring or being rude to their partner ($M = 2.1$ times during the last 3 months)
- stuck up for this person's partner if they were talking badly about them ($M = 2.0$ times during the last 3 months)
- made amends with this person for your abusive behavior ($M = 1.7$ times during the last 3 months)
- asked this person not to talk about abuse or act abusively around you ($M = 1.2$ times during the last 3 months)

4. How do BIP participants communicate about abuse?	<p>Participants used:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • self disclosures ($M = 3.0$ uses of each behavior with each network member) • theoretical discussions about abuse ($M = 2.9$ uses of each behavior with each network member) • intervening in network members' abusive talk or behavior ($M = 1.4$ uses of each behavior with each network member) • sharing information about abuse ($M = 1.3$ uses of each behavior with each network member) <p>$M = 31.8$ behaviors with each network member during the prior 3 months overall</p>
Are participants' abuse-relevant behaviors related to their attendance?	<p>Participants' use of intervening behaviors was negatively related to their attendance. Participants' use of self-disclosures was positively related to their attendance.</p>
Are participants' abuse-relevant behaviors related to their enrollment in a criminally oriented group?	<p>Participants in criminally oriented groups used more behaviors than participants in non-criminally oriented groups.</p>
b. Is the type of relational tie that participants have to their network members related to the number of times that BIP participants use abuse-relevant behaviors?	<p>Participants used abuse-relevant behaviors most often with their current/former partners ($M = 53.6$)</p>
Is this relationship moderated by participants' attendance?	<p>Participants' use of behaviors with their current/former partners was positively related to their attendance.</p>
Is this relationship moderated by enrollment in a criminally oriented group?	<p>No.</p>
4. Do participants use different abuse-relevant behaviors with network members to whom they have different relational ties?	<p>Participants used self-disclosures, theoretical discussions about abuse, and information sharing significantly more often with their current/former partners than other relational ties.</p>

Hypothesis 1. There is a negative relationship between network members' use of abuse-relevant behaviors and the quality of participants' relationships with their network members.

Hypothesis 1a: There is a negative relationship between network members' use of anti-abuse behaviors and the quality of participants' relationships with their network members.	Not supported.
Is this relationship moderated by participants' attendance?	No.
Is this relationship moderated by enrollment in a criminally oriented group?	No.
Hypothesis 1b: There is a negative relationship between network members' use of pro-abuse behaviors and the quality of participants' relationships with their network members.	Supported.
Is this relationship moderated by participants' attendance?	No.
Is this relationship moderated by enrollment in a criminally oriented group?	No.

Hypothesis 2. There is a positive relationship between network members' use of abuse-relevant behaviors and the number of times that participants use abuse-relevant behaviors with those network members.

Hypothesis 2a: There is a positive relationship between network members' use of anti-abuse behaviors and participants' use of abuse-relevant behaviors with those network members.	Supported.
Is this relationship moderated by participants' attendance?	No.
Is this relationship moderated by enrollment in a criminally oriented group?	No.
Hypothesis 2b: There is a positive relationship between network members' pro-abuse communication and the participants' use of abuse-relevant behaviors with those network members.	Supported.
Is this relationship moderated by participants' attendance?	No.
Is this relationship moderated by enrollment in a criminally oriented group?	For participants in criminally oriented groups , there was a negative relationship between network members' use of pro-abuse behaviors and participants' use of abuse-relevant behaviors.

Implications

Network Structure

Participants indicated smaller social networks than the general population, with more friends and fewer family members^{25, 26}. They reported that they had the highest quality relationships with their friends/roommates and family of origin, suggesting that these people are potentially the most influential members of their social networks^{27, 28, 29}. No participants listed their facilitator or other participants from Allies in Change as members of their social networks.

Network members' abuse-relevant communication

† Both male and female network members engaged in both pro-abuse and anti-abuse behaviors, as did participants' parents and children, as well as their peers.

The perpetration of abuse is thought to emerge from the co-occurrence of two beliefs: (1) that a person is entitled to control their partner's activities, feelings, or thoughts, and (2) that they are justified in using violence to do so³⁰. Based on the content of the inventory of network members' behaviors, it appears that network members support the first of these beliefs, by villanizing participants' partners and reinforcing participants' negative characterizations of them. However, network members do not appear to explicitly communicate about participants' use of violence.

BIPs may work with clients to explore the distinction between network members' support for controlling their partner, and their support for the use of violence to do so. Programs may also coach clients on ways to change the messages that they receive from their network members to limit how much their desires to control their partners are reinforced. An example might be modeling empathy for their partners while in the company of network members. Focus group participants indicated that their network members tend to reinforce whatever they say about their partners; if clients express empathy and understanding towards their partners, their network members tend to reinforce this sentiment.

Participants indicated that they are less satisfied in relationships with network members who use more pro-abuse behaviors than with network members who use fewer pro-abuse

²⁵ Christakis, N.A. & Fowler, J. H. (2007). The spread of obesity in a large social network over 32 years. *The New England Journal of Medicine*, 357, 370-379.

²⁶ McDermott, R., Fowler, J. H., & Christakis, N. A. (2013). Breaking Up Is Hard to Do, Unless Everyone Else Is Doing It Too: Social Network Effects on Divorce in a Longitudinal Sample. *Social forces*, 92(2), 491-519.

²⁷ Ajzen, I. & Fishbein, M. (1970). The prediction of behavior from attitudinal and normative variables. *Journal of Experimental Social Psychology*, 6, 466-487.

²⁸ Priester, J. R. & Petty, R. E. (2001). Extending the bases of subjective attitudinal ambivalence: Interpersonal and intrapersonal antecedents of evaluative tension. *American Psychological Association*, 80 (1), 19 - 34.

²⁹ Terry, D. J. & Hogg, M. A. (1996). Group norms and the attitude-behavior relationships: A role for group identification. *Personality and Social Psychology Bulletin*, 22, 776 - 793.

³⁰ Pence, E., & Paymar, M. (1995). Education groups for men who batter. *The Durham medical review*, 10, 1-10.

behaviors. This tentatively suggests that clients may be more likely to discontinue or limit their engagement in relationships with network members who are more outwardly supportive of abuse. Focus group participants agreed with this speculation.

It may be useful for programs to consider how to support participants as their social networks and the support that they provide, become smaller and less satisfying.

Participants' abuse-relevant communication

Participants conveyed anti-abuse messages to their network members primarily through self-disclosures and theoretical discussions about abuse, rather than interventions in others' behavior or sharing information or resources. These preferred, less confrontational ways of communicating about abuse may reflect participants' understanding that they can't control others' behavior. They may also be more effective at reaching participants' network members than more direct or aggressive methods.

BIP participants appear to share the perspectives and beliefs that they learn in the program with the members of their social networks; it seems that BIPs' messages are being spread into the community beyond program participants. Programs may discuss this phenomenon with clients, to empower and encourage them to make positive changes in their communities.

Participants engaged in the most abuse-relevant communication with their current and former partners. Their use of theoretical discussions about abuse and self-disclosures with their partners suggests that they may process their thoughts about abuse with their partners. Focus group participants indicated that they turn to their partners as sounding boards and conversation partners to work through their new understandings of abuse. In this scenario, abuse-relevant interactions between participants and their partners may indicate participants' knowledge of abuse, desire to continue reflecting on abuse, and intellectual and emotional connections to their partners.

Programs may try to encourage and support these conversations between participants and their partners, so long as they are confident that the conversations will not be coercive.

Attendance, network members' communication, and participants' communication

Participants' who had attended more sessions at Allies in Change had network members who used fewer pro-abuse behaviors, and more anti-abuse behaviors, than participants who had not attended as many sessions. Participants with greater attendance also discussed abuse and accountability with their network members using self-disclosures more often, and intervening behaviors less often, than participants who were newer to the program. Discussion during the focus groups suggested that more tenured participants' greater awareness of abuse increases the opportunities that they see to engage in pertinent abuse-relevant behavior.

Those who had attended more sessions at Allies in Change used three specific behaviors less often than those who had attended fewer sessions. These behaviors were (1) recommending a BIP to their network members, (2) speaking up against sexist jokes or jokes about abuse, and (3) asking others to limit their abusive behavior. There are [at least] four potential explanations of these differences:

- Upon beginning at Allies in Change, participants may be excited about the program, learn quite a bit about abuse very quickly, and have a desire to show off their new knowledge to others. As they become more accustomed to the program and its content, they may be less excited to talk about it with others.
- Those with more attendance may have successfully exerted anti-abuse influence over network members who had previously engaged in pro-abuse behaviors, reducing the need to recommend a BIP or intervene in inappropriate comments or behaviors. For example, participants' children were the only network members to use significantly fewer abuse-relevant behaviors with participants who had been in the program for more time. The nature of parent-child relationships may make participants' children more prone to their influence than any other network member, suggesting that this statistical trend is a result of participants' successful influence over their children.
- More tenured participants may have tried, unsuccessfully, earlier in their program participation to influence their network members, and may have given up trying to do so. These participants may be more likely to direct conversations away from abuse, instead of attempting to exert abuse-relevant influence over network members who have been unresponsive to such influence in the past.
- More experienced BIP participants may have stopped spending time with network members with whom they felt it was necessary to use anti-abuse behavior.

Attendance at Allies in Change is related to positive patterns of abuse-relevant communication between participants and their network members.

Participants in Criminally Oriented Groups

Participants in groups for criminally oriented men reported significantly fewer network members than the rest of the sample.

Current findings indicate that participants in groups for criminally oriented men engage in significantly more abuse-relevant behaviors than participants in other, non-criminally oriented, groups. Participants in groups for criminally oriented men reported that they and their network members communicate about abuse more often than participants in other groups. Network members of men in criminally oriented groups also used significantly more abuse-relevant behaviors than network members of men in other groups.

network members' pro-abuse behaviors for men in criminally oriented groups: the more

these participants' network members engage in pro-abuse behaviors, the less often participants engage in anti-abuse behaviors. This is the opposite of the pattern that was found for all of the participants in the study, taken together.

There appear to be differences between men who participate in groups for criminally oriented offenders and other participants at Allies in Change. Participants in criminally oriented groups may be less likely to disagree with network members' pro-abuse communication and to receive reinforcement for their anti-abuse communication.

Limitations

The current findings should be interpreted with care, due to a number of limitations in the study's design, procedures, and analysis.

- The current study did not explore the relationship between participants' or their network members' abuse-relevant communication and their actual attitudes or beliefs about abuse, or their perpetration of abuse.
- Participants were surveyed only once. While it is possible to draw comparisons between those who have attended more or fewer sessions at Allies in Change, it is not appropriate to draw conclusions about how individual participants may change over time.
- The sample of BIP participants was drawn solely from Allies in Change. The unique features of Allies in Change's program limit the extent to which these findings may be generalized to participants at other BIPs or located in other geographic regions.
- Participants reported on their own behaviors and the behaviors of their social network members and may have been motivated to misrepresent their own behavior or their network members' behaviors. They were also asked to reflect on their interactions during the three months prior to the study, and may have inconsistently or incorrectly recalled their experiences during this period.
- No distinctions were drawn between participants' current partners and former partners. It is likely that they have very different relationships with their current and former partners, and this grouping may be misleading about their interactions with them.

Network Members' Average Use of Each IPV-Relevant Behavior

<u>Network Members' Behaviors</u>	<u>M</u>	<u>SE</u>
Supported you in being more accountable?	4.29	0.21
Did or said something that supported your participation at Allies in Change?	3.16	0.21
Told you that your current/former partner was taking advantage of you or disrespecting you?	3.15	0.21
Accused your current/former partner of trying to harm your relationship with your kids?	2.12	0.22
Pointed out the effects of abuse on children or other people?	2.02	0.21
Tried to make amends with you for their abusive behavior?	2.00	0.21
Told you that they wouldn't let their own partner get away with the things that your current/former partner does to you?	1.95	0.21
Supported you in taking legal action against your current/former partner?	1.89	0.22
Has this person done anything else that made you think about abuse?	1.70	0.30
Blamed their partner for their own problems?	1.68	0.22
Been abusive towards their partner in front of you?	1.46	0.22
Told you ways to avoid the consequences of abuse?	1.31	0.21
Made fun of you for letting your current/former partner call the shots in your relationship?	1.20	0.21
Refused to accept that you have been abusive?	1.02	0.21
Told you that your current/former partner deserved your abusive behavior?	0.77	0.21
Contacted your current/former partner to harass or monitor them?	0.60	0.21

Note. The average use of each behavior was based on a sample of 343 network members, nominated by 99 participants.

Participants' Average Use of Each IPV-Relevant Behavior with Network Members

<u>Participants' Behaviors</u>	<u>M</u>	<u>SE</u>
Told this person that you go to Allies in Change?	4.56	.19
Shared your story about abuse with this person?	4.09	.32
Shared information about abuse, and/or resources for victims of abuse with this person?	2.94	.34
Challenged this person about their controlling behavior?	2.49	.36
Apologized to this person for demonstrating abusive behavior in the past?	2.42	.22
Talked with this person about the consequences of being abusive?	2.35	.25
Have you done anything else with this person that might have made them think about abuse?	2.31	.42
Talked with this person about the effects of abuse on children?	2.29	.30
Called this person out if you saw them ignoring or being rude to their partner?	2.10	.37
Stuck up for this person's partner if they were talking badly about them?	1.97	.24
Made amends with this person for your abusive behavior?	1.67	.13
Encouraged this person to be accountable for their abusive behavior?	1.47	.24
Shared books or other materials from Allies in Change with this person?	1.25	.11
Asked this person not to talk about abuse or act abusively around you?	1.20	.19
Spoken up against sexist jokes or jokes about abuse while you were with this person?	.79	.13
Recommended Allies in Change or a similar program to this person?	.33	.11

Note. Averages based on 99 participants' use of behaviors with 343 network members.