

Types of Domestic Violence

Research Evidence

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Sociology, Women's Studies, and

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Penn State

Photos from Donna Ferrato, *Living with the Enemy*. New York: Aperture, 1991



McKeesport, PA

CDVC3

Toronto, Ontario

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- ◆ Are Women Really as Violent as Men?
 - ◆ Anti-feminist politics and conflicting data
 - ◆ Explaining the ostensible contradictions
- ◆ A Control-based Typology of Partner Violence
 - ◆ The three major types
 - ◆ Gender differences and sampling biases
- ◆ Dramatic Differences Among the Types
 - ◆ Violence severity, frequency, mutuality, and escalation
 - ◆ Health consequences
 - ◆ Relationship consequences
 - ◆ Miscellaneous other major differences

The Anti-feminist Backlash

Deny the Role of Gender
Attack Feminist Research

Attack Programs that Address Violence against Women

- ◆ “Men as likely to suffer spousal abuse, Statscan says.” Globe and Mail July 27, 2002 (Web site)
- ◆ “Feminist ideologues ignore research that shows domestic violence is just as often started by women as by men.” Pittsburgh Post Gazette July 26, 2009
- ◆ “...the Ontario Government may be in violation of their obligations... [because] the existing network of shelters for victims of family violence exclude[s] men....” The Men’s Project, February 2009: Submission to the Ontario Ministry of the Attorney General

General Surveys Indicate That Women Are as Violent as Men

Heterosexual intimate partner violence by gender

<u>Data Source</u>	<u>Men</u>	<u>Women</u>
Canada, GSS, 2009	50%	50%
Norway, Statistics Norway, 2003	55%	45%
Sweden, university students, c. 2001	52%	48%
U.S., NSFH, 1988	53%	47%
U.S., NFVS, 1975—the beginning	51%	49%

But Agency Studies Indicate That Men Are the Primary Batterers

Heterosexual intimate partner violence by gender

<u>Data Source</u>	<u>Men</u>	<u>Women</u>
Sweden, partner assault, 2010	80%	20%
Canada, spousal homicide, 2009	77%	23%
U.S., partner assault, 1996-2001	75%	25%
U.K., emergency rooms, 1988	83%	17%
Ontario, family court, 1982	94%	6%
Cleveland, divorce court, 1966	92%	8%

Differentiating Among Types of Intimate Partner Violence Reconciles the Contradiction

- ◆ There is more than one type of partner violence
- ◆ The different types are differently gendered
- ◆ Both major sampling plans are biased
 - ◆ General survey studies are biased toward situationally-provoked violence, which is perpetrated about equally by men and women.
 - ◆ Agency studies are biased toward coercive controlling violence, which is perpetrated almost entirely by men.

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Intimate Terrorism

Violent Coercive Control

Violent Resistance

Resisting the Intimate Terrorist

Situational Couple Violence

Situationally-provoked Violence

Intimate Terrorism/Domestic Violence



Adapted from
Pence &
Paymar, 1993.

Coercive Control Scale

Thinking about your husband [yourself], would you say he [you]...

- ◆ is jealous or possessive?
- ◆ tries to provoke arguments?
- ◆ tries to limit your contact with family and friends?
- ◆ insists on knowing who you are with at all times?
- ◆ calls you names or puts you down in front of others?
- ◆ makes you feel inadequate?
- ◆ shouts or swears at you?
- ◆ frightens you?
- ◆ prevents you from knowing about or having access to the family income even when you ask?

*These are items from the 1995 National Violence Against Women Survey (Tjaden & Thoennes, 1998). They were adapted from the Canadian Violence Against Women Survey (Holly Johnson, 1996).

Intimate Terrorism

Violent Coercive Control

- ◆ General pattern of violent coercive control
 - ◆ Attempt to exert total control
 - ◆ Specific control tactics vary from case to case, e.g., economic control, isolation, emotional abuse, intimidation, use of children
- ◆ In heterosexual relationships, primarily but not exclusively men
- ◆ Two major subtypes identified for men
 - ◆ Emotionally dependent
 - ◆ Antisocial

Violent Resistance

Resisting the Intimate Terrorist

- ◆ Many victims of IT do respond with violence
- ◆ Sometimes, but not always, self-defense
- ◆ In heterosexual relationships, most violent resisters desist and turn to other tactics, either to mitigate the violence or to escape

Situational Couple Violence

Situationally-provoked Violence

- ◆ Conflicts turn into arguments that escalate
- ◆ Both men and women do this, but...
 - ◆ Men's violence more likely to injure and frighten
- ◆ By far the most common type
- ◆ Huge variability
 - ◆ 40% only one incident, but can involve chronic and severe violence
 - ◆ Variable causes of chronic SCV: chronic conflict, substance abuse, anger issues, dependent or antisocial personality, communication issues, etc.

Gender Symmetry/Asymmetry by Type of Violence

(1970s Pittsburgh: Violent husbands and wives)

	<u>Husbands</u>	<u>Wives</u>	<u>N</u>
Intimate terrorism	97%	3%	97
Violent resistance	4%	96%	77
Situational couple violence	56%	44%	146

2000s Britain: IT 87% male; VR 10% male; SCV 45% male

The Biases of Major Sampling Plans (Violent men: Pittsburgh)

	<u>General Sample</u> (n = 37)	<u>Court Sample</u> (n = 34)	<u>Shelter Sample</u> (n = 50)
Intimate terrorism	14%	68%	78%
Violent resistance	0%	0%	2%
Situational couple violence	86%	29%	18%

2000s Britain: IT by sample type: General = 13%, Shelter = 88%.

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Johnson, 2006
Mixed sample, married
Pittsburgh, 1970s

Intimate Terrorism

76% severe
75% escalated
29% mutual

Shelter
80-90%

General
2-4%

General Motive: To control the relationship

Situational Couple Violence

28% severe
28% escalated
69% mutual

Shelter
10-20%

General
12-18%

Situational Motive: To win, get attention, get even, etc.

British data, c.2000
Mixed sample

Intimate Terrorism

43% severe

78% escalated

15% mutual

General Motive: To control the relationship

Situational Couple Violence

13% severe

20% escalated

87% mutual

Situational Motive: To win, get attention, get even, etc

Canadian GSS, 2004
Previous or current
partner

Intimate Terrorism

57% frequent violence
60% feared for life

General Motive: To control the relationship

Situational Couple Violence

8% frequent violence
9% feared for life

Situational Motive: To win, get attention, get even, etc

Women's Health Outcomes by Type of Male Violence

		<u>SCV</u>	<u>IT</u>
<u>Any Injury</u>	Pittsburgh	56%	94%
	Canada, GSS	32%	54%
<u>Severe injury</u>	Pittsburgh	28%	76%
	Canada, GSS ⁺	5%	21%
<u>General health</u>	Chicago	Good to Very Good	Fair to Good
<u>Post-traumatic stress</u>	U.S., NVAW ⁺⁺	37%	79%

⁺Hospital treatment

⁺⁺ Percent above the median for female victims of partner violence

Relationship Outcomes by Type of Male Violence

		Situational Couple <u>Violence</u>	Intimate <u>Terrorism</u>
<u>Low marital happiness</u>	Pittsburgh	13%	50%
<u>Left more than once</u>	Pittsburgh	26%	74%
	U.S., NVAW	7%	29%
<u>Rarely a good time</u>	Pittsburgh	3%	20%
<u>Sex often unpleasant</u>	Pittsburgh	9%	23%

Need to Re-assess Everything

Multiple Studies by a Variety of Social Scientists
(various years, locations, sample types, and measures)

SCV

IT

◆ Intergenerational “transmission”

$d = .11$

$d = .35$

◆ Marriage

$b = -.62$

$b = .58$

◆ Gender traditionalism

$d = -.14$

$d = .80$

◆ Hostility toward women

$mdiff = 1.29$

$mdiff = 21.26$

Different types of partner violence have...

- ◆ Different causes
- ◆ Different developmental trajectories
- ◆ Different effects
- ◆ Different implications for policy and practice

**We make big mistakes if we don't
make big distinctions.**

www.personal.psu.edu/mpj

Support Your Local Women's Shelter

- ◆ Safety
- ◆ Support
- ◆ Information
- ◆ Advocacy

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Philadelphia, PA shelter