Types of Domestic Violence Research Evidence

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



McKeesport, PA

CDVC3 Toronto, Ontario February 28, 2013 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

Data Source	Men	<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

Data Source	<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 situationallyprovoked violence, which is perpetrated about equally by men and women.

 <u>Agency studies</u> are biased toward coercive controlling violence, which is perpetrated almost entirely by men.

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Dramatic Differences Among the Types

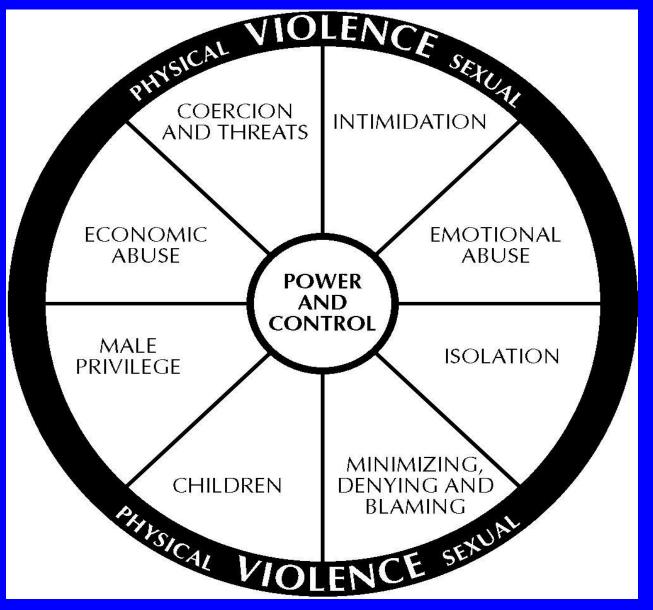
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Intimate Terrorism Violent Coercive Control

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 resistors 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)

	General <u>Sample</u> (n = 37)	Court <u>Sample</u> (n = 34)	Shelter <u>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

rried Terrors 76% severe

Shelter 80-90%

75% escalated

29% mutual

General 2-4%

General Motive: To control the relationship

28% escalated

Shelter 10-20% 28% escalated

69% mutual

General 12-18%

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

British data, c.2000 Mixed sample

00 te Terroms 43% severe

78% escalated

15% mutual

General Motive: To control the relationship

20% escalated

20% escalated

87% mutual

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

Canadian GSS, 2004 Previous or current partner

57% frequent violence 60% feared for life

General Motive: To control the relationship

Stuational Couple Viole Violence

9% feared for life

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

Women's Health Outcomes by Type of Male Violence

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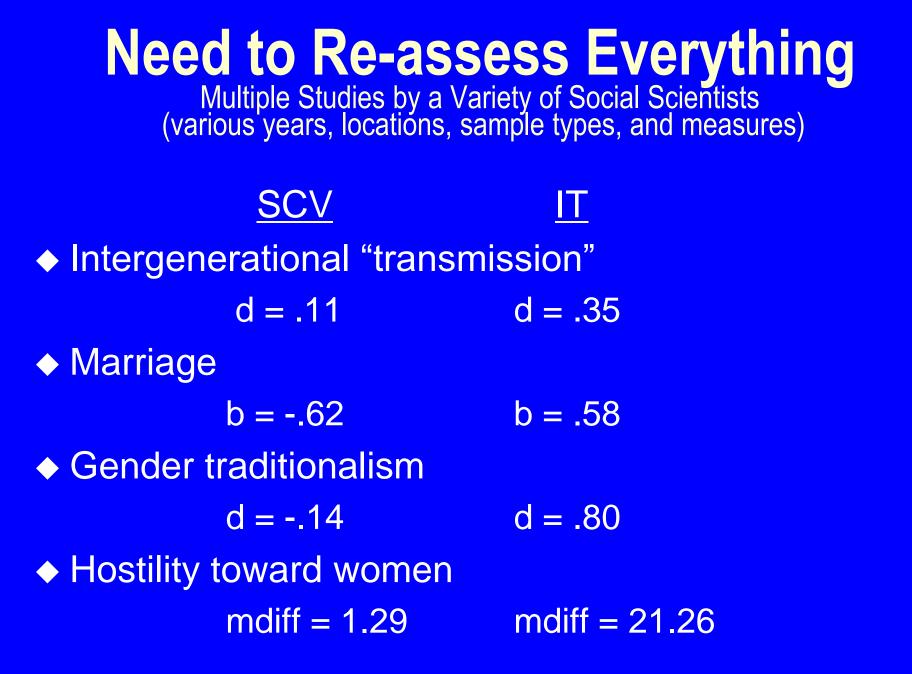
		<u>SCV</u>	<u> </u>
<u>Any Injury</u>	Pittsburgh	56%	94%
	Canada, GSS	32%	54%
<u>Severe injury</u>	Pittsburgh	28%	76%
	Canada, GSS+	5%	21%
General health	Chicago	Good to Very Good	Fair to Good
Post-traumatic stress	U.S., NVAW++	37%	79%

+Hospital treatment

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

Relationship Outcomes by Type of Male Violence

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



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

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



Philadelphia, PA shelter