

diagnostic cut-off values, and whether CO exposure was from a known or unknown source.

**Results and Conclusion** A total of 85 papers were identified meeting the inclusion and exclusion criteria. The most common methods identified for diagnosing CO exposure were measurement of carboxyhaemoglobin (COHb) in whole blood (50.5%) and CO-oximeter spectrophotometrics (20%). Diagnostic values were poorly reported and varied in non-smokers and smokers. Exhaled CO levels using breath analysers (8.2%) and ambient CO measurement (11.7%) were also documented. Diagnostic threshold values varied between 2–5% in non-smokers and 10–15% in smokers. Several methods are used in clinical practice and research to diagnose CO exposure. There is variation in the cut-off values used to make this diagnosis which is challenging for clinicians and makes comparison of research findings difficult.

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#### SYSTEMATIC REVIEW OF THE EFFECTIVENESS OF ADVOCACY INTERVENTIONS FOR ADULT VICTIMS OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE WITHIN AN EMERGENCY DEPARTMENT SETTING

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**Aims, Objectives and Background** Advocacy interventions for survivors of domestic violence is well established and supported by evidence in some community and healthcare settings. Survivors of domestic violence identified in emergency departments have important differences and it is not clear whether evidence can be applied to this population.

Therefore, we conducted an inclusive systematic review of controlled studies evaluating the effectiveness of advocacy workers for adult survivors identified in emergency departments.

**Method and Design** We included studies that reported primary research studies evaluating the effectiveness of advocacy workers in supporting survivors of domestic abuse conducted in emergency departments. We excluded studies that reported screening trials, interventions to increase identification of abuse by healthcare staff, studies conducted on children and studies that weren't reported in English. The search for studies was done via the following online databases from their start dates till February 2022: PubMed/MEDLINE, Cochrane Library, CINAHL/Ebsco, EMBASE and PsycINFO. We anticipated that there would be few high quality double-blinded RCTs and aimed to include before and after studies.

**Results and Conclusion** We only found one randomised control trial that met our inclusion criteria, and several observational studies which were judged as too weak for inclusion. We found a non-peer reviewed study done as part of a dissertation by a UK emergency consultant, as well as an unpublished randomised controlled trial carried out as part of a PhD thesis. None of the studies we found reported harm from advocacy interventions. The cost effectiveness is uncertain, but likely to be beneficial. We are able to make a weak recommendation that advocacy interventions are likely to be helpful, unlikely to be harmful but are of uncertain cost effectiveness. Future research should define meaning outcomes and controlled trials evaluating referral to advocacy are justified. Survivors of domestic violence who present to emergency departments are likely to benefit from referral to advocacy workers.

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| Study                            | Country | Type                                                                       | Outcome                                                                                                                                | Key results                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         | Jaded score |
|----------------------------------|---------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------|
| Hyman (2002) [8]                 | US      | RCT done as part of a PhD thesis, but published as a dissertation abstract | Reporting of abuse and distress<br>Community resource use<br>Engaging in safety behaviours                                             | Advocacy intervention provided little benefit over standard social service intervention (SSSI); slight decrease in "PTSD-symptomatology" for advocacy group over SSSI                                                                                               | 2           |
| Kendall et al. (2009)[9]         | USA     | Before/after study                                                         | Perception of safety<br>Completion of safety plan                                                                                      | Improvements in outcomes, but many unable to reach for follow-up                                                                                                                                                                                                    | 1           |
| Muelleman and Feighny (1999)[10] | USA     | Before/after study                                                         | Use of shelters (community resource use)<br>Repeat police calls<br>Full orders of protection<br>Repeat ED visits for domestic violence | Access to meeting an advocate increased shelter use/community resource use, but had no statistically significant effect on repeat police calls, full orders of protection, or repeat ED visits for domestic violence                                                | 0           |
| Halliwel et al. (2019)[11]       | UK      | Before/after study; used community-based IDVAs as comparison               | Health outcomes for survivors; risk of being harmed<br>Cost-savings                                                                    | Chance of safety (calculated using Severity of Abuse Grid filled by IDVAs) for survivors increased two-fold if hospital survivors received continued contact with IDVA in ED<br>Reduction in cost of IPV survivors presenting to ED offsets cost of producing IDVAs | 0           |
| Williamson and Boyle (2012)[12]  | UK      | Before/after study; a service evaluation done as part of a dissertation    | Number of repeat ED attendances<br>Risk of death and other injuries                                                                    | Access to IDVAs resulted in improvements across all outcomes                                                                                                                                                                                                        | 0           |