



THE GLOBE AND MAIL

Abused by zero tolerance

By MARGARET WENTE, Thursday, Feb. 20, 2003

Ten months ago, Nezha Saad got mad at her husband. The mother of four young children has a mood disorder that often makes her anxious and depressed, especially if she forgets her medication. Sometimes she lashed out at him when she was upset. This time, she phoned the police.

It was the worst mistake of her life.

Ms. Saad long ago retracted her allegations that he had threatened the family. It didn't do her any good. Her husband, Mohammed, spent six weeks in jail before he was bailed out. Today, he is under a restraining order and is not allowed to live at home. He has been suspended from his teaching job. He can only visit with his kids in a public place, under supervision. There is a lien on their house to pay for legal bills. Nezha has been forced to go on welfare.

And her husband's trial isn't until September. "I am suffering twice," she says. "Once for what I said, and again for what happened afterward."

Ms. Saad is an articulate, intelligent woman who immigrated with her husband from Morocco in 1989. They settled in Burlington, Ont., to raise their family. They thought they were coming to a just society. But now they've been caught in the gruesome consequences of a well-intentioned policy that was supposed to protect women and children. Instead, it has ripped families apart and brought them to the brink of financial ruin.

Zero tolerance policies grew from widespread complaints that domestic abuse wasn't being treated seriously by the police or the courts. The Ontario Crown Policy Manual, the prosecutors' bible, says that "all such assaults shall be prosecuted with vigour," whether or not the complainant agrees. In order to bring even more resources to bear on the problem, Ontario set up dedicated courts that specialize in domestic abuse cases. But zero tolerance means that many prosecutors hesitate to drop even the flimsiest of cases, even when the couples have put their troubles behind them. The result is a nightmare of backlogs and delays.

When Ms. Saad phoned the police, she told them her husband had taken their youngest daughter somewhere and that she was worried he was going to kill her. "I thought he was going to kill me, kill the kids," she says. In fact, he'd taken the child to buy a toy. There were no signs of any physical abuse; her husband, she says, has never even spanked the children. But he was charged with uttering threats and taken off to jail. The police urged

Ms. Saad to take her kids to a women's shelter. "I was so scared, so confused," she says. "I was lost. I didn't know who to listen to or what to do. I just did what they wanted me to do."

Staff at the shelter, she says, pressured her to turn up the legal heat on her husband. "I and the children were inundated with information about how abusive men are. My children were exposed to more abuse in the shelter than they were ever exposed to outside of it." A children's aid society worker urged her to take the kids and move to another province. Her husband was denied bail until the family was settled elsewhere.

So Ms. Saad wound up in housing for abused women. Her kids were miserable. They were attacked by other kids. They just wanted to go home and get their father back. After three months, they moved back to their house in Burlington, and she owned up.

"When I tried to admit my mistake to the Crown Attorney's office, I was basically told that I was a liar and that I had better stick to my original statement, which was made under pressure and while suffering from anxiety." She was told that if she got in touch with her husband, or even took his side, she could lose the kids.

Ms. Saad is outraged at being treated like an infant. She is astonished at the way that abused women are being reabused by a justice system that treats them as if they are too helpless to be believed or make their own decisions. A few weeks ago, she wrote a letter to Ontario's Chief Justice, Roy McMurtry, after he expressed concern about the backlog in the courts. "Just put a stop to the persecuting and criminalizing of fathers," she wrote, "and ensure that the principles of equality and fundamental justice are upheld."

The Chief Justice can't solve this one. It's up to the politicians. Meantime, the Saads are not alone. As The Globe's Kirk Makin reported in a damning piece last month, countless other families are being tormented for minor and even imaginary assaults. And millions of dollars in public money is being spent to prosecute cases without merit.

Meantime, Nezha's kids keep asking when dad is coming home. Her son, who's 7, misses him terribly. Just before Valentine's Day, he wrote a poem to him in French. His mother translates:

Daddy, I miss you

You are my sun

So please dad wake up

You are always in my heart.

mwente@globeandmail.ca



THE GLOBE AND MAIL

"Almost as many men as women suffer spousal abuse, Statscan says"

By ALLISON LAWLOR - Globe and Mail Update, Wednesday, June 26, 2002

Almost as many men as women suffer violence at the hands of their spouses, but women are much more likely to seek help, says a Statistics Canada report released Wednesday.

Eight per cent of Canadian women and 7 per cent of men reported at least one incident of spousal violence between 1994 and 1999, Statscan reported in the fifth annual Family Violence in Canada report released Wednesday.

While both women and men reported being the victims of a significant amount of spousal violence, the nature and consequences of such violence is more severe for women.

Women were twice as likely as men to report having been beaten and five times more likely to say they had been choked, Statscan reports.

They were also five times more likely than men to have received medical attention and to have been hospitalized as a result of the violence.

Men reported being less likely to report spousal violence to police or to use a social service such as counselling or a shelter. While almost half of women (48 per cent) who were abused by a spouse reported using a social service, only 17 per cent of men did.

"Lower reporting rates by men may reflect the less severe nature of the violent incidents experienced by men and the fact that social services for male victims may not be as widely available," Statscan reports.

The report also found that the rate of family homicides recorded in Canada since 1974 have declined. Seventy-seven per cent of the nearly 2,600 spousal homicides recorded in Canada since 1974 have been against women.

Since that year, the spousal homicide rate for women has decreased by 62 per cent and for men the rate has dropped by 55 per cent.

In 2000, 55 children and youths were victims of homicide. Of those, 31 were killed by a family member. Statscan reports that is the lowest rate in 27 years.

In another report released Wednesday, more than eight in 10 parents expressed some concern about their children's exposure to violence in school and in the media. Eighty-two per cent of parents reported some degree of worry about their children's exposure to violence at school and 83 per cent reported some degree of worry about their children's exposure to violence on television, in movies and in music videos, report released Wednesday by the Canadian Council on Social Development and Family Service Canada found.

For the study, 1,021 parents were surveyed. The survey is considered accurate within 3.1 percentage points.

The Toronto Sun

CANADIAN PRESS, Wednesday, Jun. 26, 2002

"Study: Men not reporting spousal abuse"

OTTAWA (CP) -- Eight per cent of women and seven per cent of men experienced at least one incident of spousal violence, says a study based on information collected between 1994 and 1999.

Statistics Canada says that although men reported being victims of spousal violence, figures indicate the nature of the violence was more severe for women.

Women in violent unions were more than twice as likely as men to report having been beaten, the agency reported.

Female victims were five times more likely to have been medically treated or hospitalized as a result of the violence.

The lower reporting rates by men may reflect the less severe nature of the violence, Statistics Canada said. It may also be that social services for male victims are not be as widely available.

The most commonly reported emotional consequence for both men and women victims of spousal violence was being upset, confused and frustrated.

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The Toronto Sun

CANADIAN PRESS, Wednesday, Jun. 26, 2002

"Spousal murder rates at 26-year low; highest rates in West, lowest in Nfld."

OTTAWA (CP) -- Spousal murder rates dropped to a 26-year low in 2000 but women were still victims in the overwhelming majority of cases, with Northern and Western Canada recording the most wife murders and Newfoundland and Labrador showing the least, a government report revealed Wednesday.

In 2000, 67 Canadians were killed by their spouse or former spouse.

The number of women killed by their husbands dropped 65 per cent nationwide to 6.3 per million couples from 16.5 per million couples in 1974, the Statistics Canada report found.

In Newfoundland and Labrador, the rate was just 4.1 per million couples, while the rate was 77.8 in the Northwest Territories, 47.3 in the Yukon and 16.1 in Manitoba.

The homicide rate for men killed by their wives fell by more than 50 per cent to two per million, the report said.

Shootings and stabbings were the most common causes of death.

The decline in spousal murder rates may be partly due to the fact that men and women are marrying older, the report said.

"As the proportion of young people getting married has declined, exposure to violence in the highest-risk age groups may be reduced," the report says.

"Furthermore, the increase in the age of first marriage may reflect greater selectivity among would-be spouses."

In 1974, the average Canadian woman was 22 when she got married; the average man was 24. By 2000, the ages had risen to 28 and 30 respectively.

Other factors that may have contributed to the decline in spousal violence are women's increased participation in the workforce, delaying childbirth and having fewer children.

"All of these social changes have provided both women and men with increased opportunities for economic independence which may help provide alternatives to remaining in abusive situations which, in turn, may help avoid escalation of violence to homicide," the report said.

Three per cent of women and two per cent of men experienced at least one incident of spousal violence with a current or ex-spouse during a 12-month period, the study said.

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The lower reporting rates by men may reflect the less severe nature of the violence, Statistics Canada said. It may also be that social services for male victims are not as widely available.

The most commonly reported emotional consequence for both men and women victims of spousal violence was being upset, confused and frustrated.

Since 1974, almost 2,600 spousal homicides have been recorded in Canada.



THE GLOBE AND MAIL

"Men as likely to face abuse from partner, Statscan says"

Women suffer more severe consequences, more likely to seek medical attention

By KRISTA FOSS, Thursday, June 27, 2002 – Print Edition, Page A8

In the pressure cooker of domestic relationships, men and women are almost equally likely to boil over and lash out violently at their spouses, according to a newly released Statistics Canada report.

In the fifth annual look at family violence in Canada, based on a survey on victimization and more recent police statistics, 8 per cent of women and 7 per cent of men reported experiencing at least one incident of spousal violence from their current or former partners between the years 1994 and 1995.

However, the study also concludes that women report suffering much more severe consequences from domestic battles that end with blows. Women were twice as likely as men to report having been beaten, five times as likely to say they'd been choked by their partners and five times as likely to have received medical attention as a result of the violence.

The report says that the definition can have an effect on the estimates of violence and can include Criminal Code offences, threatening, psychologically controlling and emotionally abusive behaviour.

Women were also more likely than men to report spousal violence to the police, use a social service, require medication, take time off work or suffer depression, fearfulness and sleeplessness. The study also notes that when it comes to spousal homicide, women are the victims in the vast majority of cases.

Still some men's groups laud the Statscan findings because they don't support the old prejudice that men are the only ones who become physically violent behind the closed doors of the family home.

"It demonstrates that there has been a severe bias against men in the past in not considering them victims," said Earl Silverman, program co-ordinator for the Calgary-based advocacy group, Family of Men Support Society. ". . . To try and deny the other side of the coin reduces the credibility of the first side."

Mr. Silverman said that so much attention has been paid to providing social supports to female victims of domestic violence that men who are abused have nowhere to turn.

Academics who have spent their careers researching the subject of domestic violence, think otherwise: They question the research's rigour and its lack of context.

Desmond Ellis, a York University sociology professor, finds the Statscan conclusions inconsistent with his research or with that done by his colleagues at the LaMarsh Research Centre on Violence and Conflict Resolution.

"Ignoring context, meaning and motive [in violent incidents] is misinforming," he said yesterday. "And not separating out different types of violence is misleading."

Prof. Ellis said there is a big difference between violence used to control a spouse -- which he says research shows is more likely committed by males -- and violence that occurs in trying to end or settle a conflict.

"Control-motivated violence has implications for what happens when you separate from a spouse" he said. "And the consequences for women when they separate, are in our view, more serious."

If the Statscan study sounded a positive note, it was that the overall rate of family homicides has gone down in Canada since 1974. The homicide rate for women has decreased 62 per cent -- to 6.3 women per million couples from 16.5 women -- while for men it has dropped by 55 per cent, to two men per million couples from 4.4 men.

The report also shows that separated women aged 15 to 24 had a rate of spousal homicide far higher than the average: 113 per million separated couples in the years 1991 to 2000.

SPOUSAL VIOLENCE

Women victims of spousal abuse are more likely than men to experience sleeping problems and to use medication or drugs.

.....	Female victims	Female non-victims
Trouble falling asleep		
or remaining asleep.....	39%.....	20%
Medication/drugs to sleep...	20%.....	10%
Medication /drugs to calm		
down.....	19%.....	6%
Medication/drugs to get out		
of depression.....	17%.....	5%

.....	Male victims.....	Male non-victims
Trouble falling asleep		
or remaining asleep.....	29%.....	13%
Medication/drugs to sleep...	9%.....	7%
Medication /drugs to calm		
down.....	8%.....	4%
Medication/drugs to get out		
of depression.....	7%.....	3%

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Ottawa Sun

Double standard in abuse cases: Study

By NELLY ELAYOUBI, Ottawa Sun September 5, 2002

Men aren't being treated fairly by police, prosecutors and the courts in domestic assaults, according to a recently released study in British Columbia.

Local gender equality advocates shared the findings of Gender as a Factor in the Treatment of Domestic Partner Abuse by Police and Prosecutors: A Pilot Project, by Edmonton, Alberta lawyer and university professor Grant Brown, outside the Ottawa Police building on Elgin St.

There's a double standard that sees men treated more harshly at each stage of the criminal justice system, said Glenn Cheriton, of Commoners' Publishing Society, a local Ottawa action organization.

SAME PROBLEMS HERE

He has filed a freedom of information request to obtain a copy of the Ottawa Police policy on domestic assault. He dropped a copy of the new study in the police chief's mailbox yesterday and plans to follow up with him today.

"We're looking for a partnership with the police because we believe in treating people fairly, both men and women," Cheriton said.

Cheriton said that although the study was conducted in B.C., there are examples where men have been discriminated against by police in Ottawa.

"It's no different than racism," he said.

Wendy Byrne, chairwoman of the board of directors for the Women's Action Centre Against Violence, disagrees that Ottawa Police discriminate against men.

She said without "dynamic understanding" of domestic violence in the courts, it's difficult for any parties -- women, men and children -- to be treated fairly.

Justice may not be so blind

Some of the findings of Gender as a Factor in the Treatment of Domestic Partner Abuse by Police and Prosecutors: A Pilot Project Study, by Edmonton lawyer and university professor Grant Brown, include:

- Men are more frequently charged than women, including in minor injury cases.

- Men are more likely to be taken into custody once charged.
- Men are more likely to be found guilty than women.
- Women are more likely to make bail than men.
- Women used a knife-like object in 24.2% of the cases they were charged. Men used a knife-like object in 5.4% of cases.
- Charges against women for inflicting high-level injuries were withdrawn in 77.8% of cases.
- Women found guilty were more likely than men to have been intoxicated or to have committed their offence in the presence of children.



Battered Men

While medical groups champion campaigns to reduce domestic violence against women, a new study indicates that men are victims as often as women.

The study included 516 patients who presented at the emergency department of Charity Hospital, New Orleans, La, in July 1995. Using the index of spouse abuse (ISA), a validated survey tool, researchers determined the prevalence of domestic violence in 4 areas: physical violence that occurred recently or more than a year ago and nonphysical violence that was recent or had occurred in the past.

Based solely on ISA scoring, the researchers said 19% of the women patients and 20% of the men had experienced recent physical violence. They pointed out that some experts fear attention to domestic violence against men will de-emphasize the importance of services for women.

"Recognition of the global nature of violence may be more realistic than assuming that only women are victims," the researchers wrote in this month's *Annals of Emergency Medicine*.

(JAMA. 1997;278:620)

NATIONAL POST

Sheltered from reality

For too long, says an authority on violence against women, society has ignored the fact that women can be violent, too

Donna Laframboise

National Post , Monday, November 23, 1998

Erin Pizzey has a kind, round face and wears her white hair in a bun, but an ordinary grandmother she is not. Indeed, she has the distinction of being the person who founded the world's first battered women's shelter in England in 1971, and who, in 1974, wrote the first book on marital violence, *Scream Quietly or the Neighbours Will Hear*.

On a recent visit to Canada, Pizzey told audiences in three provinces that the shelter movement has been "hijacked" by anti-male feminists who, rather than being part of the solution, are helping to perpetuate abusive families.

Pizzey says her years of experience have taught her that there are two kinds of battered women. "One of them I call innocent victims of their partners' violence," she says in her soft British accent. "They were genuine victims who were coming in, bringing their children. They needed refuge, they needed help, they needed legal advice."

While the public is well acquainted with this picture of the battered wife, Pizzey says many other abused women don't belong in this category. She describes them as "violence prone" people who, in addition to being battered by their partners, behave violently themselves -- toward their husbands as well as their children. Some of them lack effective verbal communication skills. Others are addicted to the adrenaline rush that can be a by-product of tumultuous relationships. Virtually all were raised in profoundly dysfunctional families themselves, and have never learned any other way to behave.



Dave Chan, National Post / Erin Pizzey, the founder of women's shelters, is now a critic of the institutions.

Pizzey says that when the first battered woman she ever encountered showed her extensive bruising from her neck to her waist, she felt a "split second of absolute outrage that this could be going on" and that no one -- from social workers to police officers -- apparently cared enough to do anything about it. Pizzey took the woman home and tucked her into the top bunk in her son's bedroom. When her husband inquired whether the woman's spouse knew where she was hiding out, Pizzey responded, "Of course not, she's not going to tell him, not in the state she's in."

The woman, however, had been in contact with her husband, who soon appeared at the front door. Pizzey learned much later that this turbulent marriage prevailed for decades, until the unhappy couple eventually died within a few months of each other. "Those two couldn't live without each other, they couldn't live with each other, but what they did do was destroy their five children," says Pizzey. "They were both deeply responsible" for that damage.

Of the first 100 battered women she gave refuge to, "62 were as violent or even more violent than the men they'd left." But nearly 30 years later, society is still unwilling to acknowledge that violent women exist and is therefore still not offering them any help. "I have pleaded for the cause of violent women," says Pizzey.

Today, virtually all battered women's shelters -- including the one Pizzey founded -- are operated by feminists whose analysis automatically stereotypes men as aggressors and women as victims. On both sides of the Atlantic, employment ads for women's shelters routinely require that applicants subscribe to a feminist understanding of domestic violence.

As a result, the large number of women served by these shelters who require assistance themselves to interrupt destructive patterns are actually having their behaviour reinforced when shelter workers assure them they are not to blame.

Pizzey says this sends a terrible message to children trapped in violent families. Kids learn that "this is what women do, this is what women are. My mother can batter me, hit me, beat me, shame me, humiliate me, and society ignores what she does. But my father has only got to lose his cool" and he's stigmatized, criminally charged and "loses his family" in divorce proceedings.

"There are many, many women who take off a shoe and just throw it at a child," says Pizzey. "We had to teach these women to take responsibility for their behaviour. Screaming, ranting, yelling at people is part of their normal everyday conversation. No one's ever told them they were violent."

Although she says "the worst beatings I ever saw were women beating each other up," in lesbian relationships, she stresses that female violence is often more indirect than male violence. "When you're working with violent women," she says, "one of the things you notice is that they will provoke until the man lashes out. 'Look, he hit me.' And I'd say, 'Okay, I'm not interested in the bomb. Where's the hand that threw the bomb?' "

Instead of stressing personal responsibility on the part of women who are themselves behaving inappropriately, Pizzey says today's women's shelters are fortifying a childish mantra: "He did it. He made me do it. It's not my fault."

Pizzey is offended by the fact that shelters promote the view that all men are suspect. "Give me an answer why men can't work in shelters," she demands, pointing out that the first money her shelter ever received was spent to employ a man to work with the children. "Many of them had never known a kind, gentle man."

In sharp contrast to current policies, Pizzey's shelter met with every willing man whose wife had fled there. Rather than keeping the shelter's location secret, a sign loudly announced its presence in the community. In her view, the surveillance cameras and bulletproof windows of contemporary women's shelters amount to "expensive paranoia."

She says facilities that once taught people more humane ways of relating to one another have been turned into bunkers where an us-versus-them mentality festers. This has happened, she says, partly because battered women's shelters receive millions in funding each year.

"I knew that once we were getting any form of recognition, but above all, any funding, we would be in serious trouble," she says. "Because the feminist movement was hungry for funding. And it didn't take long for them to invade a very small conference that we had and to vote themselves into the national [shelter] movement. And they began by saying: 'All women are victims of men's violence.' "

Pizzey says she hesitated, for many years, to publicly criticize what was going on in shelters because she feared these very necessary facilities would lose public support and be closed down. Today she thinks the average person is sophisticated enough to understand that it's not the concept of the shelters she's critical of, but the feminist philosophy that currently permeates them.

"What we need to do is reclaim the shelter movement," she says. "It was hijacked 30 years ago. It was used for false purposes."

NATIONAL POST

'One-stop divorce shops'

A letter of support from a shelter is proven to be enough to win custody battles

Donna Laframboise

National Post, Saturday, November 21, 1998

Two years ago, Terri admitted that she abused the battered women's shelter system. Although her husband had never assaulted her, she told a Winnipeg conference examining false allegations in family law that she lied to shelter staff, and to herself, because it was absurdly easy and because she had something to gain.

Terri says her husband's drinking problem made their seven-year relationship a rocky one, and that she had left him before. Her mother urged her to go to a shelter, she says, in the belief that the counsellors would help her achieve independence. Terri (who requested anonymity to spare her now former husband further embarrassment), says she telephoned a Winnipeg shelter and was told only abused women were admitted.

"I went to the door and I cried and said that my husband was abusive. My kids weren't with me because I didn't want them to see how I had to get in."

Terri says the intake worker accepted her story at face value. So she retrieved her sons, then three and six years old, and went back to the shelter where staff began coaching her on how to gain the upper hand in divorce court.

Terri says residents were told that "the first thing we needed to do was obtain a restraining order against our spouse. We were instructed to write down our complaints on paper and bring them with us when we went to see our lawyer."



Photo by John Lehmann, National Post / Over the past four years, Louise Malenfant has been an advocate for 62 individuals who claimed to be falsely accused of child sexual abuse during divorce proceedings. In a third of those cases, she says, a women's shelter was involved.

In Terri's case, the result was a 10-page affidavit alleging not that her husband was physically abusive, but that he displayed characteristics one might expect in an alcoholic. "A lot of the stuff I wrote up in the court document was about his hygiene. I complained about always having bladder infections because he never had a bath." On the basis of this affidavit, she says, "I got the restraining order and soon after I got full custody of my children with no visitation for my husband."

Later, the full import of her actions sank in. "I realized what I had done. My children had not seen their father for a year, yet I was never afraid that he would harm them or myself," says Terri, now a 36-year-old therapist. "It was not a fair fight. I had the shelter and the women's movement on my side."

During parliamentary committee hearings on child custody and access earlier this year (the final report is due in early December), women's shelter spokespeople showed up in full force. Their propensity to stereotype all fathers in custody battles as abusive and all mothers as besieged victims came as no surprise to lawyers and community activists alarmed by the role shelters now play in divorce matters. In addition to providing moral support to women who appear on their doorstep, shelters also supply letters of endorsement that are highly prejudicial to the women's spouses in court -- despite the fact that the shelter employees have never met the men involved, have only heard one side of the story, and have only known the women for a short time under highly artificial conditions.

Susan Baragar, who practices primarily family law in Winnipeg, describes herself as a feminist but believes nevertheless that it is "all too easy" for women to get these letters from shelters, and warns that they are a highly potent weapon.

Judges are "most definitely swayed" if a woman is staying at a shelter and court documents include a letter from the facility implying that the father is dangerous, says Ms. Baragar. "I mean, you've got sort of a 'professional' now saying he shouldn't see his kids."

Ms. Baragar, herself, has used the tactic on behalf of her own clients. She cites a recent case in which she represented a woman who "came in with this two- or three-page letter which I attached to the affidavit, and [the father] was denied access on that basis. Nothing else. It depends on the judge. Some judges are more cautious than others. But in that particular case he was absolutely denied access."

Ms. Baragar says the opposing lawyer "argued that this was not an unbiased letter, that both parties had not been interviewed. He got absolutely nowhere."

Since the parent who first secures legal child custody is almost certain to be awarded it later (authorities are reluctant to disrupt the children's lives once again), relationships between fathers and children are being ripped asunder in some cases merely on the say-so of a shelter worker.

In 1995, a Manitoba shelter worker wrote a two-page letter on behalf of a resident. The worker was able to discern, from their first meeting, that the woman "had been a victim of abuse in her childhood and now as an adult." Writing that she hoped "the court will recognize

this letter of support," the worker pronounced the woman to be "intelligent, insightful, and sincere."

But in 1997, after hearing submissions from the woman's spouse and the Winnipeg Child and Family Services, a judge came to a different conclusion. Only in her early 20s, the woman had already made seven sexual abuse complaints to police involving 11 different people. (The only complaint in which a charge was deemed warranted resulted in an acquittal.) "At one time or another," wrote the judge, the woman had "accused her father, brother, and sister of sexually abusing her." In the judge's view, her credibility was undermined by the fact that, "despite these allegations she had no hesitation in living with her father and her sister and in exposing her father to her own children." The woman eventually abandoned her custody bid, and the children were placed in the care of their paternal grandmother.

In Burlington, Ont., in 1995, a counsellor at a women's shelter wrote a supportive letter regarding a client and her relationship to her then two-year-old daughter and 12-year-old son. Although the children had joined their mother in the shelter only eight days earlier, the staffer felt no hesitation in declaring the woman to be a "loving and devoted mother" and in expressing the "strong feeling" that child custody should be awarded to her rather than to the husband she was leaving.

But this woman's maternal track record was in fact less than stellar. Four years earlier, the Children's Aid Society had successfully convinced a court that she was a danger to her son and an older daughter, then aged 12, who did not accompany her to the shelter.

After monitoring the situation for three months, a Children's Aid worker told the court that both children "admitted being afraid of their mother much of the time." On one occasion she allegedly threatened her spouse with a knife and then threatened to commit suicide. On another occasion, she allegedly "opened the car door while it was travelling along the highway and threatened to jump." The worker noted that "Both of these incidents occurred in the presence of the children." Nevertheless, the courts awarded custody of all three children to the woman.

At yet another shelter, in Orillia, Ont., a staffer wrote a letter in 1994 addressing the question of who should get custody of two boys, aged two and three. Despite the fact that no trial had yet been held, this staffer declared that their mother "had been physically assaulted" by her husband before fleeing to the shelter. The mere fact that the mother had shown up at a shelter was proof that she was "a conscientious and caring parent." The letter ended with the declaration that "it would be a great disservice" to the children if custody was not awarded to their mother. With the aid of the letter, the woman secured custody.

In 1997, a Toronto shelter worker wrote a letter on behalf of a woman who had been in residence for six weeks. It flatly announced that the woman had been "physically and emotionally" abused by the husband she was leaving and said that since "her children are her life," she should be assisted in gaining custody. However, in a report dated a week prior to the shelter's letter, a psychologist who interviewed the woman during her stay noted that

she'd told him her husband "has never struck her physically." Interim custody has been awarded to the mother.

Ms. Baragar has had women's shelter letters expunged from the record when attempts have been made to use them against her own clients. "There is a rule that you're technically not supposed to just attach reports to somebody else's affidavit," she says. "When I see letters like that I go pretty hardcore and insist that a separate affidavit then be sworn - which gives me the right to cross-examine the maker of the statement. [The shelter workers] usually chicken out. They haven't wanted to swear affidavits." Many lawyers, she says, are unfamiliar with the tactic.

Mary McManus, a lawyer in Victoria, B.C., shares many of Ms. Baragar's concerns. While she thinks "shelters are very important and fulfill a useful function," she feels staffers should refrain from expressing opinions regarding situations about which they have limited knowledge.

"The workers at the shelters come with different backgrounds, experience, and education. What they say may well be justified, but may not be as well."

Ms. McManus agrees that the courts "tend to place a great deal of weight on just the fact that a woman went to a shelter. I've had a lot of experience in bail hearings where men have been accused of abusing their spouse and the fact that the spouse is in the shelter can be accepted as evidence that there has been abuse."

Greta Smith, the executive director of the B.C./Yukon Society of Transition Houses says her organization has no policy regarding shelters writing letters on behalf of clients. While she admits it's "possible that some transition houses would write supportive letters," the idea makes her uncomfortable. "I guess I would have to see the letter. I'm sorry, I have some difficulty with that. The fact that people would write letters without some good solid reasons for writing a letter. Without seeing the letter and without finding out what the circumstances are, it would be very difficult to make a comment on that."

When asked whether it's possible that some women are going to shelters as a divorce tactic, Ms. Smith replies: "Anything in this world is possible, but I do not believe that happens."

Louise Malenfant, a community activist in Winnipeg, calls shelters "one-stop divorce shops for women," and is disturbed by their 'no questions asked policy.' She claims that in addition to helping women who make false allegations of wife abuse, shelters in her city have helped manufacture incest accusations.

Over the past four years, Ms. Malenfant has been an advocate for 62 individuals who claimed to be falsely accused of child sexual abuse during divorce proceedings. In a third of those cases, she says, a women's shelter was involved.

At 1996 public hearings into the Manitoba Child and Family Services Act, Ms. Malenfant alleged that children were taken into a room that was off limits to their mothers, subjected to a sexual abuse awareness program, and inappropriately questioned by shelter staff.

"If you expose children to sexual material and you question them repeatedly over the course of a week or two, that child can literally repeat what they've been taught," Ms. Malenfant told the National Post.

She maintains that even mothers who would not have otherwise accused their spouses of incest were compelled to treat such allegations seriously after they arose during a shelter stay. Ms. Malenfant has publicly called for an inquiry into women's shelters, and has written letters to government officials protesting their policies. As a result, that particular issue seems to have disappeared. "It was like somebody sucked that problem right out of the place," Ms. Malenfant says. "I have not seen a new women's shelter case in over a year. I don't know what [the government has] done; all I know is that it stopped."

"It's extremely disturbing," says Ms. Baragar of the role shelters have been playing in custody and divorce proceedings. "I get very angry about it from a personal basis, because I think that there are very real cases of abuse and what I see happening in the courts is that those cases now have less value because of the lies that are so easily" being told.

In the last year, Ms. Baragar says she has sensed a growing cynicism from the bench.

"Judges are now more willing to believe that this is just a lie. You know, it got to a point for a while that I couldn't pick up a woman's affidavit where she wasn't accusing him of abuse. You'd get page after page of what was being called abuse, and people were quite prepared to go to women's shelters for it.

"I mean, not everything is abuse. Just because it wasn't a fun fight doesn't mean it was abuse."

The Toronto Sun

Under Attack: The lonely cry of battered husbands.

by Karen Woodstra, Father's Day, 1994

Waves softly caressed the white, sandy shores of Florida under a clear blue tropical sky. The breeze was gentle, the air warm, the mood romantic. For a Toronto couple, it was to be the backdrop for a tryst intended to save their troubled marriage. But after three glorious days, the dream of reconciliation turned into a nightmare. He awoke at 4 a.m. to answer a pounding at the door. His wife, drunk, had been out with another man. His eyes filled with tears: "Is this what I get for trying to make a go of things?" he sobbed.

She responded with a string of profanity. He packed his bags and, as he left, she ran out behind him, carrying a pillow which she held over her hand as she punched the front window of their beachfront room. Panicking, he forced her back into the room, where she began to punch and kick him. Then she hurled a lamp. Next she ripped the phone from the wall and threw it and pulled the drawers from the dresser and threw them, too. Finally, catching him off guard, she grabbed a beer bottle and smashed it into his face.

When two Orange County police officers arrived, she screamed: "Arrest him!" The officers, noticing his injuries, said if she insisted on having him arrested, they'd have to arrest her, too. No charges were laid.

In thousands of homes across Canada, the family is a crucible for seething violence. Women are beaten daily and innocent children are victims of brutal assaults. But there is another form of violence that has been largely ignored, even laughed at. Husband abuse, according to several studies, is becoming as prevalent as wife abuse.

"Men are going through what women did in the '60s and '70s," says Mark, the victim in that Florida motel room. "I believe men will have to suffer more - as women did - before this is a fully recognized problem."

Statistics show husband abuse is spreading, but few services exist to help the victims. One such group, possibly the only one of its kind in Metro, meets in the Beaches to provide counselling and support for abused husbands.

The men who gather there weekly abide by a strict set of rules: "Keep meeting discussions confidential. Keep an open mind. Don't bring guests to closed meetings. Don't tell others how they should and should not feel."

The serious voice pauses. "What is said here, what is heard here, when you leave here, let it stay here." The meeting commences.

A dozen men from all walks of life sit in a meagerly decorated room. Portraits of the Beach Roll of Honor line two walls. The men begin to speak. The occasional silence is filled by buzzing from the overhead fluorescent lights. Traffic noises from Main St. periodically interrupt the conversation.

The men take turns telling their stories and sharing in each other's despair and frustration. As they speak, their stories are as similar as the body language: clenched fists, hunched shoulders, tense expressions, sorrowful eyes. A sullen cloud envelopes the room.

A man saturated in emotional pain allows silent tears to stream down flushed cheeks. The room is dead quiet as we watch a man, beaten by his wife and humiliated by society, draining his anguish. He speaks of how he attempted to take his life the night before.

"I tried hopelessly to save my marriage. I was willing to forget the past and to start all over." He recounts how she not only rejected his plea as he attempted to put his arm around her, but had him charged with sexual assault. He was convicted.

The group is called Male Survivors of Relationship Violence. It was formed in March 1993 and meets every Monday at Community Centre No. 55 on Main St. Its founder is a man we'll call Kevin, a man who says his wife assaulted him throughout four years of marriage.

"When my marriage ended, I searched desperately for a self-help group for abused men. What I found was society making a joke because I was abused. I actually came across people who laughed at me."

That humiliation drove Kevin to form the support group. "There are countless men out there who are faced with the same agonizing pain I experienced. Being an abused husband is bad enough the systemic abuse many of us endure afterwards is just as debilitating to our emotional well-being."

The group was funded by the federal government for the first year, but currently relies on private and corporate donations. Toronto psychiatrist Gordon Baker, whose patients include several men abused by their wives, is on the board of directors.

If husband abuse is so prevalent, why don't we hear about it? Metro Police Sgt. Sue McCoy, of the community services unit, says men are reluctant to come forward because of "fear of being labeled a wimp by society."

Abraham Kass, a marriage and family therapist in Newmarket, says: "The attitude 'men are men' is a false notion. I believe husband abuse is just as prevalent as wife abuse. In my practice, the cases of wife and husband abuse are 50-50."

Scott is typical of the men who are victims of abuse. "Men think they have an image to uphold. If we admit that our wives beat us up, we'd be labeled a wussy. If you show up at work and you have a visible bruise, some people jokingly say, "What happened, wife beat you up?" Hey, I tell you, when you've had your self-esteem destroyed you don't need any salt poured into the wounds - even if it is meant as a joke."

Former Ontario Supreme Court chief justice G.T. Evans says: "So many men fear a loss of their macho image with an admission of being abused."

Christopher Murphy, a lawyer specializing in family law in Newmarket, agrees: "Men fear society's general reaction - "What a wimp, the wife beats you up" - so they rarely come forward."

The men who do come forward find they are often laughed at, or asked: "Husband abuse? Are you serious?"

Mike was brutally attacked by his wife.

"She grabbed my hair, forcing my head downwards. With incredible force, her knee smashed into my face, destroying my glasses. The flow of blood blurred my vision."

While his wounds were being stitched up in hospital, his wife admitted her guilt to police. The hospital report states "wife assaulted him." Yet the police laid no charges until Mike pressed the matter. When he told his story in family court in Toronto, Mike says the entire courtroom burst into laughter, including the judge. Mike dropped the charges.

It is common for these men to have their complaints treated lightly. They have no desire to divert attention from the seriousness of wife abuse, but merely want their plight to also be taken seriously. Instead, society tends to trample further their fragile emotional states.

"We affirm many women are faced with a serious problem," says Doug. "But not all women are lily-white. Our situation must be recognized, too."

"Mr. B" or "The Reverend Victim" recently won a \$200,000 lawsuit against Durham Region's Children's Aid Society for negligence after the agency believed his wife's flimsy accusations of child abuse. She had run off with a paroled criminal the Anglican minister had, at the request of parole officials, taken into his home. She had taken their daughters and virtually cleaned out the family's bank account. After Mr. B tracked her down and won visitation rights, she accused him of molesting the girls. The agency went to court, without his knowledge, and obtained a child protection order against him. He battled back in family court and, eventually, was exonerated. He had lost his pulpit, but fought on and won custody of his daughters.

"For me, the greatest abuse was the insidious set of lies my wife told," said Mr. B. "She took nine years of my life away. That hurt more than any physical action."

Mark, whose stormy marriage ended on that Florida vacation, acknowledges hundreds of women are routinely abused by their husbands. He just wishes people could believe the opposite is also true.

"I can't speak for everyone but, in my situation, my wife had no problem uttering death threats or slicing my arm with a knife. I feel women are more apt to use a weapon to counteract the man's physical strength. Look at John Bobbitt (whose wife lopped off his

penis). I don't feel he's an angel, but he certainly didn't deserve that!" Crimes committed by women are on the rise.

Metro Police statistics show 13,454 women were charged with Criminal Code offences in 1992, a 31% increase since 1990. Men still commit far more crimes, but the number of women being charged is climbing at a faster rate than men.

"I believe women became more violent at the same time of the alleged equality between the sexes," says former justice Evans. "They became assertive."

Peter (not his real name) says his wife constantly tried to provoke him during their 14-year marriage.

"I could never figure her out. One time she threatened me with a knife. I was terrified. She had malice in her eyes. I only forgot to take the garbage out!"

Peter locked himself in his room and called police. When they arrived, they found a calm woman sitting in a rocking chair, bottle-feeding her baby. No charges were laid.

He recalls: "She would throw objects - flower pots, plates, anything in an attempt to injure me. What hurts most is that no one believed me."

Peter finally wrote to Premier Bob Rae, and Rae replied: "I have read your letter and agree society must recognize that men are also victims of domestic violence. You raise a number of important issues about victims and abuse. Our government feels that all such violence is completely unacceptable."

Manitoba recently enacted a zero tolerance policy on domestic violence in which the government decided to deal harshly with all domestic assault cases, whether by a male or a female. The legislation was opposed by women's rights groups, which argued women are usually acting in self-defence. In Saskatchewan, the recently passed Victims of Domestic Violence Assistance Act allows for the removal of the abuser from the home. Newfoundland is drafting similar legislation, says a government minister.

Attitudes are slowly changing.

In July 1993, a man was given a conditional discharge for assaulting his wife after telling Cobourg provincial court she persistently provoked him. Judge John Bark stirred up a ruckus when he said from the bench that he was reminded of a not-well-publicized statistic that far more men are assaulted by their wives than the other way around. James (not his real name) would agree with the judge. He endured repeated verbal and physical assaults after his wedding in 1988. If something was in need of repair around the home, and he was unable to fix it, his wife would slap his face and call him useless.

James was reluctant to speak about his experience. He is a short, thin man, almost frail. He says his wife outweighed him by 45 kilograms (100 pounds). Toward the end of his marriage earlier this year, James lost his job.

He blamed his home life. After three weeks of job hunting, she threw boiling water at him, demanding he get work immediately. Shortly after the incident, James says his wife forced him at gunpoint to perform oral sex. Later that night, as she slept, he escaped with only the clothes on his back.

How much is really known about relationship violence against men?

A study done by University of Alberta psychiatry professor Roger Bland found 22.6% of women admitted hitting or throwing things at their husband, while 14.6% of men admitted hitting or throwing things at their wives.

Scott doesn't know about statistics, he just knows how he was belittled and hurt by his wife.

"When she was worked up about something, her voice was as loud as a clap of thunder. We were evicted from an apartment because of it." A shadow crosses his face. "I put up with so much verbal and physical abuse. There were times I was terrified. At the end of the relationship, she threw a metal address file at me, leaving a deep gouge in my hand. She went wild and destroyed countless possessions in our home. Thankfully, my daughter slept through it all. When the police arrived, she told them I did the damage."

Scott says the police interviewed his wife, then arrested him. He was convicted of assault and jailed for 60 days. "She told the police I pushed her into a glass table. No scars on her - she was the one who destroyed it - I get time for it. To make matters worse, she got custody of my daughter from my first marriage."

In a 1993 federally funded study conducted by Reena Sommer and others at the University of Manitoba, almost 40% of women polled said they had threatened or physically abused their husband, considerably more than the percentage of men who admitted abusing their wife. A 1985 survey, conducted by family violence researchers Murray Straus and Richard Gelles at the University of New Hampshire, revealed nearly twice as many wives threw things at their husbands than vice versa.

Denis says his wife threw dishes, lamps, candleholders, even a rocking chair at me. I never knew when to expect her violent outbursts, so I lived almost in constant fear for two years. One time, she had cut herself and in her blood wrote: "I hate you."

"People ask why I put up with it. I felt that being a man meant you absorb it all." Eugen Lupri, a sociology professor at the University of Calgary, specializes in family and gender relations. Lupri conducted a national survey of some six million couples in 1986 and found the overall violence index was 17.8% for men and 23.3% for women. The severe violence index was 10.1% for men and 12.9% for women.

Why do abused men remain in abusive relationships?

As with abused wives, abused husbands are likely to remain with their wives if they experienced or witnessed abuse in their childhood or have limited economic resources.

Mr. B says one reason is "many men honor their vows `for better or for worse.' It's something they hold tight to." People tend to settle into routines and patterns, which we are reluctant to sever. Toronto psychiatrist Gordon Baker says we accept these routines for two reasons: "security and sanity."

In many cases, abused men are the type who were reared to never strike a woman, even in self-defence.

"It was understood ever since I could remember, I was never to hit a girl," says Denis. "I believe many men raised in the '50s and '60s had that drilled into them."

Many men also remain in an abusive situation to be near their children, and to protect them. Some husbands become the target of abuse when they try to protect their kids.

Alan (not his real name) fears for the safety of his son. "She has serious problems, yet won't acknowledge them. With her short fuse, I worry about our son. Her temper is a time bomb."

Mildred D. Pagelow, a research professor of sociology at California State University, says men and women stay in relationships after the initial experience of violence for many of the same reasons: They love their spouse, the spouse is genuinely apologetic, disclosure of violence would cause embarrassment, or the behavior is excused by circumstance (alcohol, drugs or stress).

Debbie De Gale, a social worker with The Elizabeth Fry Society in Winnipeg, has established a program called Women For Change. It provides counselling for women who abuse their partners.

"Violence is a learned behavior. Women, as well as men, have witnessed or experienced violence in their childhood."

De Gale notes many women are in reverse roles now. They are the family breadwinners and facing more stress than ever before.

What will it take for society to recognize men are also victims of spousal abuse? Former chief justice Evans says: "Men must talk about their situation."

Sgt. McCoy says: "Education will help men get recognition that they, too, are victims of spousal abuse. Everyone has the right to be safe and comfortable."

For men who are suffering, Mr. B, has a few words of inspiration:

"Truth is always strong, no matter how weak it appears. It just doesn't come out as quickly as we would like it to."

"Violence should not be a gender issue - it is a human issue."

Studies on Spousal Abuse

The following statistics were provided by former Easton Alliance For the Prevention of Family Violence, a centre that helped abused men in Toronto, Ontario, Canada,

Henton, Cate, Koval, Lloyd, and Christopher (1983) discovered that 78 out of 644 high school students had experienced courtship violence. A closer examination of 70 students revealed that 50 students (71.4%) reported that at some time, each partner had assumed the role of both victim and aggressor. Of the remaining 28.6%, the relationships were described as follows: 1.4% - male abuser only; 5.7% - female abuser only; 8.6% - abused male only; and 12.9% - abused female only.

Henton, Cate, Koval, Lloyd, and Christopher (1982) found that their sample of 355 college students yielded 79 who had experienced premarital violence. Once again, nearly 70% (53 of 79) were involved in relationships in which the abuse was mutual. Of the remaining students, 10% were in relationships where the male was the only abuser, while 22% said that the female was the sole abuser. These studies indicate that much of courtship violence is mutual, but when it is not, the female is just as likely to be the sole abuser as the male.

Straus et al. (1980) reported that out of a nationally representative sample of 2,143 couples in 1975, 28% had experienced violence at some point in their marriage, and 16% had experienced violence within the past year. In nearly half of those families, the abuse was mutual (i.e., both spouses had committed a violent act). Of the remaining couples, the husband alone was violent in 27.7% of the cases, while the wife alone was violent in 22.7%. Only slight differences between husbands and wives were found in the annual incidence rates of overall violence - 12.1 per 100 husbands compared to 11.6 per 100 wives. The mean frequency of violent acts in 1975 for men was 8.8 and 10.3 for women. When examining severe violence, women were more violent than men. Severe wife-to-husband violence occurred in 4.6 out of 100 families, while the rate for severe husband-to-wife violence was 3.8 out of 100 families

Ten years later, the overall rate of violence by husbands had declined slightly, but violence by wives showed a small increase. Straus and Gelles (1986) in a telephone survey of 3,520 households, discovered that the rate of overall violence by husbands dropped to 11.3 (from 12.1), while wife-to-husband violence rose to 12.1 (from 11.6). The rate of severe violence by men in 1985 was 3.0, down from 3.8, and the rate of women was 4.4, down from 4.6.

An unquestioned belief about human behaviour is that men are more aggressive than women. Yet when Frodi, Ropert-Thome, and Macauley (1977) surveyed the empirical literature on aggression, they found that 61 percent of all studies reviewed did not show men to be more aggressive than women, and that "...women [did not show] consistently lower tendencies than men to be physically aggressive. "

The inter-generational transmission of violence by abusive wives to their children has been demonstrated by Walker (1984). In her study of over 400 battered wives, 29% of the wives

and 35% of the battering husbands had witnessed their mother inflicting violence upon their father during childhood.

Reena Sommer, Gordon E. Barnes and Robert P. Murray (1991), in a study of 1257 (615 male and 642 females) Winnipeg residents, found that approximately 39 percent (39.1%) of married or cohabiting females participated in at least one form of spouse abuse with their current partner.

The following stats were provided by The Men`s Television Network, (905) 898-1107

M. McLeod, researcher, found violence against men is more destructive than violence against women. Her study revealed that women utilized weapons in 80% of cases. M. McLeod, "Women Against Men", Justice Quarterly, 1, 1984

A study of 150 Quaker families found the incidence of severe wife-to-husband violence to be three times that of husband-to-wife violence. Brutz and Ingoldsby, 1984

Research confirms that male victims of severe violence by female partners encounter widespread bias if they try to get the authorities involved. AnsonShupe, Indiana University/Purdue University, 1994

In a 1986 study, Professor Eugen Lupri found the overall violence index was 17.8% for men and 23.3% for women. Eugen Lupri, University of Calgary, 1986



Battle of the Sexes

Spousal Abuse Cuts Both Ways

abc NEWS.com

Feb. 7, 2003

Women commit some 800,000 acts of violence against men every year, according to some surveys, but men sometimes feel uncomfortable talking about it.

— Tawny Kitaen and Chuck Finley's marriage was a sizzling example of beauty meets brawn in *Sports Illustrated's* swimsuit edition four years ago. She was all legs and curves, with a mane of sleek, sexy hair. He was an all-star baseball pitcher for the California Angels and then the Cleveland Indians.

But their high-flying marriage suffered a scandalous breakdown. There were allegations of domestic violence and acts of brutality with a bizarre twist. Though Finley is a strapping 6-foot-6-inch-tall pro athlete and Kitaen is just 5 feet 7 inches tall, she was arrested for beating him.

Last April, Kitaen was charged with spousal abuse after a nasty fight in the couple's car. She allegedly kicked him in the arm and leg and twisted his ear. At one point, she allegedly pressed her high-heeled shoe on his foot as it was on the accelerator.

Kitaen initially entered a not guilty plea, but agreed to 52 weeks of anger management in an effort to get the charges dropped. Finley has filed for divorce.

An Equal-Opportunity Crime

The couple's story left many wondering: How could a woman batter a man? It happens more often than you think.

Although women are most often the victims of domestic violence, surprisingly, men are battered by their partners more than 800,000 times a year, according to surveys cited by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

"I would do anything — sock 'em, put my hands around their neck, choke 'em," said Angela Corey, a serial abuser.

Meeting Corey today, she comes across as a bubbly, wholesome Sacramento housewife. "I'm adored by so many people. People think I'm the greatest thing in the world," she said.

It's hard to imagine, but she said she was once downright vicious, battering 15 different boyfriends. She's telling her story now to help dispel some of the common myths about

women and violence.

The conventional wisdom is that women who are involved in domestic violence are acting in self-defense. Corey says that's not always the case.

She recalled the first time she abused a boyfriend. She said it was sparked when she didn't get her way. "So I reacted. I chased him with knives," she said.

She said her anger was often triggered by not getting her way, or being called names, or getting in an argument over something silly. She said she felt the need to get her point across. "And to get it across, I used my fist," she said.

Corey said she felt that her boyfriends had caused her to act abusively.

Like most women who batter, Corey said she learned to be angry early in life. She said she was molested by a trusted adult as an adolescent.

Flashing back on that same rage at being violated, Corey said, may have contributed to one final, horrifying assault when she and a boyfriend had come home from a bar with a couple of friends.

She said her boyfriend was making a sexual advance, and pushed her down on a bed. When she got up and he tried to kiss her, she bit him hard. "I felt something in my mouth, and I spit it out, and it was his lip," she said.

Corey said, at the time, she wasn't remorseful, or sad, or sorry for what she'd done. She was simply scared about going to prison.

Women Batterers Often View Themselves as Victims

Untangling the roots of their rage is part of what Corey and other women do in a batterers class, but they don't get a lot of sympathy for their troubles. "They come into this program and they're absolutely convinced that what they did was justified. ... They make an awful lot of excuses," said Claudia Dias, an attorney and psychologist, who runs batterers programs for men and women. Angela Corey attends one of her classes.

Dias thinks women who batter are much harder to treat than their male counterparts. According to Dias, female batterers "start from a place where everyone sees them as victims." She said men tell the very same stories of childhood abuse, yet men are never excused for hitting women. Women, on the other hand, have gotten just the opposite message.

"Look what's on television. It's a comedy when a woman slaps a man," Dias said. Our culture is replete, she said, with subtle and not-so-subtle permission for women to hit men. As a result, men are subject to a different set of rules. Many don't hit back, and very few call for help.

According to a controversial, landmark study co-authored by Richard Gelles, a University of Pennsylvania dean and psychologist, women are seven times more likely than men to be injured in domestic violence, but women also hit men as often as men hit women. Gelles said both genders do it because they want control.

Gelles said, "Men will often batter because they want to be left alone. An awful lot of the women I interviewed who use fairly extreme forms of violence, including stabbing their husbands and boyfriends, said very specifically and consistently, 'It was the only way I could get him to put the paper down and pay attention to me!'"

Angela Corey's case illustrates Gelles' point. "You start to yell and scream and you're not getting their attention, so you kind of vent out and hit them," she said.

Taking It Like a Man

It seems incredible that it took 15 boyfriends and countless acts of violence before Corey was reported to the police, but several men who talked with *20/20* say they know firsthand how it happens. Whether they've suffered a single brutal incident, or years of battery, men rarely call for help.

They risked ridicule to share their side of the story with *20/20*. Most men in this situation, such as Jerry Miranda, have a hard time convincing friends, colleagues, even the legal system that they are victims of domestic violence.

The disbelief continued up until the day that his wife, who had battered him for 25 years, tried to kill him at work. She came at him with a knife, and struck him so hard with it that she actually bent the knife blade in his shoulder.

He said it took four men to hold her back, and that she threatened to return and kill, not only him, but everyone he worked with as well. She is now serving 10 years in prison for attempted murder.

Equal Time for the Crime

The only way to stop female batterers, many men believe, is to hold them just as accountable for violence as men.

Angela Corey agrees. She said, "Going to jail made me stop. ... I'm telling you, reality hit me that day like nothing. Because I thought, this is forever."

Corey said she swore off violence the day she went to jail. But it took months of counseling before she had a true change of heart. She never thought what she was doing was wrong until she started her classes.

"I learned that it's a lot easier than I think it is to control my temper," she said.

CECIL WHIG

SERVING CECIL COUNTY SINCE 1841

Protest raises questions about gender bias *** Domestic violence staff walks out on video showing abuse of men**

By: Carl Hamilton 05/15/2003

(Comprised of representatives from law enforcement, the judicial system, county government and other agencies, the council meets once every two months to discuss domestic violence issues to better serve the community.)

"(The DVRCC) does not use or support the use of melodramatic materials ... no matter what victim group is emphasized. The use of skewered, sensationalist materials, often based on misleading statistics, myths, and non-scientific research, is non-productive to our mission and provides a disservice to all victims of violence," according to one passage in the statement.

After reading the letter, Dunne and her colleagues left the meeting before the council and guests viewed the videotaped segment of "20/20," a news magazine program aired on ABC television.

The segment included interviews with male victims of domestic violence and with women who assaulted their husbands or boyfriends. Some parts graphically described the attacks.

In the wake of the DVRCC protest, several officials who attended the meeting are wondering what, if any, ramifications will come from it.

"My major concern is that judges in both the circuit court and district court are legally and ethically obligated to deal with all persons on a gender neutral basis," said Cecil County Circuit Court Administrative Judge Dexter M. Thompson Jr.

He continued, "This puts us into a bind because we have a county agency that -- at least on the surface -- is indicating that we shouldn't even be discussing this type of issue at the Family Violence Council meetings."

According to Thompson, state law precludes judges from even associating with people or agencies suspected of gender bias.

State Sen. Nancy Jacobs (R) of the 34th District, drew the same conclusion after witnessing the walkout. (Jacobs attended the meeting as a guest because as a legislator she has introduced several bills to combat domestic violence.)

"I think it shows a gender bias. It almost showed a closed mind," Jacobs remarked. "At the least, them walking out showed insensitivity. It wasn't professional."

Chief Darrell Hamilton of the North East Police Department commented, "We were all at that meeting for the benefit of all abuse victims, not just a select group. One group can't be prosecuted more aggressively than another -- that's not justice."

And Richard Achuff, chief investigator with the Cecil County State's Attorney's Office, commented, "Quite frankly, it sent the message that they have horse blinders on and can't see anything peripherally."

But Dunne and her associates maintained Wednesday that the DVRCC isn't gender biased.

They reported that the DVRCC has participated fully with the council on the numerous occasions it has addressed the issue of domestic violence against males.

The Whig met with Nicholas J. Ricciuti, director of the Cecil County Department of Social Services, and Margaret Diem, coordinator of Human Services, in addition to Dunne.

Dunne and her associates acknowledged that women do assault men in relationships, but the problem isn't big enough to justify the amount of time and money spent on it.

"Given the small number of cases, an inordinate amount of time has been spent on this issue. We've all seen that video before. We believe the issue has been adequately addressed," Diem said.

According to Ricciuti, about 300 women are housed at this county's women's shelter annually, and all of them are victims of domestic violence.

Meanwhile, 14 men in this county sought services last year from the domestic violence program, he said. Counseling and shelter are among the services a man may receive, he added.

"The number of men receiving services from the DSS (Department of Social Services) because of domestic violence is less than 20," said Ricciuti, noting that his department has never received a gender bias complaint concerning its handling of male domestic abuse victims.

He continued, "On a scale of one to 10, this is not a high priority. The numbers dictate everything. It all comes down to time management and budget."

There isn't a shelter exclusively for male victims of domestic violence in Cecil County, for example, because it wouldn't be financially responsible to create one, Dunne reported.

"Proponents for (male victims) want to see equal services, but that just can't happen when 85 to 90 percent (of the victims), and maybe even higher, are women," Dunne said. "We provide comparable services."

Not only are there fewer male victims of domestic violence than female victims, but men often require fewer services anyway, according to Dunne.

Women usually are the primary caregivers to their children and, therefore, the urgency to find shelter is greater for them, Dunne explained.

"Women need more services than men. It's not that we discriminate against men," Dunne said.

According to Ricciuti, other types of domestic violence victims now demand more attention.

And that directive comes from the Maryland Department of Human Resources, which selected Cecil County Social Services to develop a three-county pilot program to address the latest trend.

"The real issue now is how to we reach out to the elderly victims of domestic violence, and victims who are disabled and victims who have a limited proficiency in English," Ricciuti said. "They are the under-served population. I would say domestic violence against the elderly is the biggest problem."

Considered a model agency by state officials, this county's social services department is designing a program to find those types of victims in Cecil County, Prince George's County and St. Mary's County and then help them, Ricciuti said.

Federal and state officials believe the number of domestic violence victims in those groups is high. Cases go unreported for a variety of reasons, including language barriers and cultural differences.

So, in addition to demonstrating their disdain for the videotape presented as a learning tool, Dunne and her colleagues departed early Monday to make another point.

"We've been addressing this issue (male domestic violence victims) over and over," Dunne noted. "We want to move the county in a direction that aligns us with state and national projects designed to reach out to these under-served groups."

She continued, "Our time is valuable and our work is undermined when the priorities of the (the council) are not properly aligned with our center, the state coalitions and networks, and when we do not focus on all under-served victim groups equally."

Addressing the sudden departure by the DVRCC group, Thompson commented:

"The whole point of these meetings is to discuss domestic violence issues openly so we can deal with them more effectively. If they didn't like the video, they could have stayed and vocalized their displeasure. I was shocked because it was highly inappropriate."

Jacobs agreed.

By challenging statistics presented in the video, Dunne and her colleagues exhibited an attitude reminiscent of one prevalent decades ago, when social workers started addressing the domestic abuse of women in the United States, according to Jacobs.

Male domestic abuse victims today face a similar plight female domestic abuse victims encountered several years ago, Jacobs reported.

"People were out there saying there was a problem, but, back then, we didn't have the statistics like we do today," Jacobs said. "So to me, it was hypocritical for (the DVRCC) to dispute the statistics (in the video) and then walk out."

She added, "It wasn't a wise move. This just cements the stereotype that women in these groups are man-haters."

Dunne and her colleagues, however, viewed their early exit as a last resort after voicing their concerns at past meetings -- to no avail.

"The (council) membership has tolerated the domination of the topic of male victimization for over a year, despite the fact that DVRCC and other partners have clearly demonstrated that male victims do indeed receive comparable services in this county as mandated by COMAR law," Dunne wrote.

To that end, Dunne recently presented a one-hour report to the human services committee of the council on mandated and non-mandated services that the DVRCC provides "for all victims of violence, including males," she said.

"Minutes from that meeting found that the report on these services was more than satisfactory. In addition, the DVRCC has met and, or, exceeded all state and federal program audit requirements for providing mandated services to victims of violence in Cecil County," she added.

Viewed as the start of the last-straw incident, Dunne openly objected to the videotaped segment of "20/20" after first seeing it during a sub-committee meeting, she said.

Then the executive committee was supposed to review the tape, accompanied by her comments, before presenting it to the council, she added.

But the tape bypassed the executive committee, and it was presented to the council Monday, according to Dunne, who wrote her statement after learning that the video would be played, despite her official objections and the lack of further review.

"I'm not into dramatics but I felt I had to do something," Dunne said, adding that she told council leaders beforehand that she and her colleagues would object and leave.

Her written statement concluded, "Please excuse us from the rest of this meeting, as we cannot support the use of histrionic materials. Thank You."

Ricciuti -- their boss -- supports Dunne and her colleagues.

"Walking out of the room is not only the right thing to do sometimes, sometimes it's the only right thing to do," Ricciuti said.

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The Boston Globe

In abuse, men are victims, too

By Cathy Young, June 16, 2003 on page A15 of the Boston Globe - Editorial / Opinion

THE FAMILY Violence Prevention Fund is marking Father's Day with a campaign to honor men who have pledged themselves to an effort to stop violence against women and children. It sounds like a positive and inspirational effort. Yet on second thought, one can see why some fathers' activists are rankled. Imagine a Mother's Day campaign that focused on stopping women's abuse of children.

On the campaign's website, the organizers congratulate themselves on seeing men as not just "the problem" in domestic violence but a part of the solution. So far, so good. But the underlying approach is still one that assumes the perpetrators are men and the victims are women, ignoring the complex picture of family violence that emerges from nearly three decades of research.

Aside from child abuse (which is more often committed by women) and violence in same-sex relationships, study after study shows that anywhere from one-third to half of spousal or partner assaults are female-on-male. While men are less likely to be injured because of gender differences in size and strength and less likely to be murdered by their partners, violence by women against men is no laughing matter - as it is often treated in popular culture. Earlier this month, a New York woman was charged with beating her former boyfriend to death with her high-heeled shoe.

The domestic violence establishment still clings to an ideology that denies or minimizes violence against men. Some advocates are vehemently hostile to any attempt to even raise the issue. Last month in Cecil County, Md., several staffers of the Domestic Violence Rape Crisis Center walked out of a meeting of the county Family Violence Council to protest the showing of a videotaped segment of the ABC News show "20/20" focusing on battered men and abusive women. (Their statement complained about "sensationalist materials, often based on misleading statistics, myths, and nonscientific research" - which is rather ironic, since domestic violence groups have relied widely on sensationalism, shoddy research, and bogus statistics such as "battering is the leading cause of injury to women.")

Other attempts to dismiss violence against men are more subtle. The May issue of the National Bulletin on Domestic Violence Prevention features a column by Andrew Klein, domestic violence consultant and former chief probation officer of the Quincy District Court, titled "Recognizing abused men." A more appropriate title would have been "Refusing to recognize abused men." Klein offers a "test": "How many men do you know who fall into the following categories?" and then rattles off a list of questions that clearly presuppose the answer, "Few if any."

Some of Klein's criteria seem deliberately designed to fit mainly women. For instance: "How many men ... have had to give up their careers, education, leisure activities" to devote themselves to pleasing their female partners? Not many; but then, giving up work to "please" a spouse is a traditionally female role. Men, on the other hand, may be physically and emotionally abused for failing to live up to the traditional male role of breadwinner - not making enough money or for being out of work.

Or: "How many men are accused of 'parental alienation' because they seek to limit their female partner's access to their children?" Here, Klein seems to assume that the victim in such a case is the parent being accused of parental alienation, not the one denied access to the children. One may turn his question around and ask how many women are falsely accused of sexually abusing their children.

Other questions imply that, in Klein's view, men hardly ever end up in emergency rooms because of assaults by women and women don't exhibit pathological jealousy or poison their partners' friends and relatives against them. In fact literature such as the 1994 book "The Violent Couple," by William Stacey, Lonnie Hazlewood, and Anson Shupe suggests that women are about as likely as men to engage in various controlling behaviors.

The myths and realities of domestic violence have a special relevance to fathers. While it is widely assumed that a man can easily leave an abusive relationship, many men are trapped because of their children, knowing the abuser is likely to get custody. Meanwhile, some feminists use the specter of male violence as a scare tactic to deny equal rights to fathers - for instance, vehemently opposing joint custody on the grounds that abusive men will use their access to the children to terrorize their ex-wives.

These are some of the issues a Father's Day campaign focusing on domestic violence could address. Maybe next year?

Cathy Young is a contributing editor at Reason magazine. Her column appears regularly in the Globe.

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http://www.boston.com/dailyglobe2/167/oped/In_abuse_men_are_victims_too+.shtml

The White Ribbon Campaign: The Children's Version of the Gender Blame Game

May 7, 2003 by Richard L. Davis

To truly understand the dynamics of domestic/dating violence one must recognize that it is a complex, multifaceted, and often misunderstood dilemma that must be viewed through an unbiased lens. All impartial academics and researchers agree domestic violence or dating violence has no single cause nor is there a single cure.

In 1995 Jeffrey Fagan wrote in the National Institute of Justice research report, *The Criminalization of Domestic Violence: Promises and Limits*, "Assuming that patriarchy and power relations alone cause domestic violence leads us toward conclusions that do not consider a full array of explanatory variables from other disciplines." Concerning the White Ribbon Campaign Fagan's advice has fallen on deaf ears. His logic interferes with their agenda.

The issue of high school domestic/dating violence, the specific focus of the White Ribbon Campaign needs to be presented in a more unbiased fashion. I have three daughters and two sons. I understand my daughters, as data document, are at greater risk to experience more serious, injurious and sexual domestic/dating violence assaults than their brothers.

As a retired police officer I know full well that those who suffer black eyes, bruises, broken teeth, cracked ribs, busted noses, and fractured jaws at the hands of those who profess to love them, are much more often women, not men. However, I do not view my three daughters as always being innocent and angelic victims and their two brothers as destined to be demonic abusive perpetrators. If only the enigma that is domestic/dating violence were that simple.

The White Ribbon Campaign proclaims that many men, their website excludes all women from any blame, have come to believe that violence against a woman, child or another man is an acceptable way to control another person. Do they believe that women or girls never use violence as a dating or familial controlling tactic? They claim that female dating violence against males is a rare event. This documents quite clearly that they spend all their time preaching to high school students and no time listening to them.

Why is it that the White Ribbon Campaign and others who moralize about dating violence in schools to our children seem to be only concerned with violence against males by females? Can it be possible that no one in their organization has ever read a single dating violence study? This is supposed to be their area of expertise and their website documents they don't have a clue. Or worse still, they know the truth and simply hide it.

An article in the August 1, 2001 *Journal of the American Medical Association*, "Dating Violence Against Adolescent Girls and Associated Substance Use, Unhealthy Weight Control, Sexual Risk Behavior, Pregnancy, and Suicidality," begins by quoting from a National Institute of Justice study that reports 1.5 million women are physically and/or sexually abused each year in the United States. For the next seven pages this biased article documents only the problems adolescent girls face concerning dating violence.

Would it not make sense to at least mention that while they have been paid only to research girls, they could at least have a couple of lines about how boys can have similar problems. I suppose that also interferes with the agenda.

The same JAMA article would be headlined in a Boston Globe article, "One in five teen girls abused." No mention of boys here either. Using the same focus as the White Ribbon Campaign, the JAMA article concludes that, "Parents and peers appear to play a role in supporting adolescent males' [emphasis added] violence toward dating partners..." As long as female violence is painted invisible I suppose girls do not need any parental or peer support about their violence as we are told there is not any.

The article does contain important information concerning the plight of my three daughters; but, what about my sons? Why does not the JAMA article address boys as victims? Why do the authors of the article choose to ignore the plight of boys? Is it because the Violence Against Women Act is more concerned with males as perpetrators and not victims? Perhaps the name, Violence Against Women Act," might be a clue.

Another similar, yet unbiased, report, Date Violence and Date Rape Among Adolescents: Associations With Disordered Eating Behaviors and Psychological Health, concerning the same type of adolescent abuse was administered in the Minnesota public schools and it reports that nearly 9 percent of girls and 6 percent of boys report some type of abusive date-related experience. Why is it that the JAMA article never once mentioned the problems faced by adolescent boys?

The information in the JAMA article was from the 1999 Massachusetts Youth Risk Behavior Survey. The survey documents that 18 percent of females and 7 percent of males report they were hurt physically or sexually by a date or someone they were going out with. Also 16 percent of females and 6 percent of males report that someone had sexual contact with them against their will.

While the JAMA article, notes that 1.5 million women are physically and/or sexually abused each year by an intimate partner the authors had to cut a sentence in half so that they could hide the complete fact. The sentence purposely cut in half by the authors, reports that 834,732 males suffer abuse. Perhaps 834,732 victims is not quite a rate event.

What purpose do the authors believe is being served by hiding the plight of boys and men? Should not all of us regardless of age or gender deserve to be free from abuse? What is the real agenda of the White Ribbon Campaign?

The findings from the National Violence Against Women (NVAW) survey in the report, Full Report of the Prevalence, Incidence, and Consequences of Violence Against Women, documents that 40.0 percent of surveyed women and 53.8 percent of surveyed men report being physically assaulted by a parent, stepparent, or other adult caretaker as a child.

Another National Institute of Justice sponsored study, Extent, Nature, and Consequences of Intimate Partner Violence, from the same NVAW survey estimates that annually, 4.8 million women and 2.9 million men will suffer from intimate partner assaults. Is not a victim of abuse a victim of abuse?

The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Children's Bureau report, Child Maltreatment 1996: Reports From the States to the National Child Abuse and Neglect Data System, documents that 17,590 children were physically abused by men and 21,757 children were physically abused by women. Do not expect to find this "rare event" data on the White Ribbon website.

The Bureau of Justice Statistics special report, Intimate Partner Violence and Age of Victim, 1993-99, documents that concerning violence between person of the same gender reports that on an annual basis 13,740 males are victims and 16,900 females are the victims of same sex abuse. Does this mean that women are more violent than men when they can be?

The Bureau of Justice Statistics special report, Murder in Families, documents that "in murders of their offspring, women predominated, accounting for 55 percent of the killers."

If domestic/dating violence is caused by gender inequity, what accounts for the fact that the majority of males do not abuse women? What is the cause of same sex violence? Why the high number of assaults on males as adults and/or children by females?

Why don't those who insist on reducing the exploration of domestic/dating violence to a gender battle between men and women understand that they are performing a disservice to many victims of abuse, regardless of age or gender?

Why do so many domestic violence advocates continue to argue about what is or is not "abuse?" Why does the White Ribbon Campaign proclaim that we should ask only male students to take a pledge not to hit female students? Do they really expect us to believe that female students only hit male students in self defense? Have they never spoken to a female student who hit her boyfriend because she was jealous?

After 4,000 years of written human history that ignored the issue of domestic violence, why not present the truth, the whole truth, and nothing but the truth to our children? The message to our children should be that no one deserves to be hit, regardless of age or gender.

Is it possible that the gender blame game is keeping many people away from the issue of domestic/dating violence? Unbiased data document that being a domestic/dating violence abuser or victim, can be a problem for any of us regardless of age or gender. Perhaps once the White Ribbon Campaign decides to end their gender blame game, more people, both male and female, will get involved in seeking solutions and providing resolution.

Richard L. Davis

Richard L. Davis served in the United States Marine Corps from 1960 to 1964. He is a retired lieutenant from the Brockton, Massachusetts police department. He has a graduate degree in criminal justice from Anna Maria College and another in liberal arts from Harvard University. He has a BA from Bridgewater State College in History and he minored in secondary education. He is a member of the International Honor Society of Historians and

an instructor of Criminology, Group Violence and Terrorism, Criminal Justice and Domestic Violence at Quincy College in Plymouth, MA. He is a past president of the Community Center for Non-Violence in New Bedford, Massachusetts and the vice president for Family Nonviolence, Inc. www.familynonviolence.com in Fairhaven, MA. He is an independent consultant for criminal justice agencies concerning policies, procedures, and programs concerning domestic violence. He is the author of Domestic Violence: Facts and Fallacies by Praeger publishers and has written numerous articles for newspapers, journals, and magazines concerning the issue of domestic violence. He has columns concerning domestic violence at www.policeone.com, and www.nycop.com, is a distance learner instructor in Introduction to Criminal Justice and Domestic Violence for the Online Police Academy and has a website at www.policewriter.com. He and Kim Eyer have a domestic violence website The Cop and the Survivor at <http://www.rhiannon3.net/cs/>. He lives in Plymouth, Massachusetts with his wife and the two youngest of five children. He experienced domestic violence professionally for 21 years as a police officer and personally as a child and as an adult. In his retirement he continues to use his education, experience, and training to help the children, women, and men who have had to endure violence from those who profess to love them. He may be reached at rldavis@post.harvard.edu.

<http://mensnewsdaily.com/archive/a-e/davis/davis050703.htm>

NATIONAL POST

Women emerge as aggressors in Alberta survey

67% of women questioned say they started severe conflicts

by Brad Evenson and Carol Milstone, 10 July 1999.

This item may be cited as Brad Evenson and Carol Milstone, *Women emerge as aggressors in Alberta survey*, National Post (online edition), July 10, 1999.

OTTAWA - Women are just as violent to their spouses as men, and women are almost three times more likely to initiate violence in a relationship, according to a new Canadian study that deals a blow to the image of the male as the traditional domestic aggressor. Perhaps the most surprising aspect of the study, however, is the source of the data -- a 1987 survey of 705 Alberta men and women that reported how often males hit their spouses.

Although the original researchers asked women the same questions as men, their answers were never published until now.

When the original Alberta study was published in the Canadian Journal of Behavioural Science in 1989, it was taken up by feminist groups as evidence of the epidemic of violence against women.

The researchers, Leslie Kennedy and Donald Dutton, say they were primarily interested in male-to-female violence at the time.

In any case, the one-sided Kennedy-Dutton study was cited extensively in a 1990 House of Commons committee report *The War Against Women*, which ultimately led Brian Mulroney, the former prime minister, to call a two-year, \$10-million national inquiry into violence against women. The inquiry's 460-page report made 494 recommendations aimed at changing attitudes in governments, police departments, courts, hospitals and churches. It also led to a torrent of lurid news features about battered women. The current study, which will appear this week -- again, in the Canadian Journal of Behavioural Science -- says that while the need to stop violence against women is obvious, violence against men is being ignored.

"Our society seems to harbour an implicit acceptance of women's violence as relatively harmless," writes Marilyn Kwong, the Simon Fraser University researcher who led this study.

"Furthermore, the failure to acknowledge the possibility of women's violence . . . jeopardizes the credibility of all theory and research directed toward ending violence against women."

The study shows roughly that 10.8% of men in the survey pushed, grabbed or threw objects at their spouses in the previous year, while 2.5% committed more severe acts, such as choking, kicking or using a weapon.

By contrast, 12.4% of women committed acts of minor violence and 4.7% committed severe violence.

The violence is seldom one-sided. Of those surveyed, 52% of women and 62% of men reported that both partners were violent.

When questioned about who initiated the most severe conflicts, 67% of women believed they had started it; only 26% believed it was their male spouse.

Regardless of who started it, women appear to end up the losers in the struggle. A major U.S. study on the topic shows 3% of women suffer injuries in spousal violence, while only 0.4% of males were hurt badly enough to seek medical care.

Publication of the "other side" of the violence study provides a sharp illustration of how social science is manipulated to fit a particular agenda.

"It happens all the time. People only tell one half of the story," says Eugen Lupri, a University of Calgary sociologist whose research shows similar patterns of violence against men.

"Feminists themselves use our studies, but they only publish what they like.

"As some feminists say, it's counter-intuitive. We would not expect that to be true; and if things are not expected to be true, for some people they are not true."

Even the federal government appears to turn a blind eye. In 1993, Statistics Canada began to keep track of assaults by men on women in its Violence Against Women survey. But it does not measure the female-to-male violence. "At the time, it was decided that since violence against women was more prevalent, we would only keep track of that," explains spokesperson Shelley Crego.

Ms.Crego said this decision was based on police reports, noting women complain more frequently of assault by men than vice versa.

In her article, Dr. Kwong implies this creates an incorrect picture. "It is important to keep in mind that, within the criminal justice system, any of the physical acts endorsed by these respondents would constitute assault," she writes.

Nor does it appear that violence is confined to married or common-law relationships.

In a separate study to be published this week, researchers from the University of Regina and Wilfrid Laurier University report that 39% of males surveyed said they suffered violence while on a date, compared with 26% of females. "This sex difference has been found in other studies of physical and psychological dating violence," report researchers Donald Sharpe and Janelle Taylor.



Besieged males deserve benefit of the doubt

By Bettina Arndt, April 11 2002 , Sydney, Australia

The video did a great job. For we potential jurors gathered last month in Sydney's criminal courts, it was helpful to see actors playing typical jurists, showing us what we had in store. But what was striking to me about this educational video was that the villain, the one person we were destined to hate, was male. A male in a suit, to be precise. An arrogant, impatient businessman who irritated the hell out of everybody with his pushy, obnoxious manner.

Today, men are the only standing target. It is no longer permissible to take potshots at women. A few decades of lobbying by women activists has taken care of that. But men are still fair game for television advertising showing them as bumbling and incompetent and scathing attacks in newspaper and magazine articles. Last year British novelist Doris Lessing spoke out against this continual, demeaning humiliation of men: "The most stupid, illeducated and nasty woman can rubbish the nicest, kindest and most intelligent man and no one protests. Men seem to be so cowed that they can't fight back, and it is time they did," she pronounced.

In Australia, some men are fighting back. The West Australian Equal Opportunity Commissioner is considering a complaint made by members of a local men's group against the Women's Policy Office. At issue is the WPO's "Freedom from Fear" campaign against domestic violence, which members of Men's Confraternity WA claim is discriminatory and sexist.

The Freedom from Fear campaign is based on the presumption that "the perpetrators of violence are almost exclusively male" a presumption the complainants see as hurtful, insulting and wrong. Their 102page complaint lists the substantial body of international evidence showing domestic violence is by no means an exclusively male preserve.

A new book by New Zealand academic Garth Fletcher *The New Science of Intimate Relationships* (Blackwell, 2002) sums up the evidence from more than 70 studies involving more than 60,000 people in the US, Canada, New Zealand, Britain, Australia, Korea and Israel: "The rates of violent acts (both minor and major) reported by men and women in intimate relationships are roughly equivalent; however there is a slight tendency for both men and women to report that women are more likely to be initiators of violent than men," Fletcher writes.

The WA complaint by Brett Kessner and Ian Cugley argues that the refusal to acknowledge the extent to which women can be perpetrators of violence means male victims are frequently denied help by domestic violence services and the police. "The sad

reality is that male victims are subject to a range of social and political obstacles and prejudice when it comes to domestic violence. The Freedom from Fear campaign does nothing to encourage male victims to come forward," Kessner and Cugley write.

Last month, a date was set for a final hearing in an 11 year court battle over just such a case. A Canberra man, Mr K, is claiming compensation and apologies for alleged discriminatory treatment by the ACT Domestic Violence Crisis Service. In 1990 he sought help from the DVSC, claiming he and his son had been physically abused by his wife. DVSC staff refused to assist him but instead counselled his wife and helped her to obtain court orders for Mr K to be evicted.

Mr K's initial complaint of discrimination was dismissed by Sex Discrimination Commissioner Sue Walpole on the basis it fell outside her jurisdiction, but an appeal to the Human Rights and Equal Opportunities Commission led to a determination that Mr K's "less favourable" treatment was not due to his gender but resulted from "hopelessly ineffective, unprofessional and inadequate procedures" and "seriously flawed policy". An appeal to the Federal Court determined this second commissioner to have erred in law, and the matter was returned to the HREOC for reconsideration. Last month, Mr K finally learned his case is to be heard by the Federal Court in September.

This is not to deny the great threat posed by men's superior size and strength, which means men are more likely to use violence to coerce and control their partners. But men are right to object when portrayed as the only aggressors in intimate relationships. Neither sex has a monopoly on vice or virtue.

We must consider the consequences of denying men our trust. I am reminded of a conversation I had last year, after spending a week ferrying children to and from the snowfields for interschool competitions. Each day I would offer lifts to young male snowboarders hitching rides along the route. Another mother was horrified. "They could be axemurderers," she told me.

True enough; axemurderers are more likely to be male. But as a mother of two sons, I hate the idea of my boys growing up in a world which assumes them to be likely predators. Hence I feel I have no choice but to act on my knowledge that most men deserve the benefit of the doubt.

Yes, there may be some slight risk in letting these scruffy big boys into the family car, but for me the price of treating all males with suspicion is far greater.

Bettina Arndt is a staff writer.

Canada

From the website of



Health Canada



Spring 1998, Volume 6, Number 1

Men and family violence

Studies show that men and boys are just as likely to be the abused as to be abusers in cases of family violence. Family violence and abuse are issues of control rather than an issue of who is stronger. It takes different forms, depending on the age, sex, and circumstances of the abused and abuser.

A 1995 study of young American military couples, in which male violence might be expected to dominate, found that the incidence of violence was the same for both men and women. A survey of Detroit emergency room admissions showed that 38% of those admitted due to family violence were men. A 1994 Ontario study showed that boys and girls experience similar rates of all types of abuse (46% for boys, compared to 54% for girls), including sexual abuse. In the 8-11 year age group, boys accounted for 42-44% of sexual abuse reports. Differences between abused men and women appear primarily in the severity of physical injury. Women are more at risk for extreme or life-threatening injury.

A 1996 Health Canada report found that it is as difficult for men and boys as for women and girls to admit that they are abused and more difficult to find help. The report suggested that the current "patriarchy theory" of abuse, the expectation for males to be tough and able to protect themselves, and a lack of recognition of the different forms of sexual abuse contributed to this problem.

Another problem is that there is a lack of resources, such as shelters and counselling, available for abused men and many front-line workers, such as police and social workers, have not been trained to handle these cases.



Studies shatter myth about abuse

By Karen S. Peterson, USA TODAY, June 22, 2003

WASHINGTON — It is not just men who hit women. Women hit men, too. And the latest research shows that ignoring the role women play in domestic violence does both women and men a disservice.

There is little doubt that women get hurt more than men. She may slap him. But then he may hit her harder or more often.

By not understanding the mutual role they often play, women are at great risk for injury, new studies show.

Still, the newest findings challenge the feminist belief that "it is men only who cause violence," says psychologist Deborah Capaldi of the Oregon Social Learning Center. "That is a myth."

The number of women who hit first or hit back is "much greater than has been generally assumed," Capaldi says. She says she is surprised by the frequency of aggressive acts by women and by the number of men who are afraid of partners who assault them.

Capaldi and two other female researchers call for a re-evaluation of treatment programs nationwide. Such programs focus on men and ignore women. Men are court-ordered into some type of rehabilitation, and their women are told in support groups or shelters that they had nothing to do with the violence, Capaldi says.

"Prevention and treatment should focus on managing conflict and aggression for both young men and women," Capaldi says. Each needs to understand the role both play while still putting a "special responsibility" on the man, who can inflict greater injury.

The three women did different studies but presented them as a team recently to a conference sponsored by the Society for Prevention Research. The National Institutes of Health sponsored much of the work.

The researchers emphasize they are not blaming women. "We are not saying anybody is at fault," says psychologist Miriam Ehrensaft of Columbia University. "But new data is emerging that says women are also involved in aggression. If we do not tell women that, we put them at risk."

Rita Smith of the National Coalition Against Domestic Violence is not convinced that men are afraid of abusive women. "That fear is a critical factor in any domestic violence situation. And the abuse is part of an ongoing pattern to control someone else's behavior."

Murray Straus, co-director of the Family Research Lab at the University of New Hampshire, has found both men and women are involved in physical aggression, but he emphasizes injury rates are not the same. "The likelihood of an injury to a woman requiring medical attention is much greater. Men cause more damage."

The little-talked-about involvement of women in mutual aggression with men is "the third rail of the domestic violence field," says Richard Gelles, dean of the University of Pennsylvania School of Social Work. "Touch it and you get electrocuted." Both he and Straus have done studies that caused fiery controversies.

Gelles says the lifetime risk of a woman being struck by a male intimate partner is about 28%. And "depending upon who is doing the survey and how you measure it, you could get numbers of up to 50%." But he says a man's lifetime risk of being struck by a woman is also about 28%.

Many researchers' findings in earlier, government-financed studies emphasize the man's role.

Patricia Tjaden's study for the non-profit Center for Policy Research, sponsored by two government agencies, questioned 8,000 men and 8,000 women. She found women three times as likely to be assaulted in some way over a lifetime by a male partner than the reverse, and seven to 14 times as likely to be attacked, including beaten, choked or threatened with a gun.

Different research tools and methods pick up on different kinds of intimate partner violence, Tjaden says. But still, she says, she has "always had trouble with the mutual-abuse argument. Where are all the male victims?" It is women, she says, who are subjected to "systematic terrorism."

The young are particularly prone to aggression. Erika Lawrence of the University of Iowa told the prevention conference that one-third of newlywed women and one-quarter of newlywed men engage in physical aggression.

The subject of partner violence is a minefield. Even defining it is controversial. Some call verbal abuse a form of battering. And all sorts of studies are done in all sorts of ways. Those based on crime statistics and reports from women's shelters tend to show dramatic aggression by men against women. (Gelles cautions that some men may not realize or admit they have been assaulted by a woman and may not report it as a crime or seek treatment.)

"Family conflict" studies may reflect a broader population, Straus says, and take into account lesser types of aggression that don't lead to arrests or broken limbs. These studies show about the same rates of aggression by men and women.

It is clear that women suffer physically more at the hands of men than the reverse, says Faye Wattleton of the Center for the Advancement of Women. But still she says it is good

to bring new research to public attention. "I applaud the women who had the courage to present these findings. We don't make progress by suppressing the evidence."

HOW INFO GATHERED

The studies presented to the Society for Prevention Research are "community based," meaning they deal with a general population, one not in treatment or in trouble with the law. Data are based on:

• **Oregon Youth Study.** Deborah Capaldi of the Oregon Social Learning Center is looking at 200 men and their romantic partners, collecting data at four stages, from ages 17 to 27. The men are from an "at risk" neighborhood in an Oregon city but include those who are thriving, she says. They and their various partners fill out questionnaires, are interviewed and are videotaped while interacting, frequently with pinches or slaps. Capaldi concludes, in part, that "young women were more likely to initiate physical aggression than young men," and "young men were injured as well as young women" and were sometimes afraid of their partners.

• **Marriage and Family Development Project.** Erika Lawrence's team interviewed 172 newlywed couples recruited from marriage license records. The University of Iowa team checked in every six months for four years. Lawrence found that one-third of couples used physical aggression, including pushing, slapping, shoving and hitting with an object. Her earlier studies show that one-half of engaged or married women and one-third of men are physically aggressive.

• **Dunedin Multidisciplinary Health and Development Study.** This 30-year study draws on young adults followed from birth in New Zealand. Researchers say study results are applicable to the USA. Miriam Ehrensaft of Columbia University worked with data on almost 1,000 people; 9% were in relationships with abuse that resulted in injury or attention from agencies such as the police. Men and women participated. However, this type of abuse required a very aggressive male and resulted in injuries requiring treatment for more women than men. In less dramatic instances, the "perpetrators were primarily women."

By Karen S. Peterson



Taboos hide same-sex violence

SUNDAY , 26 SEPTEMBER 2004

By TIM HUME

Gays and lesbians are being trapped in violent, abusive relationships by a code of silence around same-sex domestic violence.

Experts say domestic violence is just as severe and as prevalent in same-sex relationships as in heterosexual ones, with a third of homosexual partnerships estimated to be abusive.

But a taboo exists around what the gay community calls the "second closet", resulting in under-reporting of violence and a scarcity of support services.

Auckland's Jo Butler, who runs one of the few programmes for lesbian victims of domestic violence, says there is an ideological reluctance from many lesbians to acknowledge women can be as abusive as men.

"I think lesbians have to get real about this," she said.

"Nobody's talking about it, but until we as a community face up to this, then nothing's going to happen. It's really hard for women coming out with this if no-one wants to hear about it."

Her Auckland-based Breaking the Cycle programme had counselled lesbians who sustained abuse as bad as in any heterosexual relationship, including sexual violence.

The gay community needed to take ownership of the problem and encourage victims to speak out, or perpetrators would continue to abuse and victims could go on to offend in new relationships themselves.

"Quite frankly, we don't need the bad press, but unless we acknowledge it, women will continue to be abused and not helped."

Battered lesbians very rarely came forward, as they feared homophobic responses from police and mainstream support agencies, who could be ill-equipped to understand the power dynamics in same-sex relationships, or may minimise the offending as a mere "catfight".

While refuges were an option, they were not ideal, as lesbians often faced prejudice from other women there, and feared that their abuser would be able to track them down.

For battered gay men, support services are even more scant. Graham Barnes, a domestic violence programme developer in the United States, studied abusive gay relationships in

Auckland with a view to establishing a programme to fill the "huge gap" in services for battered gay men.

He believed a specialist gay service was needed to overcome the reluctance of battered gays to reach out to mainstream services, and urged the gay community to raise awareness on the issue.

Young gays and lesbians new to the gay community – particularly poor, ethnic gays and lesbians – were most vulnerable to abuse by older, well-established members, he said.

Gay and lesbian domestic violence had different dynamics to heterosexual abuse in that perpetrators could complicate matters by passing themselves off as the victim in the relationship, or could maintain psychological control over a partner by threatening to "out" them.

Neville Creighton, director of Auckland's Gay/Lesbian Welfare Group, said part of the reluctance to acknowledge gay domestic violence was due to "a feeling our partnerships have to be bigger, better, brighter and safer than straight ones to be valid".

Eugene Moore, a sexual orientation trainer and consultant to the police, said police were becoming more aware of same-sex domestic violence. But support services for victims were virtually non-existent, he said.

SEATTLE POST-INTELLIGENCER

Women who batter, and the men who fear them

By ROBERT L. JAMIESON JR., SEATTLE POST-INTELLIGENCER COLUMNIST, Friday, June 4, 2004

So what's a guy to do?

Dean Lai-how did everything by the book when his ex-wife began harassing and haranguing him. It wasn't enough to stop her fatal attraction.

In January, Dean looked out the window of his apartment near Seattle. To his shock, his ex-wife was just standing in the parking lot, looking up.

In March, his ex-wife showed up at the Target department store in Lynnwood, where Dean worked. She approached with a plastic container of kerosene while smoking a cigarette. She told Dean she had "something he would cherish the rest of his life," according to prosecutors.

The next day the ex appeared at his apartment complex at 3 in the morning. When Dean arrived, she followed him to his unit and threw a lighted Christmas ornament filled with kerosene as he rushed to shut his door, police say. The ornament didn't ignite, but detectives later found kerosene on the door and walls.

There was the time the ex-wife allegedly told Dean she was so angry with him she felt like running him over with a car. On another occasion she falsely accused him of molesting her children. Letters accusing Dean of pedophilia mysteriously turned up in neighbors' mailboxes. Police do not believe the accusations were legitimate but do suspect Dean's ex-spouse had something to do with the letters.

Yet another time, prosecutors say, the ex-wife told Dean that she could easily buy a gun and use it.

Dean decided enough was enough. He applied for a protection order. A hearing was set for May 19 to decide whether to make permanent a temporary protection order that Dean had gotten in March. The day before the hearing, the 34-year-old was slain by his ex-wife, police say.

Society often hears terrible stories about domestic violence. The stories typically involve women who are beaten for months or years before their boyfriends or spouses maim or kill them. Statistically speaking, women who are injured or killed by the men in their lives make up most domestic-violence cases.

A 1998 National Violence Against Women Act survey found about 1.5 million women are victims of domestic violence each year, compared with about 835,000 men. The Justice

Department said in 2000 there were 1,247 women killed by "intimate partner" violence compared with 440 men that year.

But the National Institute of Mental Health, which has studied domestic violence at length, has said women are as likely as men to initiate violence. That counters the claims that women hit only in self-defense.

"One thought is that female aggression has always been a function of protection, or reaction. But the data doesn't support that," Martin Fiebert, a psychology professor at California State University-Long Beach, said in an interview with the Knight Ridder/Tribune news service.

Fiebert has reviewed more than 100 research studies on domestic violence.

"It turns out, in 50 percent of the cases, you can't separate who started it," he said. "And in the other 50 percent, it's equal."

Experts believe the number of male survivors of domestic violence is a conservative figure at best. That's because in addition to the broad stigma surrounding domestic violence, there is also the misguided societal notion that such violence doesn't "apply" when men are the targets. And what guy wants to admit that his girlfriend or wife beat him up?

But women can be violent. Their violence can be escalating, predatory and lethal.

That is the case with Dean, who represents the less visible face of domestic abuse.

Reading through police reports and court papers, it becomes apparent that Dean's ex-wife, Rebecca Lynn Lai-how, was ticking, waiting to detonate.

The couple separated three years ago. They divorced a year ago.

Ironically, the justice system came to appreciate Rebecca's potential for danger only after Dean was dead and Rebecca had turned herself in to police.

"The defendant's escalating violence in this case as well as her apparent mental health and substance abuse issues render her a poor candidate for pretrial release," writes Mary Barbosa, a senior deputy prosecutor for King County.

Rebecca, it turns out, was building to her crescendo in a case mirroring so many in our region in recent years in which men have killed wives or girlfriends.

But here is one big difference: Dean's killing for some reason failed to make front-page news or stir up the public outcry that predictably reverberates when men kill estranged female partners. Is it because the victim was a man?

Dean lived in mortal fear. The protection order he sought against his ex-wife was never served because Rebecca could not be located. Dean was waiting to move away after

Rebecca was served with the order. "He felt that way his new address would not be in the (order) request and Rebecca would not know where he was living," court documents say.

In April, Rebecca got her hands on a Ruger .357 revolver. A sales receipt shows the gun was bought at a Portland-area gun shop. On May 18, around 10:30 in the morning, authorities got a 911 call from a Renton apartment.

Dean was on the line: *Help me! I've been shot! By my ex-wife!*

Dean had been walking a dog when a woman jogged up with something black in her right hand, according to one witness. A bang sounded. A neighbor heard Dean scream: "Ouch!" The neighbor saw the mystery woman chase Dean as he scrambled toward the stairs of his apartment and dashed inside.

Police and medics had to force open Dean's locked door. They found him dying on the floor of the dining room. Medics couldn't save him. The bullet had entered his right shoulder and ravaged his lungs, lodging in the aorta.

At the police station after the shooting, Rebecca said the gun and bullets were in the trunk of her blue Mitsubishi, parked right outside. She looked eyes with a detective. "No one was supposed to get hurt like this," said Rebecca, 41, who has been charged with first-degree murder.

Her words are what so many batterers tend to say. They say it after they harm the ones they love.

P-I columnist Robert L. Jamieson Jr. can be reached at 206-448-8125 or robertjamieson@seattlepi.com

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The Boston Globe

The other aggressor in domestic violence

By Cathy Young, 12/1/2003

ALLEGATIONS of domestic violence involving celebrities are nothing new, but two such stories in the news in the past couple of months have had a relatively unusual twist: The accused perpetrators were women and the alleged victims were men.

First, there was the lawsuit against Liza Minelli by her estranged husband, David Gest, claiming that the singer-actress had subjected him to repeated physical abuse. Then actor Christian Slater's wife, Ryan Haddon, was arrested on charges of battery after smashing a glass on her husband's head and causing a cut that required stitches. Yet despite such incidents, the public perception of domestic abuse as something that horrid men do to helpless women persists. People who have challenged this stereotype (myself included) have been called everything from anti-feminists to backlash peddlers to apologists for abusive men.

Well, now someone with strong feminist credentials challenges a lot of the conventional wisdom on domestic violence and ways to combat it, and confirms a lot of the things we dissenters have been saying for years. That someone is Linda G. Mills of New York University, a professor of law and social work and author of the new book, "From Insult to Injury: Rethinking Our Responses to Intimate Abuse." Mills, 45, is a feminist who has spent a decade working on behalf of battered women. Moreover, as she reveals in her book, she herself, 20 years ago, was a battered woman -- though she would prefer the more neutral term, "woman in an abusive relationship."

Drawing both on research and on her own experience in the field, Mills concludes that the conventional feminist paradigm of domestic violence as a form of patriarchal oppression is woefully inadequate. It is manifestly irrelevant for abused lesbians and gay men; it also has little meaning for women of color, who do not see the men in their community as powerful oppressors. Even for white women, it is a vast oversimplification of a complex reality. "Years of research, which mainstream feminism has glossed over or ignored, shows that when it comes to intimate abuse, women are far from powerless and seldom, if ever, just victims," Mills writes. "Like men, women are frequently aggressive in intimate settings."

"From Insult to Injury" is full of such heresies. Thus, Mills asserts that women who stay in abusive relationships often do so not just because of "women's socialization within a patriarchal system" but for complicated emotional, familiar, and cultural reasons. In many cases, she says, this decision has to be respected. She claims that policies of mandatory arrest and prosecution in domestic violence cases not only disempower women -- who aren't given any say in the handling of the case -- but actually endanger them, since an arrest may trigger an escalation of further violence. She suggests that mothers' physical

violence toward children, particularly male children, plays a key part in perpetuating the cycle of abuse.

Mills does not deny (and neither does anyone else) that male violence toward women is more likely to result in physical injuries than the reverse, and that women in abusive relationships are more likely than men to be in danger. But she argues that this is no reason to disregard female violence, which needs to be acknowledged not only out of fairness to male victims but out of concern for female victims as well: A woman who starts a physical confrontation with her male partner may well find herself severely battered. To understand and prevent male violence, Mills concludes, we must understand female violence as well, whether it's physical assault or psychological aggression.

Where do we go from here? Mills is critical of the current "lock 'em up" dogma; instead, she would like to see a practice of "Intimate Abuse Circles" in which the spouses could discuss the abuse in the presence of other family members, relatives and friends. While she stresses that batterers must be held fully accountable for their actions, she also wants to see more emphasis on healing rather than punishment.

Currently, Mills's plea for reform is unlikely to have much effect. The ideology that views men as wolves and women as lambs is too deeply entrenched, and despite some feminists' claim that the media are eager to leap on any "antifeminist" bandwagon, Mills' thought-provoking book has received little coverage. Her message needs to be heard by politicians, judges, prosecutors and many others. It took the "mainstream" feminists about 30 years to establish their monopoly on the public debate about domestic violence. Mills's book may be the first step in dismantling that monopoly.

Cathy Young is a contributing editor at Reason magazine. Her column appears regularly in the Globe.

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Does our justice system discriminate against men?

The Western Standard, by Terry O'Neill, Monday, 25 October 2004

Being roughed up by a woman is an embarrassment few men are anxious to disclose, even to family and close friends. Which makes it all the more remarkable that a Kamloops, B.C., man has willingly revealed to the general public the details of a March 2003 incident in which he alleges his smaller, common-law wife pushed him against a wall, threw a stack of CDs at him, then began to pummel him. But Scott Crockford maintains in a written account of the incident that when he defended himself, and in the process wrenched his wife's arm, RCMP officers later charged only him. Those charges were eventually stayed. But Crockford's encounter with the justice system convinced him to file a human rights complaint against the B.C. Ministry of the Attorney General.

Crockford's complaint, filed in April of 2003, is that in B.C., as in other Canadian provinces, police and Crown prosecutors routinely discriminate against men in domestic disputes. Specifically, he charges that government spousal-assault policy is so biased that men are routinely charged and prosecuted in marital spats, even when the evidence points overwhelmingly to a woman being at fault. In July of last year the B.C. Human Rights Tribunal dropped Crockford's complaint against the RCMP, which, as a federal body, is exempt from its provincial jurisdiction. In September 2003, it agreed to hear Crockford's complaint against B.C.'s attorney general, but in April the province's lawyers intervened, asking the Supreme Court of B.C. to end the proceedings. A court hearing is not expected for several months. In the meantime, federal Justice Minister Irwin Cotler has announced plans to introduce new legislation aimed at reducing spousal abuse. Many critics point out, however, that whenever governments decide to get tough on spousal abuse, it boils down to one thing: prosecuting more men.

It's indisputable that spousal assault is a big problem in this country; but the fact is, despite the traditional stereotypes offered up by feminist theoreticians and much of the mainstream media, domestic violence is hardly an exclusively male phenomenon. While a review of sentencing records published in Statistics Canada's Family Violence in Canada, released this year, showed males accounting for 92 per cent of persons convicted of spousal assault, its 1999 General Society Survey--which relied on telephone interviews, not court records--found females comprising only 55 per cent of the victims in a reported 1.1 million lifetime cases of spousal violence.

It used to be that only the most serious cases of spousal assault were prosecuted in Canada, the rest being considered mere domestic or social problems. Under guidelines introduced by many provinces throughout the 1990s, police and prosecutors were compelled to make an arrest every time they answered a call about a domestic dispute that involved a hint of violence, even if both complainants later asked police not to lay charges. This must-charge, must-prosecute policy created an unanticipated problem. In

B.C., for example, men were consistently charged by police, even when there was little evidence to support a conviction. Prosecutors' hands were tied, too, and they were forced to process cases right up until the trial, at which time about half of all spousal-assault charges ended up being dropped. The only measurable outcome of the new procedures appeared to be a monumental waste of time and resources, prompting B.C. Attorney General Geoff Plant to order a review of the policy in 2002. In May 2003--just a month after Crockford was charged--he announced he was giving prosecutors more discretion in the laying of charges.

A visit to the B.C. Ministry of the Attorney General's website, however, makes it easy to see that there remains a presumption, in that province at least, that spousal assault is a strictly one-sided problem. One policy, tellingly titled Violence Against Women in Relationships Policy, maintains that "it is important that criminal justice system personnel recognize the power imbalance and the dynamics which operate to prevent a woman from taking steps to end abuse. A rigorous approach to arrest, charge and prosecute, as promoted by this policy, is necessary to help eliminate violence within relationships." Only a single footnote mentions that the "violence against women" policy is also intended "to prompt action to eliminate violence against males in homosexual relationships, against vulnerable males in heterosexual relationships, and against women in lesbian relationships." Attorney General Plant was not available to answer questions about the policy, or about his ministry's intervention in the Crockford case. But tribunal documents show that counsellors for the Crown have sworn they were not influenced by the "must-charge, must-prosecute" policy in their decision to charge Crockford.

Yet Judith Doulis, the Vancouver lawyer representing Crockford, says her client believes that the spousal abuse laws discriminated against him because of his gender. "There certainly seems to be evidence that there's a disproportionate number of men who are charged under this policy, compared to women," says Doulis. And the case has been embraced by the Canadian arm of Fathers 4 Justice, an international group whose members have staged high-profile demonstrations in support of equal treatment of men in child custody cases. (In mid-September, one member, garbed in a Batman costume, eluded security to climb onto a ledge at Buckingham Palace. And in New Westminster, B.C., two weeks later, several costumed protesters scaled a bridge and displayed pro-fathers signs.) "Any case that highlights the gender inequities in this kind of issue is a positive development," says the group's national co-ordinator, Steve Osborne of Saint John, N.B. "Any action that is related to domestic violence completely ignores the fundamental principles of justice." In these particular cases, he says, "the accused's intent--which is half of the element of any criminal defence--is irrelevant. For example, if the woman says she was afraid, then the intent of the party they were supposedly afraid of is irrelevant. And that is completely eroding the criminal justice system in this country."

But Irene Tsepnopoulos-Elhaimer, manager of the Vancouver office of Women Against Violence Against Women, says that without strong regulatory and legal support structures, women will be afraid to come forward to report spousal abuse. Men's-rights activists, she claims, are attempting to distort reality. "This is what's really disturbing," she says, "that they are trying to do a reversal, that it is somehow women who are assaulting men." She stands by the assumption that the overwhelming majority of spouse-on-spouse violence is

caused by males. "This is not 'violence against men,' it's violence against women. This is a problem that has existed and is continuing now. We're talking about the power and control, and the power imbalance in our society. Women continue to be raped, violated, abused in their relationships, harassed sexually on the job. We are not in power and crimes of assault are about power and control."

Still, Montreal clinical psychologist Jonathan Davis says his experience in three decades of counselling is that "must-charge" policies only undermine relationships and hurt men. "It creates an extreme power imbalance in those couples where the woman understands what she can get away with," Davis says. "Somehow the justice system has been imbued with feminist ideology, that men are power hungry, controlling beasts, and that to protect women, you need these laws." In reality, though, "the most careful psychological research shows that, if we look at hitting, it's initiated approximately equally often--actually a little bit more often by women than by men," he says. That may not jibe with the prevailing theories espoused by high-profile feminist groups, the mainstream media and many politicians, he says. And while that may make it an uncomfortable fact, if legislators genuinely want to protect all victims of spousal abuse from further pain and suffering, it's one they'll eventually have to confront.

THE TIMES

"Battered husbands trapped by shame"

THE TIMES, London U.K. By Helen Nugent, November 11, 2004

AN OVERWHELMING number of battered husbands have swamped Britain's only refuge for abused men. Now a former victim is opening the second centre today with more to follow across the country.

Workers at a secret safehouse for abused men in Somerset say that there is a constant waiting list of men who have been scratched, kicked, bitten or attacked with bottles and knives.

Stephen Fitzgerald, national organiser for the ManKind Initiative, which refers men to the refuge, said that some fathers had moved into the safe house with their children.

“A lot of these men have suffered both physical and mental abuse for, on average, about six years,” he said. “We have spoken to men who have been laid out with iron bars, had glass put in their food and been set upon with a knife. Others have been stabbed, punched in the face and threatened with an axe.”

Domestic violence towards men has long been regarded as a social taboo with victims offered little support, charities say. While the number of women sufferers has fallen over the past few years, the estimated number of attacks against men has risen by nearly a third, up to 150,000. Home Office statistics show that one third of victims of domestic violence are men.

A study by Dewar Research, a firm that specialises in domestic violence issues, found that men often endured the abuse because they did not want to walk out on their children.

Others were frightened to leave because they had nowhere else to go and some said that they still loved their partner and hoped that her behaviour would change. One of the main problems, however, was a fear of being ridiculed.

Dewar's research showed that many male victims were critical of the police. Many said that their complaints were not taken seriously and in some cases they were treated as the aggressors. A spokeswoman for the Home Office told The Times that the Government's measures to help abuse-sufferers are "non-gender specific" and "will protect both male and female victims".

However, ManKind insists that the Government is unwilling to fund help for men who suffer at the hands of brutal partners.

"Apartheid is still with us in the form of gender apartheid which is being practised by David Blunkett," said Mr Fitzgerald, who has been happily married for 37 years.

In a letter to ManKind this year, Baroness Scotland of Asthal, Minister of State at the Home Office, told the charity that she would not meet it to discuss support because "funding is very limited". She added: "It is predominantly women who tend to be the victims of domestic violence and who are more likely to suffer lasting damage to their physical and mental health."

A new support group, It Does Happen, was set up by a man who was in an abusive relationship for more than two years, during which he was stabbed and beaten. Mike Kenny, 33, a businessman, raised funds to set up www.itdoeshappen.org in September to help male and female sufferers.

Within a fortnight, more than 20,000 men had contacted the website. He plans to open three safe havens for men, each costing £2.4 million. The first will open in Newcastle today, with centres in Yorkshire and the Midlands to open in January.

'I thought abuse came from bowels of hell'

THIRTEEN years after his divorce, Steve still takes a cocktail of anti-depressants and sleeping tablets.

The nightmares subsided after a decade, but Steve, 61, says that he will never recover from the years of abuse inflicted by his former wife.

"For the last 15 years of my marriage I was physically attacked all the time," he said. "I was punched, my hair was pulled, my ears were pulled, all quite routinely. I was threatened with being stabbed."

With two young children in the house, Steve says that he was unable to walk out, believing that they would suffer. Instead, he spent his life in fear, cut off from friends

and family. “The children were aware of the shouting and the unhappiness, but they weren’t aware of the severity of what I was going through.”

He left after he suffered “a kind of blackout”. He still has no memory of an incident in which he had lunged at his wife, knocking down his son, who had tried to intervene.

Steve has since spent years in and out of hospital, battling depression. Forced to give up his job, he is still out of work. “It just wrecked my whole life,” he said.

“I used to think (the abuse) came from the bowels of hell. It was the most appalling verbal abuse, horrible language and awful screaming.”

He urges abused men to seek help. “I always thought it would be hopeless trying to tell someone because I was so unusual and no one would believe me. There was nowhere to go.”

LIVING IN FEAR

- An estimated 446,000 people were victims of domestic violence in the UK in 2003
- Men accounted for 34 per cent of victims last year, compared with 27 per cent the year before
- About 48 men have died from domestic violence incidents this year
- Domestic violence claims the lives of two women each week
- Although incidents of domestic violence are chronically under reported, Home Office research suggests that it accounts for a quarter of all violent crime

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'I had no control,' P.E.I. woman tells murder trial

By The Canadian Press, Thursday, November 11, 2004

HAMILTON - A woman told a jury Wednesday how she emptied a full clip of bullets into her ex-husband, beginning with a shot to his head.

"I had no control, no control at all," Ruth-Anne Willis, 41, said, her voice cracking.

"I wasn't there, it wasn't me, I felt I was watching myself. I didn't mean to do it," Willis of Crapaud, P.E.I., told her murder trial.

Willis has been testifying in her own defence about shooting and killing Russell (Rusty) Bailey, 42, outside his home two years ago.

She admits she shot him, but has pleaded not guilty to first-degree murder.

Willis, who was in a bitter custody battle with Bailey over their daughter, Torri, rushed to Ontario that August after the 14-year-old made it clear she planned to attend a private school in Oakville, Ont., against her mother's wishes.

At the time Willis had sole custody, but had been served papers to go to court.

She decided on Aug. 20, 2002, to go to the Bailey home the next morning to try to talk Torri out of attending Appleby College.

Court has heard the teenager and her father were planning to contest Willis's sole custody order.

Willis went to the Bailey home, with her baby daughter Brittany, now three years old.

She pounded on the door, demanding to talk to Torri.

Her ex-husband came out and told her he had not yet arranged a supervised visit.

Their arguing became more heated, and she said she began to feel he was attacking her.

She said she began to flashback to when Torri was a babe in arms when he had been equally abusive.

"He pushed me off the stairs . . . Brittany was in my arms," she told the jury. Willis said she put her baby back in her pickup truck and picked up a .22-calibre semiautomatic pistol she'd taken from her father's home the night before.

"It was like I was watching what was happening through a tunnel," Willis said.

"I pulled the trigger, it went off. He started to fall, and it appeared he was moving toward me."

She fired until the gun was empty, she said.

Sharing the blame for child abuse

San Francisco Chronicle, [Keith Thompson](#), Wednesday, August 28, 2002

Stanford associate professor Carol Delaney has a four-letter word for people who brutalize children. The word is male.

"No one is stating the obvious," Delaney declared in a letter to The Chronicle ("Crimes are by males," Aug. 5). Citing the graphic string of high-profile child abductions and murders in recent months, she added: "These hideous crimes are being committed by men."

"What has gone so wrong in the rearing of males in this society?" Delaney asked. "I am disappointed by the silence of decent men who are not taking this on as a men's problem."

Delaney stopped short of saying what's probably on the minds of many cable news viewers these days. Males are violent because violence is masculine; females are the ones who suffer. Conversely, female brutality is rare and almost always unintentional the result of provocation, mental illness, or various "situational" factors that cause women to believe violence is their only option.

The consensus for these beliefs runs deep in post-feminist America. We could just embrace them as self-evident truths and start from there, except for a niggling complication. The beliefs aren't supported by facts.

To the contrary, empirical data from numerous studies decisively challenges the notion that child abuse in America is exclusively -- or even primarily -- a men's problem. "Women commit the majority of child homicides in the United States, a greater share of physical child abuse, an equal rate of sibling violence and assaults on the elderly, about a quarter of child sexual abuse, an overwhelming share of the killings of newborns, and a fair preponderance of spousal assaults," writes feminist author and crime journalist Patricia Pearson in her book "When She Was Bad: Violent Women and the Myth of Innocence."

A study by the National Child Abuse and Neglect Data System found that approximately 879,000 children were victims of child maltreatment in 2000. Based on reports provided by U.S. child protective services agencies, 60 percent of perpetrators were females and 40 percent were males. The Department of Health and Human Services reached a similar conclusion for the prior year: "Female parents were identified as the perpetrators of neglect and physical abuse for the highest percentage of child victims."

Powerful cultural prejudice works against recognizing abusive women as a widespread malaise. For instance, a Washington state human services professional reported that an accused female offender

was brought before a judge who dismissed the case, declaring, "Women don't do things like this." Boston psychologist Laurie Goldman, who analyzed how society minimizes the scale and impact of female sexual abuse, initially located only one woman offender willing to discuss what she had done. Goldman knew from reliable sources that female perpetrators were getting treatment, but clinic administrators insisted that no such women were under their care.

Pearson says women in Western culture learned to express their bids for power in ways concealed from men. Paradoxically, many women also learned to hide their capacity for aggressive violence from themselves, "as if half the population of the globe consisted of saintly stoics who never succumbed to fury, frustration, or greed," she writes in "When She Was Bad."

If shining the spotlight on female perpetrators is overdue, it doesn't warrant holding male offenders less accountable. Fathers were responsible for 22 percent of sexual abuse in 2000, according to the NCANDS study mentioned above. So Carol Delaney's question waits. Why haven't decent American men as a whole accepted responsibility for the ghastly murders of Polly Klaas and Samantha Runnion?

Probably for the same reason decent American women didn't collectively confess to the wanton killing of Michael and Alex Smith. Remember them? They died horrendous deaths strapped to their car seats after their mother, Susan Smith, deliberately released the emergency brake on her car and let it roll into a South Carolina lake. Smith stood on the shore and watched as the car containing her defenseless sons disappeared under the water's surface.

If David Westerfield's murder of Danielle van Dam is a collective men's problem, does it follow that Smith's drowning of her young sons is a collective women's problem? Not unless we're ready to head down the road to full-blown ideological idiocy.

Still, collective responsibility has its place. As a culture, let's start by recognizing Westerfield and Smith as two faces of the same sadistic beast, concealed by gender wars that will end only when we're ready to see the universal face of human cruelty. In the meantime, maybe a minimum requirement for "decent" persons could be the refusal to exploit the tragedy of exploited children from the sanctuary of great universities.

Keith Thompson edited the anthology "To Be a Man" (Tarcher/Putnam, 1991). He can be reached at keith@well.com.

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Portions of this paper were presented at the American Psychological Society Convention in Washington, D.C. May 24, 1997.

Martin S. Fiebert
Department of Psychology
California State University, Long Beach

SUMMARY: This bibliography examines 175 scholarly investigations: 139 empirical studies and 36 reviews and/or analyses, which demonstrate that women are as physically aggressive, or more aggressive, than men in their relationships with their spouses or male partners. The aggregate sample size in the reviewed studies exceeds 164,600.

Aizenman, M., & Kelley, G. (1988). The incidence of violence and acquaintance rape in dating relationships among college men and women. *Journal of College Student Development*, 29, 305-311. (A sample of actively dating college students <204 women and 140 men> responded to a survey examining courtship violence. Authors report that there were no significant differences between the sexes in self reported perpetration of physical abuse.)

Archer, J. (2000). Sex differences in aggression between heterosexual partners: A meta-analytic review. *Psychological Bulletin*, 126, 651-680. (Meta-analyses of sex differences in physical aggression indicate that women were more likely than men to "use one or more acts of physical aggression and to use such acts more frequently." In terms of injuries, women were somewhat more likely to be injured, and analyses reveal that 62% of those injured were women.)

Archer, J. (2002). Sex differences in physically aggressive acts between heterosexual partners: A meta-analytic review. *Aggression and Violent Behavior*, 7, 213-351. (Analyzing responses to the Conflict Tactic Scale and using a data set somewhat different from the previous 2000 publication, the author reports that women are more likely than men to throw something at their partners, as well as slap, kick, bite, punch and hit with an object. Men were more likely than women to strangle, choke, or beat up their partners.)

Archer, J., & Ray, N. (1989). Dating violence in the United Kingdom: a preliminary study. *Aggressive Behavior*, 15, 337-343. (Twenty three dating couples completed the Conflict Tactics scale. Results indicate that women were significantly more likely than their male partners to express physical violence. Authors also report that, "measures of partner agreement were high" and that the correlation between past and present violence was low.)

Arias, I., Samios, M., & O'Leary, K. D. (1987). Prevalence and correlates of physical aggression during courtship. *Journal of Interpersonal Violence*, 2, 82-90. (Used Conflict Tactics Scale with a sample of 270 undergraduates <95 men, 175 women> and found 30%

of men and 49% of women reported using some form of aggression in their dating histories with a greater percentage of women engaging in severe physical aggression.)

Arias, I., & Johnson, P. (1989). Evaluations of physical aggression among intimate dyads. *Journal of Interpersonal Violence*, 4, 298-307. (Used Conflict Tactics Scale-CTS- with a sample of 103 male and 99 female undergraduates. Both men and women had similar experience with dating violence, 19% of women and 18% of men admitted being physically aggressive. A significantly greater percentage of women thought self-defense was a legitimate reason for men to be aggressive, while a greater percentage of men thought slapping was a legitimate response for a man or woman if their partner was sexually unfaithful.)

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. (A modified version of Conflict Tactics Scale was administered on two occasions, 6 months apart, to 526 adolescents, <280 girls, 246 boys> whose median age was 13. Results reveal that 28% of girls reported perpetrating violence with their partners <17% moderate, 11% severe> on occasion one, while 42% of girls reported perpetrating violence <25% moderate, 17% severe> on occasion two. For boys, 11% reported perpetrating violence <6% moderate, 5% severe> on occasion one, while 21% reported perpetrating violence <6% moderate, 15% severe> on occasion two. In terms of victimization, 33% of girls, and 38% of boys reported being victims of partner aggression on occasion one and 47% of girls and 49% of boys reported victimization on occasion two.

Basile, S. (2004). Comparison of abuse by same and opposite-gender litigants as cited in requests for abuse prevention orders. *Journal of Family Violence*, 19, 59-68. (Author examined court documents in Massachusetts for the year 1997 and found that, "male and female defendants, who were the subject of a complaint in domestic relations cases, while sometimes exhibiting different aggressive tendencies, measured almost equally abusive in terms of the overall level of psychological and physical aggression.)

Bernard, M. L., & Bernard, J. L. (1983). Violent intimacy: The family as a model for love relationships. *Family Relations*, 32, 283-286. (Surveyed 461 college students, 168 men, 293 women, with regard to dating violence. Found that 15% of the men admitted to physically abusing their partners, while 21% of women admitted to physically abusing their partners.)

Billingham, R. E., & Sack, A. R. (1986). Courtship violence and the interactive status of the relationship. *Journal of Adolescent Research*, 1, 315-325. (Using CTS with 526 university students <167 men, 359 women> found similar rates of mutual violence but with women reporting higher rates of violence initiation when partner had not--9% vs 3%.)

Bland, R., & Orne, H. (1986). Family violence and psychiatric disorder. *Canadian Journal of Psychiatry*, 31, 129-137. (In interviews with 1,200 randomly selected Canadians <489 men, 711 women> found that women both engaged in and initiated violence at higher rates than their male partners.)

Bohannon, J. R., Dosser Jr., D. A., & Lindley, S. E. (1995). Using couple data to determine domestic violence rates: An attempt to replicate previous work. *Violence and Victims*, 10, 133-41. (Authors report that in a sample of 94 military couples 11% of wives and 7% of husbands were physically aggressive, as reported by the wives.)

Bookwala, J. (2002). The role of own and perceived partner attachment in relationship aggression. *Journal of Interpersonal Violence*, 17, 84-100. (In a sample of 161 undergraduates, 34.3% of women <n=35> reported being victims of partner aggression compared to 55.9% <n=33> of men.)

Bookwala, J., Frieze, I. H., Smith, C., & Ryan, K. (1992). Predictors of dating violence: A multi variate analysis. *Violence and Victims*, 7, 297-311. (Used CTS with 305 college students <227 women, 78 men> and found that 133 women and 43 men experienced violence in a current or recent dating relationship. Authors reports that "women reported the expression of as much or more violence in their relationships as men." While most violence in relationships appears to be mutual--36% reported by women, 38% by men-- women report initiating violence with non violent partners more frequently than men <22% vs 17%>).

Brinkerhoff, M., & Lupri, E. (1988). Interspousal violence. *Canadian Journal of Sociology*, 13, 407-434. (Examined Interspousal violence in a representative sample of 562 couples in Calgary, Canada. Used Conflict Tactics Scale and found twice as much wife-to-husband as husband-to-wife severe violence <10.7% vs 4.8%>. The overall violence rate for husbands was 10.3% while the overall violence rate for wives was 13.2%. Violence was significantly higher in younger and childless couples. Results suggest that male violence decreased with higher educational attainment, while female violence increased.)

Brown, G. (2004). Gender as a factor in the response of the law-enforcement system to violence against partners. *Sexuality and Culture*, 8, (3-4), 3-139. (Summarizes partner violence data from the 1999 Canadian General Social Survey <GSS>. The GSS is based on a representative sample of 25,876 persons. Overall in the 12-month period preceding the survey, an estimated 3% Canadian women and 2% of Canadian men reported experiencing violence from their partners. During the 5 year period from 1995-1999, an estimated 8% of Canadian women and 7% of Canadian men reported violence from their partners. Reviewed police and legal responses to partner violence in Edmonton, Canada and concludes that ". . . men who are involved in disputes with their partners, whether as alleged victims or as alleged offenders or both, are disadvantaged and treated less favorably than women by the law-enforcement system at almost every step.")

Brush, L. D. (1990). Violent Acts and injurious outcomes in married couples: Methodological issues in the National Survey of Families and Households. *Gender & Society*, 4, 56-67. (Used the Conflict Tactics scale in a large national survey, n=5,474, and found that women engage in same amount of spousal violence as men.)

Brutz, J., & Ingoldsby, B. B. (1984). Conflict resolution in Quaker families. *Journal of Marriage and the Family*, 46, 21-26. (Used Conflict Tactics Scale with a sample of 288

Quakers <130 men, 158 women> and found a slightly higher rate of female to male violence <15.2%> than male to female violence <14.6%>.)

Burke, P. J., Stets, J. E., & Pirog-Good, M. A. (1988). Gender identity, self-esteem, and physical and sexual abuse in dating relationships. *Social Psychology Quarterly*, 51, 272-285. (A sample of 505 college students <298 women, 207 men> completed the CTS. Authors reports that they found "no significant difference between men and women in reporting inflicting or sustaining physical abuse." Specifically, within a one year period they found that 14% of the men and 18% of the women reported inflicting physical abuse, while 10% of the men and 14% of the women reported sustaining physical abuse.)

Caetano, R., Schafer, J., Field, C., & Nelson, S. M. (2002). Agreement on reports of intimate partner violence among white, Black, and Hispanic couples in the United States. *Journal of Interpersonal Violence*, 17, 1308-1322. (A probability sample of 1635 couples was interviewed and assessed with the CTS. Agreement concerning intimate partner violence was about 40%, with no differences reported across ethnicities. Women significantly reported perpetrating more partner violence than men in all three ethnic groups.)

Capaldi, D. M. & Crosby, L. (1997). Observed and reported psychological and physical aggression in young, at-risk couples. *Social Development*, 6, 184-206. (A sample of 118 young men and their dating partners were surveyed regarding their own physical aggression as well as that of their partners. Findings reveal that 31% of men and 36% of women engaged "in an act of physical aggression against their current partner.")

Capaldi, D. M. & Owen, L. D. (2001). Physical aggression in a community sample of at-risk young couples: Gender comparisons for high frequency, injury, and fear. *Journal of Family Psychology*, 15(3), 425-440. Drawn from a community based at-risk sample, 159 young couples were assessed with the Conflict Tactics scale and measures of self reported injuries. Findings indicated that 9.4% of men and 13.2% of women perpetrated frequent physical aggression toward their partners. Contrary to expectations, 13% of men and 9% of women, indicated that they were physically injured at least once. Authors report "2% of the men and none of the women indicate that they had been hurt by their partners between five and nine times."

Carlson, B. E. (1987). Dating violence: a research review and comparison with spouse abuse. *Social Casework*, 68, 16-23. (Reviews research on dating violence and finds that men and women are equally likely to aggress against their partners and that "the frequency of aggressive acts is inversely related to the likelihood of their causing physical injury.")

Carrado, M., George, M. J., Loxam, E., Jones, L., & Templar, D. (1996). Aggression in British heterosexual relationships: a descriptive analysis. *Aggressive Behavior*, 22, 401-415. (In a representative sample of British men <n=894> and women <n=971> it was found, using a modified version of the CTS, that 18% of the men and 13% of the women reported being victims of physical violence at some point in their heterosexual

relationships. With regard to current relationships, 11% of men and 5% of women reported being victims of partner aggression.)

Cascardi, M., Langhinrichsen, J., & Vivian, D. (1992). Marital aggression: Impact, injury, and health correlates for husbands and wives. *Archives of Internal Medicine*, 152, 1178-1184. (Examined 93 couples seeking marital therapy. Found using the CTS and other information that 71% reported at least one incident of physical aggression in past year. While men and women were equally likely to perpetrate violence, women reported more severe injuries. Half of the wives and two thirds of the husbands reported no injuries as a result of all aggression, but wives sustained more injuries as a result of mild aggression.)

Caulfield, M. B., & Riggs, D. S. (1992). The assessment of dating aggression: Empirical evaluation of the Conflict Tactics Scale. *Journal of Interpersonal Violence*, 4, 549-558. (Used CTS with a sample of 667 unmarried college students <268 men and 399 women> and found on a number of items significantly higher responses of physical violence on part of women. For example, 19% of women slapped their male partner while 7% of men slapped their partners, 13% of women kicked, bit, or hit their partners with a fist while only 3.1% of men engaged in this activity.)

Clark, M. L., Beckett, J., Wells, M., & Dungee-Anderson, D. (1994). Courtship Violence among African-American college students. *Journal of Black Psychology*, 20, (3), 264-281. (A sample of 311 African-American college students <76 men, 235 women> responded to the CTS. Findings reveal that 41% of men and 33% of women reported being physically abused by a dating partner.)

Claxton-Oldfield, S. & Arsenault, J. (1999). The initiation of physically aggressive behaviour by female university students toward their male partners: Prevalence and the reasons offered for such behaviors. Unpublished manuscript. (In a sample of 168 actively dating female undergraduates at a Canadian university, 26% indicated that they initiated physical aggression toward their male partners. Most common reason for such behavior was because partner was not listening to them.)

Coney, N. S., & Mackey, W. C. (1999). The feminization of domestic violence in America: The woosle effect goes beyond rhetoric. *Journal of Men's Studies*, 8, (1) 45-58. (Authors review the domestic violence literature and report that while society in general as well as the media portray women as "recipients of domestic violence...epidemiological surveys on the distribution of violent behavior between adult partners suggest gender parity.")

Cook, P. W. (1997). *Abused men. The hidden side of domestic violence.* Westport, CN.: Praeger. (Presents the evidence, empirical and personal, for male spousal victimization. Examines resistance to acceptance of findings and offers solutions to reduce domestic violence.)

Corry, C. E., Fiebert, M. S., & Pizzy, E. (2002). Controlling domestic violence against men. Available: www.familytx.org/research/Control_DV_against_men.pdf Earlier version

presented at Sixth International Conference on Family Violence, San Diego, CA. (A critical examination of men as victims of partner violence.)

Cunradi, C. B., Caetano, R., Clark, C. L., & Schafer, J. (1999). Alcohol-related problems and intimate partner violence among white, Black, and Hispanic couples in the U.S. *Alcoholism: Clinical and Experimental Research*, 23, 1492-1501. (A probability sample of 1440 couples <565 white, 358 Black, 527 Hispanic> was obtained from the 1995 National Alcohol Survey. Subjects completed the Conflict Tactics Scale. Ethnicity results reveal that overall rates of partner aggression were similar for whites and Hispanic while Black rates were significantly higher. In terms of gender, white men and women had similar rates of partner aggression, Hispanic women were somewhat more aggressive than Hispanic men and Black men were more aggressive than Black women. Alcohol related problems were a predictor of intimate partner violence in Black couples.)

Deal, J. E., & Wampler, K. S. (1986). Dating violence: The primacy of previous experience. *Journal of Social and Personal Relationships*, 3, 457-471. (Of 410 university students <295 women, 115 men> responding to CTS and other instruments, it was revealed that 47% experienced some violence in dating relationships. The majority of experiences were reciprocal. When not reciprocal men were three times more likely than women to report being victims. Violent experiences in previous relationships was the best predictor of violence in current relationships.)

DeKeseredy, W. S. & Schwartz, M. D. (1998). *Woman abuse on campus. Results from the Canadian National survey.* Thousand Oaks, CA: Sage. (A large sample <1,835 women; 1,307 men> of Canadian college students completed the Conflict Tactics Scale. Results reveal that women report engaging in higher rates of violence than men. Specifically, 46.1% of women reported engaging in some physical violence in intimate relationship since leaving high school. With 38% employing "minor" violence and 19% employing "severe" violence.)

DeMaris, A. (1992). Male versus female initiation of aggression: The case of courtship violence. In E. C. Viano (Ed.), *Intimate violence: interdisciplinary perspectives.* (pp. 111-120). Bristol, PA: Taylor & Francis. (Examined a sample of 865 white and black college students with regard to the initiation of violence in their dating experience. Found that 218 subjects, 80 men and 138 women, had experienced or expressed violence in current or recent dating relationships. Results indicate that "when one partner could be said to be the usual initiator of violence, that partner was most often the women. This finding was the same for both black and white respondents.")

Dutton, D. G. & Nicholls, T. L. (2005). The gender paradigm in domestic violence research and theory: the conflict of theory and data. *Aggression and Violent Behavior*, 10, 680-714. (A review and analysis of the data regarding male victimization. Critical of feminist approaches that minimize female perpetration and trivialize male injury.)

Dutton-Greene, L. B., & Straus, M. A. (2005, July). The relationship between gender hostility and partner violence and injury. Paper presented at the 9th International Family Violence Research Conference, Portsmouth, NH. (Report of findings from international

dating violence Study which collected data from over 11,000 <70% women> college students from 50 universities in 21 countries. Subjects responded to the revised Conflict Tactics scale, gender hostility scales and injury scales. Findings reveal that women perpetrated greater partner violence than men, that women were more seriously injured than men and that hostility toward the opposite sex was significantly and similarly correlated with partner violence for men and women.)

Ehrensaft, M. K., Moffitt, T. E., & Caspi, A. (2004). Clinically abusive relationships in an unselected birth cohort: men's and women's participation and developmental antecedents. *Journal of Abnormal Psychology*, 113 (2) 258-270. (Assessed 980 individuals, ages 24-26, who were participants in longitudinal study in New Zealand. Subjects were examined with the CTS, the Partner Conflict Calendar, PCC, a measure of the consequences of abuse and a variety of personality and psychopathology scales. Findings reveal that 9% of the total sample, with an equal number of men and women, were victims of clinical abuse in their relationships with partners.)

Ernst, A. A., Nick, T. G., Weiss, S. J., Houry, D., & Mills, T. (1997). Domestic violence in an inner-city ED. *Annals of Emergency Medicine*, 30, 190-197. (Assessed 516 patients <233 men, 283 women> in a New Orleans inner-city emergency Department with the Index of Spousal Abuse, a scale to measure domestic violence. Found that 28% of the men and 33% of the women <a nonsignificant difference>, were victims of past physical violence while 20% of the men and 19% of the women reported being current victims of physical violence. In terms of ethnicity, 82% of subjects were African-American. Authors report that there was a significant difference in the number of women vs. men who reported past abuse to the police ,19% of women, 6% of men.>)

Farrell, W. (1999). *Women can't hear what men don't say*. New York: Tarcher/Putnam. See Chapter 6. (Pp. 123-162; 323-329.) (An excellent social and political analysis of couple violence.)

Feather, N. T. (1996). Domestic violence, gender and perceptions of justice. *Sex Roles*, 35, 507-519. (Subjects <109 men, 111 women> from Adelaide, South Australia, were presented a hypothetical scenario in which either a husband or wife perpetrated domestic violence. Participants were significantly more negative in their evaluation of the husband than the wife, were more sympathetic to the wife and believed that the husband deserved a harsher penalty for his behavior.)

Felson, R. B. (2002). *Violence and Gender Reexamined*. Washington, DC: American Psychological Association. (Scholarly review and analysis of the literature. Author concludes that, "Women are just as likely as men to be victims of violence from their partners. . . ." Also "casts doubt on the battered wife syndrome as an explanation for why women kill their male partners.")

Fergusson, D. M., Horwood, L. J., & Ridder, E. M. (2005). Partner violence and mental health outcomes in a New Zealand birth cohort. *Journal of Marriage and Family*, 67, 1103-1119. (Examined extent of domestic violence experience and perpetration in a sample of 828 <437 women, 391 men> young adults who were 25 years old. Subjects were part of a

long term longitudinal study and were administered the CTS2. Results reveal that "there were more men exposed to severe domestic violence than women" and that mild and moderate rates were similar for men and women. Overall, 39.4% of women and 30.9% of men reported perpetration scores of 3 or higher. Authors report that men and women reported similar rates of injury <3.9% for women vs. 3.3% for men>. In terms of initiation of partner assaults, 34% of women and 12% of men reported initiating physical assaults.)

Fiebert, M. S., & Gonzalez, D. M. (1997). Women who initiate assaults: The reasons offered for such behavior. *Psychological Reports*, 80, 583-590. (A sample of 968 women, drawn primarily from college courses in the Southern California area, were surveyed regarding their initiation of physical assaults on their male partners. 29% of the women, n=285, revealed that they initiated assaults during the past five years. Women in their 20's were more likely to aggress than women aged 30 and above. In terms of reasons, women appear to aggress because they did not believe that their male victims would be injured or would retaliate. Women also claimed that they assaulted their male partners because they wished to engage their attention, particularly emotionally.)

Fiebert, M. S. (1996). College students' perception of men as victims of women's assaultive behavior. *Perceptual & Motor Skills*, 82, 49-50. (Three hundred seventy one college students <91 men, 280 women> were surveyed regarding their knowledge and acceptance of the research finding regarding female assaultive behavior. The majority of subjects (63%) were unaware of the finding that women assault men as frequently as men assault women; a slightly higher percentage of women than men (39% vs 32%) indicated an awareness of this finding. With regard to accepting the validity of these findings a majority of subjects (65%) endorsed such a result with a slightly higher percentage of men (70% vs 64%) indicating their acceptance of this finding.)

Flynn, C. P. (1990). Relationship violence by women: issues and implications. *Family Relations*, 36, 295-299. (A review/analysis article that states, "researchers consistently have found that men and women in relationships, both marital and premarital engage in comparable amounts of violence." Author also writes, "Violence by women in intimate relationships has received little attention from policy makers, the public, and until recently, researchers...battered men and abusive women have receive 'selective inattention' by both the media and researchers.")

Follingstad, D. R., Wright, S., & Sebastian, J. A. (1991). Sex differences in motivations and effects in dating violence. *Family Relations*, 40, 51-57. (A sample of 495 college students <207 men, 288 women> completed the CTS and other instruments including a "justification of relationship violence measure." The study found that women were twice as likely to report perpetrating dating violence as men. Female victims attributed male violence to a desire to gain control over them or to retaliate for being hit first, while men believed that female aggression was based on their female partner's wish to "show how angry they were and to retaliate for feeling emotionally hurt or mistreated.")

Foo, L., & Margolin, G. (1995). A multivariate investigation of dating aggression. *Journal of Family Violence*, 10, 351-377. (A sample of 290 college students <111 men,

179 women> responded to the CTS. Results reveal that 24.3% of men and 38.5% of women reported perpetrating physical violence toward their dating partners.)

Foshee, V. A. (1996). Gender differences in adolescent dating abuse prevalence, types and injuries. *Health Education Research*, 11, (3) 275-286. (Data collected from 1965 adolescents in eighth and ninth grade in 14 schools in rural North Carolina. Results reveal that 36.5% of dating females and 39.4% of dating males report being victims of physical dating violence. In terms of perpetrating violence 27.8% of females while only 15.0% of males report perpetrating violence.)

Gelles, R. J. (1994). Research and advocacy: Can one wear two hats? *Family Process*, 33, 93-95. (Laments the absence of objectivity on the part of "feminist" critics of research demonstrating female perpetrated domestic violence.)

George, M. J. (1994). Riding the donkey backwards: Men as the unacceptable victims of marital violence. *Journal of Men's Studies*, 3, 137-159. (A thorough review of the literature which examines findings and issues related to men as equal victims of partner abuse.)

George, M. J. (1999). A victimization survey of female perpetrated assaults in the United Kingdom. *Aggressive Behavior*, 25, 67-79. (A representative sample of 718 men and 737 women completed the CTS and reported their experience as victims of physical assaults by women during a five year period. Men reported greater victimization and more severe assaults than did women. Specifically, 14% of men compared to 7% of women reported being assaulted by women. Highest risk group were single men. The majority (55%) of assaults on men were perpetrated by spouses, partners, or former partners.)

George, M. J. (2002). Skimmington Revisited. *Journal of Men's Studies*, 10, No. 2, 111-127. (Examines historical sources and finds that men who were victims of spousal aggression were subject to punishment and humiliation. Inferences to contemporary trivialization of male victims of partner aggression is discussed.)

George, M. J. (2003). Invisible touch. *Aggression & Violent Behaviour*, 8, 23-60. (A comprehensive review and analysis of female initiated partner aggression. Historical, empirical and case evidence presented to demonstrate reality of "battered husband syndrome.")

Goldberg, W. G., & Tomlanovich, M. C. (1984). Domestic violence victims in the emergency department. *JAMA*, 251, 3259-3264. (A sample of 492 patients <275 women, 217 men> who sought treatment in an emergency department in a Detroit hospital were surveyed regarding their experience with domestic violence. Respondents were mostly African-American (78%), city dwellers (90%), and unemployed (60%). Victims of domestic violence numbered 107 (22%). While results indicate that 38% of victims were men and 62% were women this gender difference did not reach statistical significance.

Gonzalez, D. M. (1997). Why females initiate violence: A study examining the reasons behind assaults on men. Unpublished master's thesis, California State University, Long

Beach. (225 college women participated in a survey which examined their past history and their rationales for initiating aggression with male partners. Subjects also responded to 8 conflict scenarios which provided information regarding possible reasons for the initiation of aggression. Results indicate that 55% of the subjects admitted to initiating physical aggression toward their male partners at some point in their lives. The most common reason was that aggression was a spontaneous reaction to frustration).

Goodyear-Smith, F. A. & Laidlaw, T. M. (1999). Aggressive acts and assaults in intimate relationships: Towards an understanding of the literature. *Behavioral Sciences and the Law*, 17,285-304. (An up to date scholarly analysis of couple violence. Authors report that, "...studies clearly demonstrate that within the general population, women initiate and use violent behaviors against their partners at least as often as men."

Graham-Kevan, N., & Archer, J. (July, 2005). Using Johnson's domestic violence typology to classify men and women in a non-selected sample. Paper presented at the 9th Annual Family Violence Research Conference, Portsmouth, NH. (A total of 1339 subjects, students and staff from the University of Central Lancashire, responded to a modified version of the CTS. Authors report that, "the proportion of women and men using any act of physical aggression towards their partners was as follows: from self-reports 29% for women and 17% for men, and from partner reports 31% of women and 22% for men.")

Grandin, E. & Lupri, E. (1997). Intimate violence in Canada and the United States: A cross-national comparison. *Journal of Family Violence*, 12 (4) 417-443. (Authors examine data from the 1985 U.S. National Family Violence Resurvey and the 1986 Canadian National Family Life Survey. Report that "although the United States exhibits significantly higher rates of societal violence crime than Canada, Canadian women and men were more likely than their American counterparts to use severe and minor intimate violence." This finding is counter to the "culture of violence theory." Moreover, in both cultures the rates of violence of wives to husbands were higher than husbands to wives. Specifically, the overall violence index for men in America was 10.6 and in Canada it was 18.3; while the overall violence index for women in America was 12.2 and in Canada it was 25.3.)

Gray, H. M. & Foshee, V. (1997). Adolescent dating violence. *Journal of Interpersonal Violence*, 12, 126-142. (A sample of 185 adolescents responded to a questionnaire about dating violence; 77 students reported being involved in physical violence in their current or most recent dating relationship. Mutual violence was present in 66% of cases; while 26% of males and 8% of females reported being victims of violence and 29% of females and 4% of males reported being sole perpetrators of violence.)

Gryl, F. E., Stith, S. M., & Bird, G. W. (1991). Close dating relationships among college students: differences by use of violence and by gender. *Journal of Social and Personal Relationships*, 8, 243-264. (A sample of 280 first year college students <156 women, 124 men> at a mid-Atlantic university completed the violence sub-scale of the Conflict Tactics Scale. Results reveal that almost 30% of the females and 23% of males reported that they had been violent in the current relationship. Also almost 28% of women and 39% of men reported sustaining violence in their current relationship.)

Hamel, J. (2005). *Gender Inclusive Treatment of Intimate Partner Abuse*. New York: Springer. (Reviews the "most reliable and empirically sound research" and concludes that "men and women physically and emotionally abuse each other at equal rates. . ." Offers a comprehensive gender inclusive treatment approach to domestic violence.)

Hampton, R. L., Gelles, R. J., & Harrop, J. W. (1989). Is violence in families increasing? A comparison of 1975 and 1985 National Survey rates. *Journal of Marriage and the Family*, 51, 969-980. (Compared a sample of 147 African Americans from the 1975 National Survey with 576 African Americans from the 1985 National Survey with regard to spousal violence. Using the CTS found that the rate of overall violence (169/1000) of husbands to wives remained the same from 1975 to 1985, while the rate of overall violence for wives to husbands increased 33% (153 to 204/1000) from 1975 to 1985. The rate of severe violence of husbands to wives decreased 43% (113 to 64/1000) from 1975 to 1985, while the rate of severe violence of wives to husbands increased 42% (76 to 108/1000) from 1975 to 1985. In 1985 the rate of abusive violence by black women was nearly 3 times greater than the rate of white women.)

Harned, M. S. (2002). A multivariate analysis of risk markers for dating violence victimization. *Journal of Interpersonal Violence*, 17, 1179-1197. (In a university sample of 874 daters <489 women, 385 men> assessed with the revised CTS, 22% of women and 21% of men reported experiencing physical aggression from dating partners.)

Harders, R. J., Struckman-Johnson, C., Struckman-Johnson, D. & Caraway, S. J. (1998). Verbal and physical abuse in dating relationships. Paper presented at the meeting of American Psychological Association, San Francisco, CA. (Surveyed 274 college students <92 men, 182 women> using a revised form of the Conflict Tactics Scale. Found that women were significantly more physically aggressive than men, particularly in the areas of: pushing, slapping and punching.)

Headey, B., Scott, D., & de Vaus, D. (1999). Domestic violence in Australia: Are women and men equally violent? Data from the International Social Science Survey/ Australia 1996/97 was examined. A sample of 1643 subjects (804 men, 839 women) responded to questions about their experience with domestic violence in the past 12 months. Results reveal that 5.7% of men and 3.7% of women reported being victims of domestic assaults. With regard to injuries results reveal that women inflict serious injuries at least as frequently as men. For example 1.8% of men and 1.2% of women reported that their injuries required first aid, while 1.5% of men and 1.1% of women reported that their injuries needed treatment by a doctor or nurse.

Hendy, H. M., Weiner, K., Bakerofskie, J., Eggen, D., Gustitus, C., & McLeod, K. C. (2003). Comparison of six models for violent romantic relationships in college men and women. *Journal of Interpersonal Violence*, 18, 645-665. (A sample of 608 students <164 men, 444 women> were surveyed with the Conflict Tactics Scale. Results indicate that 16% of men and 26% of women report inflicting violence on their current romantic partner.)

Henton, J., Cate, R., Koval, J., Lloyd, S., & Christopher, S. (1983). Romance and violence in dating relationships. *Journal of Family Issues*, 4, 467-482. (Surveyed 644 high

school students <351 men, 293 women> and found that abuse occurred at a rate of 121 per 1000 and appeared to be reciprocal with both partners initiating violence at similar rates.)

Hines, D. A. & Malley-Morrison, K. (2001). Psychological effects of partner abuse against men: a neglected research area. *Psychology of Men and Masculinity*, 2, 75-85. (A review article that examines the issue of men as victims of partner abuse. Considers reasons why men would remain in an abusive relationship.)

Hines, D. A. & Saudino, K. J. (2003). Gender differences in psychological, physical, and sexual aggression among college students using the revised Conflict Tactics Scales. *Violence and Victims*, 18, (2) 197-217. (A sample of 481 college students <179 men, 302 women> responded to the revised Conflict Tactics scale. Results indicate that 29% of men and 35% of women reported perpetrating physical aggression in their relationships.)

Hoff, B. H. (1999). The risk of serious physical injury from assault by a woman intimate. A re-examination of National Violence against women survey data on type of assault by an intimate. WWW.vix.com/menmag/nvawrisk.htm. (A re-examination of the data from the most recent National violence against women survey (Tjaden & Thoennes, 1998) shows that "assaulted men are more likely than assaulted women to experience serious attacks by being hit with an object, beat up, threatened with a knife or being knifed.")

Jackson, S. M., Cram, F. & Seymour, F. W. (2000). Violence and sexual coercion in high school students' dating relationships. *Journal of Family Violence*, 15, 23-36. (In a New Zealand sample of senior high school students <200 women, 173 men> 21% of women and 19% of men reported having been physically hurt by their heterosexual dating partner.)

Jouriles, E. N., & O'leary, K. D. (1985). Interpersonal reliability of reports of marital violence. *Journal of Consulting and Clinical Psychology*, 53, 419-421. (Used the Conflict Tactics Scale with a sample of 65 couples in marriage therapy and 37 couples from the community. Found moderate levels of agreement of abuse between partners and similar rates of reported violence between partners.)

Kalmuss, D. (1984). The intergenerational transmission of marital aggression. *Journal of Marriage and the Family*, 46, 11-19. (In a representative sample of 2,143 adults found that the rate of husband to wife severe aggression is 3.8% while the rate of wife to husband severe aggression is 4.6%.)

Katz, J., Kuffel, S. W., & Coblenz, A. (2002). Are there gender differences in sustaining dating violence? An examination of frequency, severity, and relationship satisfaction. *Journal of Family Violence*, 17, 247-271. (Authors report two studies where dating men and women experienced violence at comparable levels, "although men experienced more frequent moderate violence." In the first study n=286, <183 women, 103 men> 55% of women had nonviolent partners, while 50% of men had nonviolent partners; in the second study n=123 <78 women, 45 men> 73% of women had nonviolent partners, while 58% of men had nonviolent partners.)

Kaura, S. A. & Allan, C. M. (2004). Dissatisfaction with relationship power and dating violence perpetration by men and women. *Journal of Interpersonal Violence*, 19, 576-588. (A university sample of 352 men and 296 women completed the revised Conflict Tactics Scale. Authors report, "Surprisingly, significantly more dating violence perpetration is reported by women than by men.")

Kelly, L. (2003). Disabusing the definition of domestic abuse: how women batter men and the role of the feminist state. *Florida State Law Review*, 30, 791-855. (A scholarly examination of the issue of male victimization which is critical of feminist perspectives.)

Kim, K., & Cho, Y. (1992). Epidemiological survey of spousal abuse in Korea. In E. C. Viano (Ed.) *Intimate Violence: Interdisciplinary Perspectives*. (pp. 277-282). Bristol, PA: Taylor and Francis. (Utilized the Conflict Tactics scale in interviews with a random sample of 1,316 married Koreans <707 women, 609 men>. Compared to findings with American couples, results indicate that Korean men were victimized by their wives twice as much as American men, while Korean women were victimized by their spouses three times as much as American women.)

Kim, J-Y., & Emery, C. (2003). Marital power, conflict, norm consensus, and marital violence in a nationally representative sample of Korean couples. *Journal of Interpersonal Violence*, 18, 197-219. (A sample of 1500 South Koreans were surveyed. Marital power, conflict and norm consensus were correlated with marital violence. Findings reveal that the incidence of husband to wife violence 27.8%, while wife to husband was 15.8%)

Kwong, M. J., Bartholomew, K., & Dutton, D. (1999). Gender differences in patterns of relationship violence in Alberta. *Canadian Journal of Behavioural Science*, 31, (3) 150-160. (A representative sample of men <n=356> and women <n=351> from Alberta using the Conflict Tactics Scale, reported on their experience of marital aggression during a one year period. Similar levels of reported perpetration of physical violence were found, viz., husband to wife 12.9%, wife to husband, 12.3%.)

Lane, K., & Gwartney-Gibbs, P.A. (1985). Violence in the context of dating and sex. *Journal of Family Issues*, 6, 45-49. (Surveyed 325 students <165 men, 160 women> regarding courtship violence. Used Conflict Tactics Scale and found equal rates of violence for men and women.)

Laner, M. R., & Thompson, J. (1982). Abuse and aggression in courting couples. *Deviant Behavior*, 3, 229-244. (Used Conflict Tactics Scales with a sample of 371 single individuals <129 men, 242 women> and found similar rates of male and female violence in dating relationships.)

Langhinrichsen-Rohling, J., & Vivian, D. (1994). The correlates of spouses' incongruent reports of marital aggression. *Journal of Family Violence*, 9, 265-283. (In a clinic sample of 97 couples seeking marital therapy, authors found, using a modified version of the CTS, that 61% of the husbands and 64% of the wives were classified as aggressive, 25% of the husbands and 11% of the wives were identified as mildly aggressive and 36% of husbands and 53% of wives were classified as severely

aggressive. Sixty-eight percent of couples were in agreement with regard to husband's overall level of aggression and 69% of couples were in agreement on wife's overall level of aggression. Aggression levels were identified as "nonviolent, mildly violent, or severely violent." Where there was disagreement, 65% of husbands <n=20> were under-reporting aggression and 35% of husbands <n=11> were over-reporting aggression; while 57% of wives <n=17> were under-reporting aggression and 43% of wives <n=13> were over-reporting aggression.)

Lewis, A. & Sarantakos, S. (2001). Domestic Violence and the male victim. Nuance, #3. (Based on interviews with 48 men in Australia and New Zealand, authors present findings that domestic violence by women toward men exists, that the refusal to examine the prevalence of this abuse is a "disempowerment" of men and that official policy should be changed to provide help for abused men.)

Lillja, C. M. (1995). Why women abuse: A study examining the function of abused men. Unpublished master's thesis, California State University, Long Beach. (A review of the literature examining the issue of men as victims of female assaults. Includes an original questionnaire to test assumption that women who lack social support to combat stress are likely to commit domestic violence.)

Lo, W. A., & Sporakowski, M. J. (1989). The continuation of violent dating relationships among college students. *Journal of College Student Development*, 30, 432-439. (A sample of 422 college students completed the Conflict Tactics Scale. Found that, "women were more likely than men to claim themselves as abusers and were less likely to claim themselves as victims.")

Lottes, I. L., & Weinberg, M. S. (1996). Sexual coercion among university students: a comparison of the United States and Sweden. *Journal of Sex Research*, 34, 67-76. (A sample of 507 Swedish students <211 men, 359 women> and 407 U.S. students <129 men, 278 women> responded to items on the CTS. Results reveal that 31% of U.S. men compared to 18% of Swedish men reported being victims of physical violence by female partners during the previous 12 months. While 31% of U.S. women compared to 19% of Swedish women reported being victims of physical violence by male partners during the previous 12 months.)

Macchietto, J. (1992). Aspects of male victimization and female aggression: Implications for counseling men. *Journal of Mental Health Counseling*, 14, 375-392. (Article reviews literature on male victimization and female aggression.)

Magdol, L., Moffitt, T. E., Caspi, A., Fagan, J., Newman, D. L., & Silva, P. A. (1997). Gender differences in partner violence in a birth cohort of 21 year Olds: bridging the gap between clinical and epidemiological approaches. *Journal of Consulting and Clinical Psychology*, 65, 68-78. (Used CTS with a sample of 861 21 year Olds <436 men, 425 women> in New Zealand. Physical violence perpetration was reported during the previous 12 months by 37.2% of women and 21.8% of men, with severe violence perpetration by women at 18.6% and men at 5.7%.)

Makepeace, J. M. (1986). Gender differences in courtship violence victimization. *Family Relations*, 35, 383-388. (A sample of 2,338 students <1,059 men, 1,279 women> from seven colleges were surveyed regarding their experience of dating violence. Courtship violence was experienced by 16.7 % of respondents. Authors report that "rates of commission of acts and initiation of violence were similar across gender." In term of injury, both men (98%) and women (92%) reported "none or mild" effects of violence.)

Malik, S., Sorenson, S. B., & Aneshensel, C. S. (1997). *Journal of Adolescent Health*, 21, 291-302. (A sample of 707 high school students <281 boys, 426 girls> responded to the CTS. Results reveal that girls were almost 3 times more likely than boys to perpetrate dating violence. In terms of ethnicity African-Americans had the highest level of dating violence, followed by Latinos, whites, and Asian Americans.)

Malone, J., Tyree, A., & O'Leary, K. D. (1989). Generalization and containment: Different effects of past aggression for wives and husbands. *Journal of Marriage and the Family*, 51, 687-697. (In a sample of 328 couples it was found that men and women engaged in similar amounts of physical aggression within their families of origin and against their spouses. However, results indicate that women were more aggressive to their partners than men. Aggression was more predictable for women, i.e., if women observed parental aggression or hit siblings they were more likely to be violent with their spouses.)

Margolin, G. (1987). The multiple forms of aggressiveness between marital partners: how do we identify them? *Journal of Marital and Family Therapy*, 13, 77-84. (A paid volunteer sample of 103 couples completed the Conflict Tactics Scale. It was found that husbands and wives perpetrated similar amounts of violence. Specifically, the incidence of violence, as reported by either spouse was: husband to wife =39; wife to husband =41.)

Marshall, L. L., & Rose, P. (1987). Gender, stress and violence in the adult relationships of a sample of college students. *Journal of Social and Personal Relationships*, 4, 299-316. (A survey of 308 undergraduates <152 men, 156 women> revealed that 52% expressed and 62% received violence at some point in their adult relationships. Overall, women report expressing more physical violence than men. Childhood abuse emerged as a predictor of violence in adult relationships.)

Marshall, L. L., & Rose, P. (1990). Premarital violence: The impact of family of origin violence, stress and reciprocity. *Violence and Victims*, 5, 51-64. (454 premarital undergraduates <249 women, 205 men> completed the CTS and other scales. Overall, women reported expressing more violence than men, while men reported receiving more violence than women. Female violence was also associated with having been abused as children.)

Mason, A., & Blankenship, V. (1987). Power and affiliation motivation, stress and abuse in intimate relationships. *Journal of Personality and Social Psychology*, 52, 203-210. (Investigated 155 college students <48 men, 107 women> with the Thematic Apperception Test <TAT>, Life Experiences Survey and the CTS. Found that there were no significant gender differences in terms of the infliction of physical abuse. Men with high power needs were more likely to be physically abusive while highly stressed women with

high needs for affiliation and low activity inhibition were the most likely to be physically abusive. Results indicate that physical abuse occurred most often among committed couples.)

Matthews, W. J. (1984). Violence in college couples. *College Student Journal*, 18, 150-158. (A survey of 351 college students <123 men and 228 women> revealed that 79 <22.8 %> reported at least one incident of dating violence. Both men and women ascribed joint responsibility for violent behavior and both sexes, as either recipients or expressors of aggression, interpreted violence as a form of "love.")

Maxfield, M. G. (1989). Circumstances in supplementary homicide reports: Variety and validity. *Criminology*, 27, 671-695. (Examines FBI homicide data from 1976 through 1985. Reports that 9,822 wives & common law wives <57%> were killed compared to 7,433 husbands and common law husbands <43%>).

McCarthy, A. (2001.) Gender differences in the incidences of, motives for, and consequences of, dating violence among college students. Unpublished Master's thesis, California State University, Long Beach. (In a sample of 1145 students <359 men, 786 women> found that 36% of men and 28% of women responding to the CTS2 reported that they were victims of physical aggression during the previous year. There were no differences in reported motives for aggression between men and women.)

McKinney, K. (1986). Measures of verbal, physical and sexual dating violence by gender. *Free Inquiry in Creative Sociology*, 14, 55-60. (Surveyed 163 college students, 78 men, 85 women, with a questionnaire designed to assess involvement in dating abuse. Found that 38% of women and 47% of men indicated that they were victims of physical abuse in dating relationships. Also found that 26% of women and 21% of men acknowledged that they physically assaulted their dating partners.)

McLeod, M. (1984). Women against men: An examination of domestic violence based on an analysis of official data and national victimization data. *Justice Quarterly*, 1, 171-193. (From a data set of 6,200 cases of spousal abuse in the Detroit area in 1978-79 found that men used weapons 25% of the time while female assailants used weapons 86% of the time, 74% of men sustained injury and of these 84% required medical care. Concludes that male victims are injured more often and more seriously than female victims.)

McNeely, R. L., Cook, P. W. & Torres, J. B. (2001). Is domestic violence a gender issue or a human issue? *Journal of Human Behavior in the Social Environment*, 4, No. 4, 227-251. (Argues that domestic violence is a human issue and not a gender issue. Presents and discusses empirical findings and case studies to support this view. Expresses concerns about men's "legal and social defenselessness.")

McNeely, R. L., & Mann, C. R. (1990). Domestic violence is a human issue. *Journal of Interpersonal Violence*, 5, 129-132. (A review article which discusses the findings that women are more prone than men to engage in severely violent acts and that "classifying spousal violence as a women's issue rather than a human issue is erroneous.")

McNeely, R. L., & Robinson-Simpson, G. (1987). The truth about domestic violence: A falsely framed issue. *Social Work*, 32, 485-490. (A review article which concludes that women are as violent as men in domestic relationships.)

Mercy, J. A., & Saltzman, L. E. (1989). Fatal violence among spouses in the United States, 1975-85. *American Journal of Public Health*, 79, 595-599. (Examined FBI figures regarding spousal homicides. During the 10 year period from 1975 to 1985 found higher murder rates of wives than husbands <43.4% vs 56.6%>. Black husbands were at the greatest risk of victimization. Spousal homicide among blacks was 8.4 times higher than that of whites. Spouse homicide rates were 7.7 times higher in interracial marriages and the risk of victimization for both whites and blacks increased as age differences between spouses increased. Wives and husbands were equally likely to be killed by firearms <approximately 72% of the time> while husbands were more likely to be stabbed and wives more likely to bludgeoned to death. Arguments apparently escalated to murder in 67% of spouse homicides.)

Meredith, W. H., Abbot, D. A., & Adams, S. L. (1986). Family violence in relation to marital and parental satisfaction and family strengths. *Journal of Family Violence*, 1, 299-305. (Authors report that 6% of men and 5% of women in Nebraska indicated that they used severe violence at least once in the previous year.)

Merrill, L. L., King, L. K., Milner, J. S., Newell, C. E., & Koss, M. P. (1998). Premilitary intimate partner conflict resolution in a Navy basic trainee sample. *Military Psychology*, 10, 1-15. (A sample of 2, 987 ,1,560 women, 1,427 men> Navy basic trainees responded to the CTS. More men <43.3%> than women <40.3%> reported receiving physical violence from an intimate partner, and more women <46.9%> than men <31.9%> reported at least one instance of inflicting physical violence on an intimate partner.)

Mihalic, S. W., & Elliot, D. (1997). A social learning theory model of marital violence. *Journal of Family Violence*, 12, 21-46. (Based on data from the National Youth Survey <see Morse, 1995> a social learning model of marital violence for men and women was tested. For men ethnicity, prior victimization, stress and marital satisfaction predicted both perpetration and experience of minor violence. With regard to serious violence ethnicity, prior victimization, marital satisfaction predicted men's experience of marital violence, while ethnicity, class and sex role attitudes predicted the perpetration of male marital violence. For women the most important predictor of the experience of both minor and serious marital violence was marital satisfaction, class was also a predictor. With regard to female perpetrators of marital violence the witnessing of parental violence was an important predictor along with class and marital satisfaction. The social learning model worked better for women than men.)

Milardo, R. M. (1998). Gender asymmetry in common couple violence. *Personal Relationships*, 5, 423-438. (A sample of 180 college students <88 men, 72 women> were asked whether they would be likely to hit their partner in a number of situations common to a dating relationship. Results reveal that 83% of the women, compared to 53% of the men, indicated that they would be somewhat likely to hit their partner.)

Mirrlees-Black, C. (1999). Findings from a new British Crime Survey self-completion questionnaire. Home Office Research, Development and Statistics Directorate report 191. Home Office. London, HMSO. (In 1996, 16,000 completed questionnaires regarding crime victimization. Findings reveal 4.2% of men and 4.2% of women between the ages of 16-59 reported being physically assaulted by a current or former partner within the past year.)

Morse, B. J. (1995). Beyond the Conflict Tactics Scale: Assessing gender differences in partner violence. *Violence and Victims*, 10 (4) 251-272. (Data was analyzed from the National Youth Survey, a longitudinal study begun in 1976 with 1,725 subjects who were drawn from a probability sample of households in the United States and who, in 1976, were between the ages of 11-17. This study focused on violence as assessed by the CTS between male and female married or cohabiting respondents during survey years 1983 <n=1,496>, 1986 <n=1,384>, 1989 <n=1,436>, and 1992 <n=1,340>. For each survey year the prevalence rates of any violence and severe violence were significantly higher for female to male than for male to female. For example, in 1983 the rate of any violence male to female was 36.7, while the rate of any violence female to male was 48; in 1986, the rate of severe violence male to female was 9.5, while the rate of severe violence female to male was 22.8. In 1992, the rate of any violence male to female was 20.2, with a severe violence rate male to female of 5.7; while the rate of any violence female to male was 27.9, with a severe violence rate female to male of 13.8. Author notes that the decline in violence over time is attributed to the increase in age of the subjects. Results reveal <p. 163> that over twice as many women as men reported assaulting a partner who had not assaulted them during the study year." In 1986 about 20% of both men and women reported that assaults resulted in physical injuries. In other years women were more likely to self report personal injuries.)

Moffitt, T. E., Robins, R. W., & Caspi, A. (2001). A couples analysis of partner abuse with implications for abuse-prevention policy. *Criminology & Public Policy*, 1, (1) 5-36. (A representative longitudinal sample of 360 young-adult couples in New Zealand completed a 13 item physical abuse scale. Results reveal that 40% of males and 50% of females had perpetrated at least one act of physical violence toward their partners.)

Murphy, J. E. (1988). Date abuse and forced intercourse among college students. In G. P. Hotaling, D. Finkelhor, J. T. Kirkpatrick, & M. A. Straus (Eds.) *Family Abuse and its Consequences: New Directions in Research* (pp. 285-296). Beverly Hills, CA: Sage. (A sample of 485 single college students <230 men, 255 women> completed the CTS. Overall men reported greater victimization than women. For example, 20.7% of men compared to 12.8% of women reported being kicked, bit or hit with a fist and 6% of men compared to 3.6% of women reported being beaten up by their heterosexual partner.)

Mwamwenda, T. S. (1998). Reports of husband battering from an undergraduate sample in Umtata. *Psychological Reports*, 82, 517-518. (Surveyed a sample of 138 female and 81 male college students in Transkei, South Africa, regarding their witnessing husbanding battery. Responses reveal that 2% of subjects saw their mother beat their father, 18% saw or heard female relatives beating their husbands, and 26% saw or heard female neighbors beating their husbands.)

Niaz, U., Hassan, S., & Tariq, Q. (2002). Psychological consequences of intimate partner violence: forms of domestic abuse in both genders. *Pakistan Journal of Medical Science*, 18(3), 205-214. (A sample of 140 <70 men, 70 women> outpatient psychiatric patients in Pakistan were assessed with the Karachi Domestic Violence Screening Scale. Findings reveal that 19 men <27%> and 30 women <43%> reported being victims of physical abuse in their domestic relationships.)

Nicholls, T. L. & Dutton, D. G. (2001). Abuse committed by women against male intimates. *Journal of Couples Therapy*, 10 (1) 41-57. (A comprehensive review of the literature which concludes that "men are as likely as women to be victims of intimate assaults.")

Nisonoff, L. & Bitman, I. (1979). Spouse abuse: Incidence and relationship to selected demographic variables. *Victimology*, 4, 131-140. (In a sample of 297 telephone survey respondents <112 men, 185 women> found that 15.5% of men and 11.3% of women report having hit their spouse, while 18.6% of men and 12.7% of women report having been hit by their spouse.)

O'Keefe, M. (1997). Predictors of dating violence among high school students. *Journal of Interpersonal Violence*, 12, 546-568. (Surveyed 939 students <385 boys, 554 girls> ranging in age from 14-20. Sample was ethnically diverse: 53% Latino, 20% White, 13% African-American, 6.7% Asian American, and 7% "other." A modified version of the violence subscale of the Conflict Tactics Scale was used to assess dating violence. Results reveal that 43% of females and 39% of males reported that they perpetrated some form of physical aggression on their dating partners.)

O'Keefe, N. K., Brockopp, K., & Chew, E. (1986). Teen dating violence. *Social Work*, 31, 465-468. (Surveyed 256 high school students from Sacramento, CA., 135 girls, 121 boys, with the CTS. Ninety percent of students were juniors or seniors, the majority came from middle class homes, 94% were average or better students, and 65% were white and 35% were black, Hispanic or Asian. Found that 11.9% of girls compared to 7.4% of boys admitted to being sole perpetrators of physical violence. 17.8% of girls and 11.6% of boys admitted that they were both "victims and perpetrators" of physical violence.)

O'Leary, K. D., Barling, J., Arias, I., Rosenbaum, A., Malone, J., & Tyree, A. (1989). Prevalence and stability of physical aggression between spouses: A longitudinal analysis. *Journal of Consulting and Clinical Psychology*, 57, 263-268. (272 couples were assessed regarding physical aggression. More women reported physically aggressing against their partners at premarriage <44% vs 31%> and 18 months of marriage <36% vs 27%>. At 30 months there was a nonsignificant but higher rate for women <32% vs 25%>.)

Pedersen, P. & Thomas, C. D. (1992). Prevalence and correlates of dating violence in a Canadian University sample. *Canadian Journal of Behavioural Science*, 24, 490-501. (A sample of 166 undergraduates <116 women, 50 men> responded to the CTS; 45.8% of subjects reported experiencing physical violence in their current or most recent dating relationship. Of this total, 44.8% of women and 48% of men reported being physically

aggressed upon by their partners. It was also found that only 22% of men and 40.5% of women reported using physical aggression against a dating partner.)

Plass, M. S., & Gessner, J. C. (1983). Violence in courtship relations: a southern sample. *Free Inquiry in Creative Sociology*, 11, 198-202. (In an opportunity sample of 195 high school and college students from a large southern city, researchers used the Conflict Tactics scale to examine courtship violence. Overall, results reveal that women were significantly more likely than men to be aggressors. Specifically, in, committed relationships, women were three times as likely as men to slap their partners, and to kick, bit or hit with the fist seven times as often as men. In casual relationships, while the gender differences weren't as pronounced, women were more aggressive than men. Other findings reveal that high school students were more abusive than college students, and that a "higher proportion of black respondents were involved as aggressors.")

Riggs, D. S., O'Leary, K. D., & Breslin, F. C. (1990). Multiple correlates of physical aggression in dating couples. *Journal of Interpersonal Violence*, 5, 61-73. (Used CTS and studied 408 college students <125 men and 283 women>. Found that significantly more women <39%> than men <23%> reported engaging in physical aggression against their current partners.)

Rollins, B. C., & Oheneba-Sakyi, Y. (1990). Physical violence in Utah households. *Journal of Family Violence*, 5, 301-309. (In a random sample of 1,471 Utah households, using the Conflict Tactics Scale, it was found that women's rate of severe violence was 5.3% compared to a male rate of 3.4%.)

Rouse, L. P. (1988). Abuse in dating relationships: A comparison of Blacks, Whites, and Hispanics. *Journal of College Student Development*, 29, 312-319. (The use of physical force and its consequences were examined in a diverse sample of college students. Subjects consisted of 130 whites <58 men, 72 women>, 64 Blacks <32 men, 32 women>, and 34 Hispanics <24 men, 10 women>. Men were significantly more likely than women to report that their partners used moderate physical force and caused a greater number of injuries requiring medical attention. This gender difference was present for Whites and Blacks but not for Hispanics.)

Rosenfeld, R. (1997). Changing relationships between men and women. A note on the decline in intimate partner violence. *Homicide Studies*, 1, 72-83. (Author reports on homicide rates in ST. Louis from 1968-1992. Findings indicate that while men and women were equally likely to be victims of partner violence in 1970, in subsequent years men, primarily black men, were more likely to be murdered by their intimate partners.)

Rouse, L. P., Breen, R., & Howell, M. (1988). Abuse in intimate relationships. A Comparison of married and dating college students. *Journal of Interpersonal Violence*, 3, 414-429. (A sample of 130 married (48 men, 82 women) college students and 130 college students in dating relationships (58 men, 72 women) reported their experience of physical abuse in intimate relationships. Men were more likely to report being physically abused than women in both dating and marital relationships.)

Russell, R. J. H., & Hulson, B. (1992). Physical and psychological abuse of heterosexual partners. *Personality and Individual Differences*, 13, 457-473. (In a pilot study in Great Britain 46 couples responded to the Conflict Tactics Scale. Results reveal that husband to wife violence was: Overall violence= 25% and severe violence= 5.8%; while wife to husband violence was: Overall violence= 25% and severe violence=11.3%.)

Ryan, K. A. (1998). The relationship between courtship violence and sexual aggression in college students. *Journal of Family Violence*, 13, 377-394. (A sample of 656 college students <245 men, 411 women> completed the CTS. Thirty four percent of the women and 40% of the men reported being victims of their partner's physical aggression.)

Sack, A. R., Keller, J. F., & Howard, R. D. (1982). Conflict tactics and violence in dating situations. *International Journal of Sociology of the Family*, 12, 89-100. (Used the CTS with a sample of 211 college students, 92 men, 119 women. Results indicate that there were no differences between men and women with regard to the expression of physical violence.)

Saenger, G. (1963). Male and female relations in the American comic strip. In D. M. White & R. H. Abel (Eds.), *The funnies, an American idiom* (pp. 219-231). Glencoe, NY: The Free Press. (Twenty consecutive editions of all comic strips in nine New York City newspapers in October, 1950 were examined. Results reveal that husbands were victims of aggression in 63% of conflict situations while wives were victims in 39% of situations. In addition, wives were more aggressive in 73% of domestic situations, in 10% of situations, husbands and wives were equally aggressive and in only 17% of situations were husbands more violent than wives.)

Sarantakos, S. (2004). Deconstructing self-defense in wife-to-husband violence. *Journal of Men's Studies*, 12 (3) 277-296. (Members of 68 families with violent wives in Australia were studied. In 78% of cases wives' violence was reported to be moderate to severe and in 38% of cases husbands needed medical attention. Using information from husbands, wives, children and wives' mothers study provides compelling data challenging self defense as a motive for female-to-male violence.)

Schafer, J., Caetano, R., & Clark, C. L. (1998). Rates of intimate partner violence in the United States. *American journal of Public Health*, 88, 1702-1704. (Used modified CTS and examined reports of partner violence in a representative sample of 1635 married and cohabiting couples. Both partners reports were used to estimate the following lower and upper bound rates: 5.21% and 13.61% for male to female violence, and 6.22% and 18.21 % for female to male violence.)

Sharpe, D., & Taylor, J. K. (1999). An examination of variables from a social-developmental model to explain physical and psychological dating violence. *Canadian Journal of Behavioural Science*, 31:3, 165-175. (Canadian college students <110 men, 225 women> were surveyed with the Conflict Tactics Scale regarding dating violence. Results reveal that 38% of men and 27% of women report receiving physical violence from their partners. Twice as many women compared to men reported inflicting violence without receiving physical violence from dating partners.)

Shook, N. J., Gerrity, D. A., Jurich, J. & Segrist, A. E. (2000). Courtship violence among college students: A comparison of verbally and physically abusive couples. *Journal of Family Violence*, 15, 1-22. (A modified Conflict Tactics Scale was administered to 572 college students <395 women; 177 men>. Results reveal that significantly more women than men, 23.5% vs 13.0%, admitted using physical force against a dating partner.)

Sigelman, C. K., Berry, C. J., & Wiles, K. A. (1984). Violence in college students' dating relationships. *Journal of Applied Social Psychology*, 5, 530-548. (Surveyed 504 college students <116 men, 388 women> with the Conflict Tactics Scale and found that men and women were similar in the overall amount of violence they expressed but that men reported experiencing significantly more violence than women.)

Simonelli, C. J. & Ingram, K. M. (1998). Psychological distress among men experiencing physical and emotional abuse in heterosexual dating relationships. *Journal of Interpersonal Violence*, 13, 667-681. (Responses from 70 male undergraduates to the CTS and a Psychological Maltreatment Inventory revealed that 40% reported being the target of some form of physical aggression from their female dating partners while only 23% reported expressing physical aggression to their partners. Men who were victims of emotional and physical abuse also reported greater levels of distress and depression.)

Simonelli, C. J., Mullis, T., Elliot, A. N., & Pierce, T. W. (2002). Abuse by siblings and subsequent experiences of violence within the dating relationship. *Journal of Interpersonal Violence*, 17, 103-121. (A sample of 120 undergraduates <61 men, 59 women> completed the CTS. Ten percent of men and 33% of women reported that they perpetrated at least one type of physical aggressive behavior against their dating partner and 18% of men and 15% of women reported receiving physical aggression from their dating partner.)

Sommer, R. (1994). Male and female partner abuse: Testing a diathesis-stress model. Unpublished doctoral dissertation, University of Manitoba, Winnipeg, Canada. (The study was in two waves: the first was from 1989-1990 and included a random sample of 452 married or cohabiting women and 447 married or cohabiting men from Winnipeg, Canada; the second was from 1991-1992 and included 368 women and 369 men all of whom participated in the first wave. Subjects completed the CTS & other assessment instruments. 39.1% of women reported being physically aggressive (16.2% reporting having perpetrated severe violence) at some point in their relationship with their male partner. While 26.3% of men reported being physically aggressive (with 7.6% reporting perpetrating severe violence) at some point in their relationship with their female partner. Among the perpetrators of partner abuse, 34.8% of men and 40.1% of women reported observing their mothers hitting their fathers. Results indicate that 21% of "males' and 13% of females' partners required medical attention as a result of a partner abuse incident." Results also indicate that "10% of women and 15% of men perpetrated partner abuse in self defense.")

Sommer, R., Barnes, G. E. & Murray, R. P. (1992). Alcohol consumption, alcohol abuse, personality and female perpetrated spouse abuse. *Journal of Personality and Individual Differences*, 13, 1315-1323. (The responses from a subsample of 452 women drawn from a sample of 1,257 Winnipeg residents were analyzed. Using the CTS, it was

found that 39% of women physically aggressed against their male partners at some point in their relationship. Younger women with high scores on Eysenck's P scale were most likely to perpetrate violence. Note: The sample of subjects is the same as the one cited in Sommer's 1994 dissertation.)

Sorenson, S. B., & Telles, C. A. (1991). Self reports of spousal violence in a Mexican-American and non-Hispanic white population. *Violence and Victims*, 6, 3-15. (Surveyed 1,243 Mexican-Americans and 1,149 non-Hispanic whites and found that women compared to men reported higher rates of hitting, throwing objects, initiating violence, and striking first more than once. Gender difference was significant only for non-Hispanic whites.)

Sorenson, S. B., Upchurch, D. M., & Shen, H. (1996). Violence and injury in marital arguments: risk patterns and gender differences. *American Journal of Public Health*, 66(1), 35-40. (Data analysis was based on findings from the National Survey of Families and Households conducted in 1987-88. Subjects included 6779 currently married White, Black and Hispanic individuals who completed a modified version of the Conflict Tactics Scale. Authors report that, "women <6.2% vs 4.9%> were slightly more likely than men to report that they had hit, shoved or thrown something at their spouse in the previous year." Women also reported higher rates of causing injury than did men. Other findings of note: 1) Blacks were 1.58 times more likely and Hispanics 0.53 times less likely than Whites to report that physical violence occurred in their relationship; 2) Subjects under 30 reported more violence and those above 50 reported less violence; 3) lower annual income was associated with higher rates of physical violence.)

Spencer, G. A., & Bryant, S. A. (2000). Dating violence: A comparison of rural, suburban and urban teens. *Journal of Adolescent Health*, 25 (5) 302-305. (A sample of 2094 high school students in upper New York State indicated their experience of physical dating violence. There were a similar number of boys and girls surveyed, with more subjects from urban areas than rural or suburban areas. The majority of subjects were white non-Hispanic. Males in each region were more likely to report being victims of physical dating violence than females in each region. Specifically, 30% of rural boys and 20% of urban and 20% of suburban boys reported being victims of partner physical aggression while 25% of rural girls and 16% of suburban and 13% of urban girls reported victimization.)

Steinmetz, S. K. (1977-78). The battered husband syndrome. *Victimology: An International Journal*, 2, 499-509. (A pioneering article suggesting that the incidence of husband beating was similar to the incidence of wife beating.)

Steinmetz, S. K. (1980). Women and violence: victims and perpetrators. *American Journal of Psychotherapy*, 34, 334-350. (Examines the apparent contradiction in women's role as victim and perpetrator in domestic violence.)

Steinmetz, S. K. (1981). A cross cultural comparison of marital abuse. *Journal of Sociology and Social Welfare*, 8, 404-414. (Using a modified version of the CTS, examined marital violence in small samples from six societies: Finland, United States,

Canada, Puerto Rico, Belize, and Israel <total n=630>. Found that "in each society the percentage of husbands who used violence was similar to the percentage of violent wives." The major exception was Puerto Rico where men were more violent. Author also reports that, "Wives who used violence... tended to use greater amounts."

Stets, J. E. & Henderson, D. A. (1991). Contextual factors surrounding conflict resolution while dating: results from a national study. *Family Relations*, 40, 29-40. (Drawn from a random national telephone survey, daters <n=277; men=149, women=128> between the ages of 18 and 30, who were single, never married and in a relationship during the past year which lasted at least two months with at least six dates were examined with the Conflict Tactics Scale. Findings reveal that over 30% of subjects used physical aggression in their relationships, with 22% of the men and 40% of the women reported using some form of physical aggression. Women were "6 times more likely than men to use severe aggression <19.2% vs. 3.4%>...Men were twice as likely as women to report receiving severe aggression <15.7% vs. 8%>." Also found that younger subjects and those of lower socioeconomic status <SES> were more likely to use physical aggression.)

Stets, J. E., & Pirog-Good, M. A. (1987). Violence in dating relationships, *Social Psychology Quarterly*, 50, 237-246. (Examined a college sample of 505 white students. Found that men and women were similar in both their use and reception of violence. Jealousy was a factor in explaining dating violence for women.)

Stets, J. E. & Pirog-Good, M. A. (1989). Patterns of physical and sexual abuse for men and women in dating relationships: A descriptive analysis, *Journal of Family Violence*, 4, 63-76. (Examined a sample of 287 college students <118 men and 169 women> and found similar rates for men and women of low level physical abuse in dating relationships. More women than men were pushed or shoved <24% vs 10%> while more men than women were slapped <12% vs 8%>. In term of unwanted sexual contact 22% of men and 36% of women reported such behavior. The most frequent category for both men <18%> and women <19%> was the item, "against my will my partner initiated necking".)

Stets, J. E., & Straus, M. A. (1990). Gender differences in reporting marital violence and its medical and psychological consequences. In M. A. Straus & R. J. Gelles (Eds.), *Physical violence in American families: Risk factors and adaptations to violence in 8,145 families* (pp. 151-166). New Brunswick, NJ: Transaction. (Reports information regarding the initiation of violence. In a sample of 297 men and 428 women, men said they struck the first blow in 43.7% of cases, and their partner hit first in 44.1% of cases and could not disentangle who hit first in remaining 12.2%. Women report hitting first in 52.7% of cases, their partners in 42.6% and could not disentangle who hit first in remaining 4.7%. Authors conclude that violence by women is not primarily defensive.)

Straus, M. (1980). Victims and aggressors in marital violence. *American Behavioral Scientist*, 23, 681-704. (Reviews data from the 1975 National Survey. Examined a subsample of 325 violent couples and found that in 49.5% of cases both husbands and wives committed at least one violent act, while husbands alone were violent in 27.7% of

the cases and wives alone were violent in 22.7% of the cases. Found that 148 violent husbands had an average number of 7.1 aggressive acts per year while the 177 violent wives averaged 6.8 aggressive acts per year.)

Straus, M. A. (1995). Trends in cultural norms and rates of partner violence: An update to 1992. In S. M. Stich & M. A. Straus (Eds.) *Understanding partner violence: Prevalence, causes, consequences, and solutions* (pp. 30-33). Minneapolis, MN: National Council on Family Relations. (Reports finding that while the approval of a husband slapping his wife declined dramatically from 1968 to 1994 <21% to 10%> the approval of a wife slapping her husband did not decline but remained at 22% during the same period. The most frequently mentioned reason for slapping for both partners was sexual unfaithfulness. Also reports that severe physical assaults by men declined by 48% from 1975 to 1992--38/1000 to 19/1000 while severe assaults by women did not change from 1975 to 1992 and remained above 40/1000. Suggests that public service announcements should be directed at female perpetrated violence and that school based programs "explicitly recognize and condemn violence by girls as well as boys.")

Straus, M. A. (1998). The controversy over domestic violence by women: A methodological, theoretical, and sociology of science analysis. Paper presented at Claremont Symposium on Applied Social Psychology, Claremont, CA. (Examines issue of differential rates of assaults between crime studies and couple conflict studies. Provides a sociological explanation to account for assaults by women within the family.)

Straus, M. A. (2001). Prevalence of violence against dating partners by male and female university students worldwide. *Violence Against Women*, 10, 790-811. (Dating aggression was studied at 31 universities in 16 countries worldwide. Responding to the revised Conflict Tactics Scale were 8666 students <5919 women, 2747 men>. Results reveal that overall 25% of men and 28% of women assaulted their dating partner in the past year. At 21 of the 31 universities studied a larger percentage of women than men assaulted their dating partner. In terms of severe assaults a higher rate of perpetration by women occurred in a majority (18 of the 31) of the sites.)

Straus, M. A. (2005). Women's violence toward men is a serious social problem. In D. R. Loseke, R. J. Gelles, & M. M. Cavanaugh (Eds.), *Current Controversies on Family Violence*, 2nd Edition, (pp. 55-77). Thousand Oaks, CA: Sage. (A scholarly review of research showing that women initiate physical assaults on their male partners as frequently as men assault women. Examines the fact that injuries and fatalities result from such violence.)

Straus, M. A., & Gelles, R. J. (1986). Societal change and change in family violence from 1975 to 1985 as revealed by two national surveys. *Journal of Marriage and the Family*, 48, 465-479. (Reviewed data from two large sample national violence surveys of married couples and report that men and women assaulted each other at approximately equally rates, with women engaging in minor acts of violence at a higher rate than men. Sample size in 1975 survey=2,143; sample size in 1985 survey=6,002.)

Straus, M. A., Gelles, R. J., & Steinmetz, S. K. (1981). Behind closed doors: Violence in the American family, Garden City, NJ: Anchor. (Reports findings from National Family Violence survey conducted in 1975. In terms of religion, found that Jewish men had the lowest rates of abusive spousal violence (1%), while Jewish women had a rate of abusive spousal violence which was more than double the rate for Protestant women <7%>, pp. 128-133. Abusive violence was defined as an "act which has a high potential for injuring the person being hit," pp.21-2.)

Straus, M. A., Hamby, S. L., Boney-McCoy, S., & Sugarman, D. B. (1996). The Revised Conflict Tactics Scales (CTS2). Development and preliminary psychometric data. *Journal of Family Issues*, 17, 283-316. (The revised CTS has clearer differentiation between minor and severe violence and new scales to measure sexual coercion and physical injury. Used the CTS2 with a sample of 317 college students <114 men, 203 women> and found that: 49% of men and 31% of women reported being a victim of physical assault by their partner; 38% of men and 30% of women reported being a victim of sexual coercion by their partner; and 16% of men and 14% of women reported being seriously injured by their partners.)

Straus, M. A., & Kaufman Kantor, G. (1994, July). Change in spouse assault rates from 1975-1992: A comparison of three national surveys in the United States. Paper presented at the Thirteenth World Congress of Sociology, Bielefeld, Germany. (Reports that the trend of decreasing severe assaults by husbands found in the National Survey from 1975 to 1985 has continued in the 1992 survey while wives maintained higher rates of assault.)

Straus, M. A., Kaufman Kantor, G., & Moore, D. W. (1994, August). Change in cultural norms approving marital violence from 1968 to 1994. Paper presented at the American Sociological Association, Los Angeles, CA. (Compared surveys conducted in 1968 <n=1,176>, 1985 <n=6,002>, 1992 <n=1,970>, and 1994 <n=524>, with regard to the approval of facial slapping by a spouse. Approval of slapping by husbands decreased from 21% in 1968 to 13% in 1985, to 12% in 1992, to 10% in 1994. The approval of slapping by wives was 22% in 1968 and has not declined over the years.)

Straus, M. A., & Medeiros, R. A. (2002, November). Gender differences in risk factors for physical violence between dating partners by university students. Paper presented at annual meeting of the American Society for Criminology, Chicago, Illinois. (A sample of 232 men and 334 women responded to revised CTS. Results indicate that for minor violence the rates for both men and women are 22% and for severe violence rates are 10% for men and 11% for women.)

Straus, M. A., & Mouradian, V. E. (1999, November). Preliminary psychometric data for the Personal Relationships Profile (PRP): A multi-scale tool for clinical screening and research on partner violence. Paper presented at the annual meeting of the American Society of Criminology, Toronto, Canada. (In a study of 1,034 dating couples at two US universities, injury rates based on responses to the revised CTS (CTS2) revealed that 9.9% of men and 9.4% of women report being injured by the opposite sex. In terms of inflicting injuries, 10.1% men and 8.0% women indicated that they inflicted injuries on their partners.)

Straus, M. A., & Ramirez, I. L. (2002, July). Gender symmetry in prevalence, severity, and chronicity of physical aggression against dating partners by university students in Mexico and USA. Paper presented at the XV World Meeting of the International Society for Research on Aggression, Montreal, Canada. Available at: <http://pubpages.unh.edu/~mas2/>. (Reports findings from four samples of university students in Juarez, Mexico, El Paso and Lubbock, Texas, and New Hampshire. Subjects (N=1,554) responded to the revised Conflict Tactics Scale. Results indicate that there were no significant differences between males and females in either the overall prevalence of physical aggression or the prevalence of severe attacks. However, when only one partner was violent it was twice as likely to be the female than the male <19.0% vs 9.8%>. Moreover, in terms of severe aggression females were twice as likely to be violent than men <29.8% vs 13.7%>).

Sugarman, D. B., & Hotaling, G. T. (1989). Dating violence: Prevalence, context, and risk markers. In M. A. Pirog-Good & J. E. Stets (Eds.) *Violence in dating relationships: Emerging social issues* (pp.3-32). New York: Praeger. (Reviewed 21 studies of dating behavior and found that women reported having expressed violence at higher rates than men--329 per 1000 vs 393 per 1000.)

Szinovacz, M. E. (1983). Using couple data as a methodological tool: The case of marital violence. *Journal of Marriage and the Family*, 45, 633-644. (Used Conflict Tactics Scale with 103 couples and found that the wives' rates of physical aggression was somewhat higher than husbands'.)

Tang, C. S. (1994). Prevalence of spouse aggression in Hong Kong. *Journal of Family Violence*, 9, 347-356. (Subjects were 382 undergraduates <246 women, 136 men> at the Chinese University in Hong Kong. The CTS was used to assess students' evaluation of their parents responses during family conflict. 14% of students reported that their parents engaged in physical violence. "Mothers were as likely as fathers to use actual physical force toward their spouses.")

Thompson Jr., E. H. (1990). Courtship violence and the male role. *Men's Studies Review*, 7, (3) 1, 4-13. (Subjects were 336 undergraduates <167 men, 169 women> who completed a modified version of the CTS. Found that 24.6% of men compared to 28.4% of women expressed physical violence toward their dating partners within the past two years. Found that women were twice as likely as men to slap their partners.)

Thompson Jr., E. H. (1991). The maleness of violence in dating relationships: an appraisal of stereotypes. *Sex Roles*, 24, 261-278. (In a more extensive presentation of his 1990 article, the author concludes that, "a more masculine and/or less feminine gender orientation and variations in relationship seriousness proved to be the two strongest predictors of both men's and women's involvement in courtship violence.")

Tyree, A., & Malone, J. (1991). How can it be that wives hit husbands as much as husbands hit wives and none of us knew it? Paper presented at the annual meeting of the American Sociological Association. (Reviews the literature and discusses results from

their study attempting to predict spousal violence. Found that women's violence is correlated with a history of hitting siblings and a desire to improve contact with partners.)

Vivian, D., & Langhinrichsen-Rohling, J. (1996). Are bi-directionally violent couples mutually victimized? In L. K. Hamberger & C. Renzetti (Eds.) *Domestic partner abuse* (pp. 23-52). New York: Springer. (Authors found using a modified version of the CTS, that in a sample of 57 mutually aggressive couples, there were no significant differences between husbands' and wives' reports concerning the frequency and severity of assault victimization. With regard to injuries, 32 wives and 25 husbands reported the presence of a physical injury which resulted from partner aggression.)

Waiping, A. L., & Sporkowski, M. J. (1989). The continuation of violent dating relationships among college students. *Journal of College Student Development*, 30, 432-439. (Using a modified version of the CTS, authors examined courtship violence in a sample of 422 college students <227 women, 195 men>. Women more often than men <35.3% vs 20.3%> indicated that they physically abused their partners.)

White, J. W., & Humphrey, (1994). Women's aggression in heterosexual conflicts. *Aggressive Behavior*, 20, 195-202. (Eight hundred and twenty nine women <representing 84% of entering class of women> 17 and 18 years old, entering the university for the first time completed the CTS and other assessment instruments. Results reveal that 51.5% of subjects used physical aggression at least once in their prior dating relationships and, in the past year, 30.2% reported physically aggressing against their male partners. Past use of physical aggression was the best predictor of current aggression. The witnessing and experiencing of parental aggression also predicted present aggression.)

White, J. W., & Kowalski, R. M. (1994). Deconstructing the myth of the nonaggressive woman: A feminist analysis. *Psychology of Women Quarterly*, 18, 487-508. (A review and analysis which acknowledges that "women equal or exceed men in number of reported aggressive acts committed within the family." Examines a variety of explanations to account for such aggression.)

White, J. W., & Koss, M. P. (1991). Courtship violence: Incidence in a national sample of higher education students. *Violence and Victims*, 6, 247-256. (In a representative sample of 2,603 women and 2,105 men it was found that 37% of the men and 35% of women inflicted some form of physical aggression, while 39% of the men and 32% of the women received some form of physical aggression.)

Wilson, M. I. & Daley, M. (1992). Who kills whom in spouse killings? On the exceptional sex ratio of spousal homicides in the United States. *Criminology*, 30, 189-215. (Authors summarize research which indicates that between 1976 and 1985, for every 100 men who killed their wives, about 75 women killed their husbands. Authors report original data from a number of cities, e.g., Chicago, Detroit, Houston, where the ratio of wives as perpetrators exceeds that of husbands.)

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Psychological Effects of Partner Abuse Against Men: A Neglected Research Area

Denise A. Hines and Kathleen Malley-Morrison
Boston University

This article discusses the research on abuse against men in intimate relationships with a primary focus on the effects of this abuse. We begin by discussing the incidence of physical aggression against men, then address methodological and conceptual issues associated with the incidence data. We next review studies assessing the effects of aggression against men and discuss ways in which this research can be furthered and improved. Finally, we discuss why men would choose to stay in these relationships and consider the scant research on emotional abuse against men.

In the early 1970s, the abuse of wives by their husbands finally gained the recognition and attention it deserved in the academic community and the public. This recognition was long overdue, as wives tend to be victimized by their husbands at an alarming rate. For example, according to the U.S. Department of Justice, in 1994, 900,000 women were the victims of assault by an intimate partner ([Craven, 1997](#)). Nationally representative surveys show an even bleaker picture: In their 1975 survey of American families, [Straus and Gelles \(1986\)](#) found that, among wives reporting violence from their husbands in the previous year, 12.1% said that they had been the victim of some sort of violence and 38% reported that they had been the victim of severe violence. This rate of severe violence toward wives equaled 2.1 million wives nationwide. In their 1985 resurvey, Straus and Gelles found an apparent decline in the incidence of wife beating. Specifically, there was a 27% decrease in the rate of severe violence by husbands, which translated into 432,000 fewer cases of severe violence against wives. Although the severe assault of 1.6 million wives is still not acceptable, Straus and Gelles argued that this apparent decline may have been the result of the increased attention that wife beating had received and the consequences that had been instituted for men who assault their intimate partners.

The effects of abuse against women are significant. For instance, many women who are the victims of either minor or severe assaults by their intimate partners are physically injured. Specifically, in Straus's 1985 nationally representative survey, 7.3% of the women who reported being severely assaulted by their spouses needed to seek medical attention ([Stets & Straus, 1990](#)). Similarly, [Makepeace \(1986\)](#) found in a study of dating couples that 7.7% of women sustained a moderate or severe physical injury as a result of the violence they experienced. [Cascardi, Langhinrichsen,](#)

[and Vivian \(1992\)](#) found even graver statistics: 15% of the women who reported experiencing minor spousal abuse and 11% of the women who reported experiencing severe spousal abuse reported suffering broken bones, broken teeth, or injury to a sensory organ.

In addition to these physical consequences, most abused women also suffer psychological consequences as well. For example, abused women have been shown to experience fear and anxiety responses ([Follingstad, Wright, Lloyd, & Sebastian, 1991](#)); depression ([Cascardi et al., 1992](#); [Stets & Straus, 1990](#)); stress and psychosomatic symptoms ([Stets & Straus, 1990](#)); posttraumatic stress symptoms such as intrusive memories, psychogenic amnesia, sleep problems, eating problems, hypervigilance to danger cues, exaggerated startle responses, irritability or anger responses, and psychosomatic symptoms (e.g., gastrointestinal problems, headaches, and chronic illnesses; [Walker, 1993](#)); alcohol and drug abuse ([Kilpatrick, 1990](#)); and low self-esteem and suicidal, self-destructive, self-mutilating, and assaultive behaviors ([Carmen, Ricker, & Mills, 1984](#)).

Although there is a substantial research literature addressing abuse against women and its consequences, the flip side of this issue, physical abuse against men and its consequences, is a less researched area. Many of the previously cited studies provided some statistics on the rate of wives physically abusing their husbands, but there has been almost no research on the consequences of this type of abuse. In this article, we will first review data on the prevalence of violence directed at husbands by wives. Although the exact rate of this abuse is open to debate, we argue that there are enough male victims of violence by their wives to warrant attention to the consequences of that violence. Next, we discuss the scant research that has been done on the consequences of this type of abuse and argue that more rigorous research is needed. Finally, we discuss two areas that have received even less attention: (a) why men stay in abusive relationships and (b) emotional abuse against men and its effects.

Although at times throughout this article we consider the relative effects of abuse against men versus abuse against women, we are not arguing that the two forms of abuse can be equated. Previous investigations considering violence by women as well as against women are included in our review because they are among the few studies actually providing data on the incidence and effects of abuse against men. We do not doubt that in a society in which men are economically, socially, and politically dominant over women, women typically suffer more physically and psychologically from male-female violence than men do from female-male violence. Although it seems as if the debate until now has been about who the greater victims are, men or women, the research has made it clear that, on average, women are the more devastated victims of spousal abuse because of the relative size of men and women

and because of the above-mentioned social structure. However, evidence that women are injured more seriously and more often does not mean that the male victims of intimate violence should be ignored. It is our view that because many men are being victimized in their intimate relationships, the effects of this victimization are worth exploring.

Incidence of Physical Abuse Toward Men

Incidence reports of women abusing their husbands have appeared since the study of family violence began in the early to mid-1970s. For example, in [Gelles's \(1974\)](#) groundbreaking study on domestic violence, he found that, in his clinical sample, #the eruption of conjugal violence occurs with equal frequency among both husbands and wives# (p. 77). He also presented the following statements of women who abuse their husbands:

He would just yell and yell, not really yelling, just talk loudly. And I couldn't say anything because he kept talking. So I'd swing. (p. 76)

I spent all that time by myself and sometimes the kids would get on my nerves ... so when I got mad I hit him. (p. 76)

I probably had no reason to get angry with him ... but it was such a bore. I was trying to wake him up, you know. He was such a rotten lover anyway. So I'd yell at him and bit him to stir him up. (p. 151)

Since [Gelles's \(1974\)](#) study, information regarding rates of violence by wives has come from several different sources. First, crime statistics from the U.S. Department of Justice showed that in 1994, 167,000 men were the victims of assault by an intimate partner ([Craven, 1997](#)). Crime surveys, however, are assumed to provide low estimates of intimate violence against both men and women because many people are unwilling to label the physical violence they receive at the hands of an intimate partner a crime. This reluctance may be even more pronounced for men than for women because men are supposed to be the physically dominant and aggressive partner: consequently, admitting to being victimized by a woman and labeling it a crime may be viewed as emasculating ([Steinmetz, 1977](#)).

A second source of data on violence by wives is the National Violence Against Women Survey, in which 8,000 men and 8,000 women were randomly telephoned and interviewed about their experiences with violent victimization. This survey found that 7% of the men reported being physically assaulted by a current or former wife or cohabitating partner over the course of their lifetime. In addition, 0.8% of the men reported being physically assaulted in the previous year ([Tjaden & Thoennes, 2000](#)). This survey also may have underestimated the amount of violence against men

because the respondents were told that they were being interviewed about #personal safety# issues, and many men may not have viewed the violence they received at the hands of their wives or girlfriends as a threat to personal safety.

A final source of data on violence against men is studies using the Conflict Tactics Scale (CTS; [Straus & Gelles, 1986](#)), the most well known of which are the National Family Violence Surveys conducted in 1975 and 1985. Using data from the National Family Violence Survey of 1975, [Straus \(1980\)](#) found that 11.6% of the husbands reported having experienced some sort of violence from their wives within the previous year. Moreover, 4.6% (2.6 million nationwide) of husbands reported having been the victim of severe violence by their wives. *Severe violence* was defined as behaviors, such as kicking, punching, beating, or using a knife or gun, that have a high probability of causing physical injury. Wives indicated that they had committed a median of three violent acts per year and tended to throw things at or kick their husbands as their #favorite# form of abuse. Straus stated that he decided to present these findings on husband beating to show that violence cannot be understood in terms of a single factor, such as sexism, aggression, lack of self-control, or mental illnesses, as previously asserted.

In 1985, Straus and Gelles replicated their 1975 National Family Violence Survey. Of 6,002 couples surveyed, 12.4% of the husbands reported some level of physical assault by their wives in the previous year. In addition, 4.8% (again 2.6 million nationwide) reported being the victim of severe violence. These numbers are particularly striking because, as mentioned previously, there was an apparent decline in the rate of wife beating from the previous national survey, but the rates of violence against husbands remained approximately the same (Straus & Gelles, 1985).

Straus's reports ([Straus, 1980](#); [Straus & Gelles, 1988](#)) of this high rate of violence by wives have been challenged on methodological and conceptual bases. The methodological attacks on the results of the National Family Violence Surveys have focused primarily on the CTS, which was used in both studies. Criticisms of the CTS include the following:

1. Respondents are asked about psychologically and physically aggressive acts in the context of conflicts; violence against women, critics argue, often occurs outside of any conflict between partners (e.g., [Marshall & Rose, 1988](#)).
2. Respondents are not asked about the effects of those aggressive acts, but, because of differences in size and strength, it is likely that women are more seriously injured from aggressive behaviors such as hitting and

punching than men are from those same acts (e.g., [Ferraro & Johnson, 1983](#); [Marshall, 1992](#)).

3. Respondents are not asked about their motivations for aggressive acts. This omission is important because women's aggression may be only in self-defense (e.g., [Pleck, Pleck, Grossman, & Bart, 1977-1978](#)).

Supporters (e.g., [Dobash & Dobash, 1988](#)) of the first major criticism of the CTS # that it requests frequencies of specific nonaggressive and aggressive behaviors within the context of conflict # point out that much of male violence against women is arbitrary, unpredictable, and unrelated to any identifiable conflict. Although it is clearly correct that not all violence occurs in the context of an immediate conflict, there is no evidence that either women or men will refrain from reporting a slap, punch, or beating merely because it seemed to come out of nowhere. It seems likely that the introduction to the CTS, which emphasizes that all couples have conflicts and may use a variety of conflict tactics, makes it easier rather than more difficult for respondents to discuss the extent to which they have experienced each of the aggressive behaviors presented.

The second major methodological attack on the CTS emphasizes that superficially comparable acts, such as hitting and punching, can have much more injurious consequences when perpetrated by a man against a woman than when perpetrated by a woman against a man. The critics are correct on this issue: On average, women are injured more frequently and more severely at the hands of their husbands than men are at the hands of their wives (e.g., [Cascardi et al., 1992](#); [Makepeace, 1986](#); [Stets & Straus, 1990](#)). However, the fact that men can be injured at the hands of their significant others and that many times they are injured severely, should not be ignored.

Finally, in addressing the third point raised by critics, that violence by wives is mostly in self-defense, [Straus and Gelles \(1988\)](#) noted that the #meaning and consequences of that violence is easily misunderstood. ... The same act is likely to be very different in the amount of pain or injury inflicted. ... [Many] of the assaults by women against their husbands are acts of retaliation or self-defense# (p. 19). Data from several studies on violence by battered women support this proposition (e.g., [Saunders, 1986](#); [Walker, 2000](#)).

Although we acknowledge that most *battered* women use violence in self-defense, the bulk of the research on motivations for violence in intimate relationships has shown that self-defense is not the motivation for women's violence in the majority of cases. For instance, [Follingstad et al. \(1991\)](#) found that the major reasons reported by college women for using physical force against their partners were not attempts at

self-defense but rather efforts to show anger, to retaliate for emotional hurt, to express feelings that they had difficulty communicating verbally, and to gain control over the other person. Jealousy ([Makepeace, 1981](#)), anger, and confusion ([Cate, Henton, Koval, Christopher, & Lloyd, 1982](#); [Henton, Cate, Koval, Lloyd, & Christopher, 1983](#)) have also been cited as frequent motivations for violence among male and female college students. Although women cited self-defense as a motivation significantly more often than men did, it was never the most cited motivation for violence by either sex. In addition, other researchers have found that dominance and control are primary motives for female violence ([Felson & Messner, 2000](#); [Rouse, 1990](#)), whereas still others have found that a high need for affiliation, when combined with life stress and low activity inhibition, is a strong motive for female violence ([Mason & Blankenship, 1987](#)).

In addition to the research on motives, other data from the 1985 National Family Violence Survey also fail to provide support for the interpretation that women's violence is mostly in self-defense. Specifically, [Straus and Gelles \(1988\)](#) asked respondents who hit whom first and found that in 42%-45% of cases, the wife hit first (the differences in the percentages is a function of who reported, the wife or the husband; these two numbers are not significantly different from each other), whereas in 44%-53% of cases, the husband hit first. Although critics have argued that many times abused women will initiate their own violence to control the timing and place of violence by men, it appears that not all violence by wives can be considered simply a form of self-defense or retaliation.

Proponents of the usefulness of the CTS (e.g., Straus and his colleagues) generally acknowledge that although, like all instruments, it is imperfect, there is good support for its reliability and validity as a measure of aggression in close relationships. Moreover, despite the criticisms, it continues to be the most widely used measure of aggression in family and other intimate relationships and continues to provide powerful data concerning violence by and against women. Although data on motivations for and effects of violence are crucial to processes of understanding, education, and intervention, [Straus \(1990\)](#) has made a powerful argument that motivations and effects are variables that should be studied as part of investigations of violence but should not be incorporated into the operational definition of violence. Even [Walker \(1990\)](#), a strong critic of the CTS, has argued that when collecting data on violence and abuse, "it is important to be precise in describing the actual acts that occur" (p. 23), which is precisely what the CTS was constructed to do.

There has been some recognition by researchers who do not use the CTS that husband abuse may indeed be a problem that can be characterized as a serious social concern. For instance, while treating the clients of a male batterers' program, [Stacey,](#)

[Hazlewood, and Shupe \(1994\)](#) found that many of their cases were actually cases of mutual abuse. They found that many couples tended to be mutually abusive and that the roles of victim and perpetrator were constantly shifting. In addition, when studying responses of police officers in their study, Stacey et al. reported that the police would arrest the man as the batterer if the woman were the abuser because there was no counseling program for violent women available. The police hoped that, by arresting the man, they could get the couple into a program. The assumption was that if they arrested the wife, no counseling would be mandated and the husband would generally drop the charges. However, because the man was arrested, he had to sign a statement that labeled him as the violent perpetrator. This lack of help for women who abuse their husbands is quite common. Indeed, one woman in Stacey et al.'s sample remarked on the recovery of her battering husband by stating, "[Now] he tries to understand my side of the argument. He talks to me rather than hits me. I still hit him, however. I would like to enroll in a class in anger management, but the [local] shelter for battered women does not help women with this problem" (p. 63).

Several studies have indicated that violence by women may be increasing. For example, in a longitudinal study of 272 newlywed couples, [Leary et al. \(1989\)](#) found the following: Before marriage, 44% of the women reported that they used physical aggression against their partners; at 18 months after marriage, 36% of the wives reported that they used aggression against their spouses; and at 30 months after marriage, 32% of the wives reported that they used aggression against their spouses. This rate is 3-4 times that found in the 1975 and 1985 National Family Violence Surveys. In addition, at each of these three time periods, the women were more likely to be stably aggressive, whereas the husbands were more likely to be stably nonaggressive. [Leary et al.](#) also found that although 41%-57% of the time any violence experienced was mutual, the differences between wife-only violence and husband-only violence were noteworthy. Specifically, in 8%-13% of the violent marriages, the husband was the sole perpetrator of the abuse, whereas in 16%-26% of the violent marriages, the wife was the sole perpetrator.

Similarly, in the longitudinal National Youth Survey of 1,725 young adults, [Morse \(1995\)](#) found that across four time periods, 27.9%-48.0% of the female partners perpetrated violence against their male partners. In addition, 13.8%-22.4% of the women perpetrated severe violence. These rates for minor physical violence are 2-4 times greater than the rate found in the National Family Violence Surveys, and the rates for severe physical violence are 3-5 times greater. When analyzing the dynamics of the relationships, Morse found that (a) between 48.5% and 58.5% of the violent couples were mutually violent; (b) men were the sole perpetrators in 9.9%-13.9% of the couples; and (c) women were the sole perpetrators in 29.7%-37.7% of the couples. These results are similar to those of [Leary et al.'s \(1989\)](#) study. Finally,

[Morse \(1995\)](#) asked the respondents in one of the assessment periods to report who used violence in the last most serious argument they had with their spouse. Men were 2 times more likely than females to say that only their partner used violence, and women were 3 times more likely than men to say that only they used violence.

Finally, in a study that looked specifically at physical abuse against male college students, 40% of those males surveyed reported that they were the recipient of physical aggression from their girlfriends, and 29% reported that they received serious physical abuse at the hands of their girlfriends ([Simonelli & Ingram, 1998](#)). Again, these rates are 3-6 times greater than those found in the 1975 and 1985 National Family Violence Surveys.

These studies show that female-perpetrated violence does indeed exist in relationships and cannot always be dismissed as merely self-defense. Although women are more likely than men to use violence in self-defense, many women acknowledge that they have other motives for violence against their partners. In addition, whereas self-defense may be a major motivation for many women in mutually violent relationships, violence in the 16%-38% of violent couples characterized by female-only violence is obviously not a matter of self-defense. Many women report themselves to be capable of perpetrating violence against their partners, and the ramifications of this violence are worth exploring.

Effects of Physical Abuse Against Men

Physical Injuries and Death

The majority of studies that have assessed the victimization of men in marriages have compared these men to abused women. Researchers mostly have attempted to ascertain whether abused women experience more physical injuries than abused men. However, in this article we consider only the rate of physical injuries among men. Overall, as previously stated, the studies have clearly shown that abused women are at higher risk for physical injury than abused men. It should be emphasized, however, that these studies have also shown that abused men are at risk for physical injury as well.

For instance, [Cascardi et al. \(1992\)](#) found that 2% of the men who reported experiencing minor or severe spousal abuse reported suffering broken bones, broken teeth, or injury to a sensory organ. Similarly, [Makepeace \(1986\)](#) found that 2.2% of the males in his sample of 2,338 students reported sustaining a moderate or severe physical injury as a result of the dating violence they experienced. Finally, in an analysis of the results from the 1985 National Family Violence Survey, [Stets and](#)

[Straus \(1990\)](#) found that 1% of the men who reported being severely assaulted needed medical attention.

The results of these studies are logical, considering the relative size of the average man compared with the average woman. Obviously, men can inflict more harm with their fists than women can, and they are more able to restrain an abusive partner than women are. Some researchers, however, have pointed out that sometimes women may even the score by throwing things that could hurt their partners (e.g., dishes, boiling water, or a frying pan) or by brandishing a weapon ([Langley & Levy, 1977](#)). Perhaps this explanation is a reason why [Morse \(1995\)](#) and [Makepeace \(1986\)](#), compared with the injury rates in the previously mentioned studies, found even higher rates of injury among men. Specifically, depending on the time period, 10.4%-19.6% of the abused men in Morse's study sustained some type of injury at the hands of their wives ([Morse, 1995](#)). Similarly, [Makepeace \(1986\)](#) found that 17.9% of the abused men in his sample sustained a mild or moderate injury. These rates of injury for abused men are noteworthy because they confirm that men can be injured by women.

In addition, although sources vary in reported frequencies of different forms of violence, it is clear that the effects of women's violence against men, like those of men's violence against women, can be lethal. For example, using data from the Federal Bureau of Investigations (FBI's) *Uniform Crime Reports, Supplemental Homicide Report* (1994) to analyze homicides between marital partners in the United States from 1976 through 1985, [Mercy and Saltzman \(1989\)](#) found that husbands and wives were nearly equal in the risk of spouse homicide victimization (p. 597). Whereas Mercy and Saltzman focused on marital partners, [Browne and Williams \(1993\)](#) analyzed a broader set of relationships and noted that FBI *Uniform Crime Reports, Supplemental Homicide Report* data for 1980-1984 indicated that 'whereas only 12 percent of male homicide victims were killed by a female partner, over one half (52 percent) of all women murder victims were killed by male partners' (p. 81).

More recently the 1994 *Uniform Crime Reports, Supplemental Homicide Report* revealed that, in 1994 for homicides in which the victim-offender relationship was known, 31% (1,394) of female victims over the age of 12 and 4% (669) of male victims over the age of 12 were killed by an intimate. Although most of these statistics indicate that women are more likely to be killed by an intimate than men are, it cannot be denied that a substantial number of men are being murdered by their female partners, and, although some of these murders are undoubtedly in self-defense, there is no evidence that all of them are (e.g., [Mann, 1988](#)).

Psychological Effects

Because men tend to be at low risk of physical injury at the hands of their female partners, the most fruitful avenues to pursue in research exploring the effects of abuse against men are the psychological effects. The bulk of the research that has been done on the psychological effects of physical abuse against men has compared abused men to abused women on various psychological outcomes. These studies certainly have been valuable in highlighting the potential consequences of this abuse on men.

In a study comparing the psychological effects of physical abuse on men and women, [Follingstad et al. \(1991\)](#) found that, following physical abuse, approximately 75% of the abused men reported experiencing anger; nearly 40% reported being emotionally hurt; nearly 35% reported experiencing sadness or depression; nearly 30% reported seeking revenge; nearly 23% reported feeling the need to protect themselves; approximately 15% reported feeling shame or fear; and approximately 10% felt unloved or helpless. In addition, in her longitudinal study, [Morse \(1995\)](#) found that 9.5% of the younger males and 13.5% of the older males reported experiencing fear in their violent relationships.

[Stets and Straus \(1990\)](#) researched the extent and severity of depression, stress, and psychosomatic symptoms manifested in both male and female abuse victims. For both abused men and abused women, the higher the level of violence experienced, the more severe the depression, stress, and psychosomatic symptoms. In addition to comparing abused men to abused women, Stets and Straus also used a more appropriate comparison group, nonabused men. They found that abused men were significantly more likely to experience psychosomatic symptoms, stress, and depression than nonabused men # a result similar to that of [Cascardi et al. \(1992\)](#), who found that abused husbands had significantly greater levels of depression than nonabused husbands.

In a study that specifically addressed the issue of abuse against men, [Simonelli and Ingram \(1998\)](#) assessed psychological distress and depression among college men experiencing emotional or physical abuse in their present or most recent relationships. They found that 90% of their sample reported experiencing emotional abuse, 40% reported experiencing physical abuse, and 29% reported experiencing severe physical abuse. Psychological distress and depression were significantly greater in men who reported being the recipient of either physical or emotional abuse than in men reporting no abuse. In addition, being physically abused predicted 37% of the variance in depression, whereas being emotionally abused predicted 14%-33% of the variance in depression (depending on the emotional abuse scale used). Finally, being emotionally abused predicted 15%-16% of the variance in psychological distress. Thus, abused men appear to be at substantial risk for experiencing depression and psychological distress.

In sum, the results of these studies show that abused men are at risk for emotional hurt, fear, helplessness, anger, revenge seeking, sadness, shame and humiliation, depression, stress, psychological distress, and psychosomatic symptoms. However, these studies have a number of major weaknesses. First, the researchers focused primarily on internalizing symptoms, which women experience at two times the rate of men in the population as a whole; they did not examine more externalizing symptoms, such as alcoholism, that are more characteristic of a man's reaction to stressful events (e.g., [Comer, 1992](#)). Second, they also did not assess other symptoms that have been found to be prevalent in women who are abused, such as posttraumatic stress disorder (PTSD; [Walker, 1993](#)), and suicidal, self-destructive, self-mutilating, and assaultive behaviors ([Carmen et al., 1984](#)). Third, because the focus of many of these studies was the relative victimization of abused females to abused males, they did not specifically address the psychological consequences of physical abuse against men. To gain a clearer picture of the consequences of abuse toward men, researchers need to study both the externalizing and internalizing behaviors of abused men compared with those of nonabused men. Fourth, these studies were all cross-sectional studies. It therefore is not possible to conclude that the physical abuse men experienced from their partners caused these symptoms. It could also be the case that men who experience these symptoms are more likely to be victimized by physical abuse or that a third variable is the cause of both the symptoms and the abuse. Without a longitudinal study, it is not possible to draw any conclusions regarding causation. Finally, these studies did not separate men who only experienced abuse from those who both experienced and perpetrated abuse.

This last point is an important one to stress. None of the studies in the current literature seem to consider that the dynamics of a mutually abusive relationship may be very different from the dynamics of a relationship in which the man is the sole victim. When couples are involved in a mutually abusive relationship, the line between victim and perpetrator is unclear and constantly shifting. The causes and consequences of violence in these mutually combative relationships may be quite different from the causes and consequences of violence in relationships in which men refuse to fight back because of societal sanctions against hitting a woman, because of the potential damage they know that they could inflict ([Steinmetz, 1977-1978](#)), or because they are unable to ([Langley & Levy, 1977](#)).

For example, [Langley and Levy \(1977\)](#) reported an account of a police officer who called a crisis line to report that his wife beat him. As Langley and Levy relayed:

He ... said: "My woman drinks, and every Friday night when I come home, she just starts pounding on me ..." He said he'd been severely beaten up by her several times and that he was big enough to fight back but that he didn't want to beat her, and

didn't know where to turn to solve his problem. He was very emotional. (pp. 189-190)

[Langley and Levy \(1977\)](#) also related the story of an elderly man who was married to a woman 31 years his junior who was severely battered by his wife for 14 years. He displayed several bruises and scars. One time his wife shredded his ear with her teeth, and she injured one of his eyes so badly that the doctor thought he might lose it. These men who are the sole victims of violence in their intimate relationships should be assessed separately from men involved in mutually abusive relationships because the psychological ramifications could be quite different.

Why Do They Stay?

Extensive research has been done to investigate why abused women would choose to stay with their abuser. Explanations range from social and economic constraints against leaving to being the victim of learned helplessness (i.e., a syndrome in which the woman feels she is helpless to effect any change in her environment). Other explanations focus on the woman's psychological dependence on her abuser such that whenever she moves toward separation from him she experiences distress at the prospect of losing this important relationship ([Dutton & Painter, 1981](#)). Finally, the gravest concern for a battered woman is that if she leaves the relationship, her abuser will come after her and most likely kill her. Indeed, statistics show that the most dangerous time for a woman in an abusive relationship is the time immediately after she leaves her abuser ([Craven, 1997](#)).

Several qualitative studies have attempted to explain why men would choose to stay in relationships that are abusive, especially when, compared with abused women, many of these men have the physical and economic resources to leave ([Pagelow, 1984](#)). One explanation that has been forwarded relates to marriage. When a couple marries, they merge their economic resources and living situations and make vows to each other of commitment and love. This commitment to marriage has been found to be one reason men are reluctant to leave abusive situations ([Lupri, 1990](#)). These men may genuinely love their wives, and their wives are apologetic after an incident ([Pagelow, 1984](#)). Also, disclosure of the abuse by their wives would be extremely embarrassing for these abused men, especially because this type of abuse is the opposite of society's stereotypes, in which the man should be dominant and the woman submissive ([Flynn, 1990](#)). These men may be unwilling to endure the snickers, innuendos, and sarcasm that they would probably have to face if they filed a formal complaint ([Langley & Levy, 1977](#)).

In addition, abused men, like abused women, may become used to a certain standard of living. If they were to leave their wives, they most likely would have to move out of their homes, support their (ex)wives, and pay for their own living expenses as well ([Steinmetz, 1977-1978](#)). In addition to being committed to the marriage, many men refuse to leave an abusive situation because of their children. Because abuse of husbands is relatively unrecognized, it is difficult for abused men to use this defense in court to obtain custody of their children (assuming that they are willing to admit they are abused). In addition, mothers usually are awarded custody. As one abused man related,

She ran off with another man, but after a short time returned home. I was told, principally by lawyers, that I must take her back. For if I pressed a divorce action, she would be seen as a poor, aggrieved, helpless woman, and she would literally clean me out. She could get eighty-five percent of my income and have our five children entrusted in her care. ([Langley & Levy, 1977](#), p. 191)

Therefore, many abused men refuse to leave for fear of leaving their children with abusive women. They believe that if they stay, they can at least protect the children if necessary ([Gregorash, 1993](#); [Steinmetz, 1977-1978](#)). Finally, many men refuse to leave their abusive wives for the same reason that women refuse to leave their abusive husbands: They are psychologically dependent on them and excuse the abuse as being a result of certain circumstances, such as alcohol intoxication ([Pagelow, 1984](#)).

Although these qualitative studies are valuable in identifying issues related to male victimization, they lack the kind of quantitative information that would be more generalizable. Although they provide a useful starting point for understanding why abused men may choose to stay with their abusers, they should be supplemented with more objective, quantitative data from representative samples.

Emotional Abuse

The scant research that has been done on the dynamics of emotionally abusive relationships has tended to concentrate on battered women. However, even though many battered women have identified the degradation, humiliation, and fear they feel at the hands of their abusers as the most devastating aspect of their abuse ([Walker, 1984](#)), few researchers have looked at the specific effects of emotional abuse on either women or men, probably in part because of difficulties in defining emotional abuse ([Follingstad, Rutledge, Berg, Hause & Polek, 1990](#)).

Definitional Issues

Several researchers have attempted to define the concept of emotional abuse. For example, on the basis of the work of [Walker, 1984](#) and their own experience, [Follingstad et al. \(1990\)](#) described six components of emotional abuse: (a) verbal attacks (ridicule, verbal harassment, name calling); (b) isolation (social or financial); (c) jealousy/possessiveness (even with family, friends, and pets); (d) verbal threats of harm, abuse, or torture; (e) threats to divorce, abandon, or have an affair; and (f) damage to or destruction of personal property. The abused women in their study said that isolation and jealousy/possessiveness were the most frequent types of emotional abuse, whereas verbal attacks and verbal threats of harm, abuse, and torture were the worst types of emotional abuse.

One of the most consistent findings in the research on emotional abuse is that it often coexists with physical abuse (e.g., [Molidor, 1995](#); [Simonelli & Ingram, 1998](#); [Walker, 1984](#)). In addition, in a longitudinal study of community couples, [Murphy and O'Leary \(1989\)](#) found that emotional abuse by either partner was one of the strongest predictors for the first instance of physical abuse by the other partner. Even though emotional abuse tends to coexist with or predate physical abuse, emotional abuse can occur without physical abuse, and its effects are still devastating to those victimized by it. Many emotionally abused women, for instance, have stated that the emotional abuse they experienced was worse than the physical abuse. Indeed, [Follingstad et al. \(1990\)](#) found that 72% of their sample of 234 battered women reported that the emotional abuse they received from their partners was worse than the physical abuse. These women experienced ridicule and threats to leave, felt that the men were likely to carry out their threats, and felt that the abuse was justified. In addition, most of these abused women experienced more emotional abuse than physical abuse.

Incidence of Emotional Abuse

The Psychological Maltreatment of Women Inventory (PMI), a widely used inventory of emotional abuse that was originally developed by [Tolman \(1989\)](#) for use with married women, was altered by [Kasian and Painter \(1992\)](#) to assess emotional abuse in men and dating couples as well. The PMI covers positive behaviors in relationships as well as behaviors intended to control a partner (emotionally and socially) or diminish a partner's self-esteem. In addition, it assesses jealousy, verbal abuse, and withdrawal.

In a study of emotional abuse in 1,625 college-aged participants, [Kasian and Painter \(1992\)](#) found that males reported experiencing high levels of emotional abuse in their relationships. Specifically, approximately 20% reported isolating and emotionally controlling behaviors by their partners; approximately 15% reported the

diminishment of their self-esteem by their partners; approximately 20% reported experiencing jealousy behaviors from their partners; approximately 10% reported experiencing verbal abuse from their partners; and approximately 10% reported experiencing withdrawal behaviors from their partners.

Similarly, using the PMI, [Molidor \(1995\)](#) found in a survey of 736 high school students that males reported experiencing an average of 23.41 emotionally abusive acts from their partners in the course of their relationship. In addition, two studies showed that college men also experience high rates of emotional abuse. Specifically, [Simonelli and Ingrarn \(1998\)](#) found that, as measured by the PMI, 90% of their male sample reported experiencing emotional abuse. The types of emotional abuse experienced most frequently were jealousy (77%), withdrawal (77%), diminishment of self-esteem (63%), verbal abuse (60%), and social and emotional control (49%). Finally, [Hines and Malley-Morrison \(2001\)](#) found that 82% of their college male sample reported being the recipients of emotional abuse. Such data indicate that men are experiencing high rates of emotional abuse in their relationships. Consequently, it is important to ascertain the effects of this type of abuse on them.

Effects of Emotional Abuse

The effects of physical abuse have been studied much more systematically than the effects of emotional abuse. Although the bulk of this research has been done with women, one case study of an emotionally abused man exists in the literature. [Smith and Loring \(1994\)](#) related the case of a man who was emotionally abused both as a child by his mother and as an adult by his wife. This man stated that, during his marriage, his wife called him ugly, refused to walk next to him in public because she was ashamed to be seen with him, threatened to kill or castrate him while he was sleeping, taught their son to call him #dummy# and #wimp,# found the negative in everything he did (including hugging her and buying her flowers), and accused him of having affairs. He felt frightened for his life, blamed himself for everything, and lost 31 pounds. Why did he stay with this woman? He said, #There were times that she bought me gifts and said she loved me; I occasionally felt a little kindness, and I thought maybe she would change. It was enough to keep me clinging to her# (p. 2). This statement contains an important insight, as the researchers believed that this man suffered from traumatic bonding, in which the abuser alternates abusive behavior with kindness, creating a bond that involves intermittent positive reinforcement. This type of bond is difficult to break.

Although the [Smith and Loring \(1994\)](#) case study is an important contribution to the literature, it does not reveal much about the effects of emotional abuse against men in general. Only two studies have provided some indication of what the possible

psychological effects of emotional abuse against men in general are. [Simonelli and Ingram \(1998\)](#) showed that up to 90% of men have been the victims of emotional abuse at least once in the previous year. They then showed the relative contributions of both physical and emotional abuse to the variance in depression and psychological distress and found that experiencing emotional abuse accounted for 14%-33% of the variance in depression and 15%-16% of the variance in psychological distress.

In addition, [Hines and Malley-Morrison \(2001\)](#) assessed the incidence of PTSD and alcoholism symptoms in 116 college men involved in dating relationships. PTSD symptoms were assessed because they are common in women who are emotionally abused, and alcohol use was assessed because, as previously mentioned, men tend to respond to stressful events with externalizing behaviors such as alcohol use. Hines and Malley-Morrison found that the more emotional abuse these men experienced in their relationships, the higher their symptom counts for PTSD and alcoholism. Both of these relationships were statistically significant.

These three studies ([Hines & Malley-Morrison, 2001](#); [Simonelli & Ingram, 1998](#); [Smith & Loring, 1994](#)) show that men suffer psychologically from the emotional abuse they experience at the hands of their intimate partners. However, this research is only a first step in identifying the effects of emotional abuse against men. Other possible outcomes and a wider age range of men need to be studied. Also, to properly assess the causal relationship between abuse and adverse psychological outcomes in emotionally abused men, it is necessary to follow men longitudinally.

Conclusion

Research has shown that men can be victims of physical abuse in their intimate relationships with women. According to several studies, including at least two nationally representative studies, women physically abuse men at a substantial rate. This physical abuse takes the form of both minor and severe abuse, and it cannot always be dismissed as self-defense.

Research on the psychosocial problems resulting from abuse is what is most lacking in the literature on abused men. Researchers know that abused men tend to suffer injuries, depression, and psychosomatic symptoms in response to their victimization. However, for the most part, studies that have considered the experiences of abused men have done so in comparison with abused women, even though abused women are not always an appropriate comparison group. To study the psychosocial adjustment of abused men, they should be compared with nonabused men. In addition, most studies have tended to look at injuries and internalizing symptoms. Although these obviously are important areas to assess, that most domestic violence

incidents do not result in injury (especially in men) and that men tend to display externalizing, not internalizing, symptoms in response to stressful life events must be considered. Therefore, the extent of externalizing symptoms such as alcohol and substance abuse in abused men should be assessed. From reviewing several studies on abused women, we learned that possible PTSD-like reactions, self-mutilating behaviors and assaultive behaviors should be considered. In addition, because the few studies that have addressed this issue are cross-sectional, longitudinal studies are needed so that causation can be inferred.

In addition, quantitative research regarding why men stay with their abusive partners is needed. Although qualitative studies have shown that abused men stay with their wives because they may suffer from traumatic bonding, seek to protect their children, wish to maintain their current economic standard of living, are embarrassed by their situation or are committed to their marriages, quantitative research is needed so that these conclusions can be further validated and generalized.

Finally, research is sorely needed in the area of emotional abuse against men. The research so far has shown that it occurs in a large percentage of relationships, and one qualitative and two quantitative studies have demonstrated that emotionally abused men can experience depression, psychological distress, alcoholism, PTSD, weight loss, fear, and self-blame. However, more research in this area is desperately needed.

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Correspondence concerning this article should be addressed to
Denise A. Hines, Psychology Department,
Boston University,
64 Cummington Street,
Boston, Massachusetts 02215.
Electronic mail may be sent to dahines@bu.edu.



Abused men not taken seriously

By [ANDREW HANON](#) -- For the Edmonton Sun



Sam says he was a victim of spousal assault. It was two decades ago. He and his wife were arguing over whether Sam's daughter from a previous marriage could come and live with them.

Things got very heated, he explained, "and the next thing I knew, she attacked me with a broken beer bottle."

She tried to cut him with it but he managed to knock it away. They continued grappling and in the struggle his wife's finger was broken.

"When anyone asked her what happened, she'd just tell them that I broke her finger," said Sam, who asked that his real name not be used. "Without any context, any explanation that I was defending myself against her attack, it sounded like she was the only victim."

On Dec. 6, memorial ceremonies will be held across Canada to honour the victims of Marc Lepine, the misogynistic madman who in 1989 gunned down 14 female students at L'Ecole Polytechnique in Montreal for the sole crime of being women.

The tragedy has become a rallying point in the battle to end all forms of violence against women. And so it should be. There is something horrifically wrong with a society in which victimization of women - whether it's physical, sexual or emotional - is so prevalent.

According to Statistics Canada, 8% of all women in the country, nearly one in 12, reported being the victim of domestic violence in the past five years. That figure is only for assaults within intimate relationships - it doesn't include attacks by strangers or other people known to the victim.

In the past generation, great strides have been made for women trapped in abusive relationships, and there is still much work to be done.

But there is another side to this coin that barely gets any recognition, and often when it does it is dismissed, mocked or turned into an either/or argument. Many men are also trapped in abusive relationships with women, but that issue is hardly being addressed at all.

"There is a mythology, as expressed in current law, that indicates in cases of spousal violence, all perpetrators are men and all victims are women," said Dr. Paul Sussman, an Edmonton psychologist. "That's poppycock."

A 2004 study by StatsCan said that of spousal violence cases reported to police, 15% of the complainants were men.

Interestingly, when police lay major assault charges (as opposed to common assault), nearly twice as many women are charged than men. The study offers one possible explanation: men are far more reluctant to call police "until the violence becomes very serious."

Sussman believes that because of the perpetrator/victim mythology, "less serious" incidents, such as slapping, uttering threats, etc., are vastly under-reported by men.

"Go and tell the police that you've been assaulted by a woman and see what kind of response you get."

Men's organizations are trying to call greater attention to the issue, but often they end up falling victim to their own bitter, resentful rhetoric. The substance of their arguments routinely sounds like an attempt to trivialize violence against women.

The U.S.-based Equal Justice Foundation, for example, calls charges of domestic violence "the weapon of choice for women in divorce and custody battles."

Meanwhile, women's advocacy groups bristle at the suggestion that more attention be paid to violence against men, suggesting that it will somehow divert focus from their cause.

Somewhere along the line, the struggle to address domestic abuse has been lost in a sea of ideology.

Abuse, no matter who the perpetrator and victim are, is abhorrent. And just because the victim is in a statistical minority, it doesn't make his suffering any less.

THE TIMES

"Women are at least as violent as men, but the evidence everywhere is being dismissed or ignored"

By Melanie Phillips
The Sunday Times, UK, 24 October 1999
NEWS REVIEW

Mention feminism to most people and the reaction will probably be one of faintly amused indifference. Some men may be irritated by feminist rhetoric; some women might feel their agenda is a little extreme. But the extent to which feminism in its most extreme form has embedded itself within the institutions and thinking of Britain has simply not been grasped.

Feminism has become the unchallengeable orthodoxy in even the most apparently conservative institutions, and drives forward the whole programme of domestic social policy. Yet this orthodoxy is not based on concepts of fairness or justice or social solidarity. It is based on hostility towards men.

The idea that men oppress women, who therefore have every interest in avoiding the marriage trap and must achieve independence from men at all costs, may strike many as having little to do with everyday life. Yet it is now the galvanic principle behind social, economic and legal policy-making.

Buried within this doctrine, though, is an even deeper assumption. Male oppression of women is only made possible by the fact that men are intrinsically predatory and violent, threatening both women and children with rape or assault.

It is true that most women who are the victims of violence suffer domestic assaults. Yet the 1996 British Crime Survey reported that nearly one third of the victims of domestic violence were men, and that nearly half of these male victims were attacked by women. Moreover, if a woman starts a physical fight with a man, even a mild slap might provoke him into retaliating, with far worse consequences. Women who murder violent husbands may be treated leniently because they were provoked; yet men who are violent against women are never granted the same understanding. Provocation, it appears, is a feminist issue.

Moreover, given the greater strength of men, it is particularly noteworthy that so many women initiate violence against them. The fact is that men hold back. The psychologist John Archer has noted that, among female college students, 29% admitted initiating an assault on a male partner. Of those women, half said they had no fear of retaliation or, since men could easily defend themselves, they did not see their own physical aggression as a problem. In other words, far from assuming that men are violent, women take men's non-aggression for granted.

Archer went on to remark on the apparent restraint shown by many men in western cultures. "We might speculate that to some

Men are therefore the enemy - not just of women but of humanity, the proper objects of fear and scorn.

This assumption runs through feminist thinking as a given. "Most violence, most crime . . . is not committed by human beings in general. It is committed by men," wrote Jill Tweedie.

According to Marilyn French, men used violence both to threaten and control, as well as actually harm: "As long as some men use physical force to subjugate females, all men need not. The knowledge that some men do suffices to threaten all women."

Moreover, it is marriage and family life that expose women most to male violence. According to Gloria Steinem, "patriarchy requires violence or the subliminal threat of violence in order to maintain itself... The most dangerous situation for a woman is not an unknown man in the street, or even the enemy in wartime, but a husband or lover in the isolation of their own home".

All this has been enough to turn the stomachs of some feminists, particularly those who love husbands or sons. Novelist Maggie Gee said she once thought the sex war was exciting, but had now concluded it went too far. "Women are giving up on their relationships too quickly. Living with a man I love very much, I keep thinking that all the generalisations about men just aren't true."

These generalisations, however, are now the stuff of public policy. Male violence against women, said the government in June 1999, was no longer going to be "swept under the carpet". Virtually nobody questioned the premise that men were invariably victimisers and women always their victims.

extent a strong norm of men not hitting women enables women to engage in physical aggression which might otherwise not have occurred," he wrote. Male aggression, he suggested, was a kind of default value associated with patriarchal structures.

When these are overridden, as they have been by modern secular liberal values and by the emancipation of women, female aggression increases. "These values will have greatest impact in a relationship that can be ended by the woman at little cost, and where the rate of male aggression is low. "We can speculate that these represent specific instances of a more general set of circumstances entailing a relative change in the balance of power between men and women."

In other words, as women have become independent of men, they have also become more violent towards them - because men have become dispensable. This unpalatable conclusion, however, has been completely overlooked in a culture that believes infamy is the prerogative of the male.

Much to everyone's astonishment, the Home Office recently produced its own evidence that domestic violence was not a male disease. In January 1999, it reported that 4.2% of women and 4.2% of men aged 16 to 59 said they had been physically assaulted by a current or former partner in the past year. Women separated from their partners were most likely to be victims, with 22% assaulted at least once in 1995.

The public reaction to the Home Office research was almost complete silence. The government, too, appeared impervious to its implications. Shortly after it was published, the Home Secretary opened a domestic violence court in Leeds that was founded on the explicit

There is no doubt that some men are violent towards women; the evidence of women's injuries is real enough. However, this is one side of the story only. There is another side: the extent of women's violence against men and children. That, though, is a story that almost every official body in Britain and America has successfully suppressed.

There are now dozens of studies which show that women are as violent towards their partners, if not more so, than men. Unlike most feminist research, these studies ask men as well as women whether they have ever been on the receiving end of violence from their partners. They are therefore not only more balanced than studies which only ask about violence against women, but are more reliable indicators than official statistics which can be distorted by factors affecting the reporting rate - women using claims of violence as a weapon in custody cases, for example, or men who are too ashamed or embarrassed to reveal they have been abused.

Many people are likely to be astonished and sceptical about the conclusion drawn by these reports. The idea that women are as violent as men is counter-intuitive and simply disbelieved. So it is important to provide a flavour of the scope and significance of their findings.

A 1994 British study by Michelle Carrado and others, for example, interviewed 1,800 men and women with heterosexual partners. Some 11% of the men but only 5% of the women said their current partner had committed acts of violence towards them, ranging from pushing, through hitting, to stabbing. Five per cent of married or cohabiting men reported two or more acts of violence against them in a current relationship, compared with only 1% of women. A further 10% of men but 11% of

assumption that only men were violent.

In June this year, the Cabinet Office women's unit launched a campaign to "change the culture" that presented domestic violence as almost exclusively a problem of male crime. It managed to omit another under-reported fact: that most violence against children is committed by their mothers, not their fathers. A study by the National Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children revealed a few years ago that natural mothers, not fathers, are most frequently the perpetrators of physical injury, emotional abuse and neglect. This is not particularly surprising, since mothers generally have much more daily contact than fathers with their children. There was yet another notable omission: the women's unit material did not differentiate between couples who were married and people who were living together or had irregular lovers.

It therefore omitted a key fact: that the risk of violence increases significantly for unmarried couples. The Home Office study itself observed that marital separation was a "key risk factor". Only 12.6 in every 1,000 married women are victims of violence, compared with 43.9 in every 1,000 never-married women and 66.5 in every 1,000 divorced or separated women. As husbands are replaced by partners and lovers, therefore, violence against women increases. Marriage is a strong safety factor for women.

Yet this is not said. Instead, the opposite idea is fostered, that violence against women typically takes place within marriage. In November 1998, the women's unit announced a new initiative. Children were urged to report violence against mothers and sisters. There was no mention of abuse against fathers. Instead, a television advertisement showed a husband berating his wife when she told him dinner

women said they had committed one of these violent acts.

Study after study shows women are not merely violent in self-defence but strike the first blow in about half of all disputes. The American social scientists Murray Straus and Richard Gelles reported from two large national surveys that husbands and wives had assaulted each other at approximately equal rates, with women engaging in minor acts of violence more frequently. Elsewhere, they found more wives than husbands were severely violent towards their spouses.

Moreover, there is now considerable evidence that women initiate severe violence more frequently than men. A survey of 1,037 young adults born between 1972 and 1973 in Dunedin, New Zealand, found that 18.6% of young women said they had perpetrated severe physical violence against their partners, compared with 5.7% of young men. Three times more women than men said they had kicked or bitten their partners, or hit them with their fists or with an object.

In any event, the idea that women are never the instigators of violence is demolished by the evidence about lesbians. According to Claire Renzetti, violence in lesbian relationships occurs with about the same frequency as in heterosexual relationships. Lesbian batterers "display a terrifying ingenuity in their selection of abusive tactics, frequently tailoring the abuse to the specific vulnerabilities of their partners". Such abuse can be extremely violent, with women bitten, kicked, punched, thrown down stairs, and assaulted with weapons including guns, knives, whips and broken bottles.

would be late. That was the violence. It was followed by a helpline number for children to call if a woman in their house had been abused.

This fictional scenario illuminated some remarkable thinking by civil servants and ministers. It had become acceptable, it thus appeared, for children to inform on their fathers to teachers or "helplines" simply for shouting at their mothers. Shouting was now to be classified as domestic violence. If that is the case, then violence happens with enormous frequency in families. Don't women sometimes shout at men?

There was another telling aspect of this advertisement. It featured an "Oxo" middle-class nuclear family. The thinking behind this, according to the then Scottish Office minister Helen Liddell, was that "domestic abuse knows no boundaries of social class or social group". However, not only was this scenario not violence, but the nuclear family is the least likely setting for abuse of women or children. It was no accident, however, that it was chosen. The married nuclear family has to be demonised because it is said to be the vehicle for the oppression of women.

The outcome of all this is that it is now generally accepted that violence is intrinsically male. This is a gravely distorted picture. It is true that most recorded crime is committed by men. It does not follow, however, that most men commit crime. Yet this is the false conclusion that has been drawn, as the result of the suppression or distortion of the facts about violence as well as the message that is constantly promulgated that violence is a problem of masculinity. The evidence suggests that a quite different conclusion should be drawn. This is surely that both women and men are capable of aggression and violence, but that violent men, like violent women, are not

typical of their sex.

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The Sex Change Society:

Feminised Britain and the Neutered Male,

by Melanie Phillips

The American Psychological Association

SORTING OUT THE REASONS COUPLES TURN VIOLENT

By Scott Sleek, Monitor staff

The Monitor is the journal of the *American Psychological Association*

For years, Irene Frieze, PhD, wanted to keep rather quiet about her unexpected findings on dating violence. She was worried about how the mainstream media might spin her results, and how they might be interpreted by the feminist groups that had long lauded her work.

Why the hesitancy? Frieze, a psychology professor at the University of Pittsburgh, and her colleagues had found in surveys of 300 college students that women appeared more likely than men to start physical altercations with a dating partner, usually in the form of slapping, shoving or pushing.

When a Pitt public relations officer learned of the data last October and decided to issue a press release on it, Frieze's reservations proved accurate. The National Organization for Women denounced the research as fraudulent, while a radio station exaggerated her results as showing that women 'cause most domestic violence.'

Frieze certainly wasn't the first person to make such a discovery about women's role in relationship violence. In fact, many psychologists, including noted feminist researchers, have collected similar results with far larger sample sizes.

But it's not an easy topic to discuss. Some feminists deride the validity of such results, while men's groups point to them as evidence that males are the unsung victims of domestic abuse.

But findings about women's use of violence need to be discussed in context, psychologists say. True, a variety of studies dating to the late 1970s have shown that females are slightly more likely than males to acknowledge resorting to slapping, kicking or shoving romantic partners. Yet many researchers say romantic conflict is too complex and variable to say conclusively that one gender initiates it more often than the other.

And many psychologists say that a close examination of studies on dating and marital conflict indicates that women, not men, still are the major victims of relational violence: Men still inflict the most physical harm on their mates than vice versa.

Women who report using violence in their relationships say they do so in self-defense, in retaliation for abuse from their partners or as a way to ward off unwanted sexual advances.

In addition, psychologists find that women in such relationships are far more distressed and fearful than their husbands or boyfriends.

They've shown that women tend to resort to physical aggression to express anger or pain, while men use it to scare or control a woman. 'We have to look at the whole issue of fear and intimidation,' says Jacquelyn White, PhD, a University of North Carolina–Greensboro psychologist who studies dating violence. 'Women have far more to be worried about, mainly because of the size difference between themselves and their male partners.'

In fact, women who resort to aggression against a mate may face a greater risk of being severely battered than those who are more passive, Frieze speculates. 'When I've talked about the results, I've heard women say, 'Yeah, I hit my boyfriend—it makes me feel powerful,' Frieze says. 'And the boys hold back. But what scares me is they're not going to do that forever.'

Denver psychologist Lenore Walker, PhD, who for the last two decades has studied, treated and advocated for battered women, also worries about men's potential for brutal retaliation. Walker says she's noticed that women today are more apt to fight back when a mate abuses them. But she's also seen a rise in the severity of injuries among the battered women she treats, and wonders if the two trends are connected.

Dina Vivian, PhD, who is a psychologist at the State University of New York at Stony Brook and has studied marital violence extensively, says she's noticed first-hand that bi-directional violence has a more devastating impact on women than it does men.

'In the past 15 years, I've examined 600 couples and I've had only one man ever tell me he was scared of his wife—scared of her anger,' she says.

Yet some clinicians and researchers believe women aren't being held accountable for their physical aggression against their husbands and boyfriends. They suggest that studies may underreport women's aggression because men may be too embarrassed to admit being hit or injured by a woman. Younger males may be an exception: Studies have shown that they are more likely to report being victims of moderate physical abuse than are their female peers. But the girls don't seem to be disagreeing with them. They acknowledge being the aggressors more often than the boys, studies show.

Cultural norms make it more acceptable for women to hit men than vice versa, and women seem to be taking advantage of it, says Judith Sherven, PhD, a Los Angeles psychologist and outspoken advocate for victimized men. And statistics show that women are more likely than men to use a weapon in a domestic battle, perhaps to make up for their lesser strength, she adds.

Women are becoming more aggressive because they're increasingly intolerant of men's foibles, Sherven contends.

The women's movement, while succeeding in helping women gain equality in the workplace and other arenas, has not helped them shed the archaic idea that 'a man should be Prince Charming,' she says.

'I see young women in my practice who are much angrier at men than my generation was,' she says. 'They want the men to be perfect.'

But Sherven, White and other psychologists agree that, ultimately, the focus on domestic violence should steer away from gender culpability per se and more toward prevention.

'We must start trying to ameliorate aggressive behavior in general, and try to understand how gendered aspects of power, and the related issues of fear, intimidation and control affect both women and men,' says White.

HUSBAND BATTERING

Mens Sight Magazine, by Dave Gross U.S.A.

A problem not taken seriously

The first reaction upon hearing about the topic of battered men, for many people, is that of incredulity. Battered husbands are a topic for jokes (such as the cartoon image of a woman chasing her husband with a rolling-pin). One researcher noted that wives were the perpetrators in 73% of the depictions of domestic violence in newspaper comics (Saenger 1963).

Battered husbands have historically been either ignored or subjected to ridicule and abuse. In 18th-century France, a battered husband "was made to wear an outlandish outfit and ride backwards around the village on a donkey" (Steinmetz & Lucca 1988).

Even those of us who like to consider ourselves liberated and open-minded often have a difficult time even imagining that husband battering could take place. Although feminism has opened many of our eyes about the existence of domestic violence, and newspaper reports often include incidents of abuse of wives, the abuse of husbands is a rarely discussed phenomenon.

One reason researchers and others had not chosen to investigate husband battering is because it was thought to be a fairly rare occurrence. Police reports seemed to bear this out (Steinmetz 1977), with in some cases a ratio of 12 to 14.5 female victims to every one male victim.

But another reason is that because women were seen as weaker and more helpless than men due to sex roles, and men on the other hand were seen as more sturdy and self-reliant, the study of abused husbands seemed relatively unimportant.

Research begins to show the reality

In 1974, a study was done which compared male and female domestic violence. In that study, it was found that 47% of husbands had used physical violence on their wives, and 33% of wives had used violence on their husbands (Gelles 1974). Half of the respondents in this study were selected from either cases of domestic violence reported to the police, or those identified by the social service agency.

Also in 1974, a study was released showing that the number of murders of women by men (17.5% of total homicides) was about the same as the number of murders of men by women (16.4% of total homicides). This study (Curtis 1974), however, showed that men were three times as likely to assault women as vice-versa. These statistics came from police records.

[The murder statistic was no big news, by the way. In 1958, an investigation of spousal homicide between 1948 and 1952 found that 7.8% of murder victims were husbands murdered by wives, and 8% were wives murdered by husbands (Wolfgang 1958). More recently, in a study of spousal

homicide in the period from 1976 to 1985, it was found that there was an overall ratio of 1.3:1.0 of murdered wives to murdered husbands, and that "Black husbands were at greater risk of spouse homicide victimization than Black wives or White spouses of either sex" (Mercy & Saltzman 1989)]

The subject of husband-battering had finally been addressed, but not to the great satisfaction of anyone. Although it had finally been shown that there was violence being perpetrated both by wives and husbands, there was no information about relative frequency or severity, or who initiated the abuse and who was acting in self defense. Furthermore, some researchers became concerned that the use of police or social services references in choosing subjects to study might be biasing the results. In short, they recognized that battered husbands might be nearly invisible next to their female counterparts.

In 1976, for instance, in a critique of the Curtis report (which found women less likely to assault, but as likely to murder, as men), Wilt & Bannon wrote that "nonfatal violence committed by women against men is less likely to be reported to the police than is violence by men against women; thus, women assaulters who come to the attention of the police are likely to be those who have produced a fatal result."

Steinmetz uncovers some surprises

In 1977, Suzanne Steinmetz released results from several studies showing that the percentage of wives who have used physical violence is higher than the percentage of husbands, and that the wives' average violence score tended to be higher, although men were somewhat more likely to cause greater injury. She also found that women were as likely as men to initiate physical violence, and that they had similar motives for their violent acts (Steinmetz 1977-78).

Steinmetz concluded that "the most unreported crime is not wife beating -- it's husband beating" (Langley & Levy 1977).

In 1979, a telephone survey was conducted in which subjects were asked about their experiences of domestic violence (Nisonoff & Bitman 1979). 15.5% of the men and 11.3% of the women reported having hit their spouse; 18.6% of the men and 12.7% of the women reported having been hit by their spouse.

In 1980, a team of researchers, including Steinmetz, attempted to address some concerns about the earlier surveys (Straus, Gelles & Steinmetz, 1980). They created a nationally representative study of family violence and found that the total violence scores seemed to be about even between husbands and wives, and that wives tended to be more abusive in almost all categories except pushing and shoving.

Strauss & Gelles did a followup survey in 1985, comparing their data to a 1975 survey (Strauss & Gelles 1986). They found that in that decade, domestic violence against women dropped from 12.1% of women to 11.3% while domestic violence against men rose from 11.6% to 12.1%. The rate of severely violent incidents dropped for both groups: From 3.8% to 3.0% of women victimized and from 4.6% to 4.4% for men.

In 1986, a report appeared in *Social Work*, the journal of the National Association of Social Workers (Nov./Dec. 1986) on violence in adolescent dating relationships, in which it was found that girls were violent more frequently than boys.

Another report on premarital violence (O'Leary, et al) found that 34% of the males and 40% of the females reported engaging in some form of physical aggression against their mates in a year. 17% of women and 7% of men reported engaging in severe physical aggression. 35% of the men and 30% of the women reported having been abused.

Also in 1986, *Marriage and Divorce Today*, a newsletter for family therapy practitioners, reported on a study done by Pillemer and Finkelhor of the Family Violence Research Laboratory of the University of New Hampshire. The study, based on interviews of over 2000 elderly persons in the Boston metropolitan area, found that 3.2% of the elderly had been abused. 52% of the abuse victims were men.

Women's violence is hard to believe

The idea of women being violent is a hard thing for many people to believe. It goes against the stereotype of the passive and helpless female. This, in spite of the fact that women are known to be more likely than men to commit child abuse and child murder (Daly & Wilson 1988 report 54% of parent-child murders where the child is under 17 were committed by the mother in Canada between 1974 and 1983, for instance. The Statistical Abstract of the United States 1987 reports that of reported child maltreatment cases between 1980 and 1984 between 57.0% and 61.4% of these were perpetrated by the mother. Nagi 1977 found 53.1% of perpetrators were female, 21% male and 22.6% both. Note that because mothers tend to have more access to children than do fathers that these results should not be interpreted to mean that were things equal, women would still commit more abuse).

In addition, a study in a doctoral dissertation by psychologist Vallerie Coleman of 90 lesbian couples, showed that 46% had experienced repeated violent incidents (Garcia, 1991).

Results like these are greeted with great suspicion by those who see domestic violence as a political issue to be exploited rather than a social problem to be solved.

Studies of women who murder

Coramae Mann, a criminologist at Indiana University, studied the case records of all murders committed by women between 1979 and 1983 in six major U.S. cities. Her findings contradicted commonly-held ideas about women who murder, and she was criticized by some people for this.

"They would raise the question, 'Well you have these poor battered women.' I said these weren't poor battered women. Many already had violent criminal records. They weren't weak or dependent. They were angry."

Strauss & Gelles commented in their 1986 report that "violence by wives has not been an object of public concern... In fact, our 1975 study was criticized for presenting statistics on violence by wives."

Yet domestic violence is an issue framed in the media and in the political arena as one of male perpetrators and female victims. Violence in gay and lesbian relationships is rarely discussed, and violence against men in heterosexual relationships less so.

Battered men wonder where to turn

When it is addressed, there is a response. When I became the caretaker of a memorial fund for a male victim of domestic violence, I unexpectedly took on the role of counselor for men calling from all over the country to talk to me at length about their or their father's victimization. When the subject of battered husbands was raised on British television and the London Times did an article on the subject, hundreds of calls came in from male victims to a special helpline set up by a Women's Aid group (Rooke 1991).

The terms "wife beating" and "battered women" have become political expressions, rather than descriptions of reality. And because the issue of domestic violence has been substantially taken out of the arena of serious sociological study, and thrust into the political arena, the definitions of spousal abuse, and the proposed remedies to spousal abuse, will be political ones -- not necessarily ones which reflect the reality of the existing problems.

In a book on domestic violence, Roger Langley and Richard C. Levy conclude a chapter on battered husbands by saying, "Husband abuse should not be viewed as merely the opposite side of the coin to wife abuse. Both are part of the same problem, which should be described as one person abusing another person. The problem must be faced and dealt with not in terms of sex but in terms of humanity" (Langley & Levy 1977, p. 208). Ironically the book in which this quote appears is entitled "Wife Beating: The Silent Crisis."

Laws favor female victims

Legislation about domestic violence is always orientated toward the female victim. For instance, in 1991, Senator Joseph Biden again introduced the "Violence Against Women Act" which at this writing has passed the senate Judiciary Committee. It has a section called "Safe homes for Women" which specifically allocates funds to "women's" shelters (Biden 1991, also see Boxer 1990).

Also note actions like that of Ohio governor Richard F. Celeste who granted clemency to 25 women who were in prison for murdering their husbands. The reason he gave for this was the "Battered Woman Syndrome" which, obviously, no man can claim as his defense (Wilkerson 1990). There is very little concern shown either for the idea of making spousal abuse a capital crime with the victim as extra-judicial executioner, nor for the idea that perhaps some of the men who murder their spouses might be suffering from an analogous "Battered Man Syndrome."

A frightening case from Ohio

There is only one case I am aware of in which a man was able to use a similar defense. Warren Farrell writes about it in his book *Why Men Are the Way They Are* (Farrell 1986, p. 231):

Betty King had beaten, slashed, stabbed, thrown dry acid on, and shot her husband. Eddie King had not sought prosecution when she slashed his face with a carpet knife, nor when she left him in a parking lot with a blade in his back. Neither of these incidents even made the police records as statistics. She was only arrested twice -- when she stabbed him so severely in the back and so publicly (in a bar) that the incidents had to be reported.

All these stabbings, shootings, and acid-throwings happened during a four-year marriage. During a subsequent shouting match on the porch of a friend's house, Betty King once again reached into her purse. This time Eddie King shot her. When an investigation led to a verdict of self-defense, there was an outcry of opposition from feminists and the media.

Farrell compares this case, in which "a two-second delay could have meant his death," to that of the celebrated case made into the television movie *The Burning Bed* in which the protagonist murdered her husband while he slept.

A serious problem

In conclusion, I think that the available data show that husband battering is a serious problem, comparable to the problem of wife battering. Even if the statistics collected in the last several years are completely wrong and only one in 14 victims of spousal abuse are men, these are men who are hurting and need services that are currently not available.

There is such a strong stigma against being a battered man, carried over from medieval times when the battered man was considered the guilty party, that special attention should be paid to reaching out to these victims. Simply opening up "Women's Shelters" to men is not enough.

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Spousal violence still a problem: StatsCan

CTV.ca News Staff, Thursday, July, 14, 2005

An estimated 653,000 women and 546,000 men encountered some form of violence by a current or previous partner sometime between 1999 and 2004, says a new survey from Statistics Canada.

The 2004 General Social Survey found that overall, an estimated seven per cent of women and six per cent of men in a current or previous spousal relationship encountered spousal violence during the five years up to and including 2004.

But rates of spousal violence amongst previous partners declined for both women and men.

StatsCan says that rates fell for women to 21 per cent in 2004 from 28 per cent in 1999, and dropped to 16 per cent from 22 per cent for men.

Rates of violence were highest among those aged 15 to 24; those in relationships of three years or less; those who had separated; and those in common-law unions.

"Female victims of spousal violence were more than twice as likely to be injured as male victims. Women were also three times more likely to fear for their life, and twice as likely to be the targets of more than 10 violent episodes," the report said.

Stalking

The survey also found that 2.3 million people, or nine per cent of the population aged 15 and over, were stalked in the five-year period up to 2004.

Among those who were stalked, the majority knew their stalkers; less than one-quarter of victims were harassed by a stranger.

Female victims of stalking were more likely than male victims to report being stalked by an ex-intimate partner. Conversely, male victims were more likely to be harassed by an acquaintance.

Overall, female victims were twice as likely as male victims to be stalked by a previous spouse.

And over 60 per cent of stalking victims pursued by an ex-spouse were harassed for over one year.

Stalking, also called criminal harassment, "includes repeated and unwanted attention that causes a person to fear for their safety or the safety of someone known to them, such as receiving obscene phone calls, being spied on, or being threatened," the agency explained

"Those stalked by a previous spouse were also more likely to report to the police," StatsCan says.

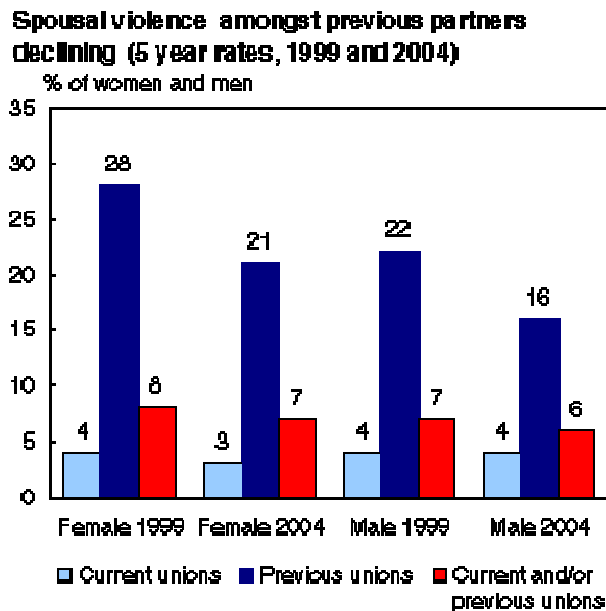
About 49 per cent of stalking victims pursued by a previous spouse reported the stalking to the police, compared with just over one-third of victims pursued by a stranger or an acquaintance.

From Statistics Canada's **The Daily**, Thursday, July 14, 2005

<http://www.statcan.ca/Daily/English/050714/d050714a.htm>

Family violence in Canada: A statistical profile 2005

An estimated 7% of women and 6% of men in a current or previous spousal relationship encountered spousal violence during the five years up to and including 2004, according to a comprehensive new report on family violence.



Note: All unions include common-law partners.

The report, which uses data from the 2004 General Social Survey (GSS), showed that the overall five-year rate of spousal violence has remained unchanged at 7% since 1999. This means that an estimated 653,000 women and 546,000 men encountered some form of violence by a current or previous spouse or common-law partner.

Rates of spousal violence were highest among certain segments of the population: those aged 15 to 24; those in relationships of three years or less; those who had separated; and those in common-law unions.

However, rates of spousal violence amongst previous partners who had had contact with their former partner in the past five years declined from 28% in 1999 to 21% in 2004 for women and from 22% to 16% for men.

While about three-quarters of these individuals indicated that the violence occurred during the marital or common-law union, one-half of women victims and one-third of men victims said the violence either continued or occurred after separation.

Data show that the nature and consequences of spousal violence were more severe for women than for men. Female victims of spousal violence were more than twice as likely to be injured as male victims. Women were also three times more likely to fear for their life, and twice as likely to be the targets of more than 10 violent episodes.

Note to readers

This release is based on the 2005 edition of the report *Family Violence in Canada: A Statistical Profile*, available today. This report provides estimates on the nature and extent of family violence and trends over time.

The release focuses on spousal violence and stalking experienced by both women and men as reported to the 2004 General Social Survey (GSS) on Victimization. It also provides the most recent police-reported data on family-related violence against children and youth, and seniors.

The 2004 GSS repeated the 1999 GSS module that measured spousal violence against women and men in current and previous spousal and common-law relationships. These results are compared to the 1999 survey results.

The 2004 GSS was also the first attempt by Statistics Canada to measure the nature and extent of stalking in the general population. About 24,000 people aged 15 and older were interviewed between January and December 2004.

National data from the Homicide Survey are included for 1961 to 2003 to analyze family-related homicide-suicides. The Homicide Survey is also used to examine family-related homicides of older persons and children and youth between 1994 and 2003.

This report also provides information on stalking, otherwise known as criminal harassment, and family related homicide-suicides.

Overall, 11% of women and 7% of men aged 15 and older stated that they were stalked in a way that caused them to fear for their safety or the safety of someone close to them. This was the equivalent of 1.4 million women and just under one million men. Among

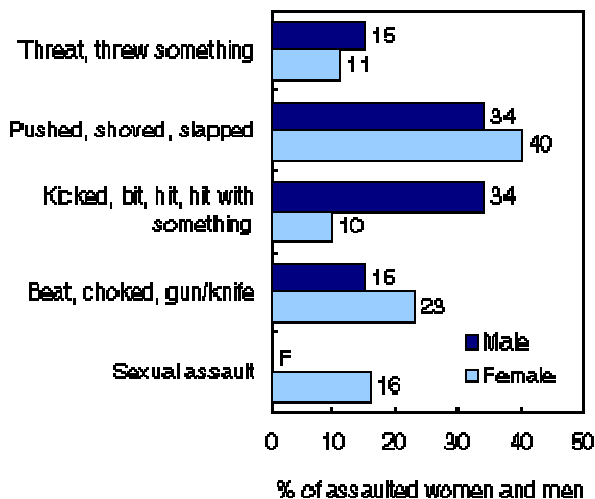
victims of stalking, 9% of women reported that they had been stalked by either a current or previous spouse, or a common-law partner, twice the proportion of 4% among men.

Between 1961 and 2003, 1 in 10 solved homicides were cases in which the suspect took his or her own life following the homicide. About three-quarters of these victims of homicide-suicides were killed by a family member.

Spousal violence: Risk factors

Rates of spousal violence were found to be highest among certain segments of the population. People who were aged 15 to 24 were more than twice as likely to be victims of spousal violence as those 35 and older. Rates were three times higher in relationships of three years or less than relationships that were more than ten years in duration. Data also showed that rates of spousal violence were three times more likely in common-law relationships than marital unions.

More women experience serious violence than men



F too unreliable to be published

People whose partner was a heavy drinker (a heavy drinker was defined as someone who consumes five or more drinks on five or more occasions in a given month) were six times more likely to experience spousal violence than those whose partner never drank in excess of five drinks.

In cases of current relationships in which emotional abuse existed, 25% of women and 19% of men experienced violence. Examples of emotional abuse include being isolated from family and friends, having no access to family income, or having property or possessions destroyed.

In contrast, in current relationships where there was no emotional abuse, 1% of women and 2% of men experienced violence.

The survey indicates that the risk of violence is particularly elevated at the time of separation, especially in the case of women. One-third (34%) of women who experienced violence during their relationship said that the violence increased in severity or frequency after separation. The number of men who reported violence during their relationship was too small to produce reliable estimates.

Data suggest that Aboriginal people were three times more likely to be victims of spousal violence. Overall, 21% of Aboriginal people, or 24% of Aboriginal women and 18% of Aboriginal men, said that they had suffered violence from a current or previous spouse or common-law partner in the five-year period up to 2004. This was the case for 7% of non-Aboriginal people.

Aboriginal victims were also more likely to state that they were beaten, choked, threatened with or had a gun or knife used against them, or were sexually assaulted.

Severity of spousal violence greater for women

Overall, the survey found that women were more likely to experience more serious forms of spousal violence than men.

Nearly one-quarter (23%) of female victims reported that the most serious form of violence experienced was being beaten, choked, or threatened by having a gun or knife used against them. This was the case for 15% of male victims.

About 44% of female victims of spousal violence indicated that they suffered injury because of the violence, more than twice the proportion of 19% among male victims. In addition, 13% of female victims sought medical attention, compared with only 2% of male victims.

Over one-third of women victims said that the violence was reported to the police, compared to 17% of men victims. In addition, 38% of women who reported to the police also sought a restraining order, more than twice the proportion of men.

Stalking: Women twice as likely to be harassed by previous partner

According to the General Social Survey, 9% of the population aged 15 and over, or 2.3 million people, were stalked in the five-year period up to 2004. Stalking includes repeated and unwanted attention that causes a person to fear for their safety or the safety of someone known to them, such as receiving obscene phone calls, being spied on, or being intimidated or threatened.

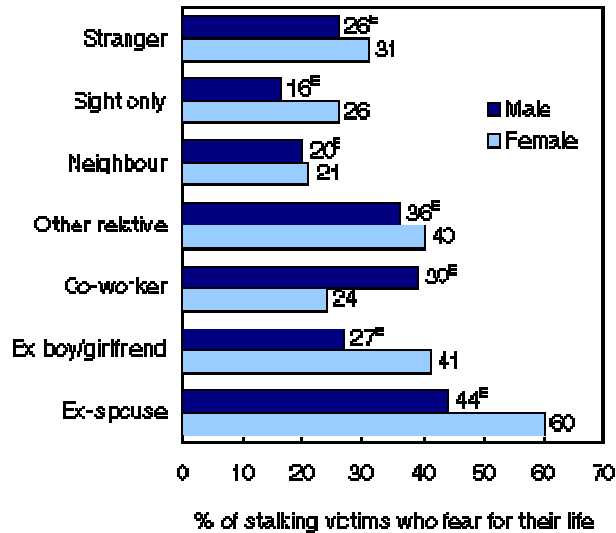
Among those who were stalked, the majority knew their stalkers, as less than one-quarter of victims were harassed by a stranger.

Female victims of stalking were more likely than male victims to report being stalked by an ex-intimate partner, including previous spouses and boyfriends. Conversely, male victims were more likely than female victims to be harassed by an acquaintance.

Overall, female victims were twice as likely as male victims to be stalked by a previous spouse. Similarly, 11% of female victims and 6% of male victims reported being stalked by a previous boyfriend or girlfriend. Only 1% of female victims reported being stalked by a current spouse or boyfriend. The number of men stalked by a current partner was too small to produce reliable estimates.

Victims stalked by an ex-spouse more likely to fear their life is in danger

Stalker-victim relationship



^E use with caution

Victims pursued by a stalker with whom they had had an intimate relationship were more likely to be stalked for a longer period of time relative to those who were stalked by a stranger or an acquaintance. Over 60% of stalking victims pursued by an ex-spouse were harassed for over one year.

Those stalked by a previous spouse were also more likely to report to the police. About 49% of stalking victims pursued by a previous spouse reported the stalking to the police, compared with just over one-third of victims pursued by a stranger or an acquaintance.

Victims who were stalked by a previous spouse were more likely to seek a restraining order. Over one-third of those stalked in these situations reported seeking a restraining order. In contrast, 13% of those stalked by someone from a previous dating relationship sought an order, as did 11% of those stalked by an acquaintance and 4% stalked by a stranger.

Homicide-suicides among families

Between 1961 and 2003, there were 1,994 cases of solved homicides in which the suspect took his/her own life following the homicide. These cases represented 10% of all solved homicides.

About three-quarters of victims of homicide-suicides were killed by a family member, while the remainder involved an acquaintance or a stranger. Over one-half (57%) of family homicide-suicides involved spouses, and of these incidents, virtually all (97%) involved female victims killed by a male spouse.

Since 1991, when data became available to distinguish between the various types of spousal relationships, victims of spousal homicide-suicide were killed by a legally married (42%), separated (30%), common-law (23%) or a divorced husband (3%). About 2% of spousal homicide-suicide victims were male spouses killed by a female spouse.

One-quarter of the homicide-suicides, which occurred between 1961 and 2003, involved children and youth aged 18 and under. The vast majority of these were family-related. The accused involved in family-related homicide-suicides against a child or youth was most often a parent of the victim. In 66% of cases, the accused was the father, in 27% the mother, and in 2% a step-father.

Parent-child homicide-suicides often involved multiple victims. About 35% of cases involved two victims, while 36% involved three to five victims, and 28% of incidents involved one victim.

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey numbers, including related surveys, 3302, 3315 and 4504.

The report *Family Violence in Canada: A Statistical Profile* ([85-224-XIE](#), free) is now available online. From the *Our products and services* page, under *Browse our Internet publications* choose *Free*, then *Justice*. A hard copy is also available from the National Clearinghouse on Family Violence. To obtain a copy, call (1-800-267-1291; 613-957-2938).

For more information, or to enquire about concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact Information and Client Services (1-800-387-2231; 613-951-9023), Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics.

Abuse against men ignored researcher: Just as likely as women to be battered

The Edmonton Journal, Karen Kleiss, October 9, 2005

EDMONTON -- Husbands and boyfriends are abused by their partners far more often than most Canadians realize, yet there is virtually no support for battered men, attendees of a two-day conference heard Saturday.

"All we hear about is violence against women and children," says Grant Brown, an Edmonton lawyer who helped organize the conference, held at the Edmonton Art Gallery.

"They just ignore the fact that men are just as likely to be victims of domestic violence. ... They just refuse to address the issue."

The conference, which highlighted the gender bias in Canadians' understanding of domestic violence, was organized by the Gender Issues Education Foundation, an Edmonton-based organization.

"Remember Wayne Bobbit? He actually became a comedy routine," said University of British Columbia forensic psychologist Donald Dutton.

"But we know that young women these days are more violent than their boyfriends. That's what the data shows."

While it is true that women are more often victims than men, Dutton says the number of men is not as small as many believe. According to his research, 4.2 per cent of abused women and 2.6 per cent of abused men report "repeated, severe battering."

He says researchers routinely ignore this fact because of pre-conceived ideas about domestic violence -- namely, that men are always the abusers and women are always the victims.

This unwitting bias in domestic violence research has influenced policing, custodial hearings and even public policy, Dutton says.

A researcher for 31 years in the field of domestic violence, Dutton was not invited to the Alberta-government-sponsored World Conference on the Prevention of Family Violence, which will be held in Banff at the end of the month.

He and organizers of Saturday's conference say that is a sign of the one-sided approach the province is taking to domestic violence policy.

Psychology professor John Archer from the United Kingdom's University of Central Lancashire also studies aggressive behaviour, and his most recent work also shows women and men are equally violent in relationships.

"More of the women than men were injured," he says, "but there is still quite a large number of men who were injured in domestic incidents."

Archer's study found nearly two-thirds of abused women suffer injuries, compared to roughly one-third of men. That number may be low, however, because men are less likely to seek medical help.

"You can't base public policy on half of the data," Archer says.

"If you're going to do something about partner violence then you can't ignore a big group of the victims."

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